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COVID-19 and undergraduate education in
geriatric medicine:
A mixed-methods study of medical students'
attitudes towards older people during a
global pandemic

Dr Grace ME Pearson

Short Communication

Transform MedEd Conference

11th November 2022

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Disclosures

I have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this presentation.

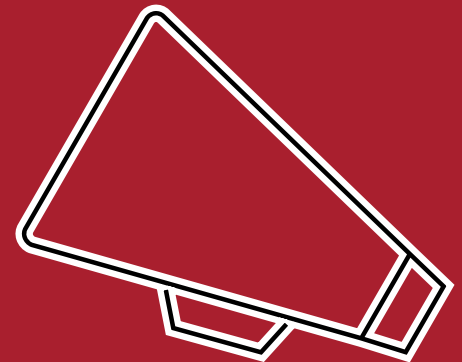
My PhD Fellowship is funded by The Dunhill Medical Trust – they had no role in the collection, analysis or presentation of these data.

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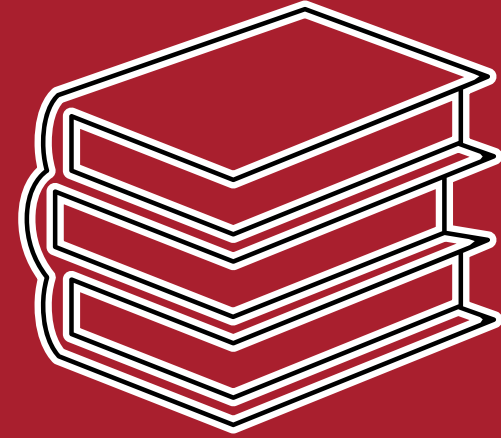
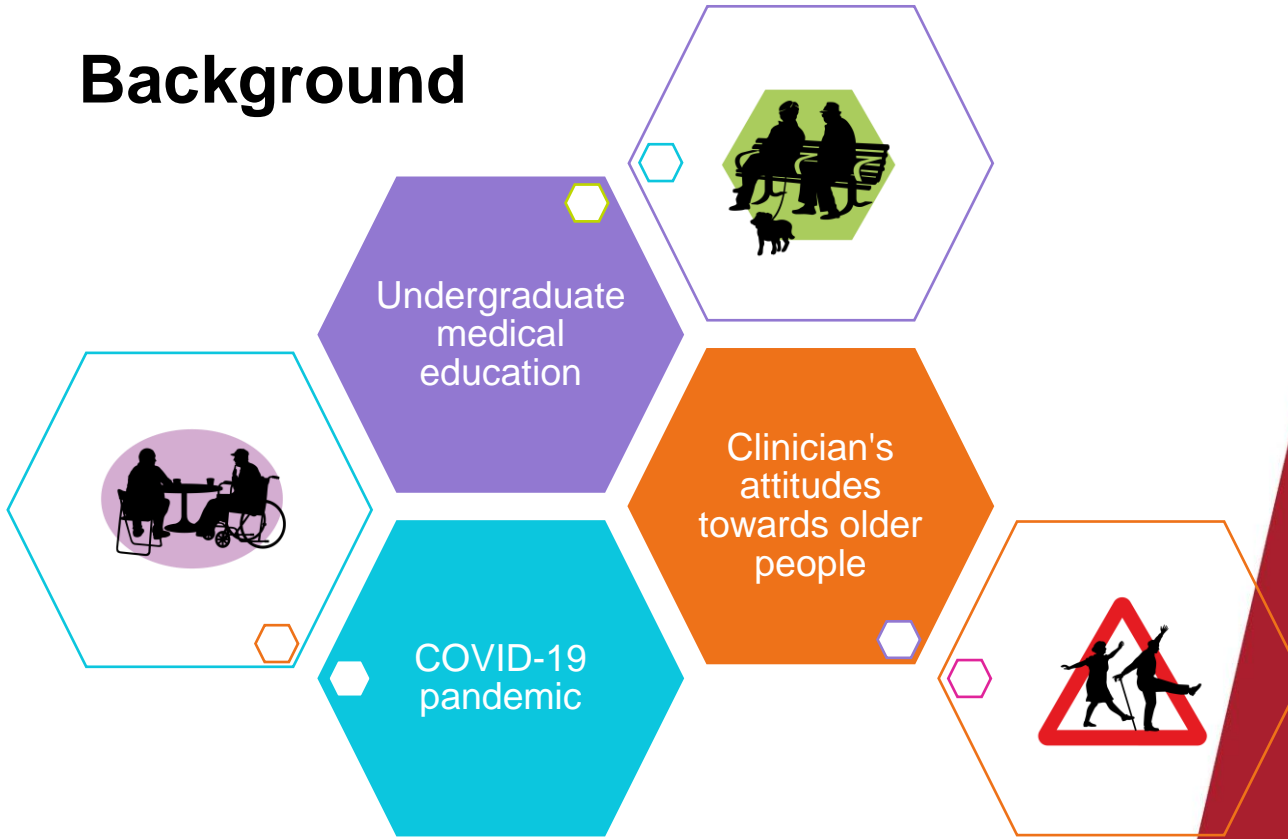


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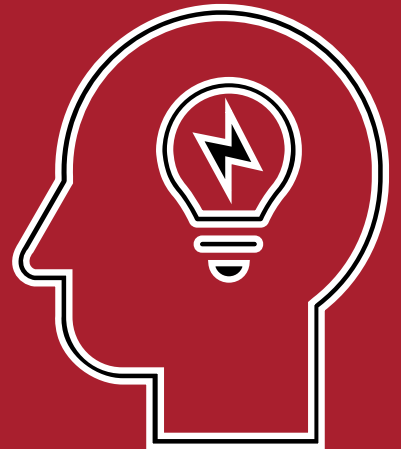


Background

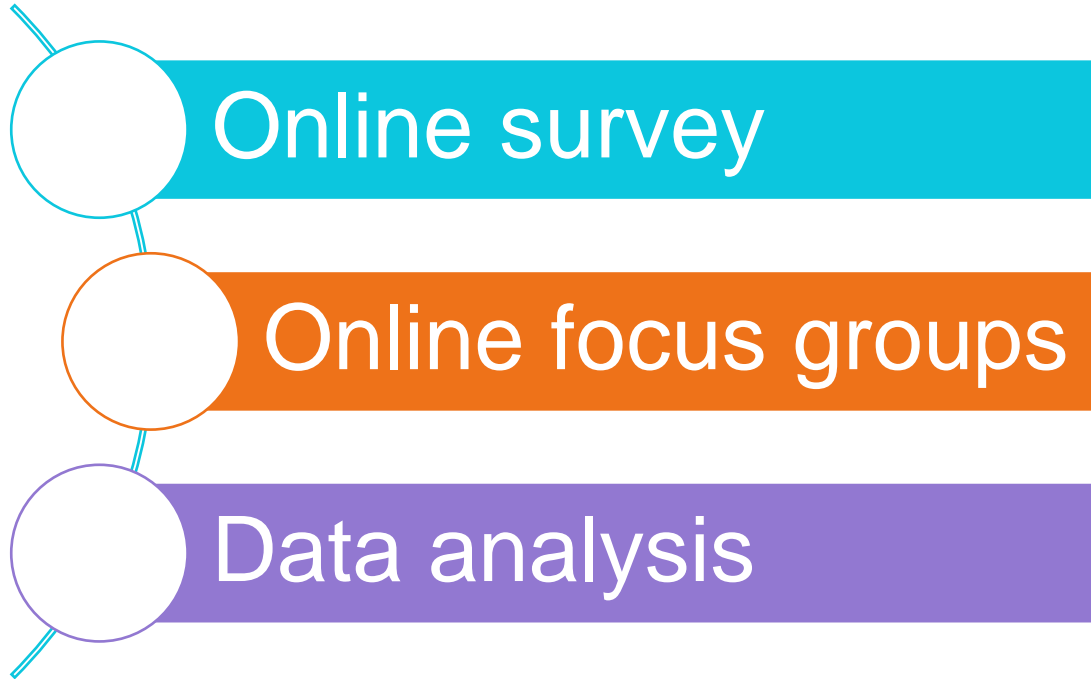


Aim

We have used mixed-methods to explore what effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on medical students' attitudes towards older people, in the context of a concurrent curriculum change.



Methods

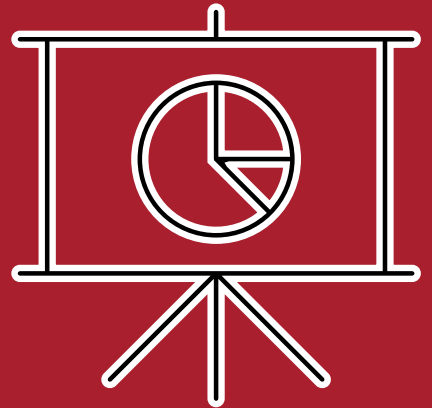


Results

N = 284 responses

- 115 MB16
- 169 MB21

Over *one third* of all students reported a *positive change in their attitude towards older people* during the COVID-19 pandemic.

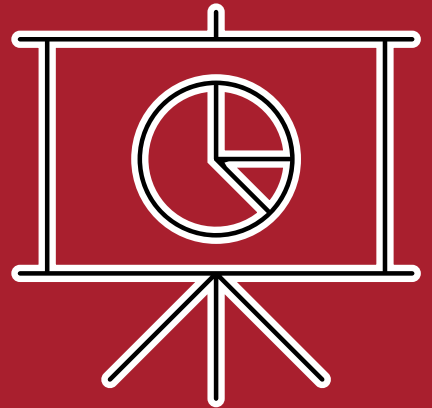


Results

Significant predictors:

- Curriculum type ($p < 0.01$)
- Survey timing ($p < 0.01$)

Students receiving *more teaching in geriatrics* were *twice as likely* to report a *positive attitudinal change* after adjustment.



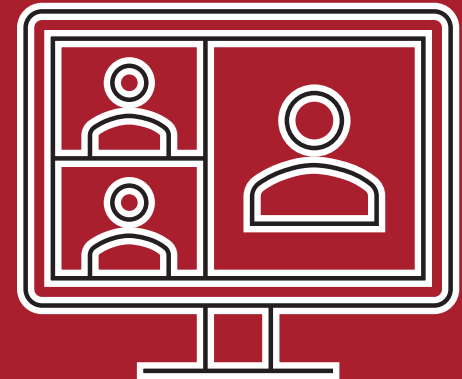
Results

“When I consider COVID, I don’t think I’m doing things to protect myself from getting it, but I’m thinking about the older people in my life, those are the ones that my actions are trying to protect.”

“We’ve got to protect those in our society whatever age they are.”

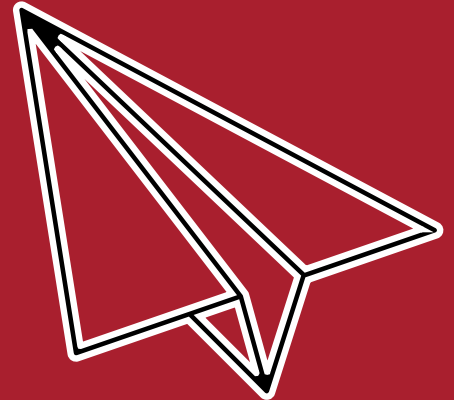
“It’s put a spotlight on what it is like to grow old.”

“People have actually experienced true loneliness for the first time in their life... It’s pulled the wool back from a lot of peoples’ eyes I think about loneliness.”



Key Message

Medical students receiving *more undergraduate teaching* in geriatric medicine were *twice as likely* to have a *positive change in attitude* towards older people during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Thank you!

Any Questions?



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