

Supplementary Material:

Table S1: Survey questions and results

Question	Number of responses	Answer	Percentage response
Please select which stage applies to you	137	Pre-Clinical Early Clinical Clinical	44.5% 30.7% 24.8%
Before starting your course did you have any previous experience in neurology?*	137	Yes No Don't know	22.6% 77.4% 0.0%
Have you completed the neurology module in your medical course yet?	136	Yes No	50.0% 50.0%
Have you heard of the term "neurophobia"?	137	Yes No	19.0% 81.0%
Do you think neurology will be a difficult subject? Or if you have already completed the neurology module did you think it would be difficult before studying it?	136	Yes No Don't know	80.1% 11.8% 8.1%
Have you heard any negative comments from other students about neurology?*	137	Yes No Don't know	48.2% 43.1% 8.8%
Have you heard any positive comments from other students about neurology?	137	Yes No Don't know	41.6% 46.7% 11.7%
Are you/were you apprehensive about studying neurology?	137	Yes No Don't know	43.1% 53.3% 3.6%
What do you think the most difficult aspect of studying neurology will be? OR if you have already studied neurology then what did you think the most difficult aspect would be?	136	Neurophysiology Neuroanatomy Neuropharmacology Pathology Differential diagnosis Other (please specify) Neurological examination Neurological history	38.2% 32.4% 9.6% 6.6% 4.4% 3.7% 2.9% 2.2%
Would you consider neurology as a specialty in the future?	137	Yes No Don't know	45.3% 30.7% 24.1%
If you have completed a clinical rotation in neurology, were you apprehensive beforehand?*	136	Yes No Don't know I have not completed a clinical rotation in neurology	4.4% 8.8% 0.7% 86.0%
Has your opinion of the difficulty of neurology changed post-rotation?	133	Yes No Don't know Not relevant	6.0% 6.8% 0.0% 87.2%
Do you think that medical students' generally negative view of neurology is justified?	136	Yes No Don't know	25.0% 32.4% 42.6%
Do you believe that a stronger focus on neurology in your basic science modules in first year would have prepared you for the subject of neurology?	137	Yes No Don't know	48.9% 14.6% 36.5%
Do you think that a change in the methods of teaching could help to promote neurology in a positive light?*	137	Yes No Don't know	46.0% 8.8% 45.3%

*Participants were invited to explain their answer

Table S2: Comparison of neurology to six specialities

Question	Number of responses	Options	Average answer
Please rate on a scale of 1-10 how difficult you think each of the following subjects will be/are (1 being not very difficult and 10 being the most difficult)	134	neurology	7.76
		oncology	7.09
		nephrology	6.45
		endocrinology	6.15
		cardiology	5.77
		gastroenterology	5.68
		genitourinary	5.61

Before starting your course did you have any previous experience in neurology?

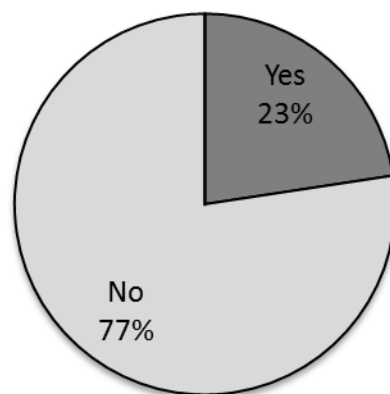


Figure S1: Students were asked the question: “Before starting your course did you have any previous experience in neurology?” Students were then asked to explain their answer. n=137

Have you heard of the term "neurophobia"?

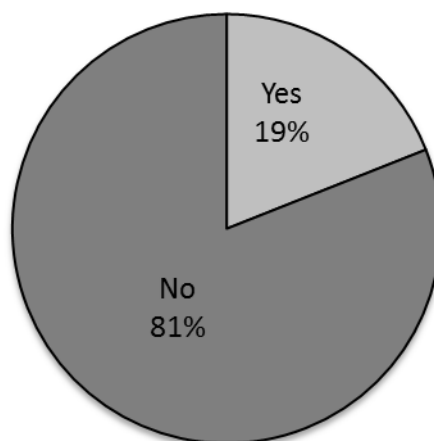


Figure S2: Students were asked the question: “Have you heard of the term "neurophobia"?” n=137

Students' perceived difficulty of neurology

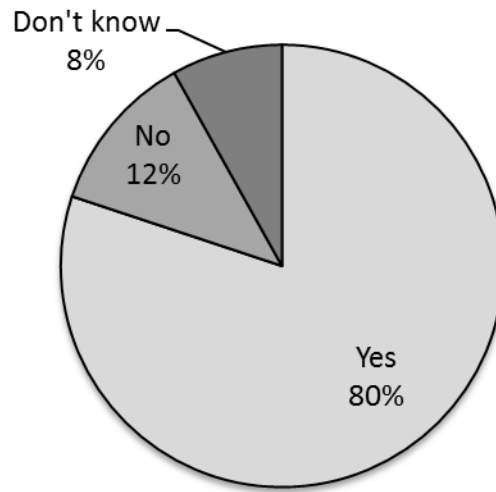


Figure S3: Students were asked: “Do you think neurology will be a difficult subject? OR If you have already completed the neurology module did you think it would be difficult before studying it?” n=136

Have you heard any negative comments from other students about neurology?

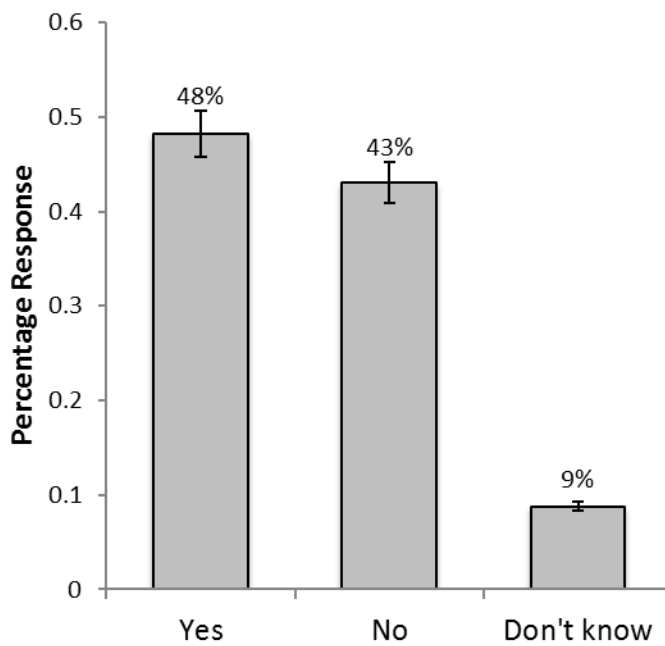


Figure S4: “have you heard any negative comments from other students about neurology?” Students were then invited to write examples of what they had heard. Standard error bars are included n=137

Have you heard any positive comments from other students about neurology?

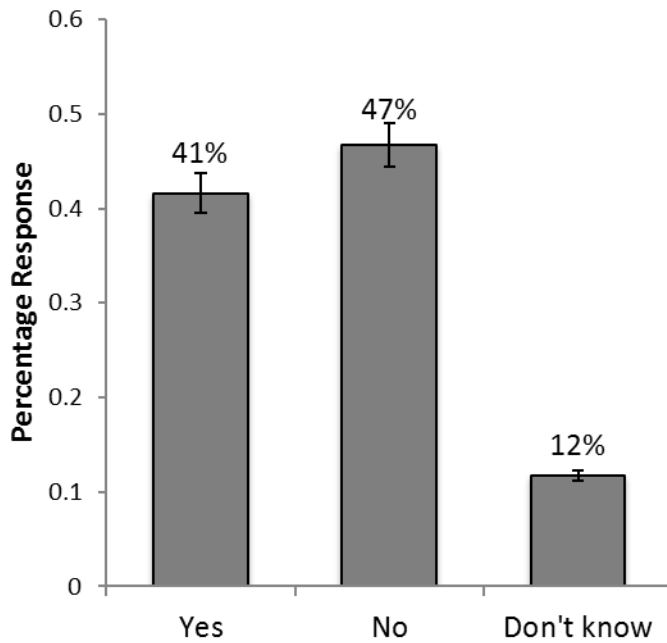


Figure S5: "Have you heard any positive comments from other students about neurology?" Students were then asked to outline what they had heard. n=137

Do you think that medical students' generally negative view of neurology is justified?

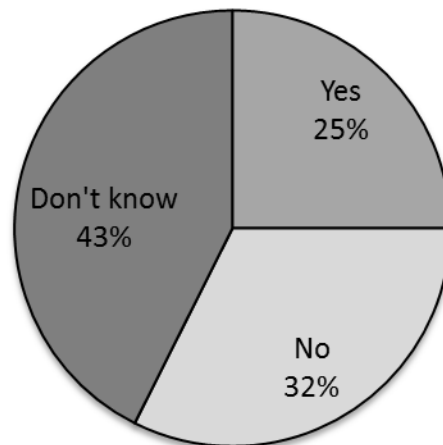


Figure S6: Students were asked "Do you think that medical students' generally negative view of neurology is justified?" n=136

Do you believe that a stronger focus on neurology in your basic science modules in first year would have prepared you for the subject of neurology?

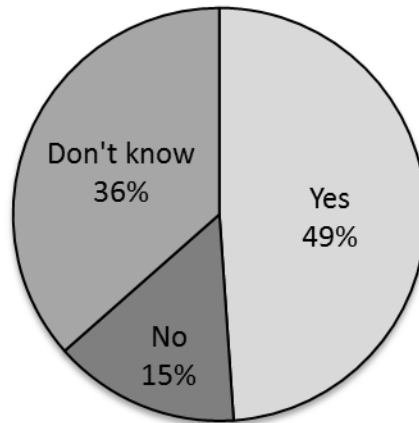


Figure S7: Students were asked: Do you believe that a stronger focus on neurology in your basic science modules in first year would have prepared you for the subject of neurology? n=137

Do you think that a change in the methods of teaching could help to promote neurology in a positive light?

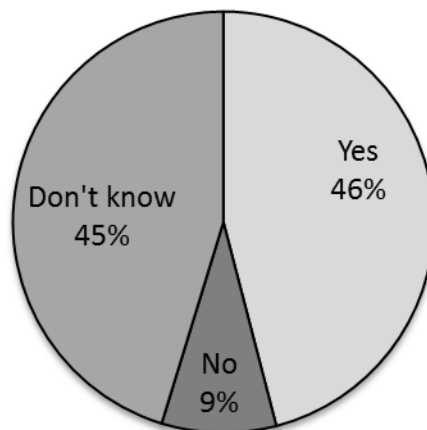


Figure S8: Students were asked: "Do you think that a change in the methods of teaching could help to promote neurology in a positive light?" They were then invited to explain their answer. n=137