

A network diagram with white nodes and lines on a dark red background. A blue circle containing the number '18' is positioned in the upper right.

18

EvidenceLive

University of Oxford

June 18–20 2018

**Teaching of Evidence-based Medicine
in Italian medical schools**

A systematic analysis of courses and syllabi

Nino Cartabellotta

GIMBE Foundation

Disclosure

- GIMBE Foundation carries on educational and training activities on evidence-based practice
- No other conflicts of interest to disclose



Background

- Medical schools worldwide have increasingly included EBM principles in undergraduate curriculum either distributed in different courses or taught in one specific course
- In Italy complete and systematic data on teaching of EBM in medical schools are lacking
- A survey conducted by GIMBE Foundation on more than 600 students shows a limited diffusion of EBM contents in medical degree courses

Background

- In March 2017 GIMBE Foundation assigned a research grant to the Italian Secretariat of Medical Students (SISM) to evaluate teaching of EBM in medical schools and assess the real implementation of syllabi through structured surveys among students



Teaching of Evidence-based Medicine in Italian medical schools

A systematic analysis of courses and syllabi

Aims

- To evaluate teaching of EBM in medical schools through the analysis of courses and syllabi
- To assess the real implementation of syllabi through structured surveys among students

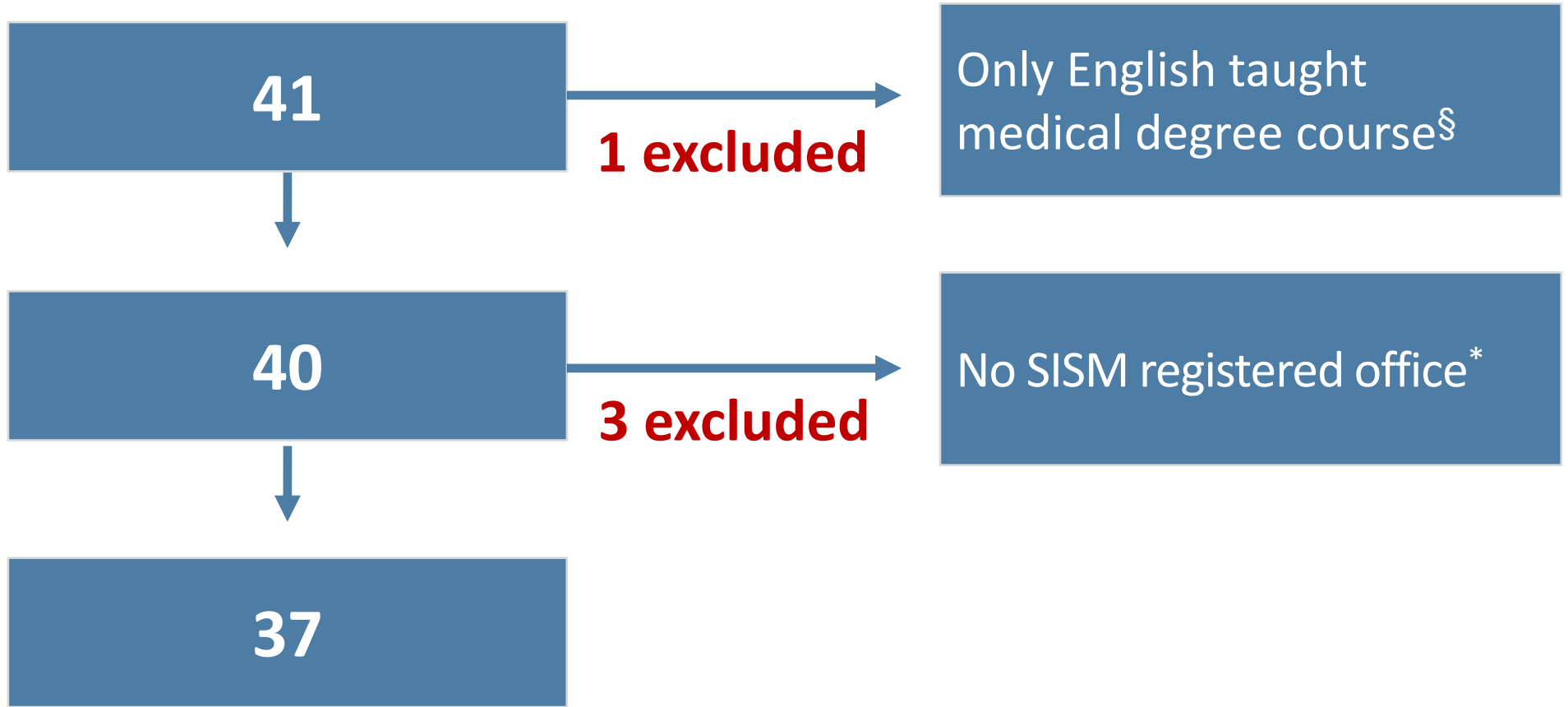


Methods 1. Identification of medical degree courses

- **Eligibility criteria:**
 - Italian Universities with at least 1 medical degree course
- **Exclusion criteria:**
 - English taught medical degree courses
 - Universities with no SISM registered office



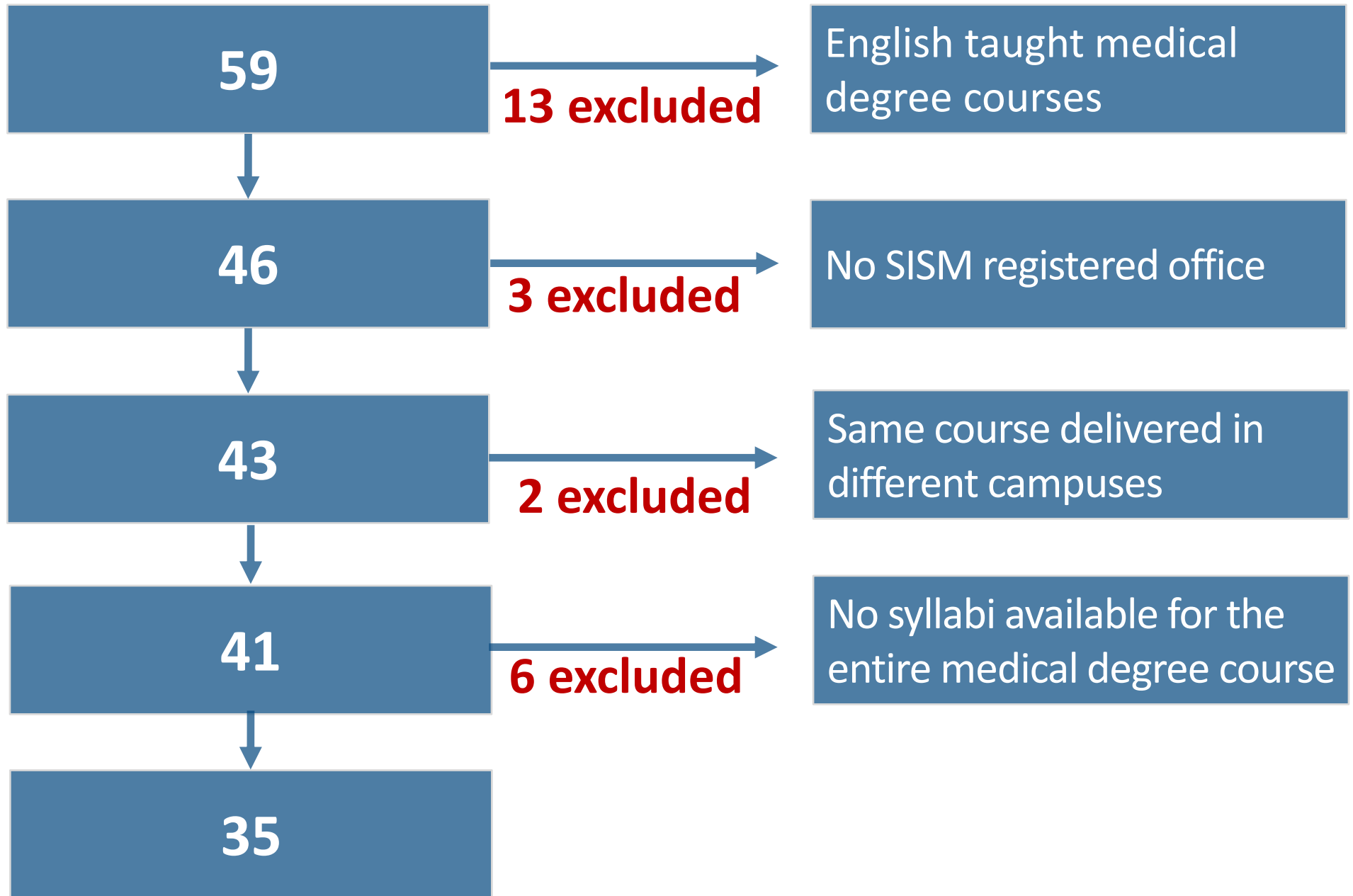
UNIVERSITIES



[§]Humanitas University

*University of Cagliari, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University (Milan), Campus Bio-medico University (Rome)

MEDICAL DEGREE COURSES



Methods. 2. Information sources

1. Core curriculum of the Italian Council of Medical Deans
2. Core curriculum of Medical Schools
3. Medical Schools' annual return – Scheda Unica Annuale (SUA)
4. Syllabi of single courses



Methods. 3. Keywords selection

- A high sensitive strategy has been used to minimize false negative results and each document has been searched for the following keywords
 - "medicina basata"
 - evidenza
 - evidenze
 - *evidence*
 - letteratura
 - prove di efficacia
 - EBM



Results. 1. Core curriculum of the Italian Council of Medical Deans

Section 2. Methodology and Pre-clinical Sciences

- Define criteria to assess the effectiveness of health interventions in primary care, preventive care and healthcare, by implementing evidence-based information
- Discuss relevance and usability of methods to assess the appropriateness of health interventions: EBM, clinical practice guidelines, consensus conferences, outcome studies

Results. 1. Core curriculum of the Italian Council of Medical Deans

Section 2. Methodology and Pre-clinical Sciences

- Discuss how to apply EBM tools to analyze and address true or simulated clinical scenarios: formulating clinical questions, searching evidence, and critical appraising
- Critically discuss principles and methods of EBM for clinical problem solving

Results. 2. Core curriculum of Medical Schools

- Only 4 curricula have been retrieved → excluded from further assessment and analyses



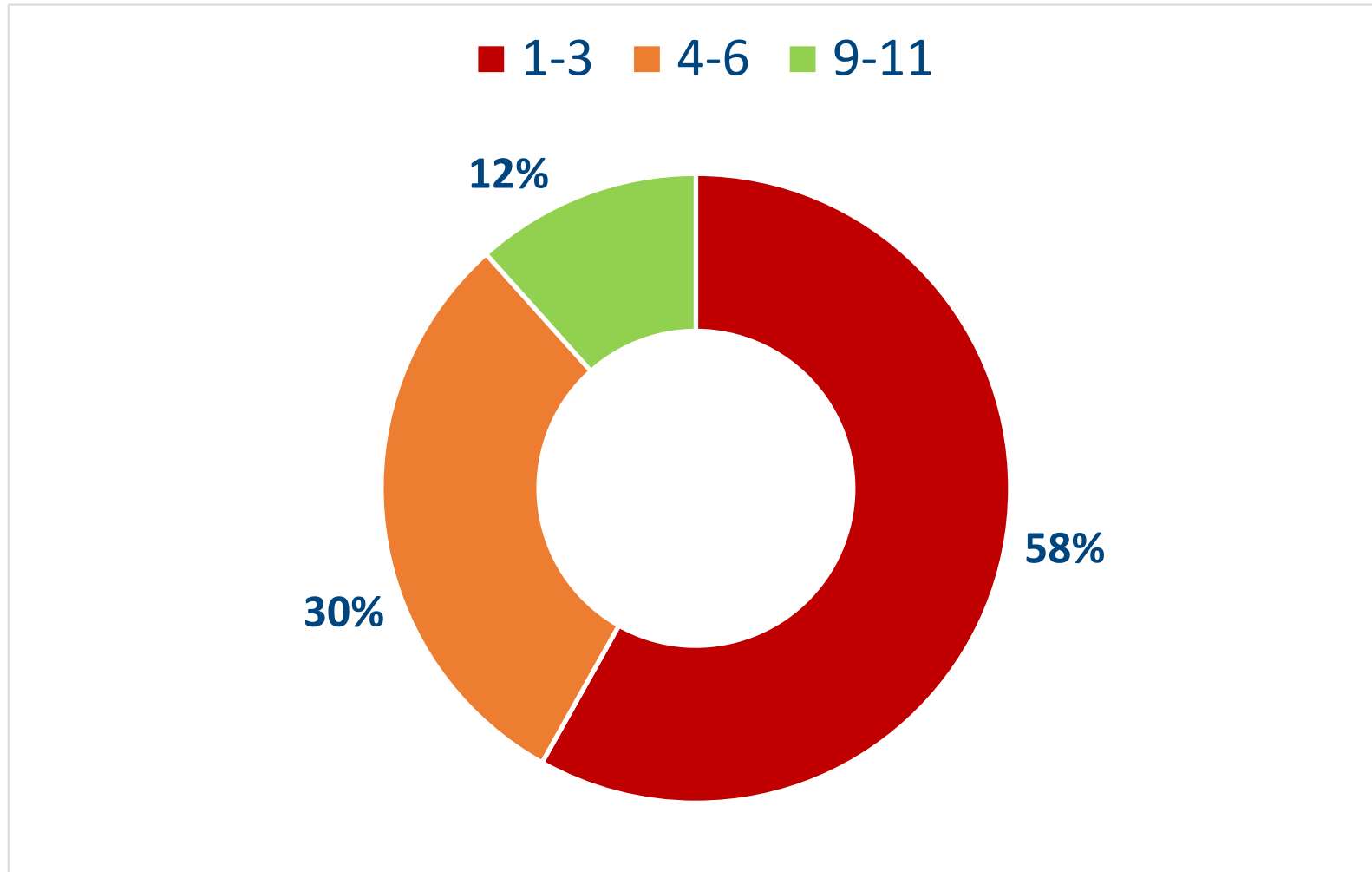
Results. 3. Medical schools' annual return (SUA)

- Only 19% of medical degree courses have a specific EBM course (8/43)
- There is a variable keywords' occurrence in SUA of different medical degree courses (mean $3.8 \pm$ SD 2.6, range 1-11)



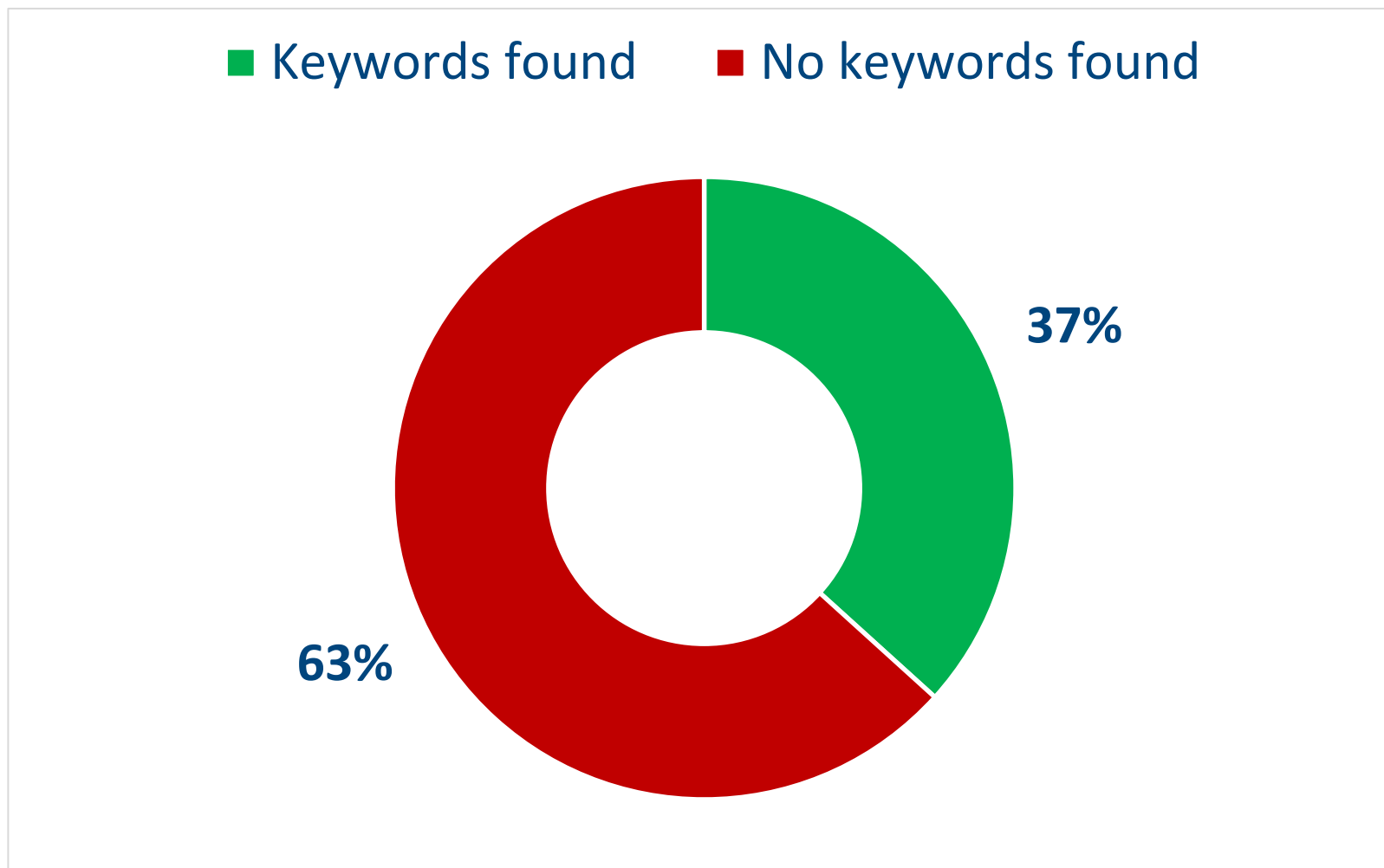
Results. 3. Medical schools' annual return (SUA)

Occurrence of keywords



Results. 4. Courses' syllabi

128 syllabi



Results. 4. Courses' syllabi

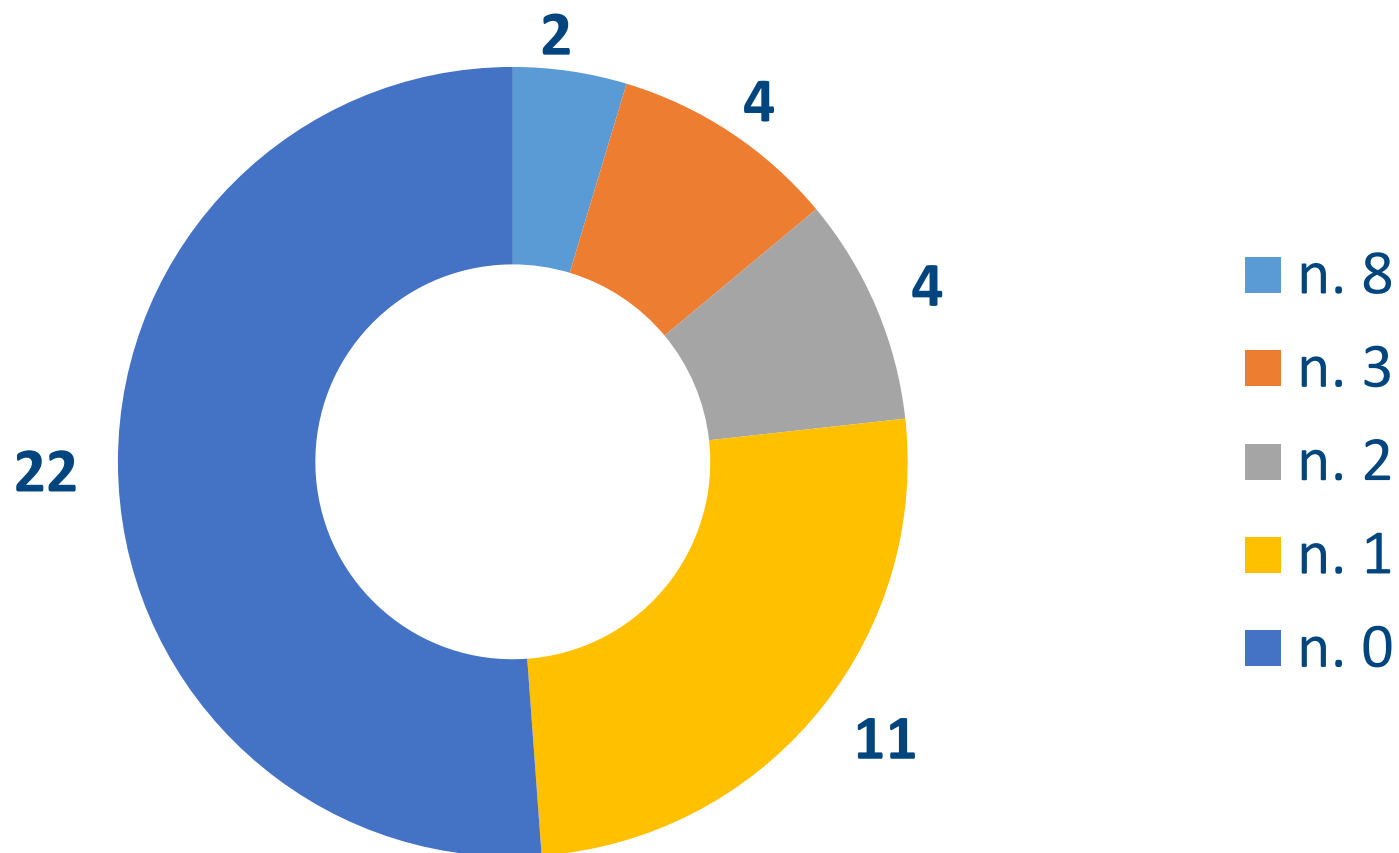
47 syllabi with EBM content

- Clinical Methodology (n. 17)
- Preventive medicine and public health (n. 11)
- Medical statistics and epidemiology (n. 10)
- Evidence-based Medicine (n. 7)
- Other (n. 2)



Results. 4. Courses' syllabi

47 syllabi in 43 medical degree courses



Limits

- The analysis of documents has been performed through an automated search by a single observator
- It can not be excluded that analysed documents actually contain EBM-related contents reported with different keywords
- Only syllabi with high probability of EBM content have been analyzed



Conclusions

- Although educational aims reported in the core curriculum of the Italian Council of Medical Deans are coherent with EBM core curriculum, SUA and syllabi only occasionally include EBM content

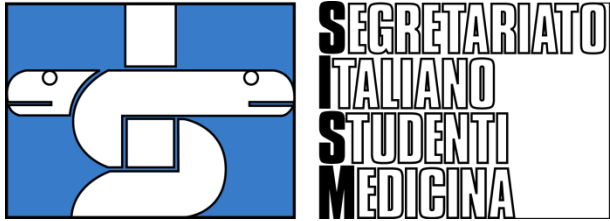


Conclusions

- 8 EBM specific courses identified in SUA and 47 syllabi with EBM content seem to be due more to local initiatives rather than resulting from a systematic introduction of EBM in the Italian undergraduate medical education



Thanks to...



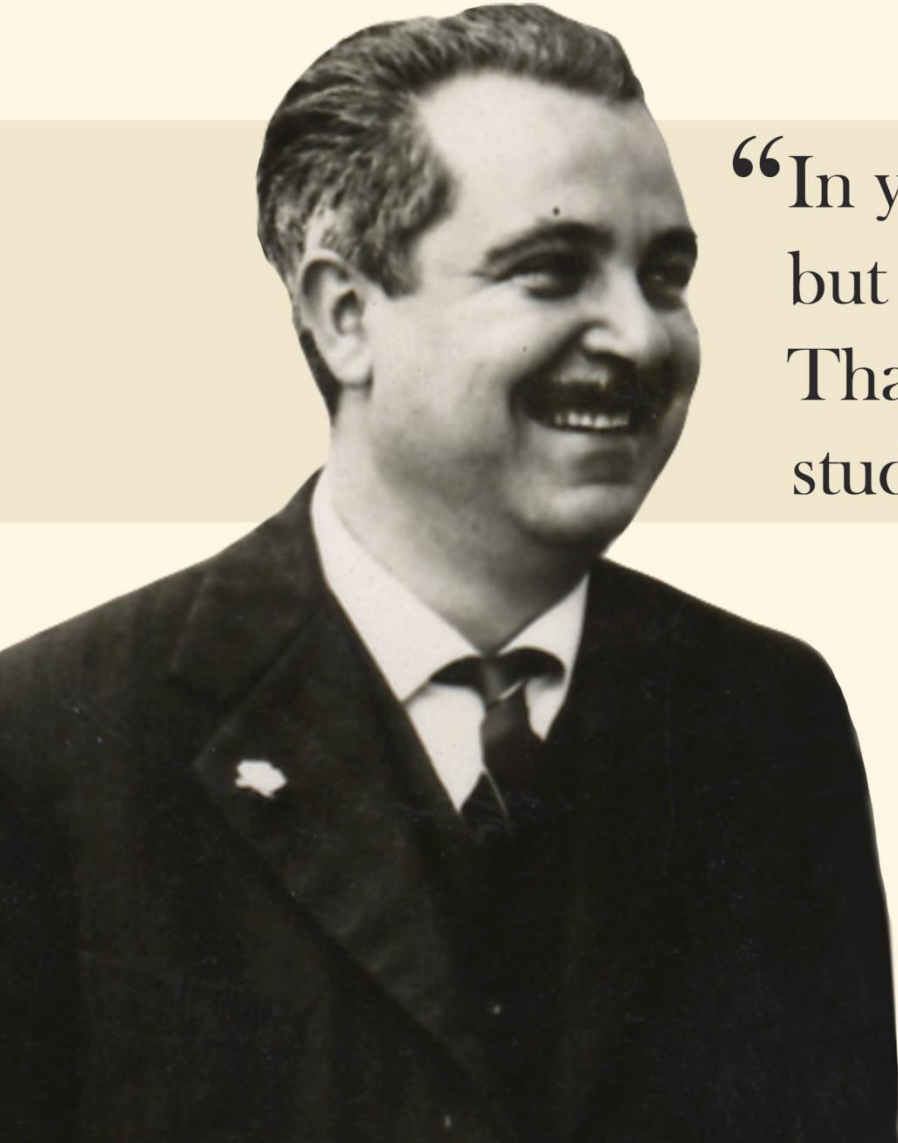
SISM Team

Calandrino Andrea, Agresti Giuseppe,
Cavagnacchi Matteo, Correnti Sonia, Da
Molin Teresa Giulia, Mastrogiacomo Nicola,
Mazzeo Adolfo



GIMBE team

Elena Cottafava, Marco Mosti



“In your life you can be robbed of everything,
but what you have learned.
That’s why you should never stop
studying and improving yourself”

Gioacchino Cartabellotta

MD, living in a small town but thinking big

Alia (PA) 1922 - Palermo 1980