Course analysis BIOR56 "Antibiotics – Biology and Chemistry” spring 2020

Course leader: Klas Flärdh
Other teachers: Claes von Wachenfeldt, Fredric Carlsson, Lars Hederstedt.

Number of students: 16 registered students

Grades: 2 Fail (U), 8 Pass (G), 5 Pass w distinction (VG).

Evaluation

I. Summary of the course evaluation
Number of answers: 14

Short summary of the result: Overall the students were pleased with the course (average on the question “Overall, I am satisfied with the course” was 4.0). The students especially appreciated the literature projects, efforts by teachers, the discussion seminar about antibiotic stewardship, and the text book. Suggestions from students about potential improvement included to introduce seminars during course to balance the theoretical parts of the course that by comes were perceived to be somewhat heavy. Another suggestion was improve and develop the feedback on literature project reports. Somebody asked also for more focus on how antibiotics are used to treat infections. The significance of the laboratory exercise was also questioned, but this may be partially due to the fact the lab was not done in practice. Instead, the exercises were carried out by a laboratory assistant and documented by photos, and only raw data were provided to the students for analysis and writing of lab reports.

It is noted that 12 of 13 students would recommend the course to others (12 answered 4 or 5 on scale 1-5).

II. Comments from the teachers team
The course started about a week after the University closed down on-campus teaching and switched to entirely on-line distance teaching. The whole course had with very short notice to be switched to on-line format. Under these circumstances, the teachers on the course considered that the course worked very well. The format and the content lends itself relatively well to such in-line teaching. The exception was the lab exercise, (see above), but this is relatively small and not critical for the outcome of the course.

III. Evaluation of changes made since the previous course
There were some changes of teachers since last year, including a switch of course organizer. A few changes were also introduced to the schedule. A discussion seminar about “antibiotic stewardship” changed format and become a group discussion. This worked well. There were also new some new lectures and changed order of lectures. Overall, the lectures were appreciated.

The move of the exam to an on-line format received some criticism, but the teachers think is to large extent due to late information about the exam and its format (which in turn was caused our inexperience in converting previous exams formats to new on-line versions, and our lack of established routines and dedicated web platforms for electronic examinations).
Overall, the teachers were pleased with the course and its outcome. They are also convinced that the course is valuable and useful for both Biology and Chemistry students.

IV. **Suggested changes for the next course**

The next time the course is given we plan to include a guest lecture about clinical aspects of antibiotic use, medical bacteriology and how decisions about treatments are made. Further, we plan to implement seminar or group exercises during the course to facilitate learning and rehearsing of terminology and concepts. If possible, we would try to make use of the fact that some students on the course have background in chemistry and others in biology. The idea would be that they in some way should benefit from each other’s expertise. Finally, the collection of topics for the literature projects will be revised based on experiences from this year (some topics work better than others).

2020-06-08, compiled by Klas Flärdh