



GEBIN Educational Course Freiburg, 4-5 March 2007

For the third time, I am writing an evaluation of the GEBIN Educational Course, which this year took place in Freiburg, on 4-5 March. As for the two previous courses, I am copying below the answers of the students to the evaluation sheet distributed at the end of this course, and also as before, without any "editing" from my side. The course was attended by 24 students (the total "n" for each question is indicated).

1. How did you find...

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Regular	Bad	Very bad
Program	46 % (11/24)	46 % (11/24)	4 % (1/24)	4 % (1/24)	-	-
Content of the course	33 % (8/24)	50 % (12/24)	17 % (4/24)	-	-	-
Time schedule	9 % (2/23)	48 % (11/23)	26 % (6/23)	17 % (4/23)	-	-
Teachers	46 % (11/24)	42 % (10/24)	8 % (2/24)	4 % (1/24)	-	-
Atmosphere	65 % (15/23)	30 % (7/23)	-	4 % (1/23)	-	-

2. What was the best thing in the course?

- The diversity and interdisciplinarity of the program - The discussions - As a Biologist, I did not have an insight in psychiatry and psychology, which I now have - The organization - Friendly atmosphere, coming-together evening - The atmosphere - The atmosphere and the teachers - Breaks were long, thematics clear and basic, time calculation very good, handouts - Very international environment; to share our research interests - To get general knowledge on fields we do not work, but related to our fields - To learn that interdisciplinary works are really being taken seriously - It was very good to make your knowledge accessible to us - Very good idea to make this course before the congress
- Interesting lectures, dinner with the teachers - Overview of topics; new aspects

3. What was the worst thing in the course?

- The course was too short. It could go on for another day!
- Zu wenig Zeit!
- Nothing
- Too short time (little time to explain complex issues)
- Quite late confirmation
- Not enough time to go deep in some themes
- Time for discussion too short
- Air circulation
- Nothing
- Some presentations took too long

4. The level of this lecture was for me:

	Too advanced	Appropriated	Too basic
Immunology	5 % (1/22)	95 (21/22)	-
Nervous system	8.5 % (2/23)	83 (19/23)	8.5% (2/23)
Psychology	8.5 % (2/23)	61 (14/23)	30 % (7/23)
Psychiatry	13 % (3/23)	65 % (15/23)	22 % (5/23)
Long-loop INEI	9 % (2/22)	86 (19/22)	5 % (1/22)
Peripheral INEI	9,5 % (2/21)	81 % (17/21)	9,5 % (2/21)
Central INEI	5 % (1/21)	81 % (17/21)	9.5 % (2/21)
Psychiatry and INEI	19 % (4/21)	67 % (4/21)	14 % (3/21)
Behavior and INEI	10 % (2/20)	80 % (16/20)	10 % (2/20)
Conditioning and INEI	14 % (3/22)	82 % (18/22)	4 % (1/22)

5. What would you change? How?

- Make your program more popular (I haven't heard about GEBIN much before)
- Nothing, as "Students" are always "specialists" in certain of their fields, but "students" in others. Overall, the levels were balanced.
- Stick to time schedule to leave more time for questions
- Buffer the schedule a little more
- Nothing
- A little bit more of time (1 day is very "intensive")
- Teachers should be in time, so more time for discussion
- Nothing

6. Should this type of course be repeated?

100 % yes (plus some: "surely!", "in the same way", "definitively yes", "absolutely yes!")

7. Any particular comment/suggestion?

- It was a very motivating course. Teachers were very nice.
- I enjoyed the students-meet-teacher evening very much (not because of the food but because of the discussions!). It was difficult to talk to different teachers because you talk to people who sit next to you; anyway it was a bargain.
- Thank you very much!
- Weiter so!

8. Your education at the time of the course (please, if student specify Semester; if PhD Student mention main topic; if Professional, please specify):

- 16 participants were PhD Students (*in those that were indicated, the main topic of their PhD Studies were: Psychology; Stress, immunity and Behavior; Clinical Psychology, Psychoneuroimmunology; Behavior and stress; Nervous System, Stress, Immunology; Estrogen conversion; Activation of microglia; Nervous System; Neurosciences; Behavior; Psychology; Immunological and endocrinological variables in chronic sleep disorders; Neuro & Clinical Psychology; Immunology; Dermatology*)
- 2 participants were Medical Doctors and 1 was Pharmacist
- 2 participants were Post Docs
- 1 participant was Student of Human Biology (12 Semester) and another was Student of Immunology (Semester not indicated)
- 1 participant indicated "Unemployed (just finished my Diplom!)"

My personal comments:

1) After "analysing" the results of the evaluation of this Course, I looked back to the reports of the two previous ones (which, by the way, are still available on the Web) to compare "our Freiburg performance" as judged by the students. The program, the content of the lectures, the quality of the teachers and the atmosphere at the course were, as before, judged between "excellent" and "very good" by the vast majority of the students. But one of my aims while organizing the course for Freiburg was to get this "qualification" for all the "parameters" asked. And this time we got it! For the previous courses, I wrote that the "time schedule" was considered as "regular" by more than 50% of the students. Now, 83% of the students considered it between "excellent" and "good". Several students commented me afterwards that they did not grade the "time schedule" also as "very good" or "excellent" because they hoped to motivate us to organize "a longer educational course for the future GEBIN meeting"; or "at least a two full-day course", etc., which, as we discussed later with the teachers and other members of the GEBIN Steering Committee, would be practically impossible for organizational and economical reasons.

2) This time, most of the attendants were PhD Students (16 out of 24), and 4 were already "Professionals" or Post Docs. It was probably correct to limit the course also this time for "advanced or PhD students", since the level of all lectures was considered "appropriated" by the majority. I must admit that I was a bit afraid when I got the registration of ,the "Professionals" or "Post Docs"; however they were not those few who considered the lectures "too basic" (neither were the non-PhD Students the few that considered the level of the lectures "too advanced"! The evaluation was, of course, anonymous, but the " *education at the time of the course*" is on the same sheet!). As a whole, the level of the lectures was appropriated, specially if considering that for any given lecture the small percentage for "too basic" was practically the same as for "too advanced"! I guess that, in such an interdisciplinary course, we would never reach 100% for "appropriated"!

3) All teachers provided hand-outs of their lectures, which was highly appreciated by the Students.

4) The facts that this time we had more discussion and questions by the students than in the previous courses, and that most of the students participated also at the GEBIN meeting that followed immediately after the course were, in my opinion, two very positive outcomes.

5) Finally, this time most students were happy with the length of the breaks!!!

6) An "innovation" during the Freiburg course was the "Students-teachers coming together evening", which we all enjoyed very much and, as one student wrote, not only because of the excellent food.....

7) Last but not least, thanks to the support of Teva and Biogen, some students got financial help to attend the Educational Course.

It would have not been possible to be able to write such a positive report without the outstanding teachers (and not only because of their scientific qualities) who contributed to the 3rd. GEBIN Educational Course. I warmly thank them for their participation. But it would have neither been possible without the perfect "local" organization by Bernd Fiebich, and the most friendly "local" help of Vikramjeet Singh, Antonio Carlos Pinheiro de Oliveira, and John Anakwue.

I am looking forward to the next GEBIN course!

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