Quality in the Spotlight
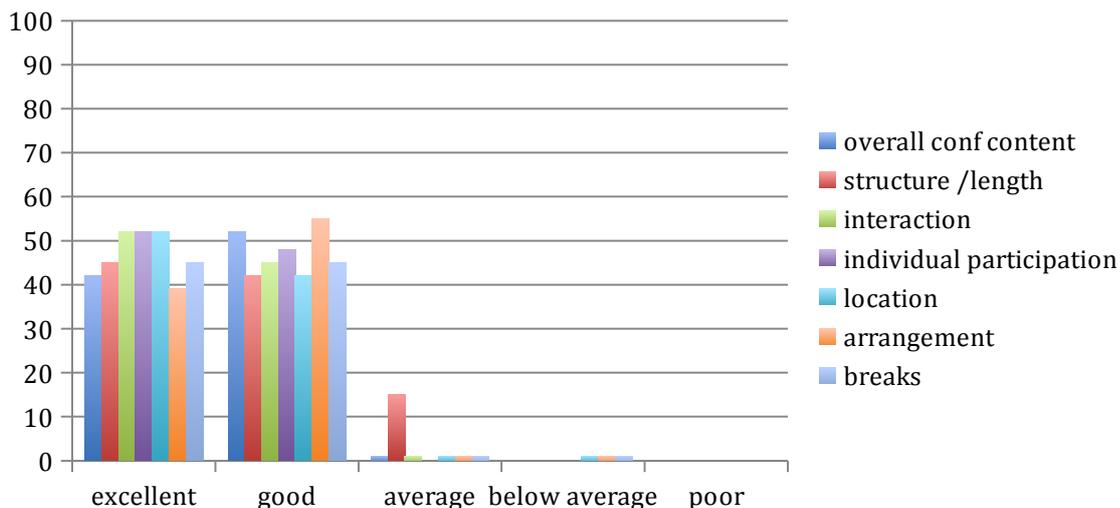
Participants survey results

A questionnaire with about 30 questions was distributed among the participants during the last break on the second day of the conference. The questions ranged from vey specific to very detailed with plenty of room to leave comments. The overall response rate was 62 %.

Overall evaluation of conference
The overall program could be rated from excellent – good – average – below average to poor. If not applicable one could mark N/A. the overall conference content was rated excellent by 42 % of the participants while 52 % rated is good, and 1 % said average. The structure and length of the conference were rated excellent by 45 % and good by 42 %, 5 % said average. While 'Opportunities for exchange of ideas and experiences' scored 52 % and 48 %, 'Opportunities to participate in discussion and ask questions' scored 52 % and 42 %, 'Geographical location of conference' scored 52 % and 42 %, 'Conference arrangement (e.g. hotel, rooms, meal)' scored 39 % and 55%, and 'Accommodation breaks' scored 45 % and 45 %: all excellent and good, only the last three items got a few lower scores (1 and 2 %).

Conclusion: in general one benefited from the conference and that the conference has met with ones expectations. 95 % of the participants rated all overall program indicators as excellent or good (see graph).

The attention towards this conference was drawn in 42 % of the cases through the brochure, in 21 % by recommendation, 1 % by the event calendar of a scientific journal or scientific society, and in 30 % of the cases in another way.
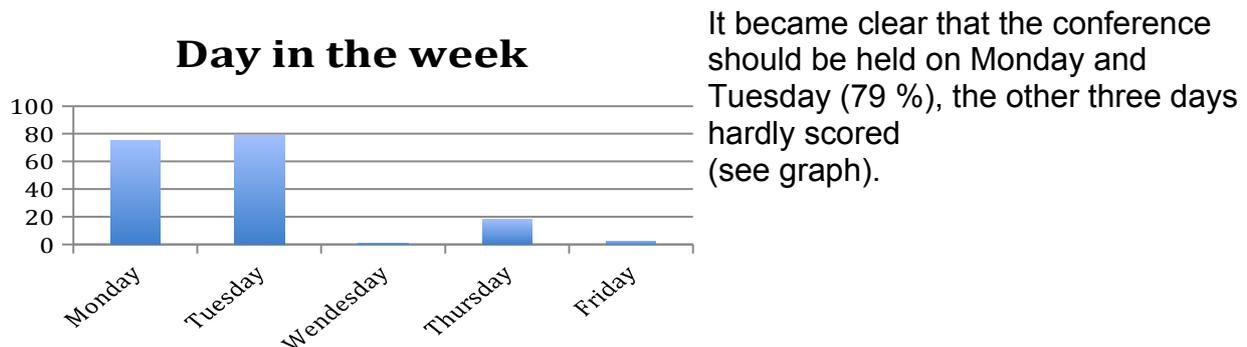
In a good American tradition the individual speakers (including the topic that was highlighted) were scored as well. The speakers Sharon Ehrmeyer, Anna Carobene, Sten Westgard, Nuthar Jassam, Jim Westgard, Ina Mathilde Kjær and Erna Lenters-Westra rated all excellent and Huub van Rossum, Hassan Bayat, Vanessa Ghislain, Strahinja

Medić, Ida Bøgh Andersen, Steven Meex and Stacy Walz were rated good. One speaker, Tjitze Dijkstra, was rated as average, none as below average or poor.

Conclusion: youngsters like to listen to youngsters. In comparison with other years and over the years our group of fixed value speakers still scores high. Stacy's star is rising and Sharon's star is still shining strong. Sten improved a lot and Jim still strongly presented although one of the comments was that they did not associate him with the rules so widely applied in clinical chemistry. Our goal was to attract millenniums and have them also on the stage: both goals were reached. As a matter a fact from the old, settled laboratorians only a couple was present.

The 'mix and overall level of the speakers' scored 100 % as good !

42% of the participants scored the social events as good and 55 % appreciated the conference diner.

Day in the week

It became clear that the conference should be held on Monday and Tuesday (79 %), the other three days hardly scored
(see graph).

88 % of the participants were satisfied with the conference (met expectations). 1 participant was not satisfied because the conference was characterized as 'not practical enough'.

All additional comments and suggestions made:
- Implement a quiz, workshop, practical examples
- Max length of the speakers 30 minutes
- Breaks could shorter, lunch could be better
- Subjects for presentations: POCT-big data-Artifical Intelligence-Moleculair pathology-QC
- More practical approach of theoretic views is missing
- Registration fee is high. Maybe one day's congress?
- Theory-Practice more simple.
- Not practical enough
- Risks analysis
- Networking strategies in Belgium
- No answer on Tea and MV
- Traceability to reference material, Manufacturers calibrator, Quality control materials.
- Continue: each year if possible
- How to reduce the error rate in the pre-analytical phase?
- To straighten the clinical focus

Final conclusion:
Satisfied participants that at first needed some time to adapt to our specific conference style but in the end were extremely content. One thinks with it and had useful and constructive remarks. We should start a whatsapp/email/blog group.