

Preceptor Perceptions of Student Preparedness for Journal Club Presentations on Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences

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Take Home Points

Relative class time spent on EBM topics aligns with preceptor perceived strengths of student journal club performance

Recommendation development and defense should be an area of future focus as course redesign is implemented

Background

- Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) and a longitudinal Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) are offered concurrently in the fall of the third professional year, with the IPPE continuing through the spring semester.
- The EBM course teaches a five-step process giving students a systematic approach for evaluating journal articles.¹
- Students are required to complete a journal club within the IPPE evaluated by the IPPE preceptor. Preceptors are primary faculty familiar with journal club expectations of students.
- EBM is being modified from a single semester to a year-long course with lab in the second professional year beginning in Fall 2024.

Objective

To assess preceptor perceptions of introductory pharmacy practice student performance on formal journal clubs as it relates to EBM course design

Methods

- EBM coordinators developed an anonymous, electronic survey that was distributed to longitudinal IPPE preceptors via email
- Survey results were analyzed for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 longitudinal IPPE cohorts
- Survey items assessed preceptor expectations for the required journal club activity and the preparedness of students to complete each component of the journal club activity
- Results were summarized using descriptive statistics

Results

- The survey was distributed via email to 24 IPPE preceptors in each response year.
- Survey response rates were 63% in 2022 and 75% in 2023.

Table 1: Preceptor characteristics

	2022 n = 15	2023 n = 18
IPPE learners precepted each year, mean	7.1	6.0
Years precepting longitudinal IPPE, mean	10.6	9.0
Primary practice area, n (%)		
General inpatient pharmacy	2 (14.3)	3 (16.7)
Inpatient specialty area	3 (21.4)	1 (5.6)
Outpatient general pharmacy	8 (57.1)	13 (72.2)
Outpatient specialty area	2 (14.3)	1 (5.6)

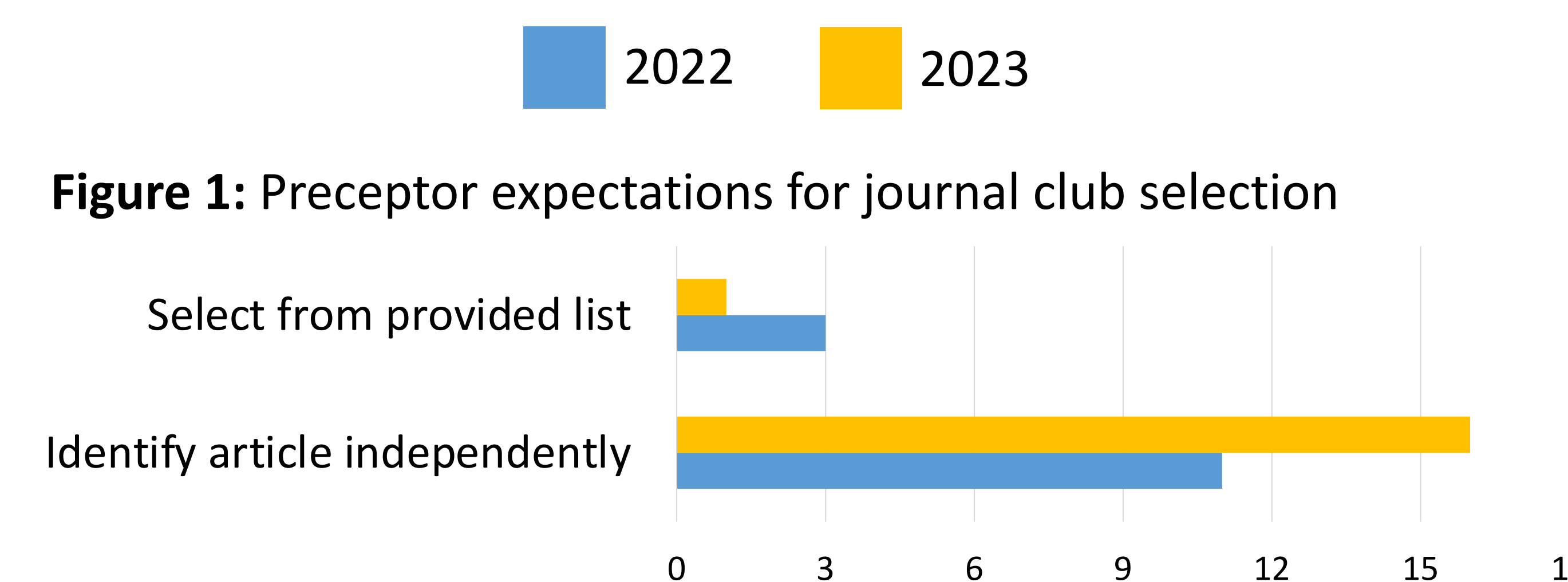


Figure 1: Preceptor expectations for journal club selection

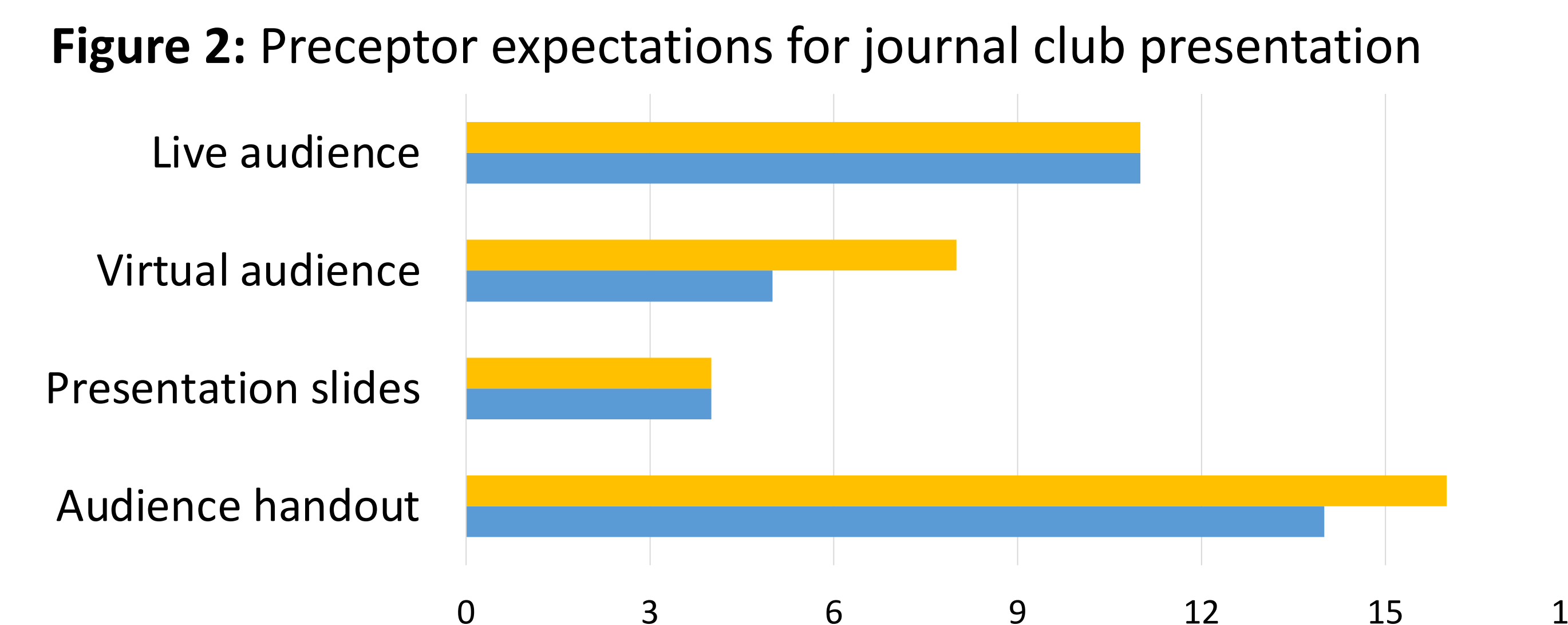


Figure 2: Preceptor expectations for journal club presentation

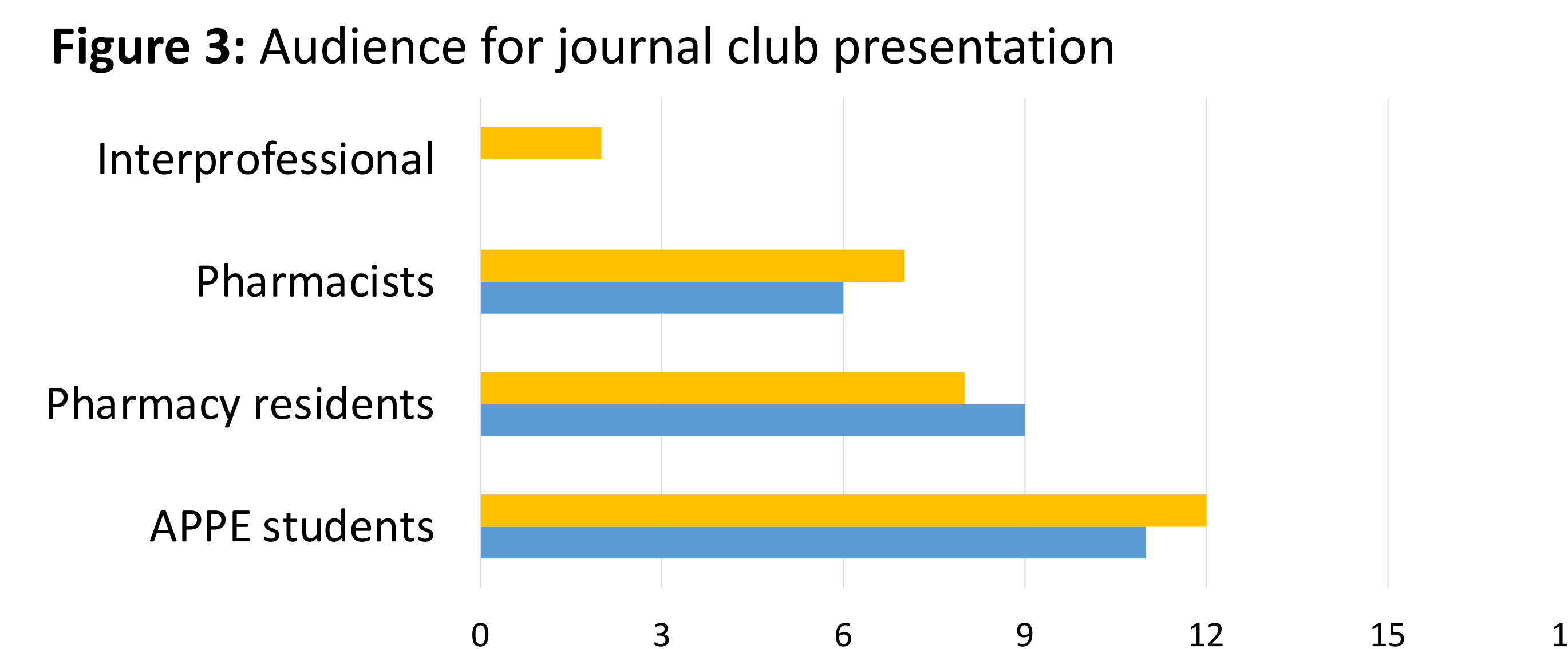


Figure 3: Audience for journal club presentation

Results (continued)

Table 2: Preceptor perceptions of student preparedness for journal club development and presentation

	2022 n = 15	2023 n = 18
<i>Background, n (%)</i>		
Needs Improvement	3 (20.0)	7 (38.9)
Meets or Exceeds Expectations	11 (73.3)	9 (50.0)
<i>Trial Design, n (%)</i>		
Needs Improvement	3 (20.0)	3 (16.7)
Meets or Exceeds Expectations	11 (73.3)	13 (72.2)
<i>Interpret Results, n (%)</i>		
Needs Improvement	4 (26.7)	3 (16.7)
Meets or Exceeds Expectations	10 (66.7)	13 (72.2)
<i>Analyze Strengths and Limitations, n (%)</i>		
Needs Improvement	3 (20.0)	4 (22.2)
Meets or Exceeds Expectations	11 (73.3)	12 (66.7)
<i>Develop a Recommendation, n (%)</i>		
Needs Improvement	2 (13.3)	6 (33.3)
Meets or Exceeds Expectations	11 (73.3)	10 (55.6)
<i>Anticipate Questions Related to Article, n (%)</i>		
Needs Improvement	8 (53.3)	9 (50.0)
Meets or Exceeds Expectations	6 (40.0)	7 (38.9)
<i>Respond to Audience Questions, n (%)</i>		
Needs Improvement	4 (26.7)	7 (38.9)
Meets or Exceeds Expectations	10 (66.7)	9 (50.0)

Conclusions

- Expectations for journal club activities were similar across cohort years and preceptors.
- Skills identified as strongest by preceptors align with lectures and assessments allotted the most time and focus in the EBM course.
- Future course design should center on creating opportunity for students to gain more practice developing a recommendation on their own as well as anticipating and fielding questions from an audience.

Disclosures

This project was deemed to be IRB exempt. Authors of this presentation have nothing to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.

References

1. Bryant P, Pace H. The Pharmacist's Guide to Evidence-Based Medicine for Clinical Decision Making. American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; 2008.