

The feasibility and impact of remote teaching for haematology trainees: A single centre experience

Thomas Erlich, Stephen Hibbs, Shamzah Araf, Louise Bowles, Tom Butler

The challenge:

- Centralised teaching sessions
- 25 trainees at 6 hospitals in Central/East London
- Part-time trainees
- Rota complexities

Background:

The Barts Haematology program trains about 25 haematology SpRs in 6 hospital sites across Central/East London. In 2018, pre-Covid-19, we recognised that remote teaching may be a solution to poor attendance at the teaching sessions which are hosted at one of the central teaching hospitals. Factors at that time were distance between hospitals and increasing part time working.

Goal

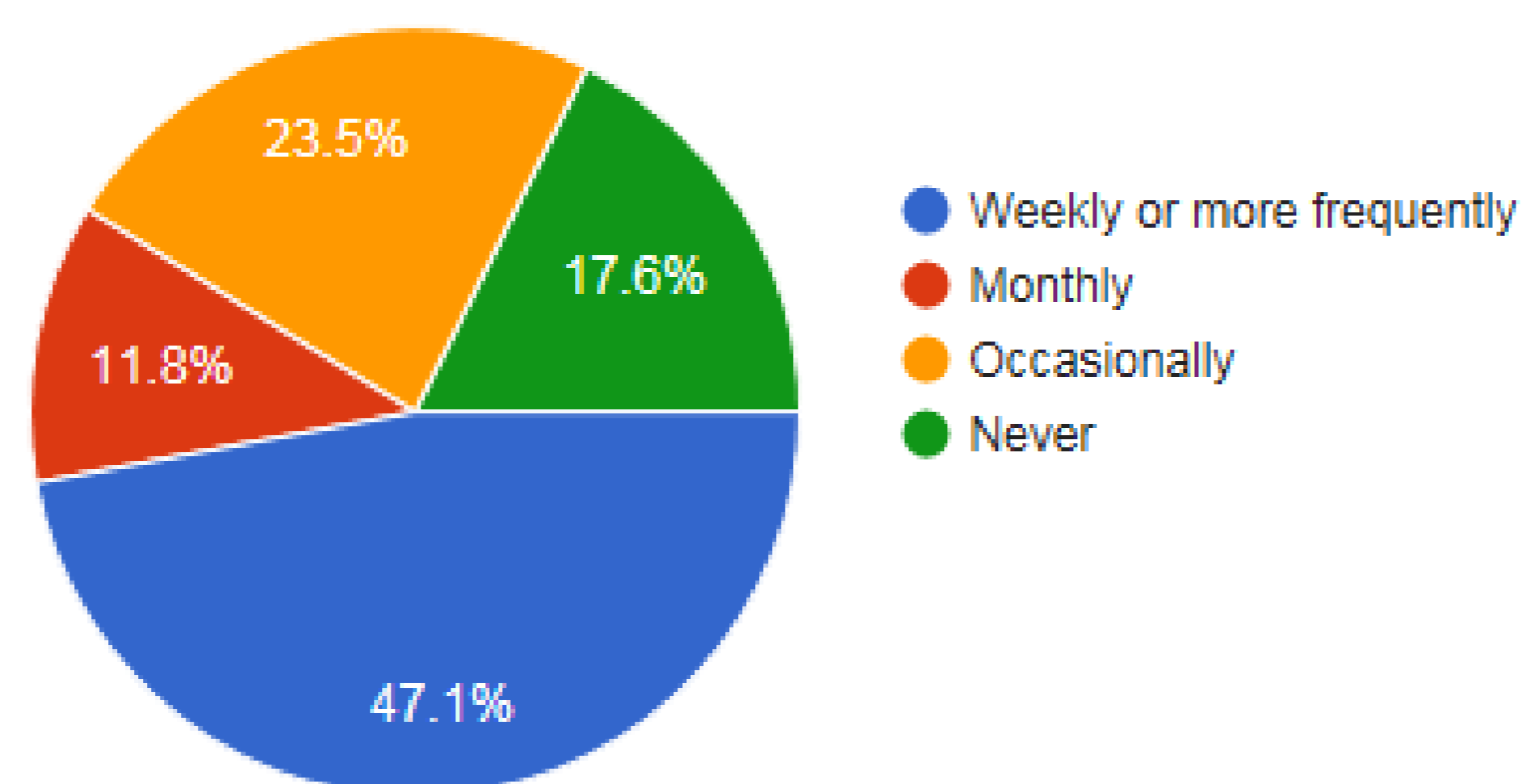
We wanted to explore if 1) classroom teaching 2) microscopy teaching can be shared and attended remotely, and we wanted to measure the effect on attendance and in-session teacher/student interaction as well as general feedback from trainees.

Methods:

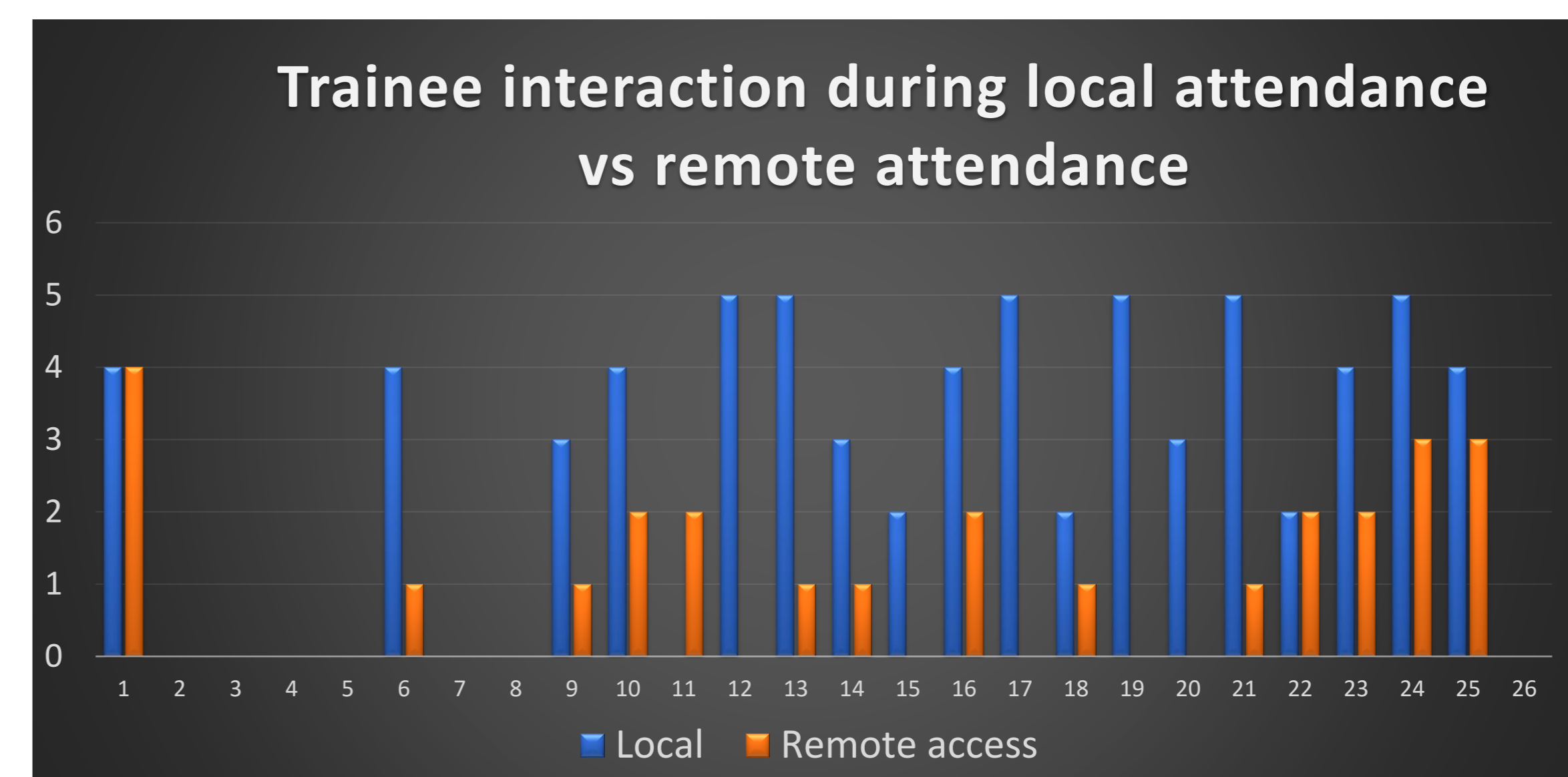
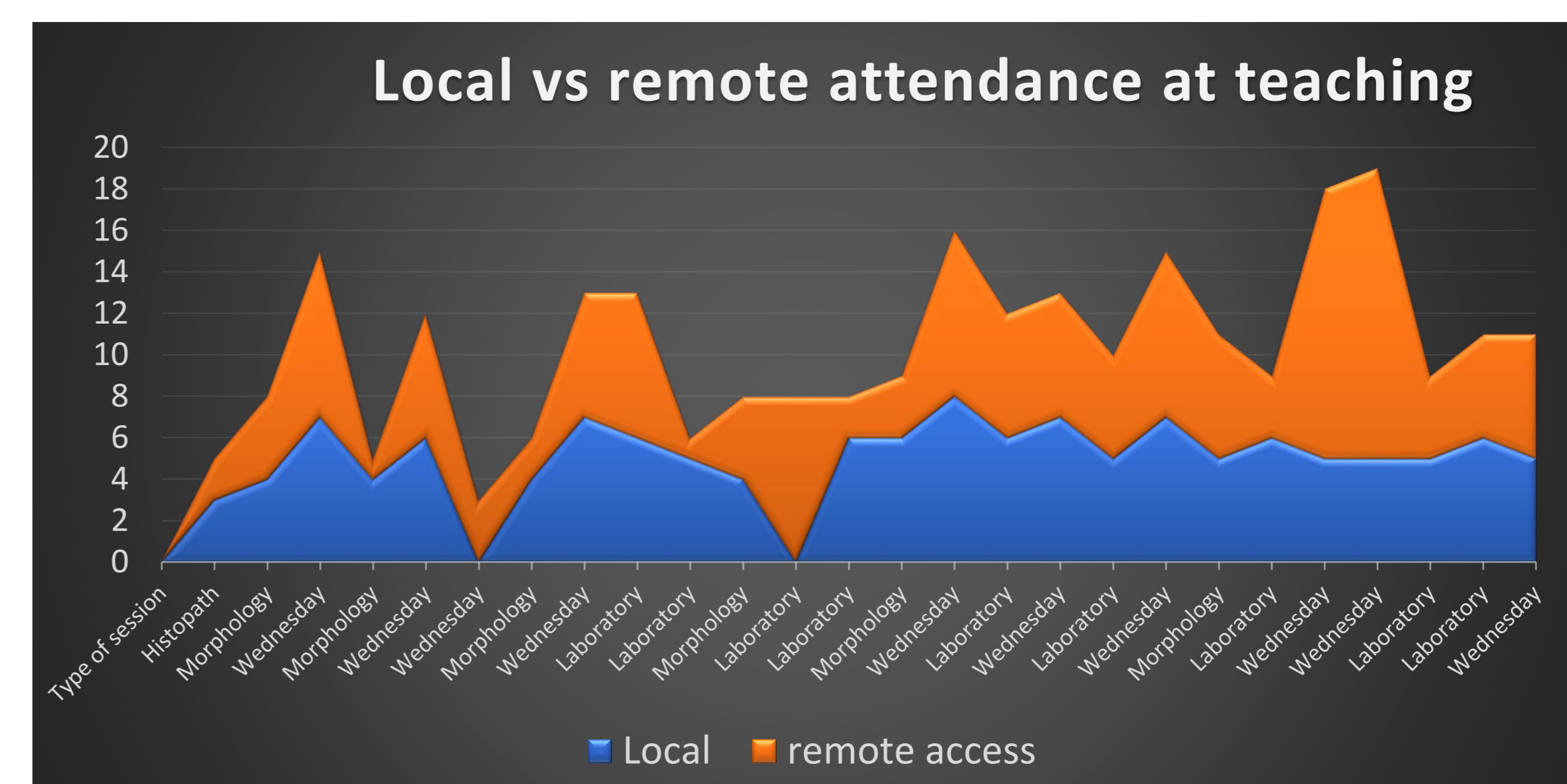
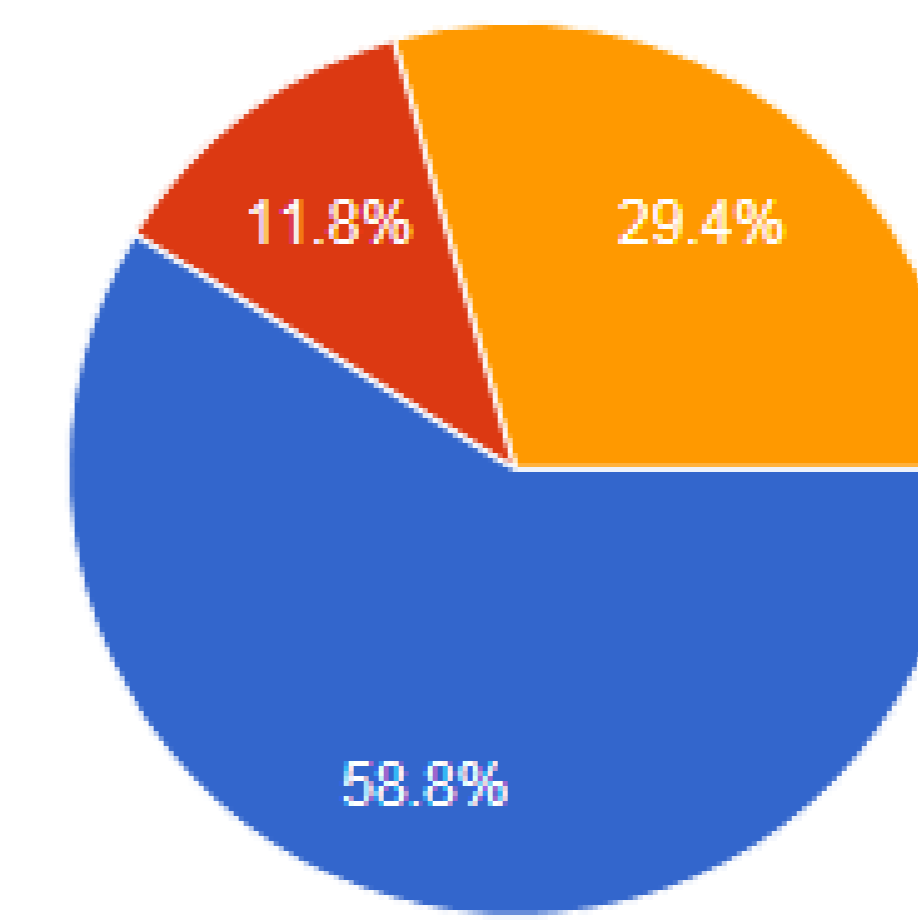
- Digital microscope camera
- GoToMeeting
- Cloud storage for video recordings (included in GoToMeeting)
- Attendance was recorded for 26 teaching sessions.
- Interaction between trainee and teacher was semi-quantitatively recorded by counting each question/comment as one interaction.
- Trainee feedback was recorded via a survey.

Results:

Approximately how often have you used GoToMeeting software to access a teaching session live (i.e. at the same time as it is running)?



Approximately how often have you used video recordings of sessions?



Conclusion

- Microscopy training via video conferencing systems is **feasible**. Overall **teaching attendance increased** with the intervention, with a trend to **more trainees choosing to attend remotely over time**
- The system is **popular** amongst trainees.
- Remote teaching probably requires a **different teaching style**, raising questions about how to best facilitate interaction at distance

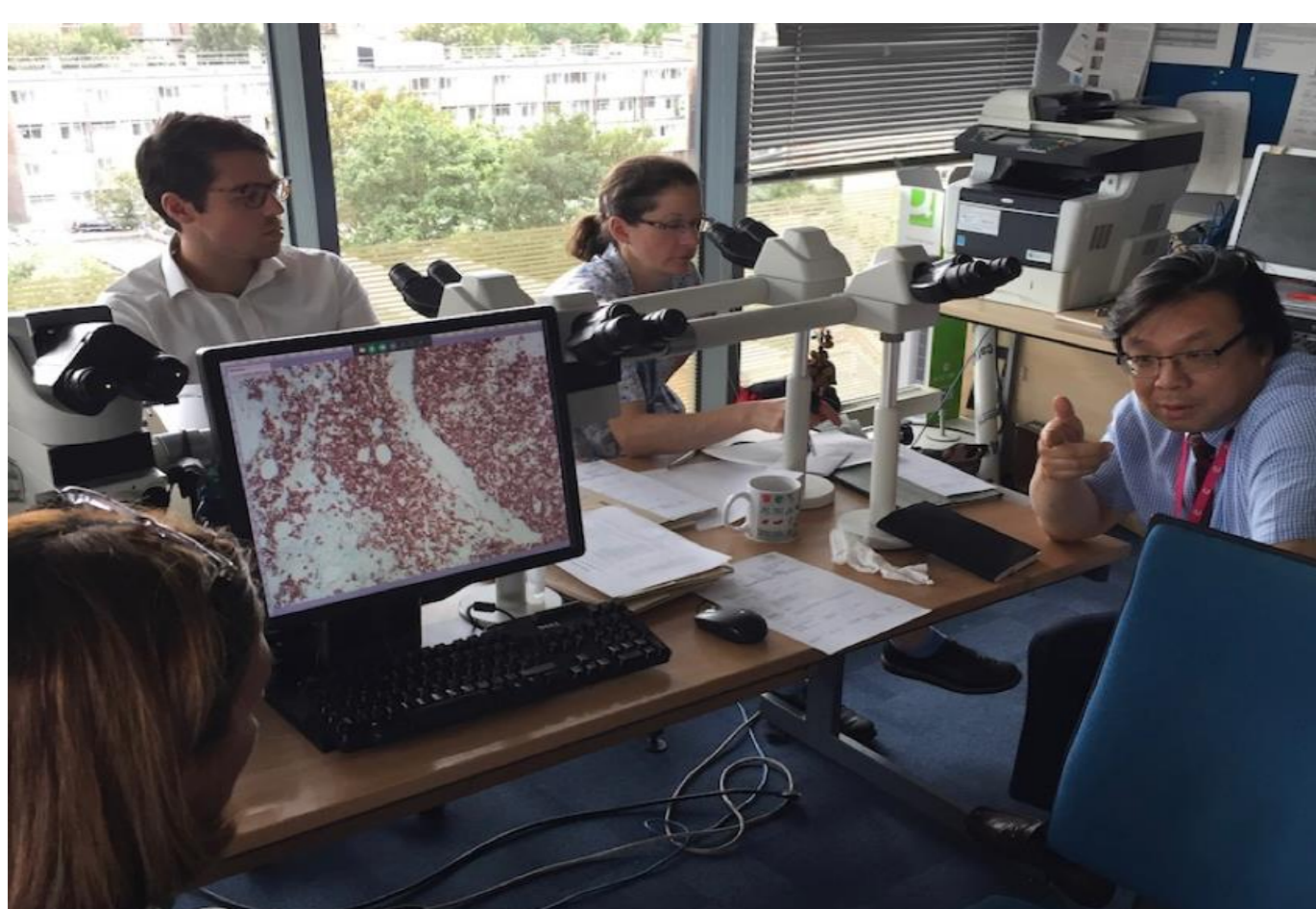


Image 1: Group training session on trephine histology. The microscope camera view (visible on the screen in this photo) together with the classroom's audio feed is shared live via GoToMeeting.

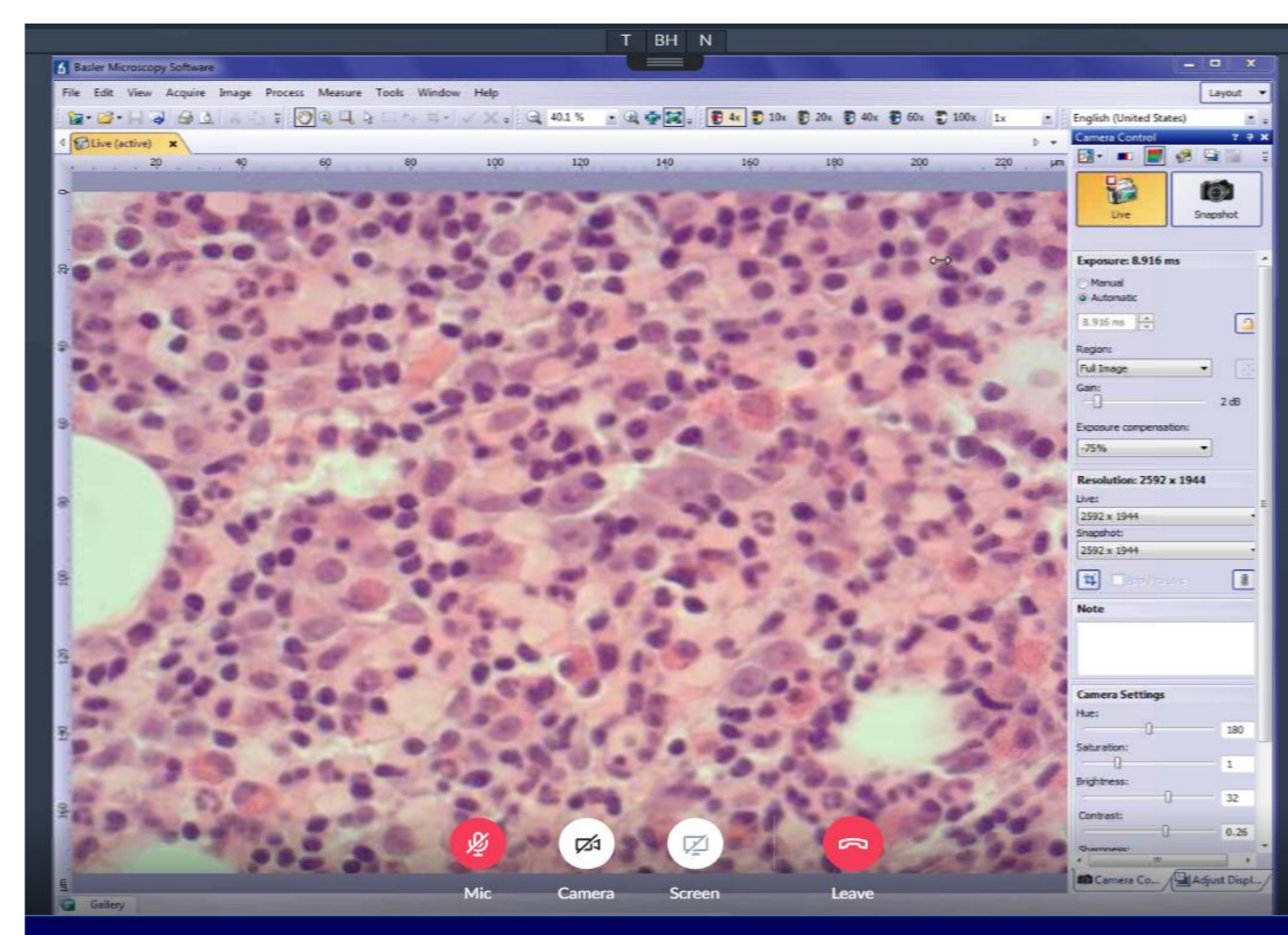


Image 2: Direct microscope camera feed as seen by local and remote attendees.

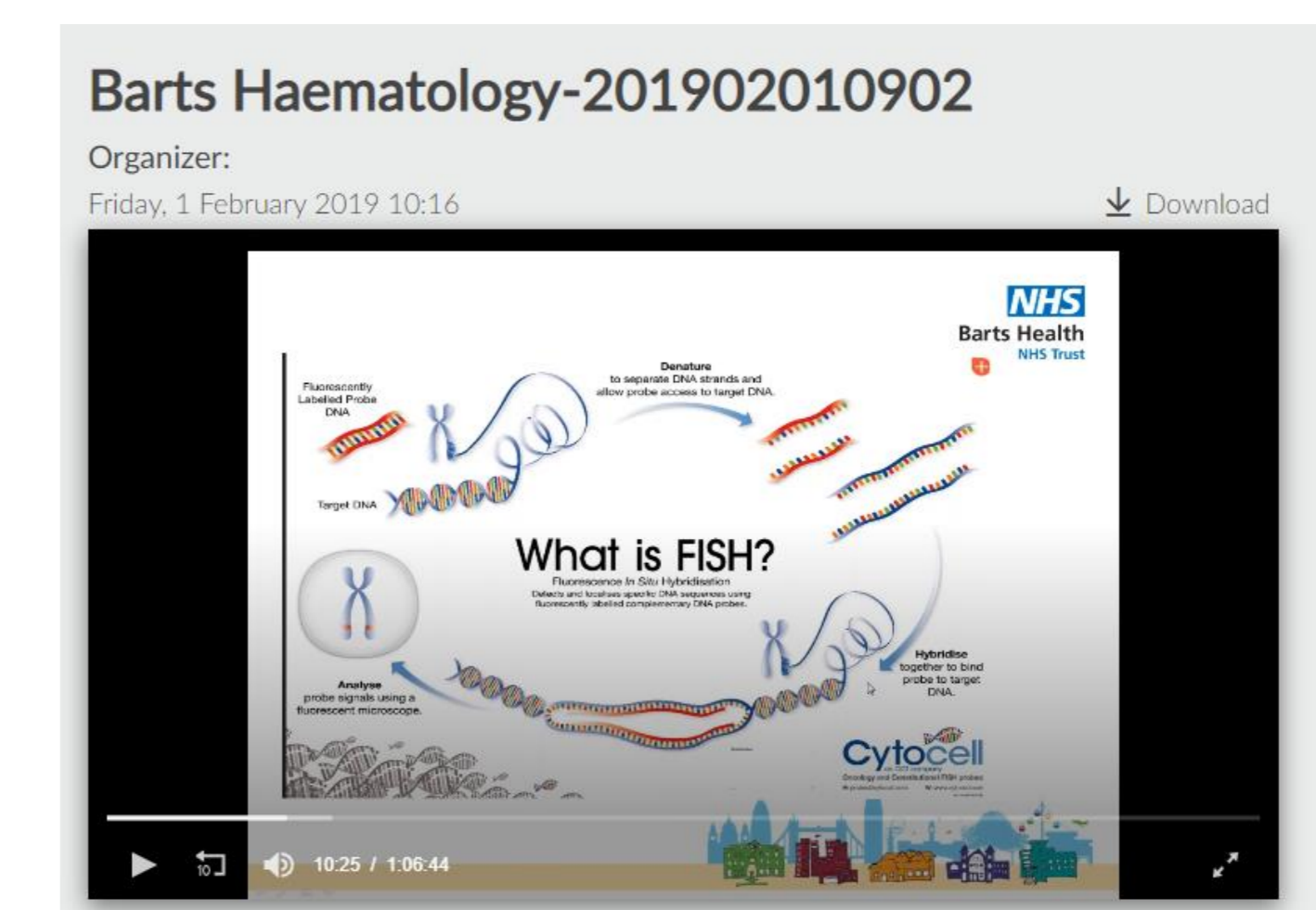


Image 3: Sessions are recorded and available for streaming later.