

How to make medical microbiology more attractive for medical graduates

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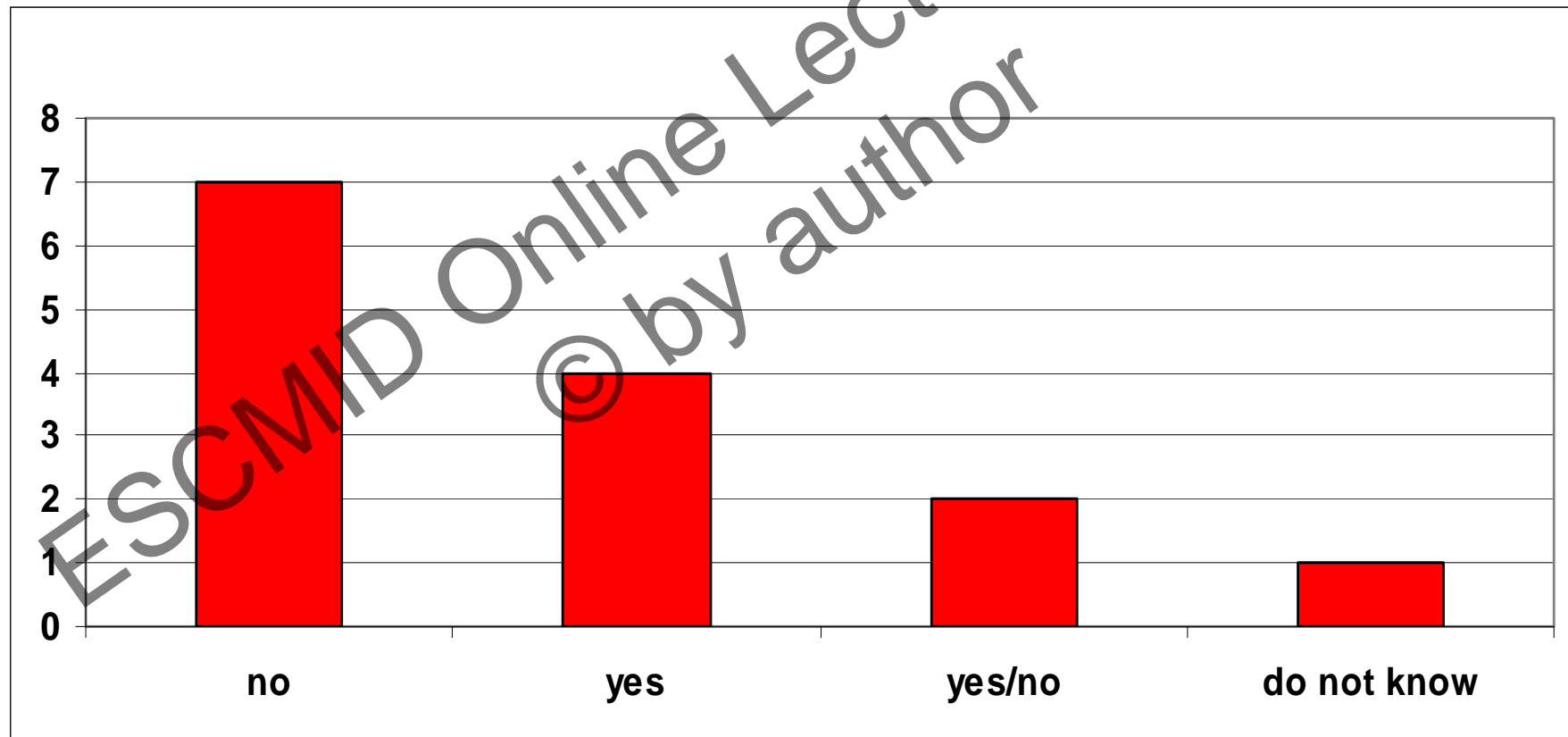
Some European countries obviously
have a problem attracting new
trainees



How is MM seen from the outside?

- Unpopular subject among medical undergraduates
 - many details
 - large subject – do I have to learn all this?
 - difficult to structure your knowledge
 - the subject is just BIG
- The personalities in MM/CM often seen as introverted and nerdy
- Not a very sexy image
- Doctors are not interested in mechanisms, but in clinical relevance
- Other doctors have a poor understanding of the facts of microbiology – things take time

Is MM/CM attractive as a specialty for medical graduates/is it easy to recruit new trainees?



If yes, how did you manage to make it attractive?

- Clinical emphasis - mix clinical and laboratory skills
- Trainers actively searching for promising candidates
- Good and organised working conditions compared to clinical work (e.g. no night-shifts)
- The possibility to do research – academic orientation – possible academic career
- Comparable salary to clinical specialties without having to do night-shifts
- Ensuring visibility among candidates (ads, courses), in hospitals, in society, in the media

If no, how do you think it could be made more attractive?

- Making it more clinical/better collaboration with the clinicians
- Focus on science/academic careers
- Focus on working conditions (better payment, mobility and exchange, working hours)
- Work to improve the medical curriculum regarding Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology
- Visibility of the specialty through media (TV, radio and newspapers) regarding "events"

The role of external conditions

- UK: change when ID and CM was merged
- Germany: If you are interested in laboratory medicine you will most probably come to work in a large commercial lab, especially if you're not interested in research
- The poor visibility of CM