



**National Jewish  
Health<sup>®</sup>**

**Breathing Science is Life.<sup>®</sup>**

# Unraveling the Complexity of Severe Asthma Treatment

**OCTOBER 16, 2022 | NASHVILLE, TN**

Final Outcomes Summary

Live Program and Online Enduring

(Online Data from 11/30/22 – 11/30/23)

Grant ID: 72885703

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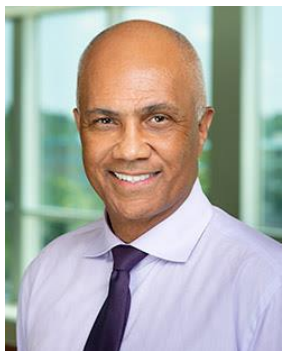
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# Executive Summary

Final Outcomes Summary – Online Outcomes and Live Program



Ronald Balkissoon, MD, MSc, DIH, FRCPC  
Denver, CO

## Program Overview

### Summary:

This activity was presented as a live CME Satellite Symposium on October 16, 2022 during the American College of CHEST Physicians Annual Meeting (CHEST 2022) in Nashville, TN. The activity unraveled the complexity of severe asthma treatment by providing expert insights into the new paradigm of treatments, providing case examples with interactive polling, and offering a clinical reference aid to illuminate treatment options. Whiteboard animations were also used to illustrate the pathophysiology of severe asthma and treatment targets.



Flavia Cecilia Lega Hoyte, MD  
Denver, CO

## Learning Objectives

### Learning Objectives:

- Describe the role of the airway epithelium in asthma.
- Define the epithelial alarmins and their impact on T2 and non-T2 airway inflammation, remodeling, and hyperresponsiveness in severe asthma.
- Evaluate the results of clinical trials of current and emerging therapies that target the epithelial alarmins in severe asthma.
- Match clinical characteristics and phenotypes to treatment targets.



Monica Kraft, MD  
New York, NY

## Target Audience & Accreditation

Target Audience: Pulmonologists who treat patients with severe asthma.

National Jewish Health designates the live and enduring activities for a maximum of 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*<sup>™</sup>.

**Live activity:** October 16, 2022  
Location: Omni Nashville Hotel  
Nashville, TN 37203

**Enduring activity:** November 30, 2022 – November 30, 2023  
Medscape: <https://www.medscape.org/viewarticle/984543>  
FreeCME: <https://www.freecme.com/products/unraveling-the-complexity-of-severe-asthma-treatment>

# Program Features

Final Outcomes Summary – Online Outcomes and Live Program

## Whiteboard Animations

**OMALIZUMAB**

**APPROVED FOR ALLERGIC ASTHMA, CHRONIC IDIOPATHIC URTICARIA, AND CHRONIC RHINOSINUSITIS WITH NASAL POLYPOSIS**

**TYPE 2 CYTOKINES**  
IL-4, IL-5, IL-13

**MUCUS, NITRIC OXIDE PRODUCTION, AND REMODELING**

**95%**  
evaluation respondents in the live and online activities reported they are likely to use the clinical reference aid in practice

N=1799

## Patient Case Scenarios with Interactive Polling and Faculty Discussion

### CASE 3

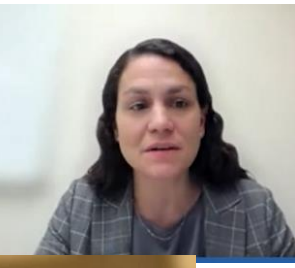
- 47-year-old obese female
- Diagnosed with asthma at age 42
- Was initially having 3-4 steroid-requiring exacerbations per year
- Started on daily OCS 2 years ago; since then, still having daily symptoms and 1-2 exacerbations per year
- Has tried omalizumab and mepolizumab without any benefit, so both were discontinued

**MEDICATIONS:**

- High dose ICS/LABA, LAMA, prednisone 10mg daily, albuterol prn

**TESTING:**

- Total IgE 15
- Absolute Eosinophil Count 100
- Exhaled Nitric Oxide 9
- ACT score 12
- Sputum cell count showed few cells, no specific cell type predominant
- FEV1%: 75% predicted, reversibility: 6%

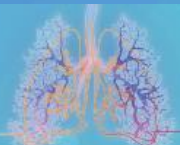


**Which of the following treatments is the most appropriate next step for this patient?**

- Omalizumab
- Dupilumab
- Reslizumab
- Tezepelumab



## Clinical Reference Aid

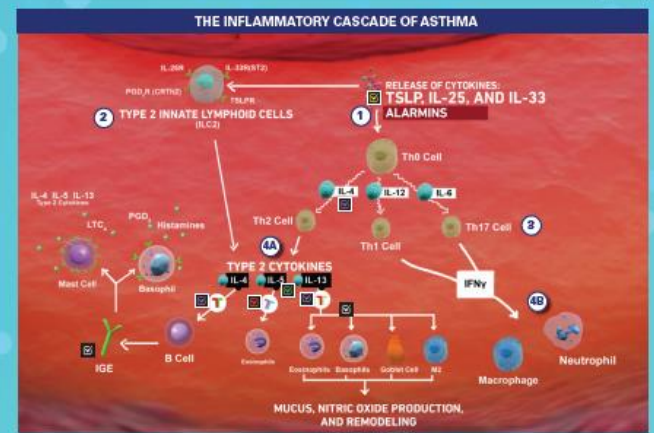


### Unraveling the Complexity of Severe Asthma Treatment

TYPE 2 ASTHMA	NON-TYPE 2 ASTHMA
<p>Type 2 asthma is associated with Type 2 inflammation, characterized by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Th2 cells</li> <li>• ILC2s</li> <li>• Eosinophils</li> <li>• Mast cells</li> <li>• Cytokines like IL-4, IL-5, and IL-13</li> </ul> <p>Type 2 asthma includes allergic asthma and eosinophilic asthma.</p>	<p>Non-type 2 asthma lacks the features of Type 2 asthma.</p> <p>Some patients with non-type 2 asthma will have inflammation driven by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Th1 cells</li> <li>• Th17 cells</li> <li>• Neutrophils</li> <li>• Macrophages</li> <li>• Cytokines like IFN-γ</li> </ul> <p>Others have no cellular inflammation identifiable in the airway (pauci-cellular subtype).</p>

CONNECTING INFLAMMATORY PATHWAYS TO TREATMENT OPTIONS		
Treatment Target	Biologic Agent	Current and Emerging Treatment Options
TSLP	Tezepelumab	FDA approved for severe asthma regardless of phenotype or endotype
IL-4Rα (IL-4, IL-13)	Dupilumab	FDA approved for severe asthma with eosinophilic phenotype or for steroid-dependent asthma
IL-5	Mepolizumab, Reslizumab	FDA approved for severe asthma with eosinophilic phenotype
IgE	Omalizumab	FDA approved for allergic asthma, chronic idiopathic urticaria, and chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps
IL-5Rα	Benralizumab	FDA approved for severe asthma with eosinophilic phenotype
IL-33	Itepekimab	Not yet approved, currently in phase 2 and 3 trials
IL-33	Tozorakimab	Not yet approved, currently in phase 2 trials
IL-33 (AntD ST2)	Astegolimab	Not yet approved, currently in phase 2 trials
IL-25	None- No human studies	No human studies to date

FDA approved



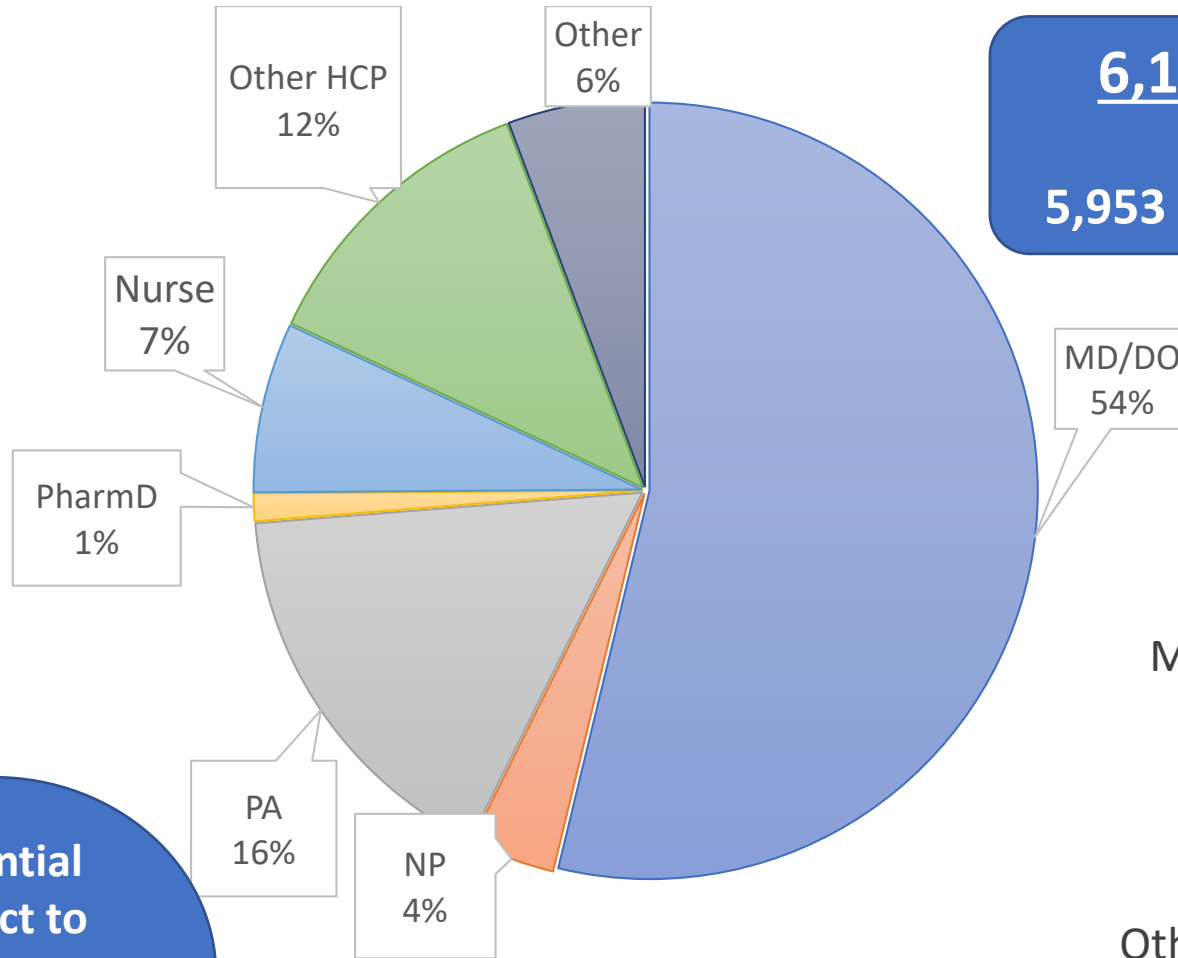
The inflammatory cascade of asthma is thought to begin at the airway epithelium. Once a trigger such as allergens, parasites, fungi, viruses, proteases, or other irritants is introduced:

1. Epithelial alarmins are released.
2. Innate Lymphoid Cells are triggered.
3. T cells are activated. T cells are then stimulated by cytokines and differentiate into Th1, Th2, or Th17 cells.
- 4A. Triggering of ILC2 or Th2 cells leads to type 2 inflammation and the release of type 2 cytokines.
- or
- 4B. Triggering of Th1 or Th17 cells leads to release of Interferon-gamma and other cytokines that lead to non-type 2 inflammation.

# Overall Program Impact

Final Outcomes Summary – Online Outcomes and Live Program

**6,112 Learners and 1,999 Completers Total**  
159 learners/completers in the live program  
5,953 learners and 1840 completers in the online activity



MD/DO: 1075  
NP: 71  
PA: 328  
PharmD: 23  
Nurse: 141  
Other HCP: 247  
Other: 114

**Total completers = 1,999**

*“Appreciate your effort in putting up such seminars - and allowing us time away from the Main Convention hustle bustle - Live learner”*

**Potential impact to 637,208 patient visits this year\***



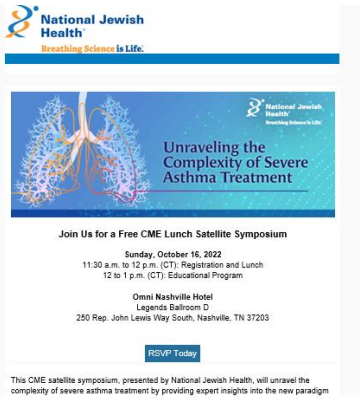
\*Note: This estimate is based on total patient visits, not unique patients seen.

# Audience Generation

Final Outcomes Summary - Online Outcomes and Live Program

**Personalized targeting tools** across numerous tactics reach HCPs by leveraging demographic data (such as location, profession, specialty) and behavioral data (such as learner participation history, areas of interest).

Personalized emails and e-newsletters sent to CHEST registrants & NJH faculty



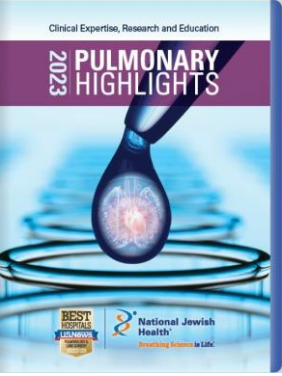
Digital and print ads on CHEST website and Welcome Back Edition magazine

Social media ads and posts



Brochure mailed to CHEST registrants

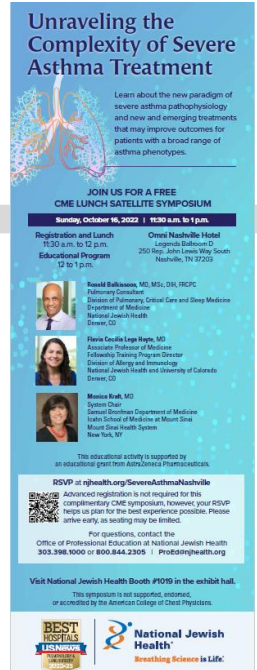
Join Us for a Free CME Lunch Satellite Symposium  
Sunday, October 16, 2022  
11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. (CT): Registration and Lunch  
12 to 1 p.m. (CT): Educational Program  
Omni Nashville Hotel  
Legends Ballroom D  
250 Rep. John Lewis Way South, Nashville, TN 37203  
RSVP Now



Online activity featured in 2023 Pulmonary Highlights publication



Dedicated landing page on NJH website



Featured Event Listing on CHESTDailyNews.org



# Online Enduring Program

Final Outcomes Summary - Online Outcomes

## FreeCME and Medscape 11/30/2022 – 11/30/2023

The screenshot shows the FreeCME website header with the logo, navigation links (Courses, Series, Specialties, Events, COVID-19), and a search bar. Below the header, the course title 'Unraveling the Complexity of Severe Asthma Treatment' is displayed. The course details are as follows:

Released On	Expires On	Media Type	Completion Time
November 30, 2022	November 30, 2023	Internet	60 minutes

Specialty: Allergy & Immunology, Pulmonology  
Topic(s): Asthma

The screenshot shows the Medscape website interface. The course title 'Unraveling the Complexity of Severe Asthma Treatment' is prominently displayed. The authors listed are Ronald Balkissoon, MD, MSc, DIH, FRCPC; Monica Kraft, MD; and Flavia Cecilia Lega Hoyte, MD. The course is dated Thursday, March 9, 2023. The navigation menu includes NEWS & PERSPECTIVE, DRUGS & DISEASES, CME & EDUCATION (highlighted), ACADEMY, VIDEO, and DECISION POINT. The course details are as follows:

CME  
**Unraveling the Complexity of Severe Asthma Treatment**  
Authors: Ronald Balkissoon, MD, MSc, DIH, FRCPC; Monica Kraft, MD; Flavia Cecilia Lega Hoyte, MD [Faculty and Disclosures](#)  
CME Released: 11/30/2022 Valid for credit through: 11/30/2023

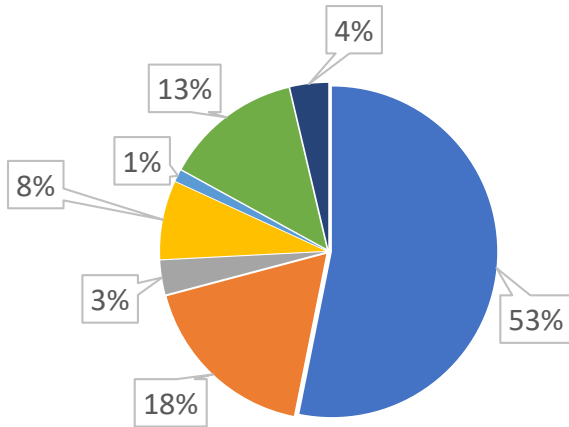
<https://www.freecme.com/products/unraveling-the-complexity-of-severe-asthma-treatment>

<https://www.medscape.org/viewarticle/984543>

# Educational Impact Summary

## Final Outcomes Summary – Online Outcomes

### Participation



MD/DO=978  
 PA=326  
 NP=61  
 Nurses: 141  
 PharmD: 21  
 Other HCP: 245  
 Other=68  
**Total Completers = 1840**

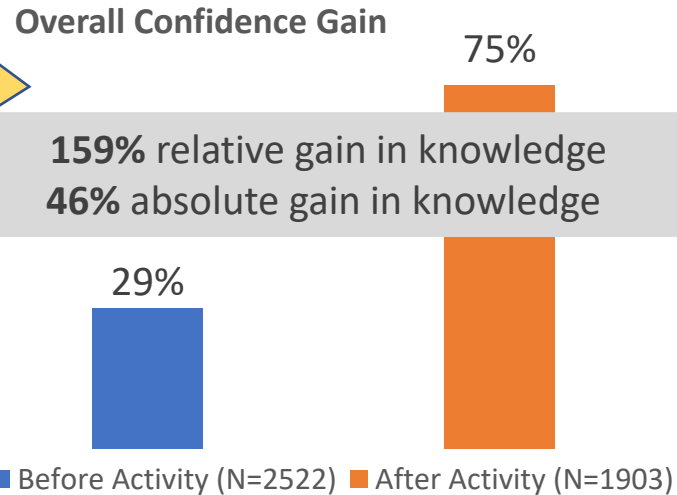
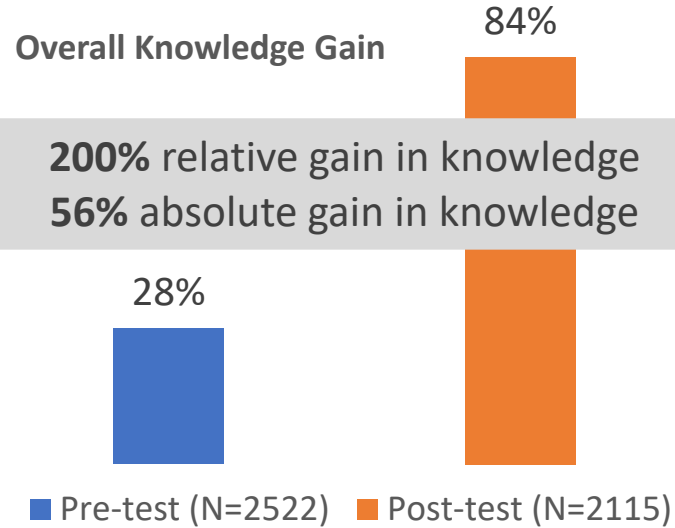
■ MD/DO ■ PA ■ NP ■ Nurse  
 ■ PharmD ■ Other HCP ■ Other

Learner Guarantee	Learner Actual
1,800	5,953

**Exceeded learner guarantee for the online enduring by over 4,000 learners!**

**Potential Impact To 623,636 Patient Visits This Year**

### Learning Gain Across Objectives



### Evaluation

Met their educational needs **(93%)**



Reinforced or improved current skills **(93%)**



Improved ability to treat patients **(93%)**

N=1903

**91%**

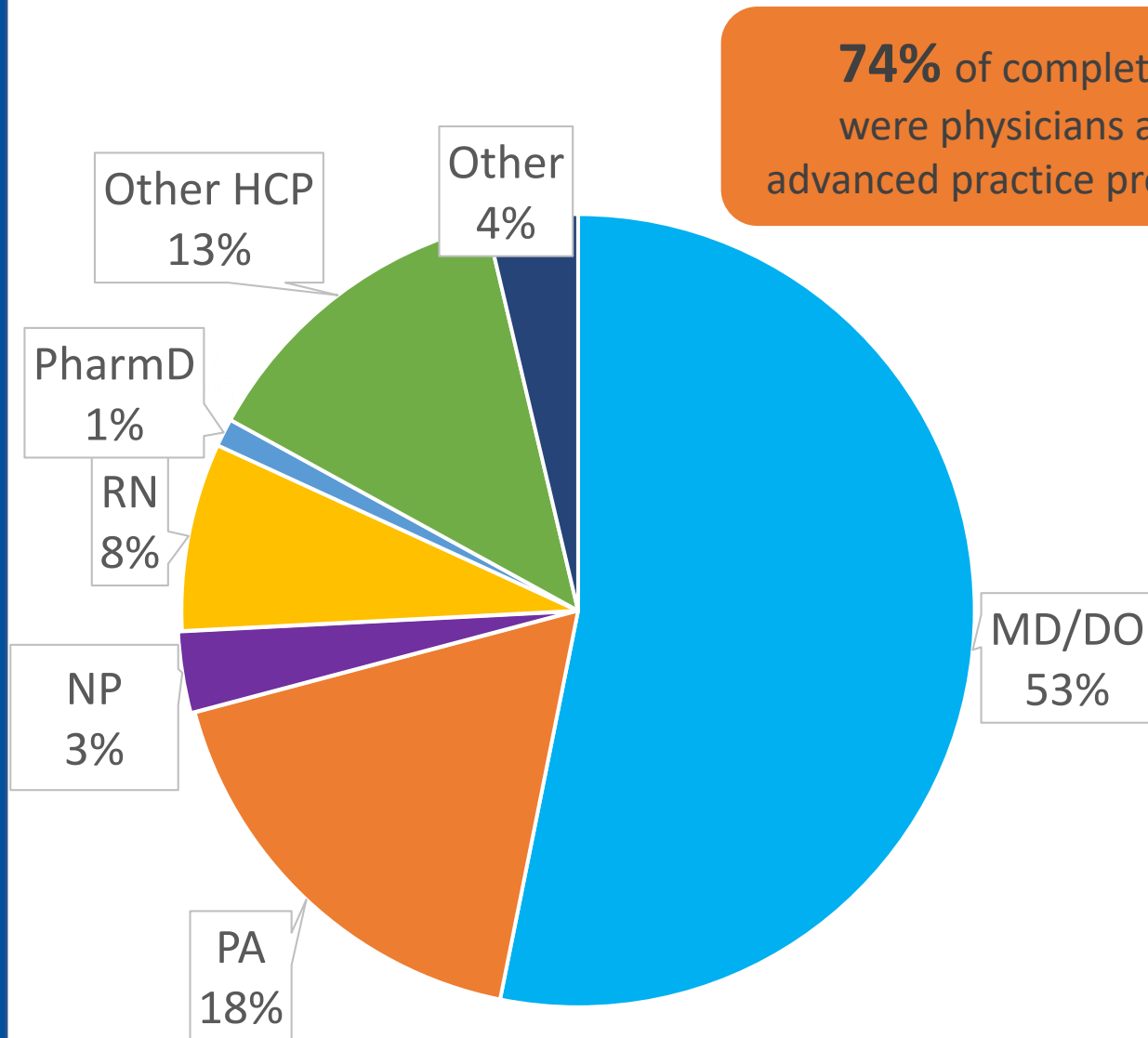
N=1669

Evaluation respondents intend to make changes to practice as a result of the activity



# Level (1) Outcomes: Participation (Degree)

Final Outcomes Summary – Online Outcomes

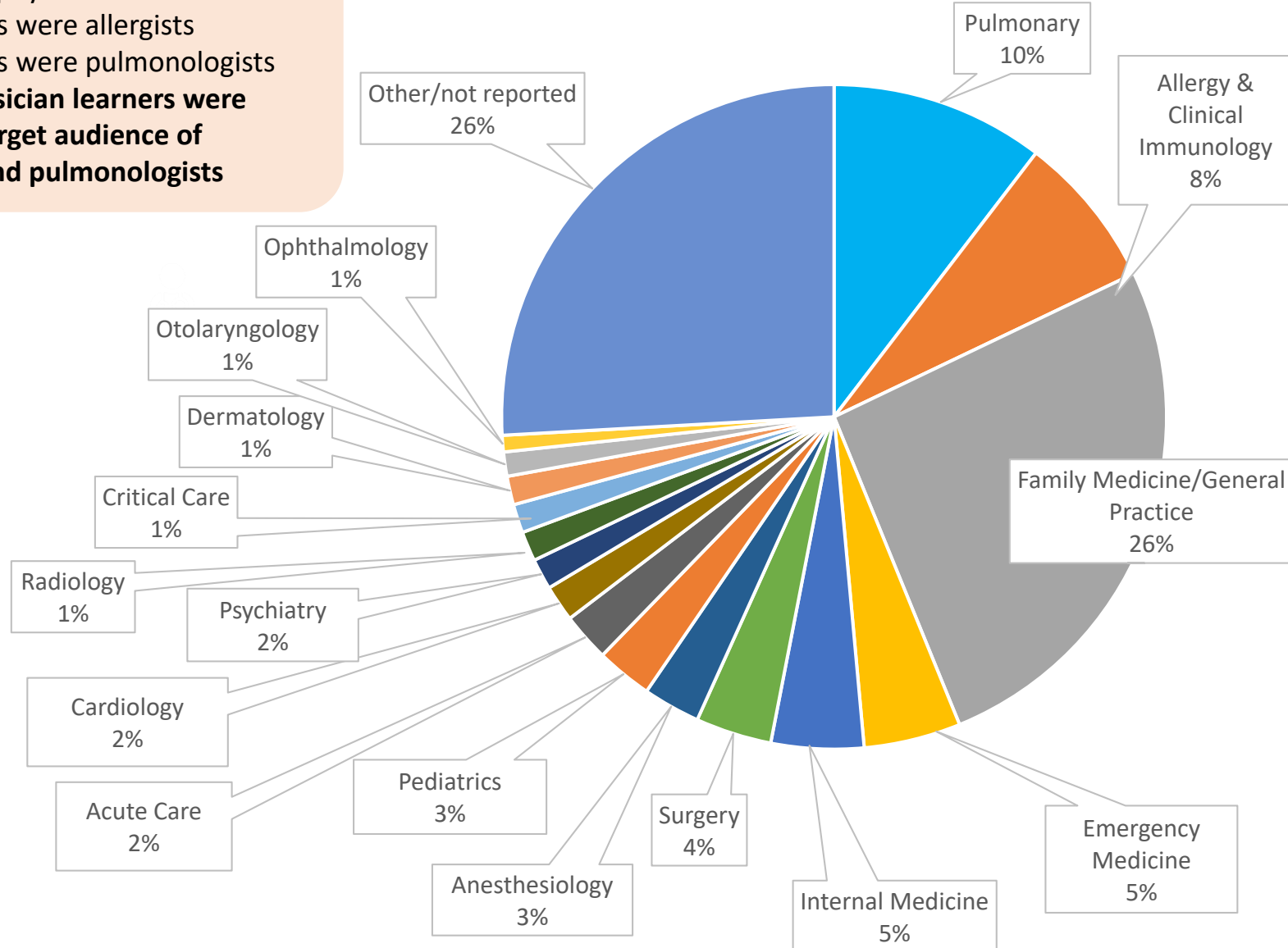


Degree	Total
MD/DO	978
PA	326
NP	61
Nurse	141
PharmD	21
Other Healthcare Provider	245
Other (Case Manager, Business Admin, Medical Student)	68
<b>Total Completers</b>	<b>1840</b>

# Level (1) Outcomes: Participation (Specialty)

## Final Outcomes Summary – Online Outcomes

- 3,566 total physician learners
- 351 learners were allergists
- 981 learners were pulmonologists
- **37% of physician learners were from the target audience of allergists and pulmonologists**

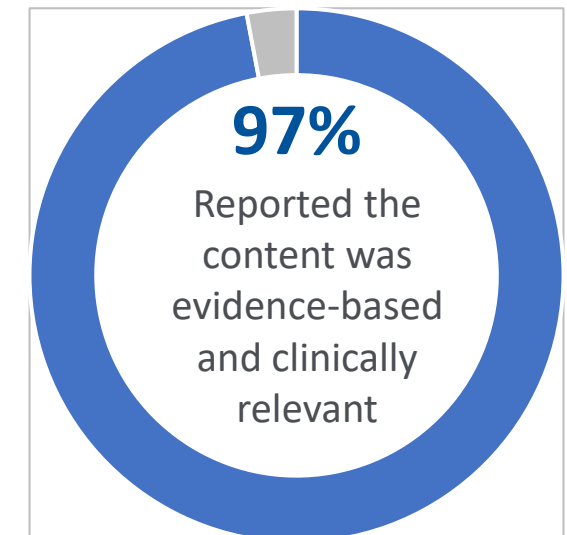
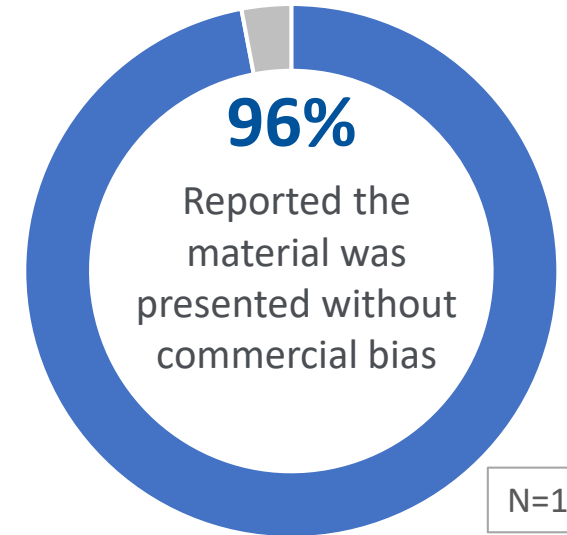
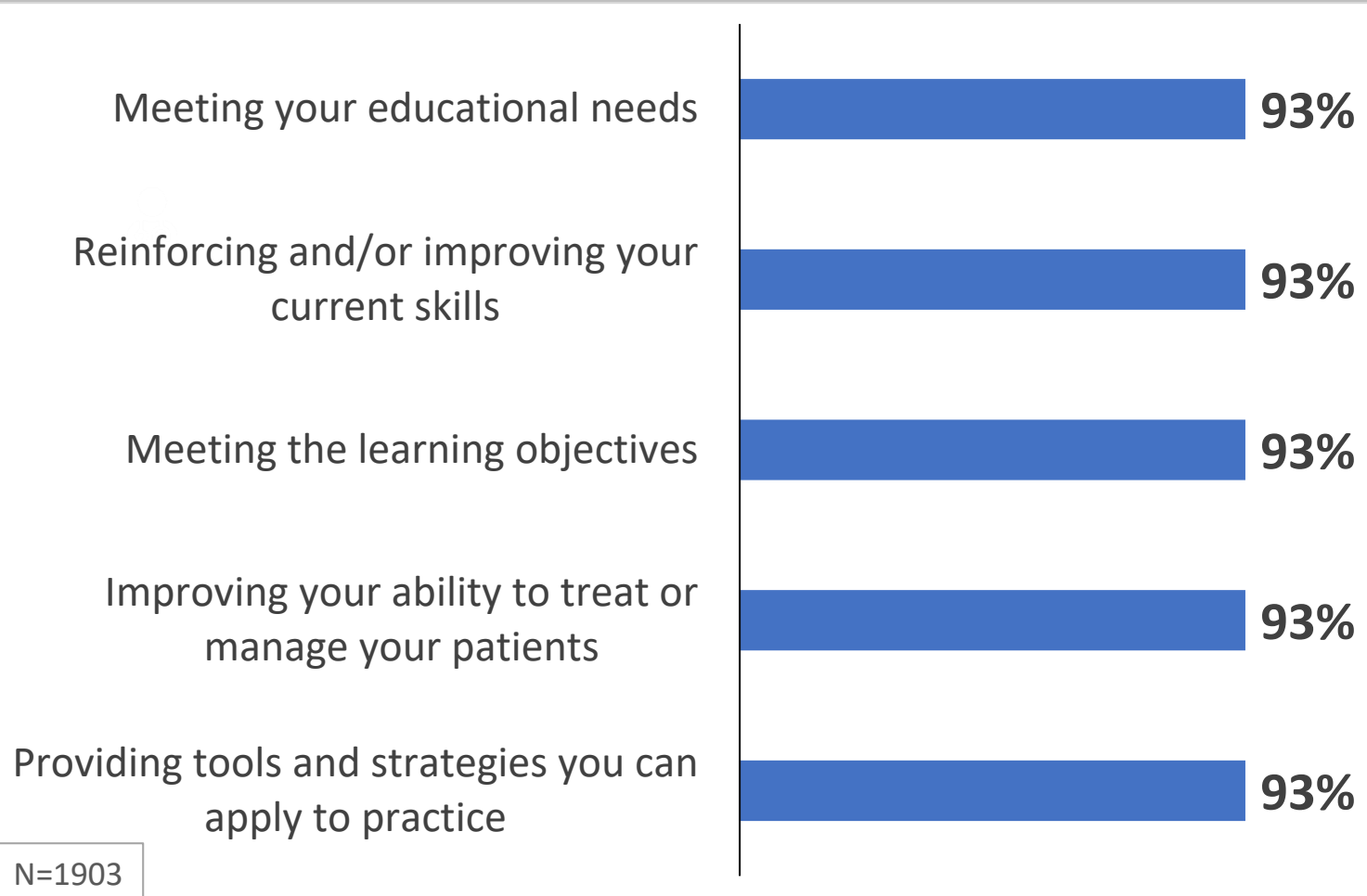


Specialty	Total
Pulmonary	194
Allergy & Clinical Immunology	140
Family Medicine/General Practice	484
Emergency Medicine	88
Internal Medicine	84
Surgery	69
Anesthesiology	52
Pediatrics	51
Acute Care	44
Cardiology	33
Psychiatry	28
Critical Care	27
Radiology	26
Dermatology	26
Otolaryngology	22
Ophthalmology	15
Other/not reported	457
<b>Total Completers</b>	<b>1840</b>

# Level (2) Outcomes: Satisfaction

Final Outcomes Summary - Online Outcomes

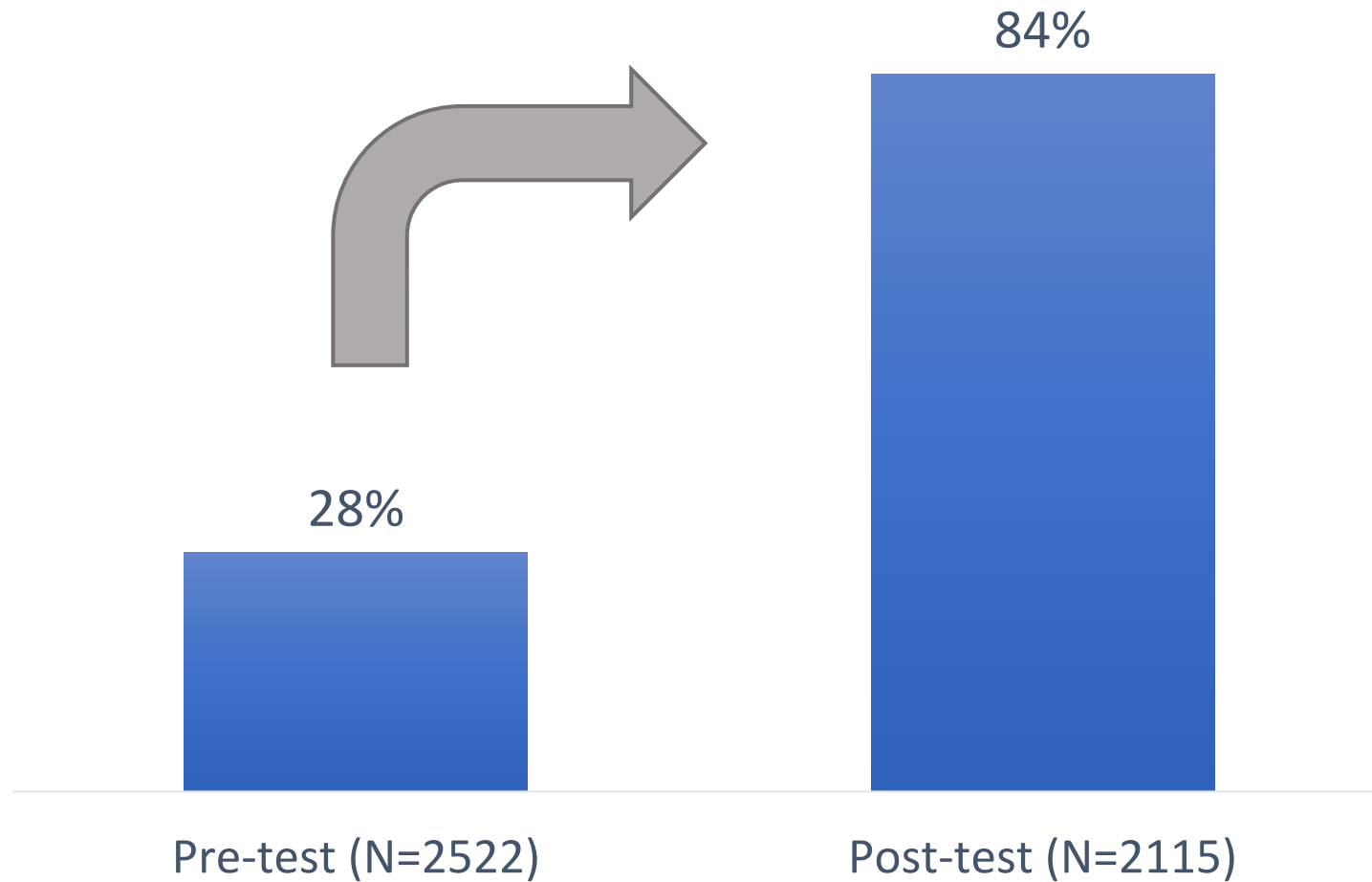
## Evaluation respondents rated the activity “Excellent” to “Good” at:



# Level (3 & 4) Outcomes: Knowledge & Competence

Final Outcomes Summary - Online Outcomes

## Overall Knowledge Gain across Learning Objectives



**200% Overall Relative Knowledge Gain**



**56% Overall Absolute Knowledge Gain**

# Level (3 & 4) Outcomes: Knowledge & Competence

Final Outcomes Summary - Online Outcomes

**Learning Objective:** Describe the role of the airway epithelium in asthma.

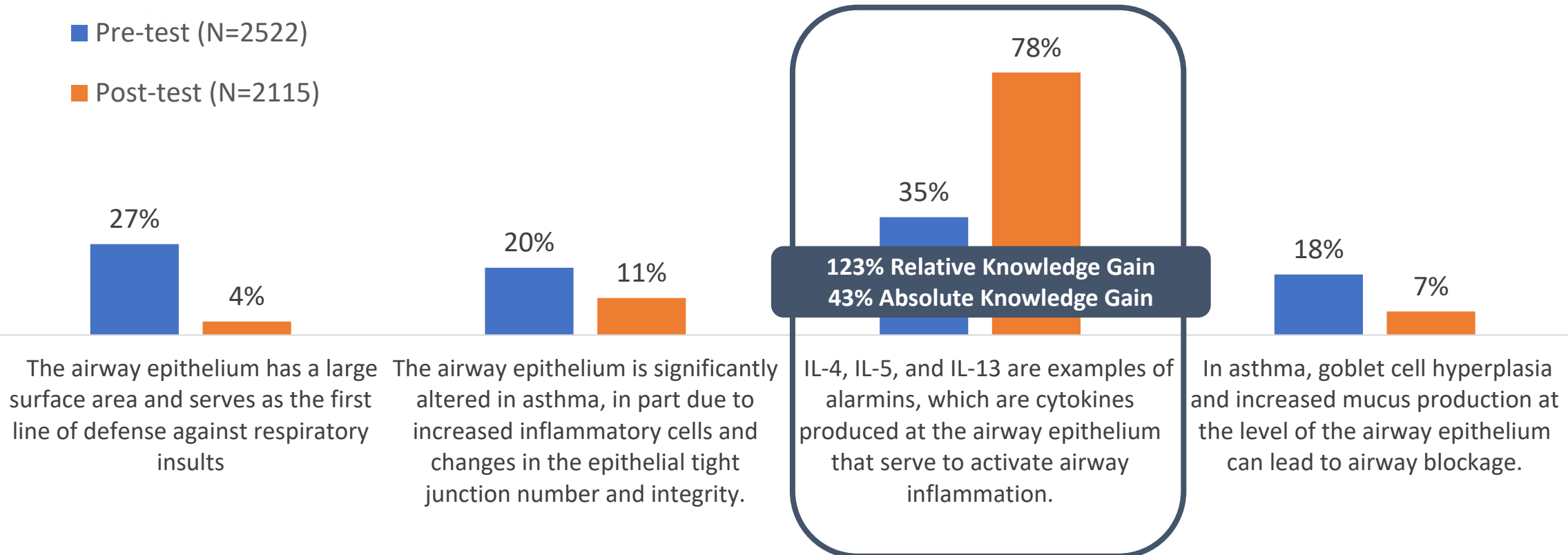
**Question 1:** Which of the following is **INCORRECT** about the role of the airway epithelium?

**Clinical Rationale:**

The statement “IL-4, IL-5, and IL-13 are examples of alarmins” incorrectly describes the role of the airway epithelium because IL-4, IL-5 and IL-13 are not alarmins. TSLP, IL-33, and IL-25 are examples of alarmins, which are cytokines produced at the airway epithelium that serve to activate airway inflammation. All other statements correctly describe the role of the airway epithelium.

■ Pre-test (N=2522)

■ Post-test (N=2115)

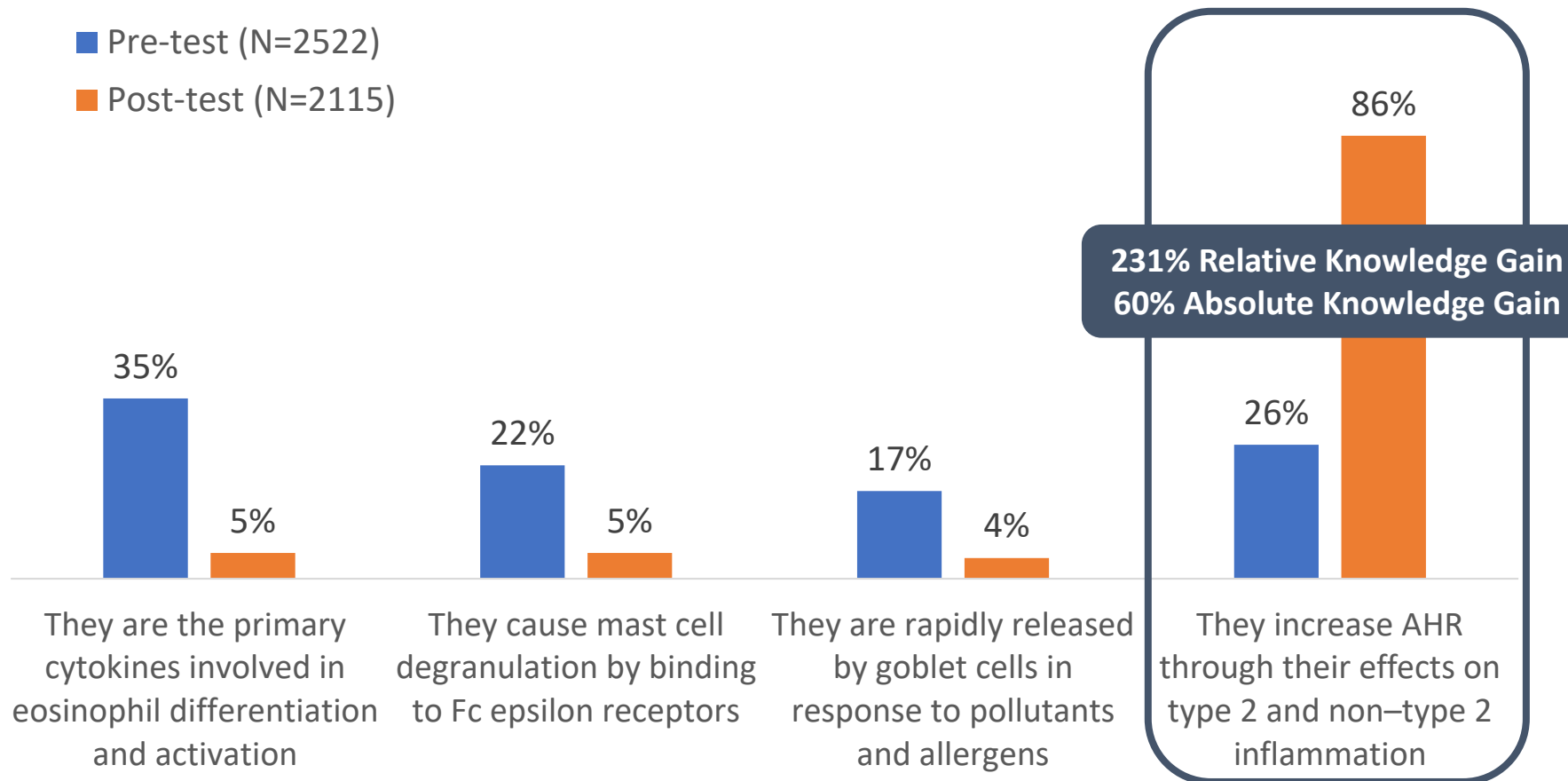


# Level (3 & 4) Outcomes: Knowledge & Competence

## Final Outcomes Summary – Online Outcomes

**Learning Objective:** Define the epithelial alarmins and their impact on T2 and non-T2 airway inflammation, remodeling, and hyper responsiveness in severe asthma.

**Question 2:** Which of the following is true about the alarmins and their role in airway hyperresponsiveness (AHR) in asthma?



### Clinical Rationale:

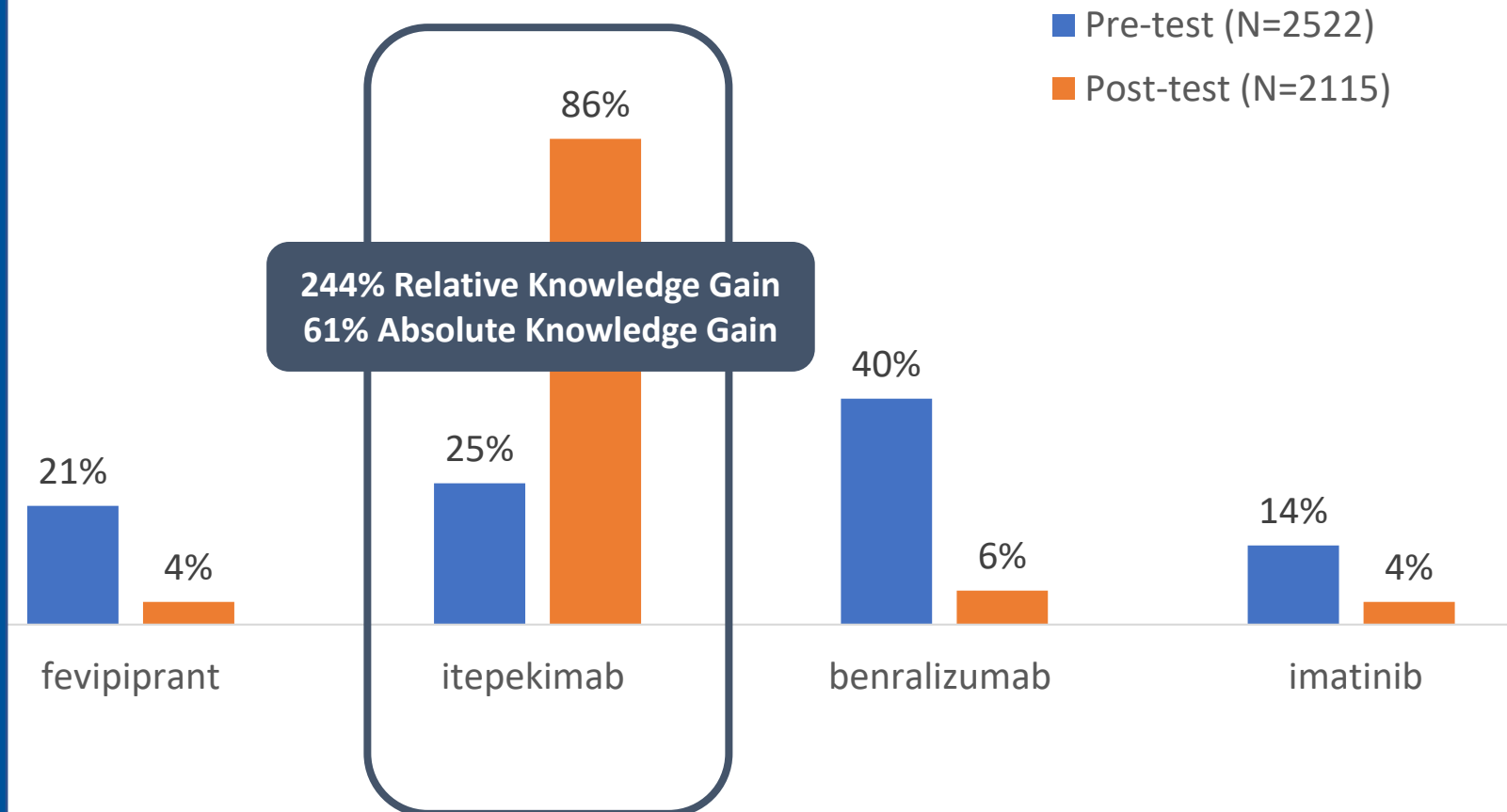
Airway hyperresponsiveness (AHR) is in part caused by type 2 (particularly IL-13) and non-type 2 inflammation which have direct effects upon airway smooth muscle. Alarmins are produced by the airway epithelium in response to insults such as viruses, bacteria, allergens and pollutants to initiate the cascade which leads to either T2 or non-T2 inflammation, depending upon the insult. Therefore, alarmins increase AHR through their effects upon T2 and non-T2 inflammation.

# Level (3 & 4) Outcomes: Knowledge & Competence

Final Outcomes Summary – Online Outcomes

**Learning Objective:** Evaluate the results of clinical trials of current and emerging therapies that target the epithelial alarmins in severe asthma.

**Question 3:** Which of the following therapies is a monoclonal antibody against an epithelial alarmin, currently being studied for asthma?



### Clinical Rationale:

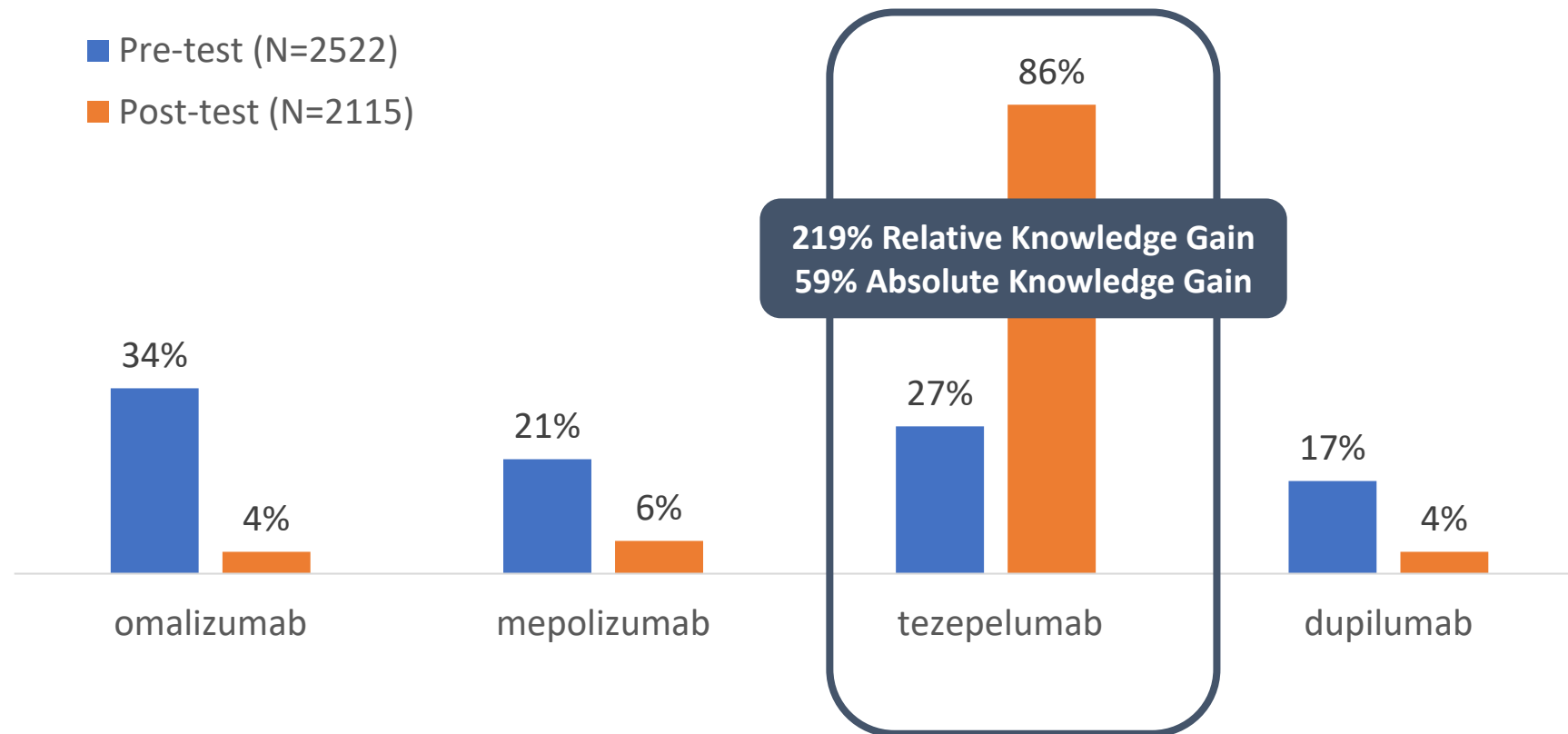
**Itepekimab** is a monoclonal anti-body that targets the IL-33 ligand that is part of the alarmin group of cytokines (e.g., IL-33, IL-25 and thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP)). These cytokines are released by bronchial epithelial cells in response to exogenous agents such as allergens, microbes, air pollutants and other environmental triggers binding to various pattern recognition receptors on bronchial epithelial cells. The alarmins have been shown to induce downstream production of both T-2 and non-T-2 cytokines and play a pivotal role in the underlying pathogenesis of asthma.

# Level (3 & 4) Outcomes: Knowledge & Competence

Final Outcomes Summary – Online Outcomes

**Learning Objective:** Match clinical characteristics and phenotypes to treatment targets.

**Question 4:** Sarah is a 47-year-old female patient with adult-onset asthma, her main triggers being wildfire smoke and viral infections. She is non-atopic (negative allergy skin testing) and has normal eosinophil counts, exhaled nitric oxide, and total IgE levels on testing. Which of the following biologics would be most appropriate to prescribe if she is having 2 corticosteroid-requiring exacerbations per year despite high-dose ICS/LABA therapy?



### Clinical Rationale:

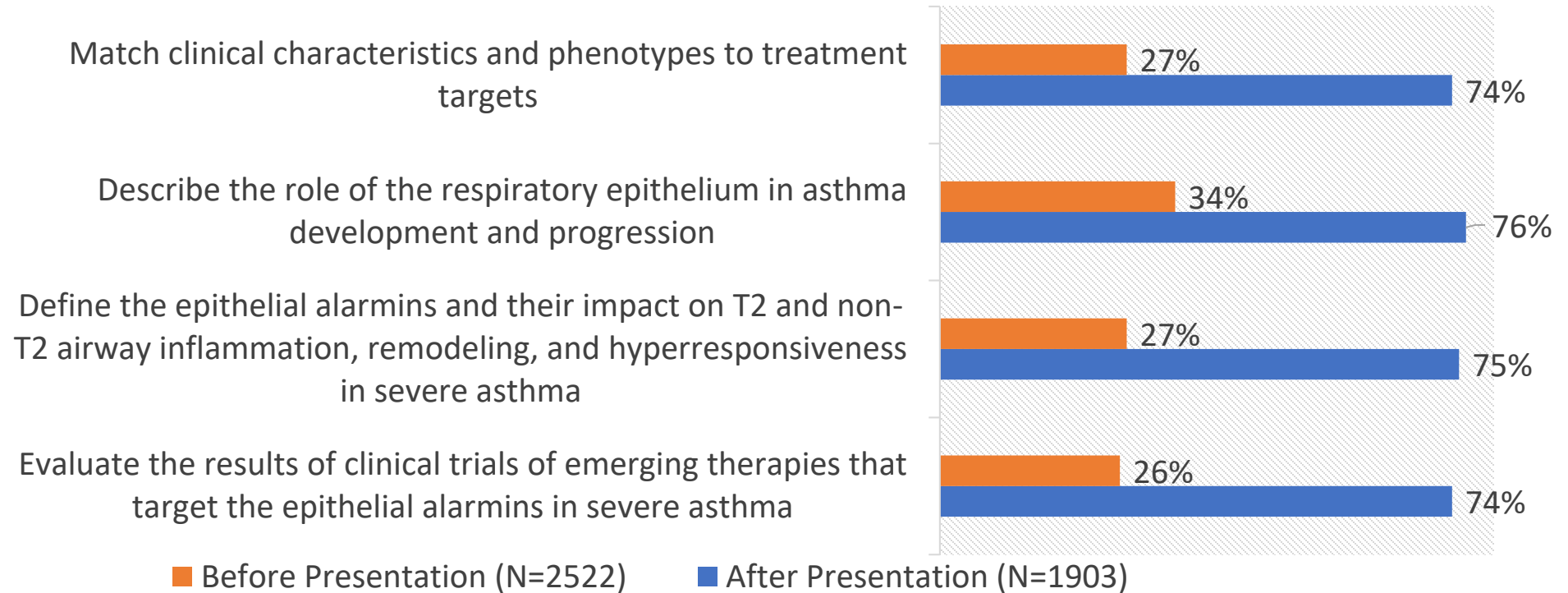
The patient described in this vignette has non-type 2 asthma. Of the biologic agents listed, tezepelumab is the only one approved for asthma regardless of phenotype. The other answer choices are approved for allergic asthma, eosinophilic asthma, or steroid-dependent asthma, none of which apply to this patient.



# Level (4) Outcomes: Competence

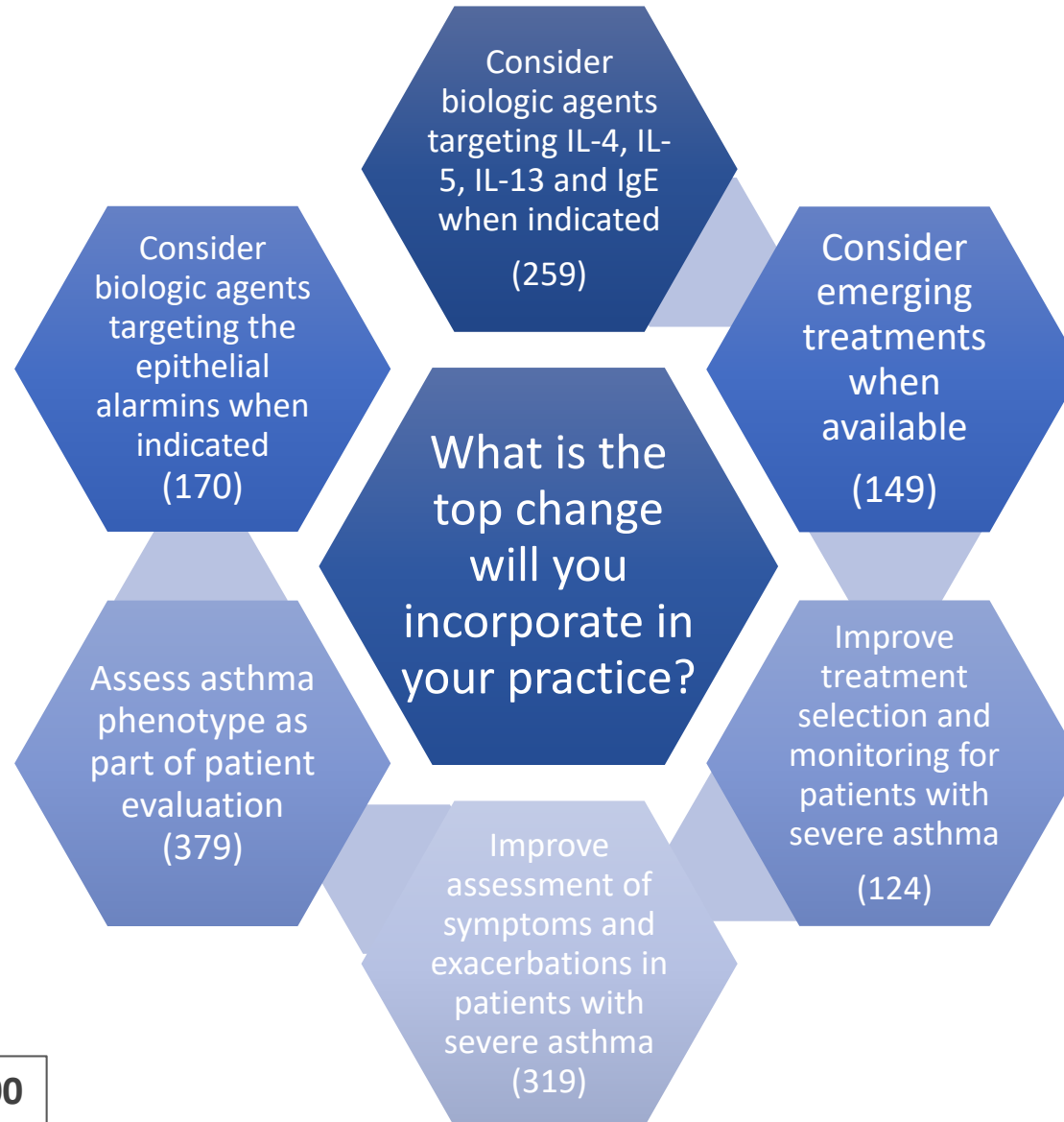
Final Outcomes Summary - Online Outcomes

## Evaluation respondents reported their confidence as it relates to the learning objectives before and after the activity (Very confident – confident)



# Level (4) Outcomes: Competence

Final Outcomes Summary - Online Outcomes



N=1400



# Evaluation Survey Results

Final Outcomes Summary - Online Outcomes



## Key Takeaways

- New drugs in the pipeline
- Different indications for the various biologics
- Multiple new asthma treatments
- Understanding the phenotype and endotype
- Phenotype evaluation is more important than I thought
- There is a role for biologics in those who do not have a phenotype with hypereosinophilia or elevated IgE
- Improving understanding about developments in asthma inflammatory pathways
- How to treat asthma patients based on evidence-based medicine
- Proper assessment of clinical characteristics and phenotypes to improve treatment
- Differentiation between biologic drugs
- Consider recent biologics in asthma
- Severe asthma can be very complex in its evaluation and treatment



## Barriers the Activity will Help to Address

- Improved communication with patients
- Cost
- Access to care
- Improved referrals
- Fear of using biologics
- Treatment
- Insurance formularies are a huge problem to accessing these meds
- Examining patient in context of home environment

***“Thank you for wonderful education.”***

***-Online participant***

# Live Program

## Final Outcomes Summary

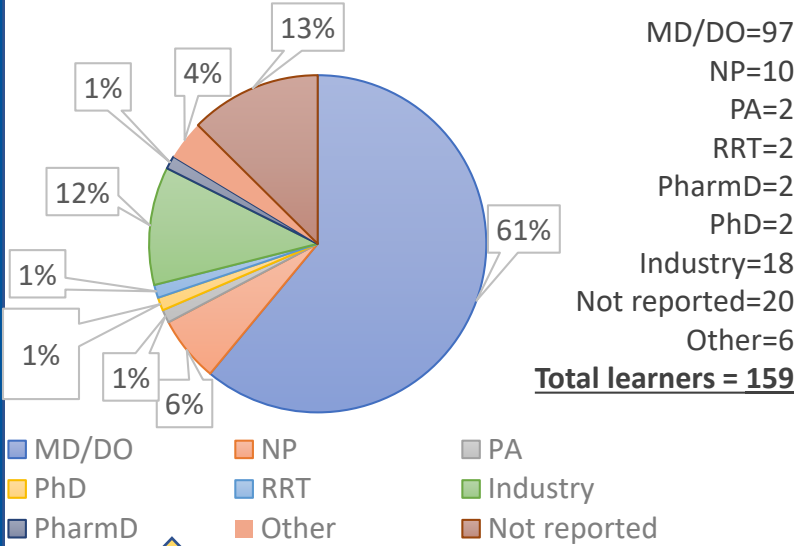
### CHEST 2022 Annual Meeting | CME Lunch Symposium October 16, 2022 Nashville, Tennessee



# Educational Impact Summary

Final Outcomes Summary - Live program

## Participation

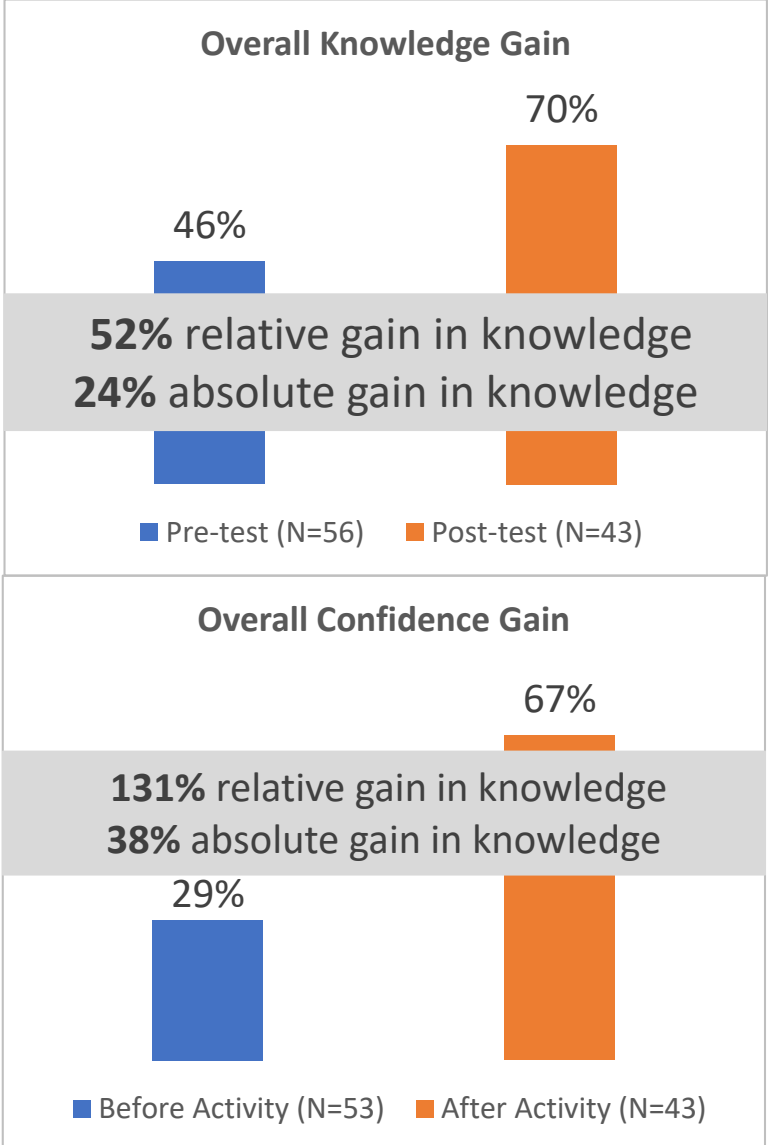


**Exceeded learner guarantee for the live program!**

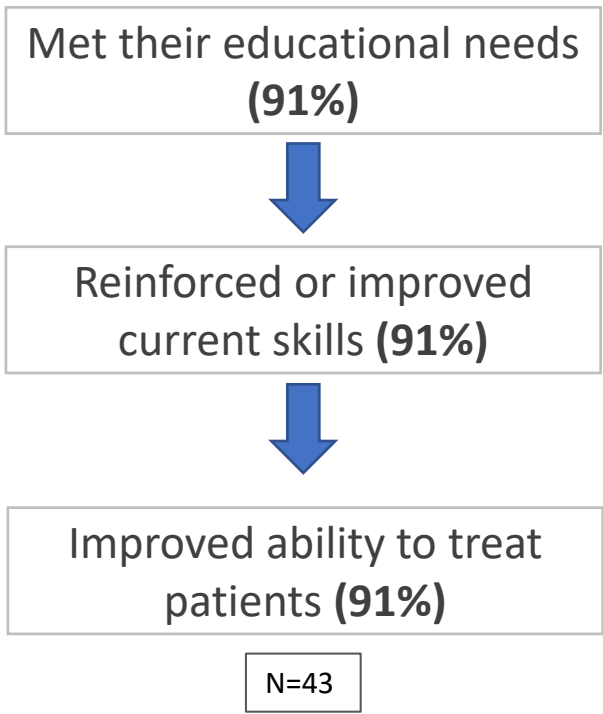
Learner Guarantee	Learner Actual
150	159

**Potential Impact To 13,572 Patient Visits This Year**

## Learning Gain Across Objectives



## Evaluation

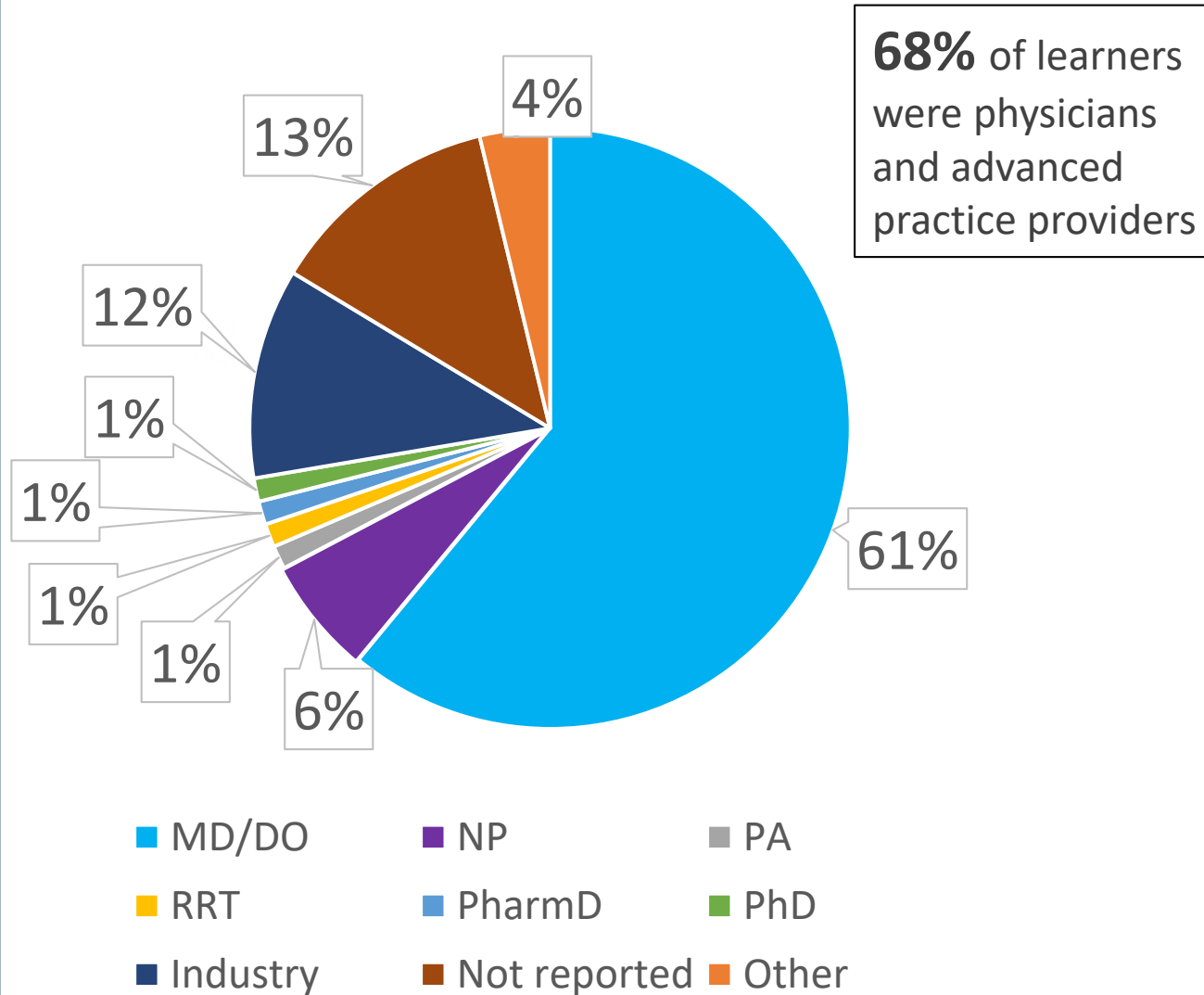


**95%** Evaluation respondents intend to make changes to practice as a result of the activity

N=43

# Level (1) Outcomes: Participation (Degree)

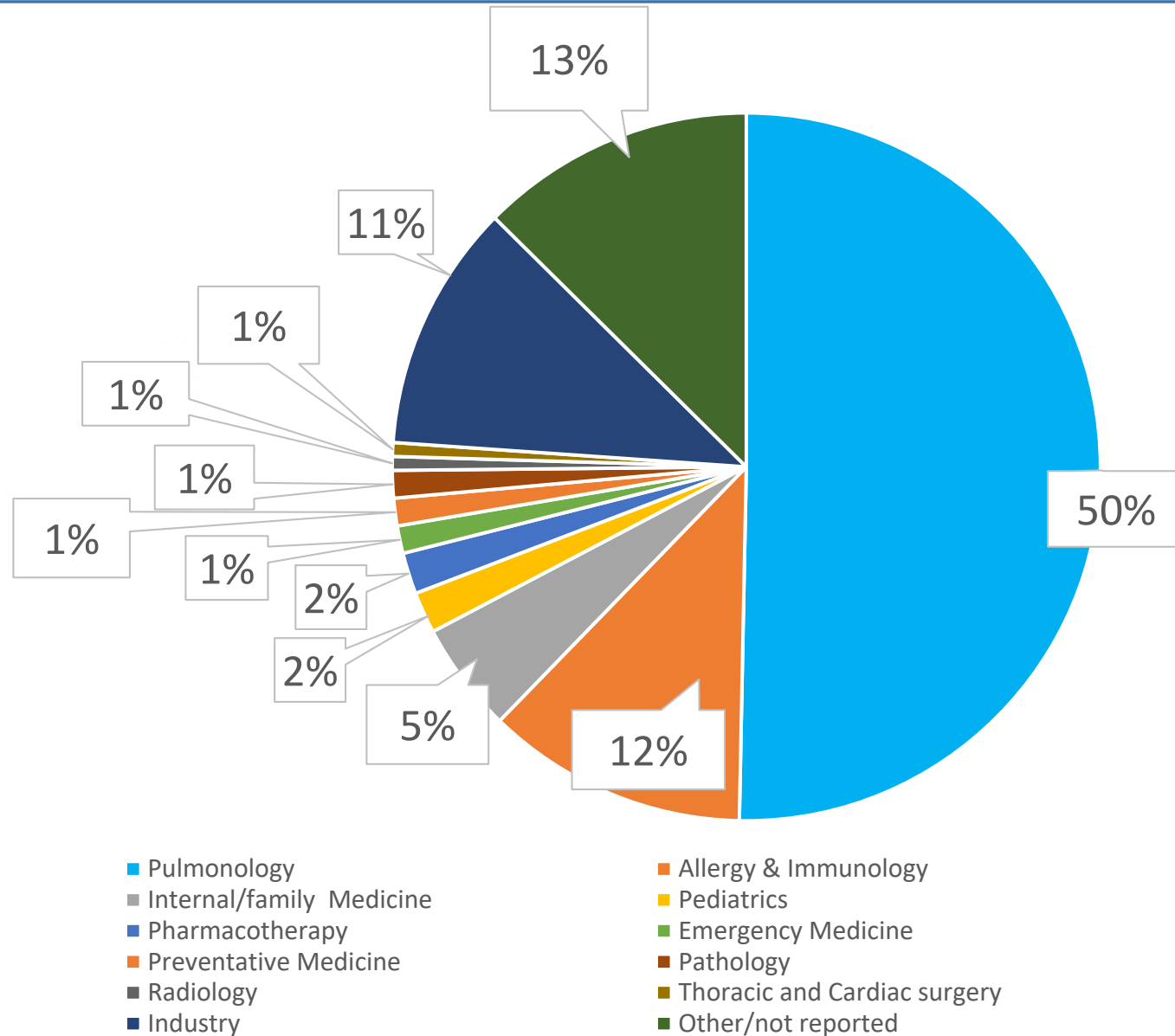
Final Outcomes Summary – Live Program



Degree	Total
MD/DO	97
NP	10
PA	2
RRT	2
PhD	2
PharmD	2
Industry	18
Not reported	20
Other	6
<b>Total Learners</b>	<b>159</b>

# Level (1) Outcomes: Participation (Specialty)

Final Outcomes Summary – Live Program

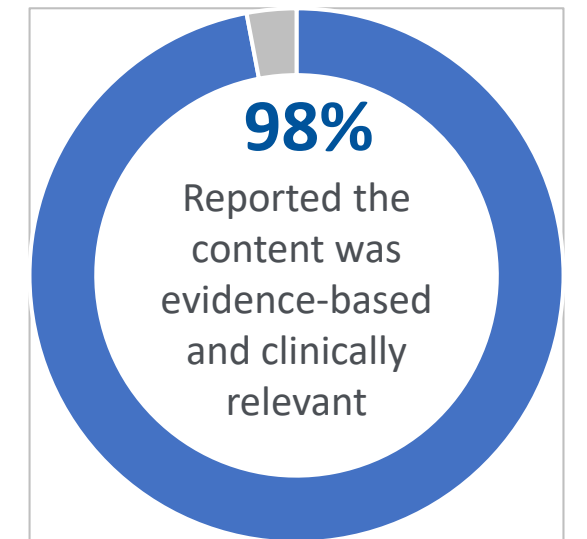
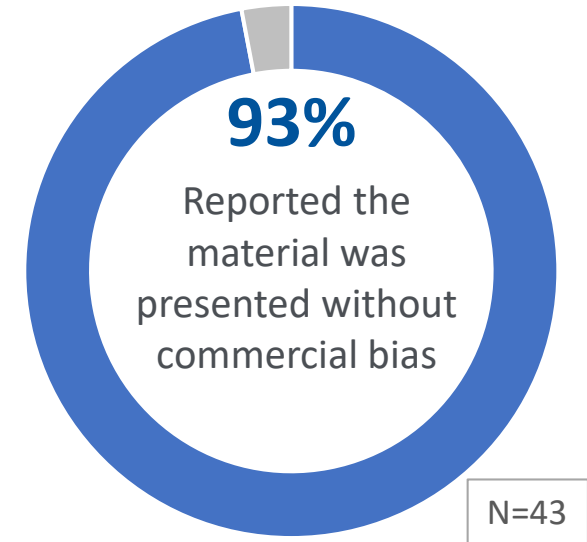


Specialty	Total
Pulmonary	80
Allergy/ Immunology	19
Internal medicine/family medicine	8
Pediatrics	3
Pharmacotherapy	3
Emergency Medicine	2
Preventative Medicine	2
Pathology	2
Radiology	1
Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery	1
Industry	18
Other/not reported	20
<b>Total Learners</b>	<b>159</b>

# Level (2) Outcomes: Satisfaction

Final Outcomes Summary: Live Program

## Evaluation respondents rated the activity “Excellent” to “Good” at:

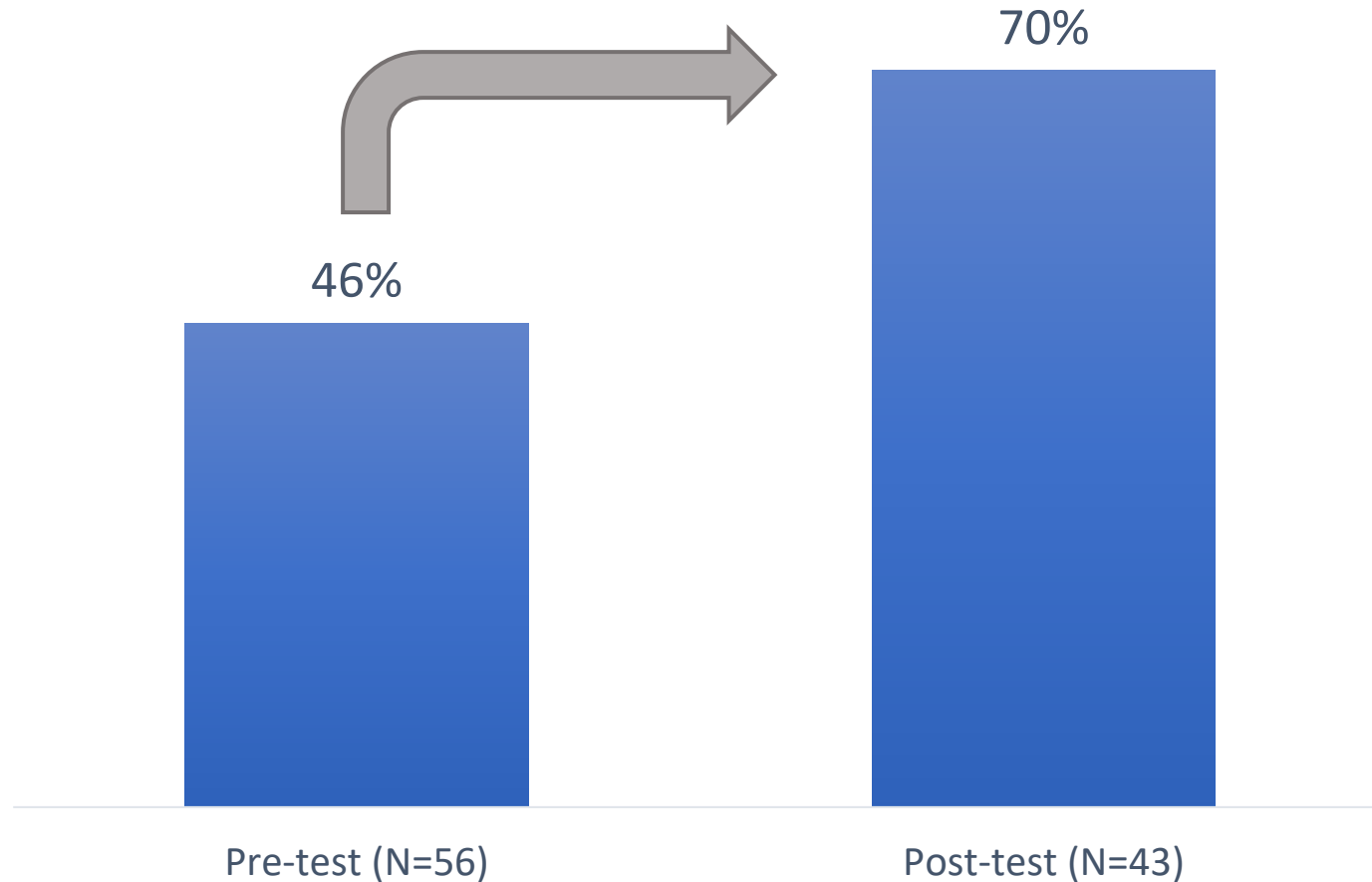





# Level (3 & 4) Outcomes: Knowledge & Competence

Final Outcomes Summary: Live Program

## Overall Knowledge Gain across Learning Objectives



52% Overall Relative Knowledge Gain



24% Overall Absolute Knowledge Gain

# Level (3 & 4) Outcomes: Knowledge & Competence

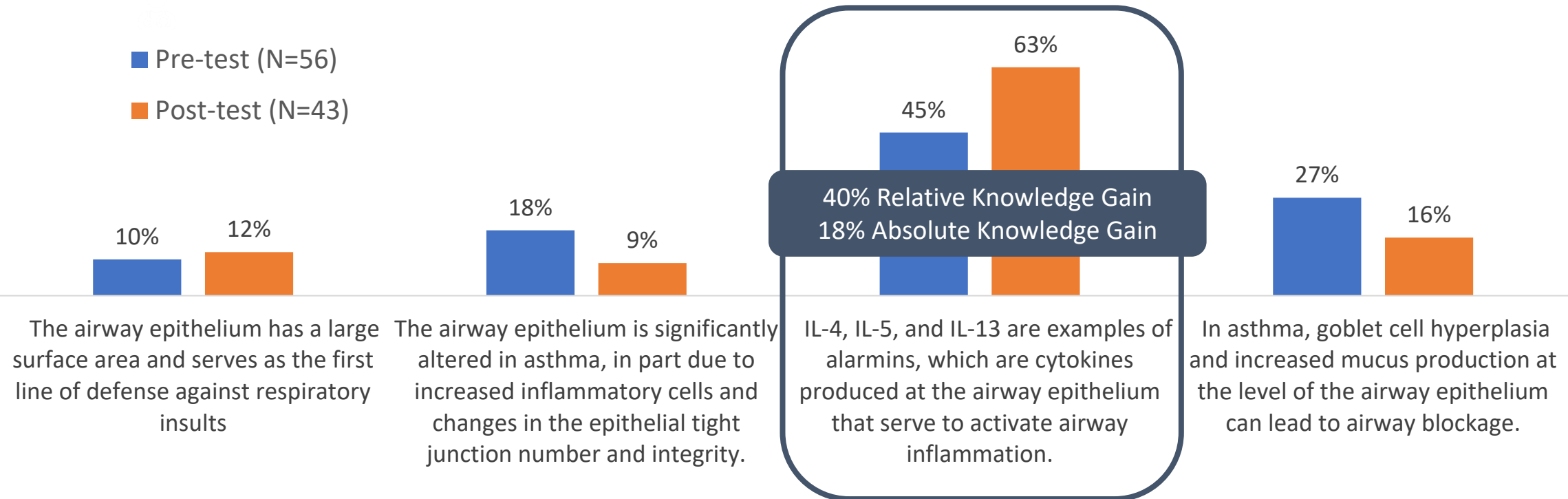
Final Outcomes Summary: Live Program

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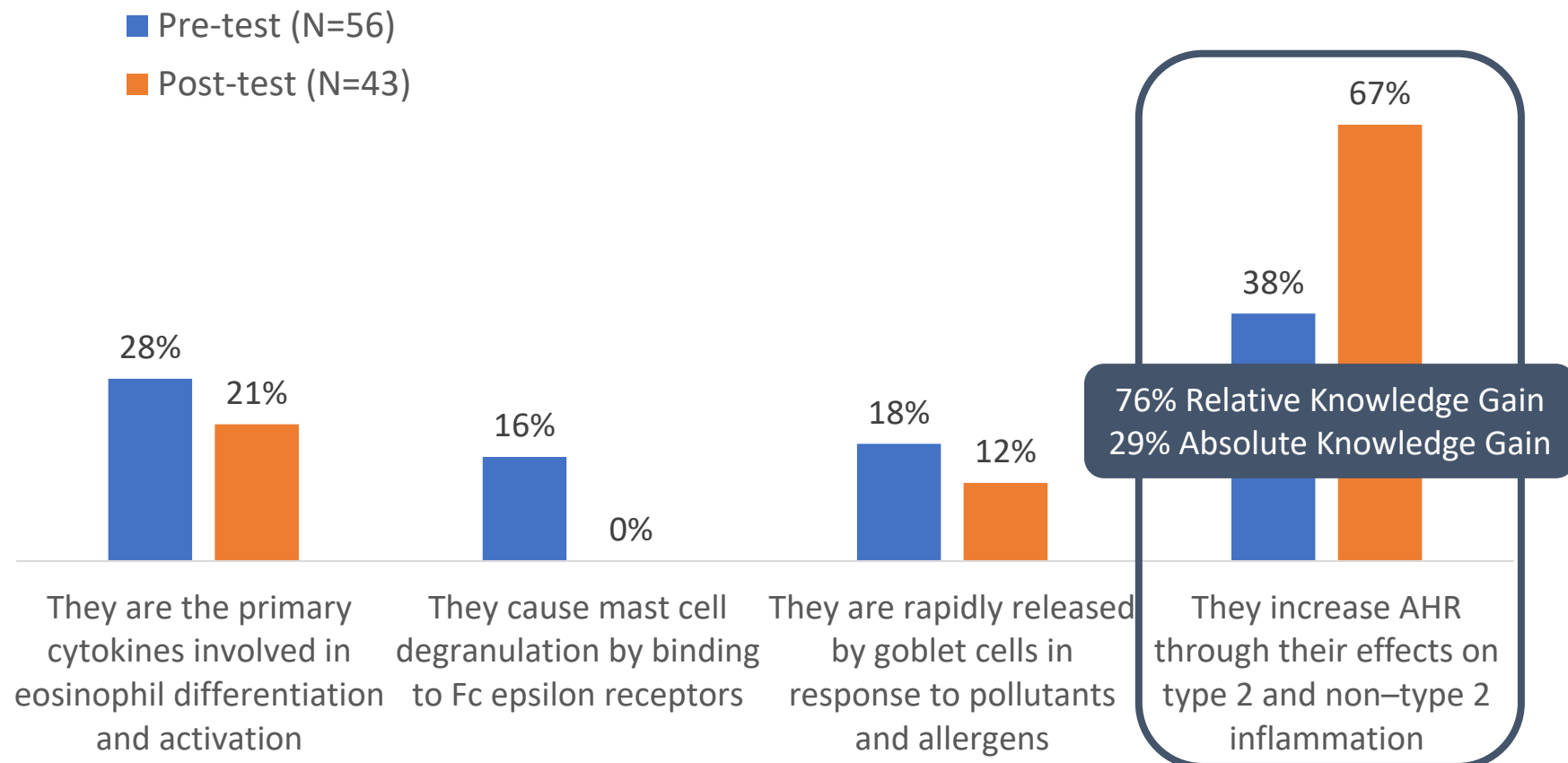


# Level (3 & 4) Outcomes: Knowledge & Competence

Final Outcomes Summary: Live Program

**Learning Objective:** Define the epithelial alarmins and their impact on T2 and non-T2 airway inflammation, remodeling, and hyper responsiveness in severe asthma.

**Question 2:** Which of the following is true about the alarmins and their role in airway hyperresponsiveness (AHR) in asthma?



### Clinical Rationale:

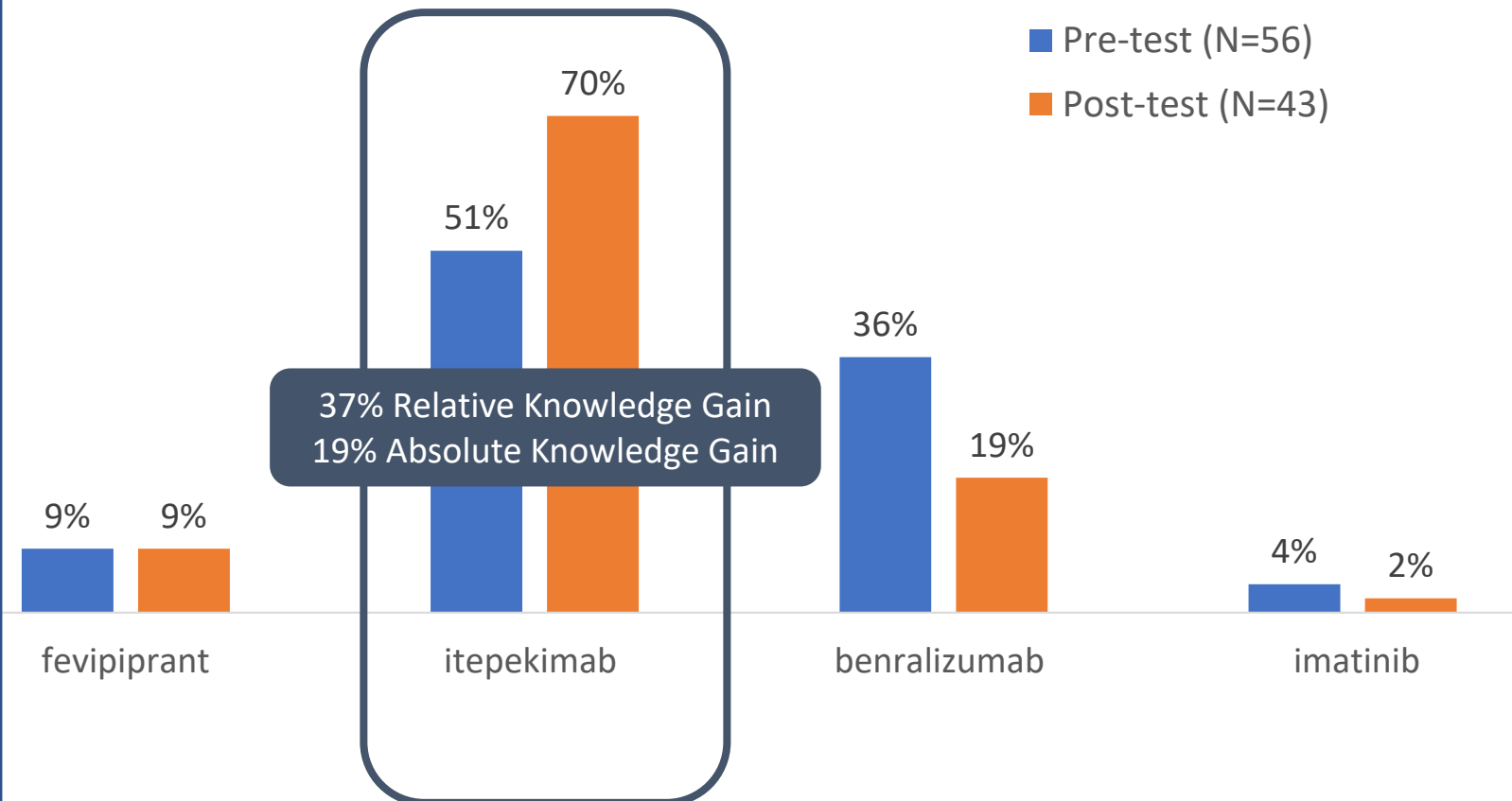
Airway hyperresponsiveness (AHR) is in part caused by type 2 (particularly IL-13) and non-type 2 inflammation which have direct effects upon airway smooth muscle. Alarmins are produced by the airway epithelium in response to insults such as viruses, bacteria, allergens and pollutants to initiate the cascade which leads to either T2 or non-T2 inflammation, depending upon the insult. Therefore, alarmins increase AHR through their effects upon T2 and non-T2 inflammation.

# Level (3 & 4) Outcomes: Knowledge & Competence

Final Outcomes Summary: Live Program

**Learning Objective:** Evaluate the results of clinical trials of current and emerging therapies that target the epithelial alarmins in severe asthma.

**Question 3:** Which of the following therapies is a monoclonal antibody against an epithelial alarmin, currently being studied for asthma?



## Clinical Rationale:

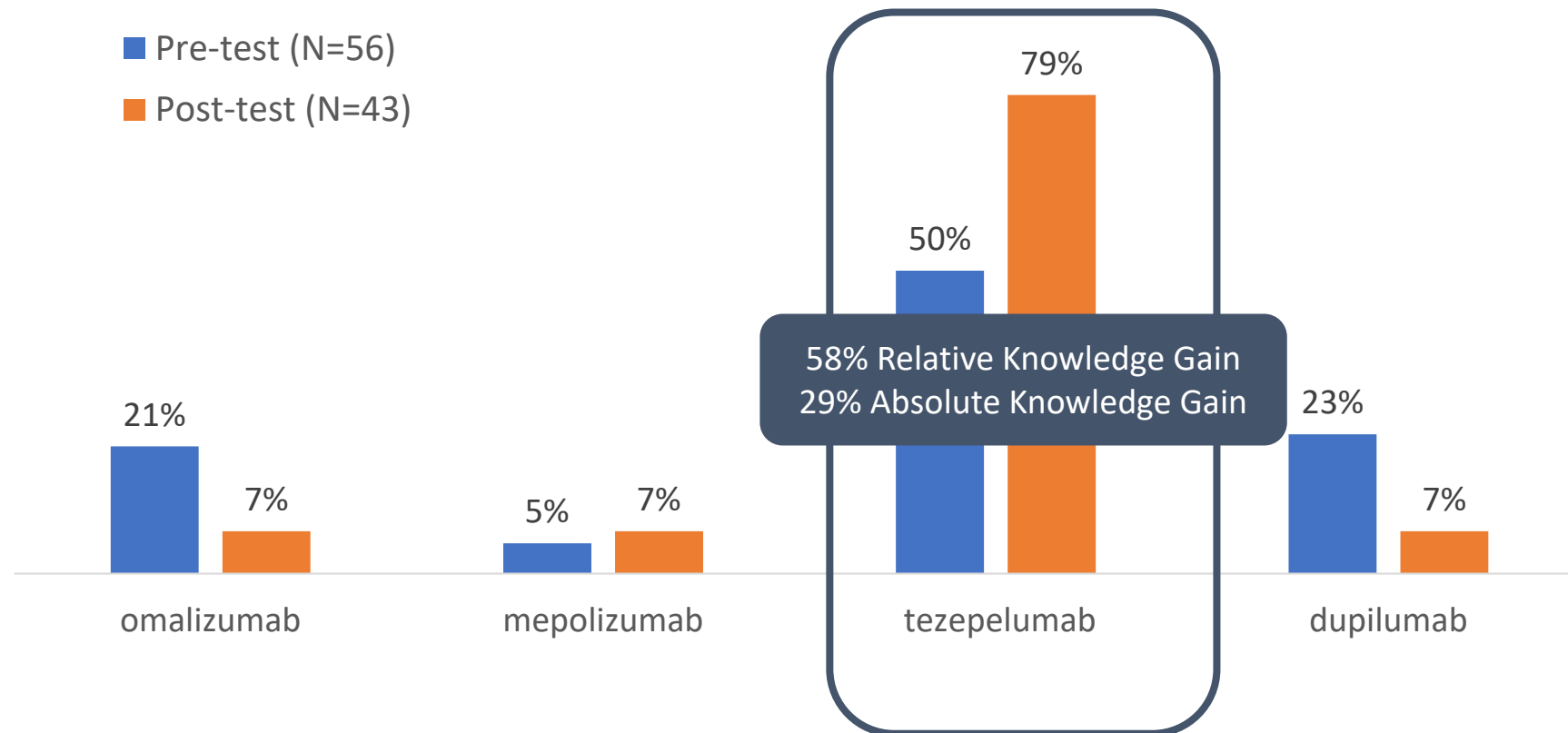
**Itepekimab** is a monoclonal anti-body that targets the IL-33 ligand that is part of the alarmin group of cytokines (e.g., IL-33, IL-25 and thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP)). These cytokines are released by bronchial epithelial cells in response to exogenous agents such as allergens, microbes, air pollutants and other environmental triggers binding to various pattern recognition receptors on bronchial epithelial cells. The alarmins have been shown to induce downstream production of both T-2 and non-T-2 cytokines and play a pivotal role in the underlying pathogenesis of asthma.

# Level (3 & 4) Outcomes: Knowledge & Competence

Final Outcomes Summary: Live Program

**Learning Objective:** Match clinical characteristics and phenotypes to treatment targets.

**Question 4:** Sarah is a 47-year-old female patient with adult-onset asthma, her main triggers being wildfire smoke and viral infections. She is non-atopic (negative allergy skin testing) and has normal eosinophil counts, exhaled nitric oxide, and total IgE levels on testing. Which of the following biologics would be most appropriate to prescribe if she is having 2 corticosteroid-requiring exacerbations per year despite high-dose ICS/LABA therapy?



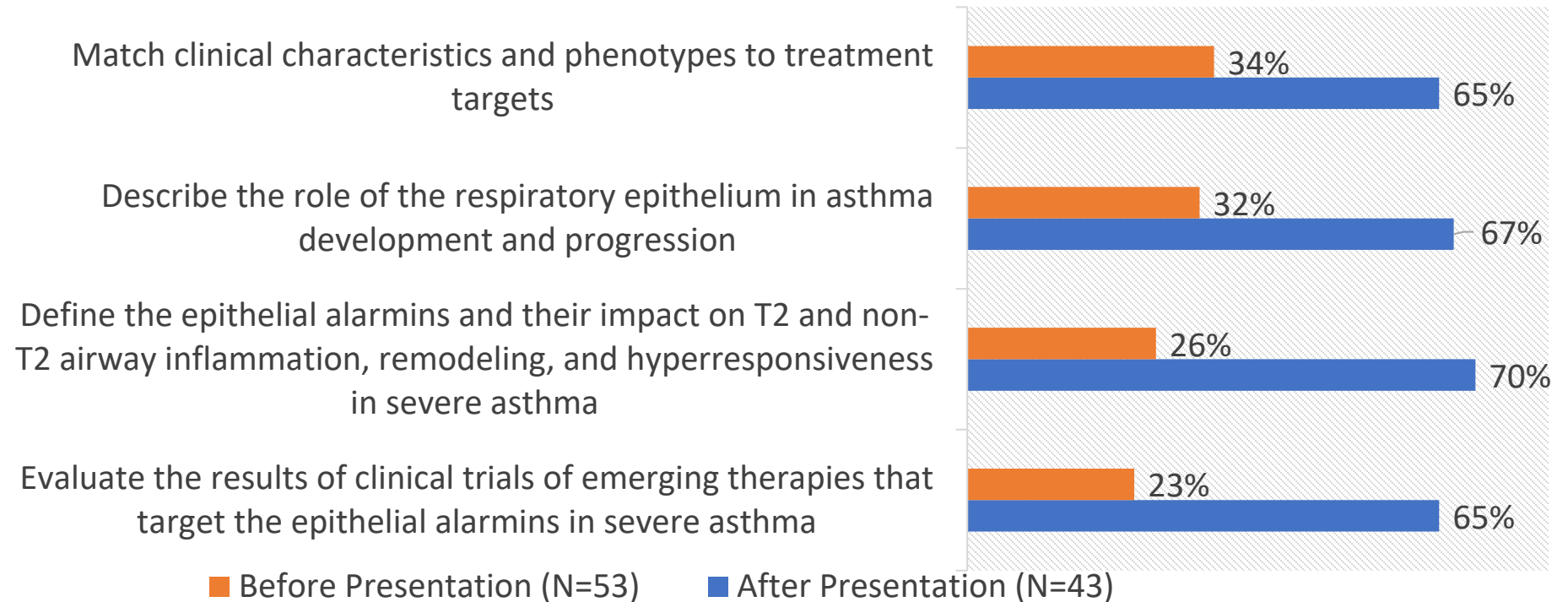
### Clinical Rationale:

The patient described in this vignette has non-type 2 asthma. Of the biologic agents listed, Tezepelumab is the only one approved for asthma regardless of phenotype. The other answer choices are approved for allergic asthma, eosinophilic asthma, or steroid-dependent asthma, none of which apply to this patient.

# Level (4) Outcomes: Competence

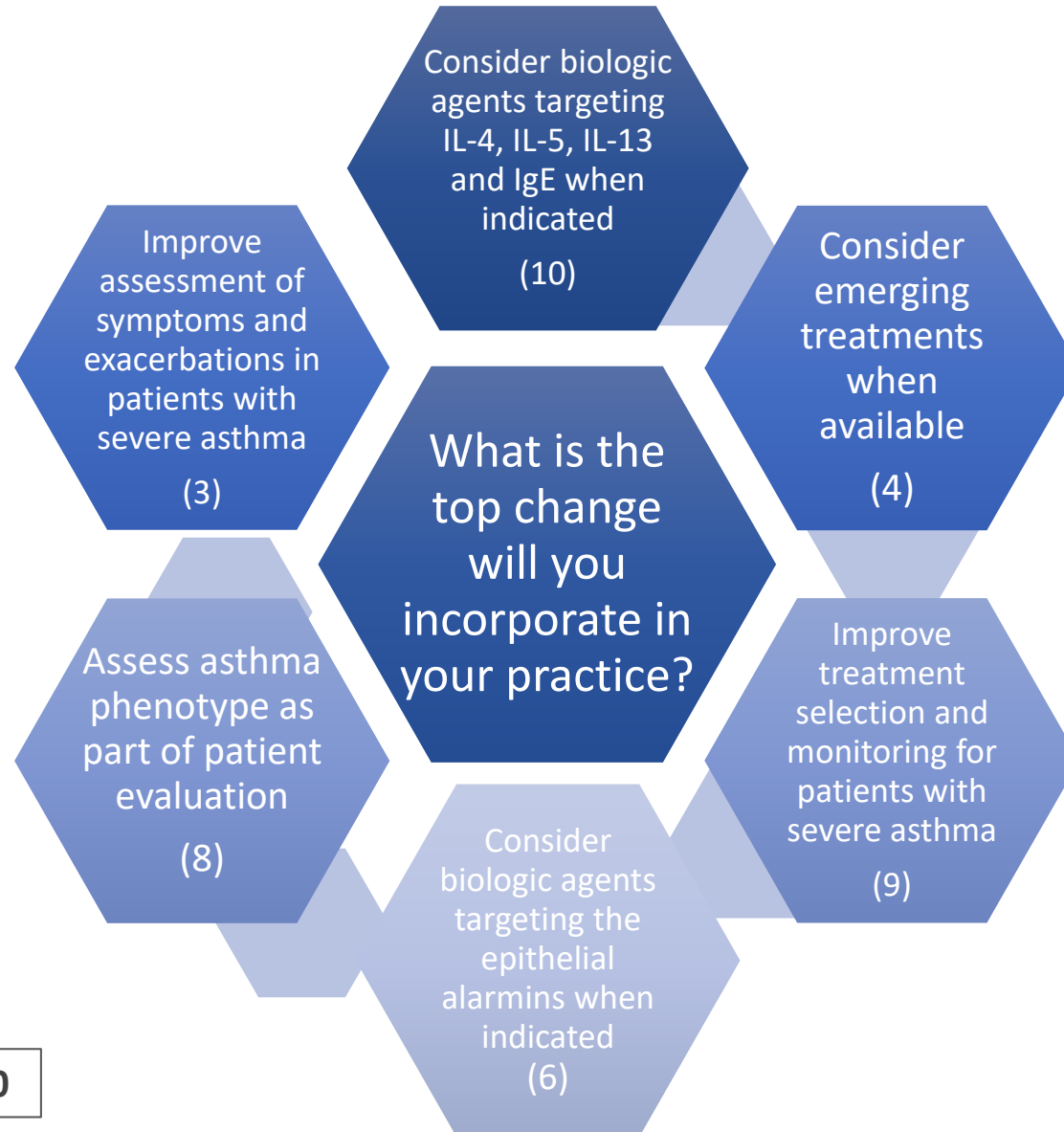
Final Outcomes Summary: Live Program

## Evaluation respondents reported their confidence as it relates to the learning objectives before and after the activity (Very confident – confident)



# Level (4) Outcomes: Competence

Final Outcomes Summary: Live Program



N=40

95%

N=43

Evaluation respondents intend to make changes in practice as a result of the activity



## Key Takeaways

- New drugs in the pipeline
- Different indications for the various biologics
- Multiple new asthma treatments
- Understanding the phenotype and endotype
- There is a role for biologics in those who do not have a phenotype with hypereosinophilia or elevated IgE
- Improving understanding about developments in asthma inflammatory pathways



## Future Topics

- Biologics
- Atypical cases of asthma
- Use of thermoplasty
- Signs and symptoms that qualify patient as severe, testing required and treatment options

***“Nice to appreciate indications from national experts in the field.”***

***-Live participant***



# Accreditation Details

Final Outcomes Summary: Online Outcomes and Live Program

National Jewish Health is accredited with Commendation by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The NJH Office of Professional Education produced and accredited this program and adhered to the updated ACCME guidelines.

National Jewish Health designates the live activity for a maximum of 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*.

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