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Birmingham's  
perspective on the PRE

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# The SJT

- Held on 11/11/11 to fit in with students' rotations
  - We had a very low turn-out for the pre-pilot as it was in the run up to Finals
- Held in three rooms at the Medical School (including extra time venue)
- One room was a lecture theatre so exam desks could not be used (we could not book an entirely suitable venue)
- 339/353 students took the test (96%)

# Practicalities of the SJT

- We tailored the student emails to be more Birmingham-specific
- Laying out the four sets of paperwork was time-consuming:
  - ‘Exam pack’ for each student suggested
- Registration on entry required for lecture theatre venue
  - Time consuming (usually register during exam)
  - Different doors for those with/without RA numbers worked well
- Provided RA numbers on post-its
  - RA numbers being provided by MSC on cards next year – will need to establish process to enable students to find their place easily

# Lessons/Questions for 2012/13 SJT

- ❑ 'Team effort' – we have a plan for who needs to do what and when
- ❑ Have booked suitable venues already
- ❑ Will make 'exam packs' with the two documents prior to the day
  - Getting the papers 7 days in advance will be useful for this
- ❑ Do we follow our internal arriving late and leaving early policies?
- ❑ Will register students during the test
- ❑ Can collect papers from students systematically before they leave, but will not be able to 'hold' 400 students until all re-sorted into RA number order
- ❑ Please can we get individual scores (if data protection laws allow this)?

# The EPM

- Discussion at Staff-Student Committee
- Email to students with:
  - Details of the consultation
  - Invite to a Q&A session
  - Link to Survey Monkey to obtain views on key issues (36% response rate)
- Final decisions based on survey results during discussion between Dean, Vice-Deans and SL in Assessment
- Final approach published on IntraMed

# Contentious issues and decisions

- Whether or not to include Student-Selected Module marks
  - Close call but majority said no, so excluded
- Use of first-sit mark or capped score of 50% when first-sit failed (and no extenuating circumstances)
  - Stuck with first-sit mark as fairer to majority
- Weighting on first year – ‘settling-in’ process vs. ensuring motivation
  - Reduced module weights by 25%
- Ethics of changing process for students already part-way through the course
  - We can’t control this!

# Moving forwards

- Already communicating about SJT to Year 4 students via careers sessions
- We now have different scoring processes for UKFPO and Honours
  - Clear communication strategy needed
- Appreciate continued clear communication from MSC/UKFPO
- Is there a plan in place for long-term evaluation, including predictive validity and cost-effectiveness?