

# HAEMBASE

## IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF A FREE OPEN ACCESS MEDICAL EDUCATION RESOURCE TARGETED AT HAEMATOLOGISTS IN TRAINING

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### BACKGROUND

The term Free Open Access to Medical education (FOAM) was coined in 2012 by the team behind the emergency medicine project Life in the Fast Lane. Since then, haematologists have come to benefit from a number of excellent free digital resources, some of the author's favourite examples being TeamHaem, Buku Haematology & Practical-Haemostasis. A recent addition to the FOAM community is [www.haembase.com](http://www.haembase.com), a website launched in June 2018 with a specific focus on haematology registrars preparing for their fellowship examinations.

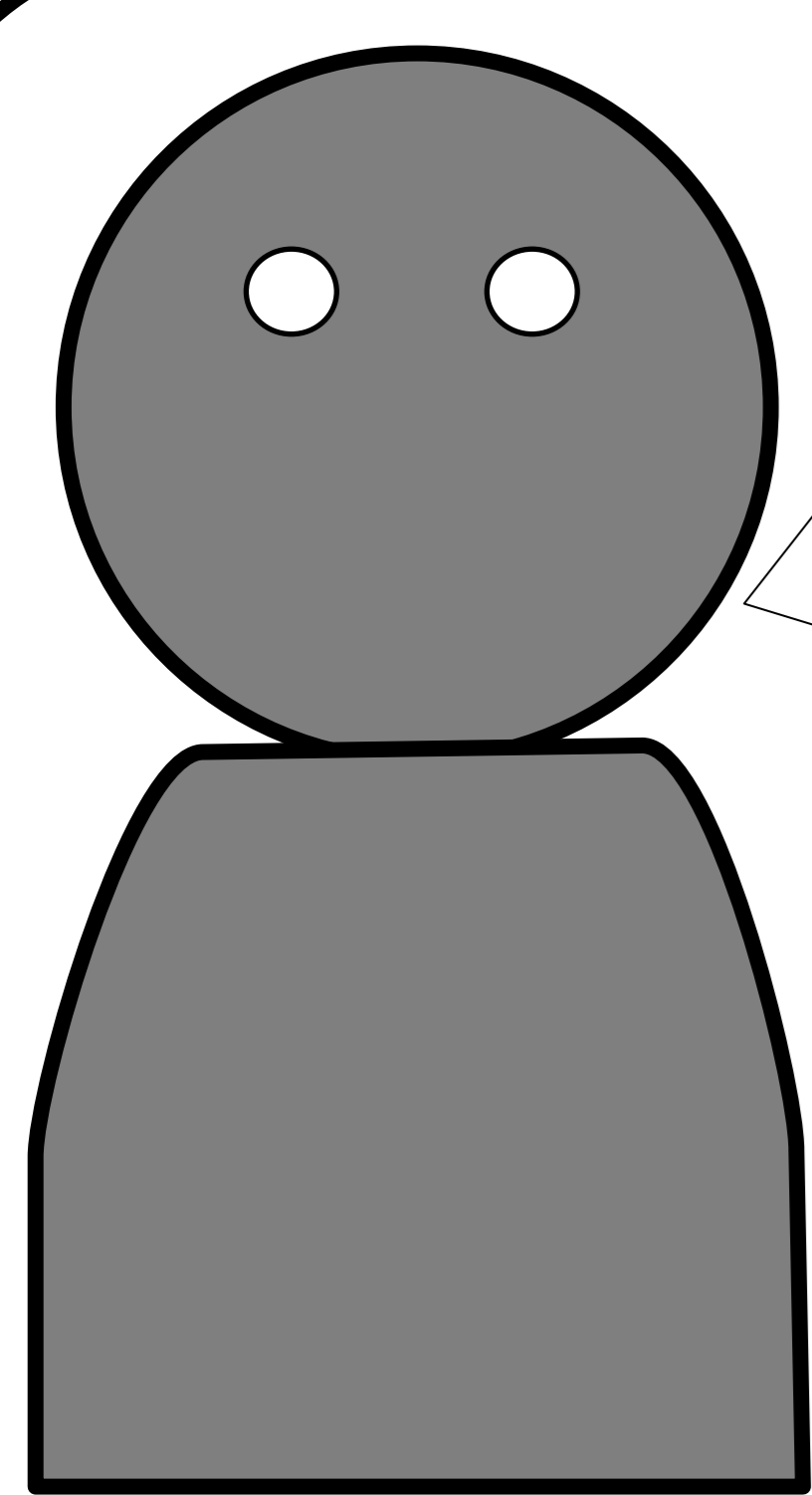
### AIM

To identify, and then implement, the necessary changes required to address the learning needs of Haembase's users.

### METHOD

An open invite survey was advertised on Haembase and the accompanying @TomboxaneA2 Twitter account in April 2019. The survey asked nine questions, covering the respondents' demographics, opinion on the value of Haembase, and their priorities for changes required to the site. Following the implementation of suggested improvements, a second open invite survey was launched in September 2019 to review the response to these changes.

## RESULTS



Haematology Registrar (66%)  
Living in the UK (74%)  
Preparing for FRCPath Part 1 (44%)  
Visiting Haembase >1x/week (73%)

Fig 1. Typical Survey Respondent Demographics

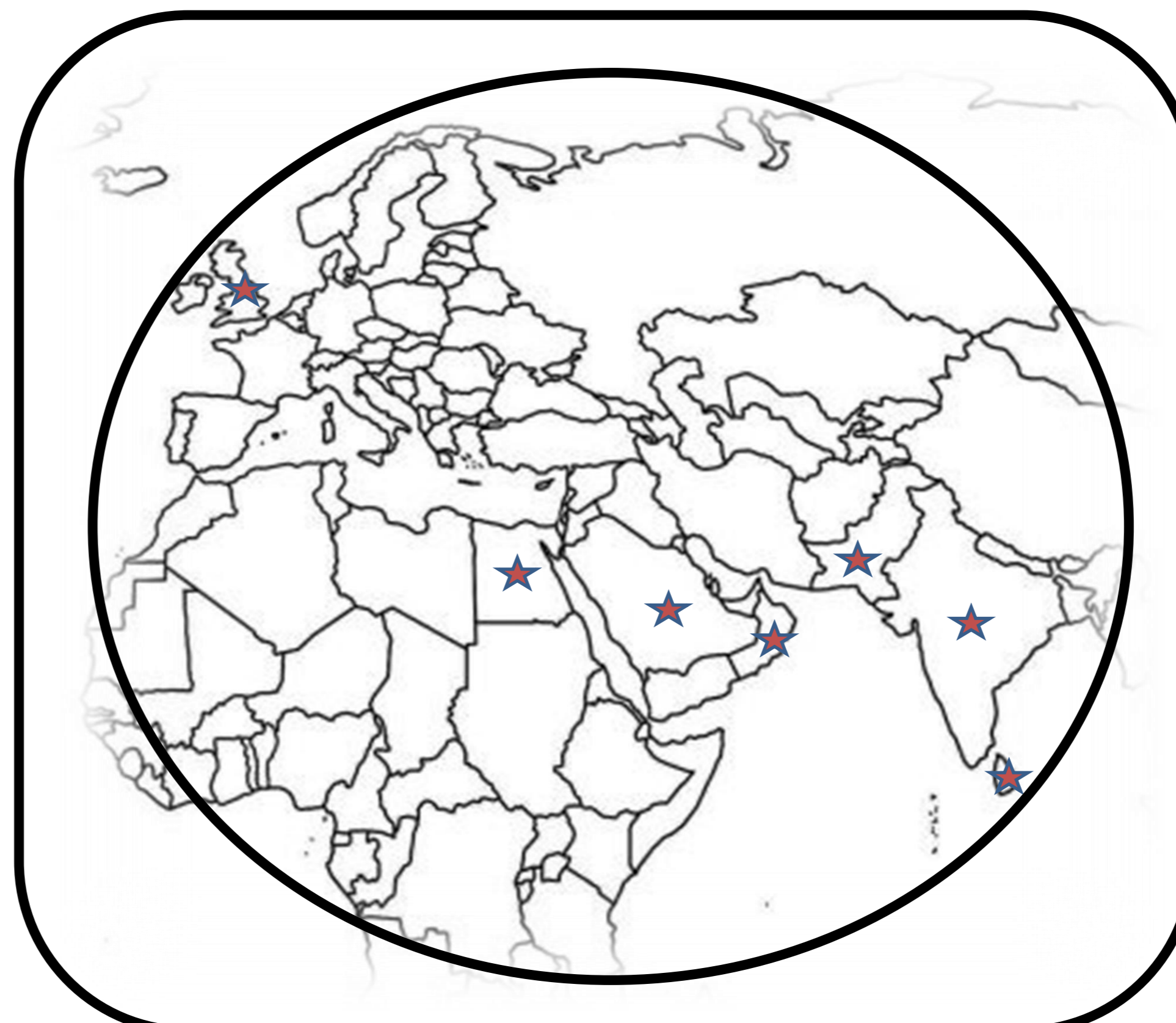


Fig 2. Countries of Origin of Respondents



Fig 3.

The April survey received 50 responses. Typical demographics (Fig 1) and country of origin (Fig 2) are presented. 98% of respondents found what they were looking for, and would recommend the site to others (Fig 3). Respondents were divided on their preferred priority upgrades to Haembase (Fig 4) and following this the number of practice part 1 style questions was increased from 17 to 33 and new pages discussing ways to prepare for the FRCPath examinations were created. The repeat survey received 60 responses. 34 (57%) of the respondents had completed both surveys. Of these, 8 (24%) found much improvement, 19 (55%) some improvement, and 7 (21%) no change in the site since April (Fig 5). None of the respondents felt that the site was worse.

Respondents preferred priority upgrades to Haembase – April 2019

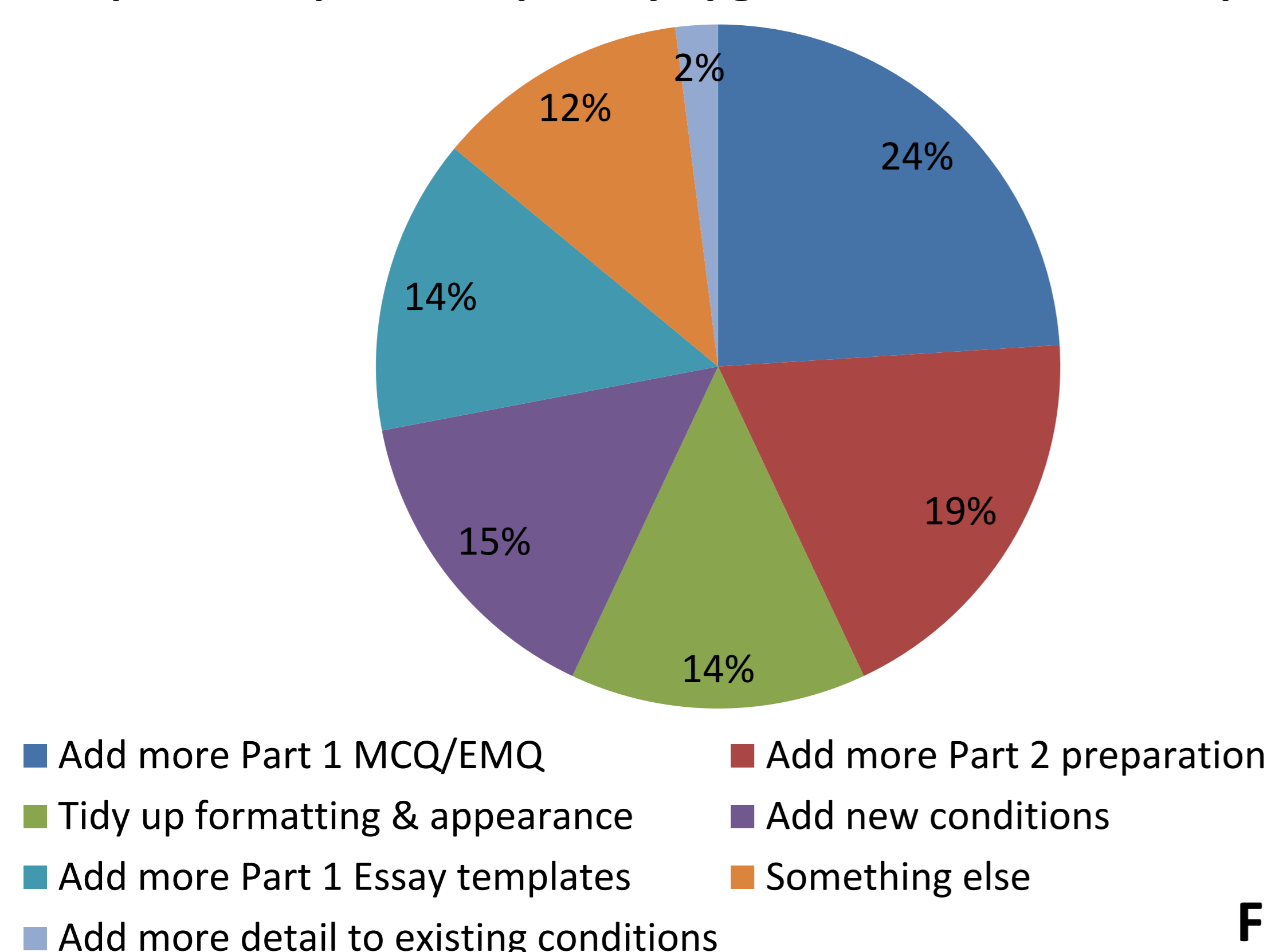


Fig 4.

Repeat survey respondents opinion of changes made to Haembase – Sept 2019

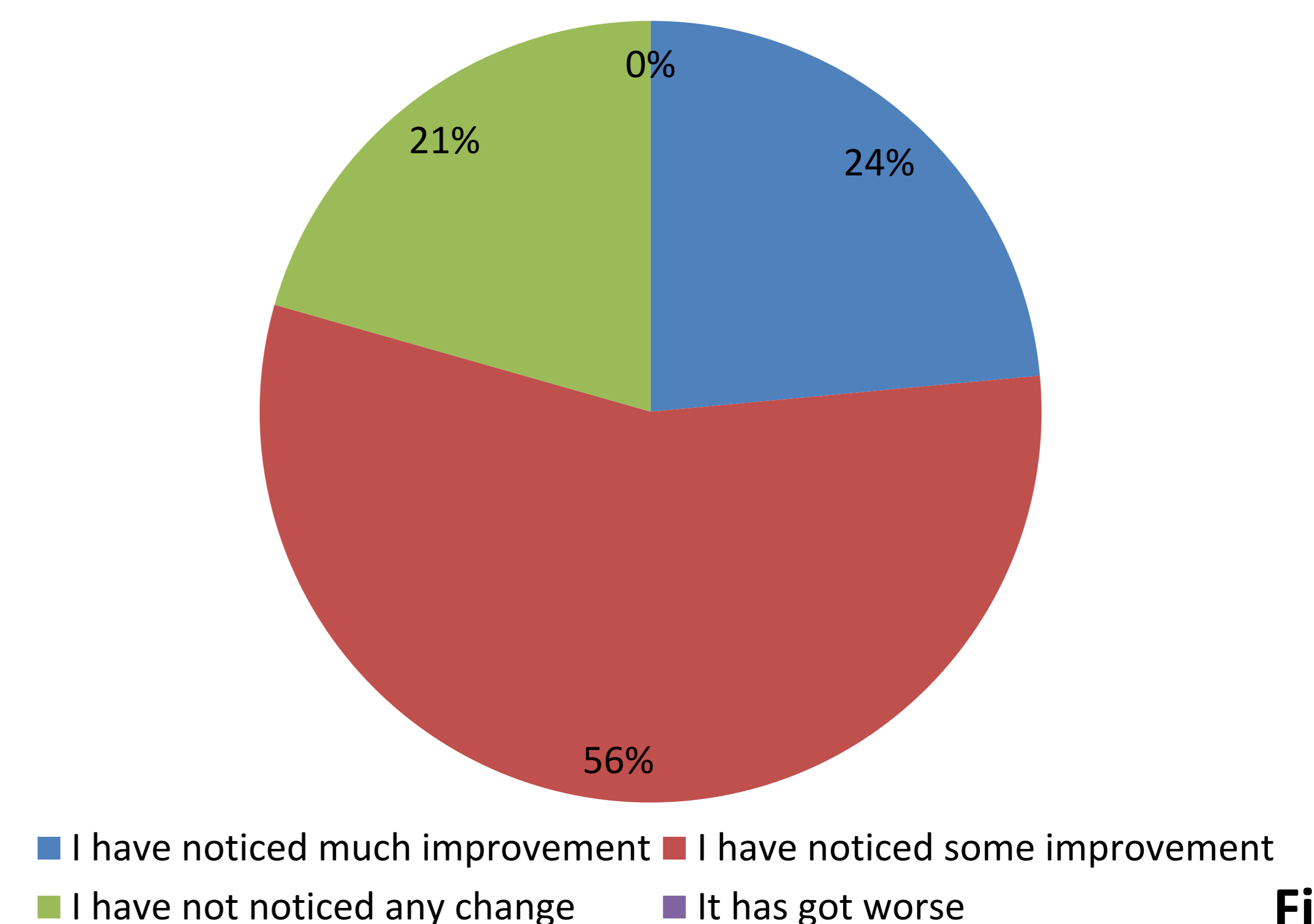


Fig 5.

### CONCLUSION

The responses to both surveys confirm that there is a desire for quality revision materials and that Haembase is providing this worldwide in a free, open access digital format. The online world of medical education has the power to keep content up-to-date with the latest in clinical and laboratory practice without delay. However, this also poses the risk of getting lost in a sea of new knowledge. Targeted use of visitor feedback helps to ensure that time put into maintaining a FOAM resource is well spent and applicable to its users' needs. Finally, in the spirit of ongoing quality improvement for the site, the author would welcome contact from any haematology colleagues interested in joining or contributing to Haembase