

CSIH MentorNet: Exploring
application of module-based
curriculum for mentoring students
and young professionals in
global health

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CSIH CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH
SCSI LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE
DE SANTÉ INTERNATIONALE

Disclaimer

Volunteer with CSIH's MentorNet program.

Global Health Today

- Transnational health threats challenge health systems worldwide, highlighting the need for a highly trained, inter-disciplinary workforce.
- As a result, the field of global health has exponentially grown.

Unconventional Global Health Learning Opportunities



have begun to recognize the need for unconventional global health learning opportunities to complement classroom learning.

Strengths of Unconventional Approaches

- Give trainees the required confidence, skills, and knowledge to succeed in the global health workforce.
- However, little consensus on the most effective approaches for preparing students and young professionals (SYPs), but **mentorship** has been regarded as a **key strategy**.
- Yet, formalized structures for mentorship are still **less common** than informal mentorship relationships.

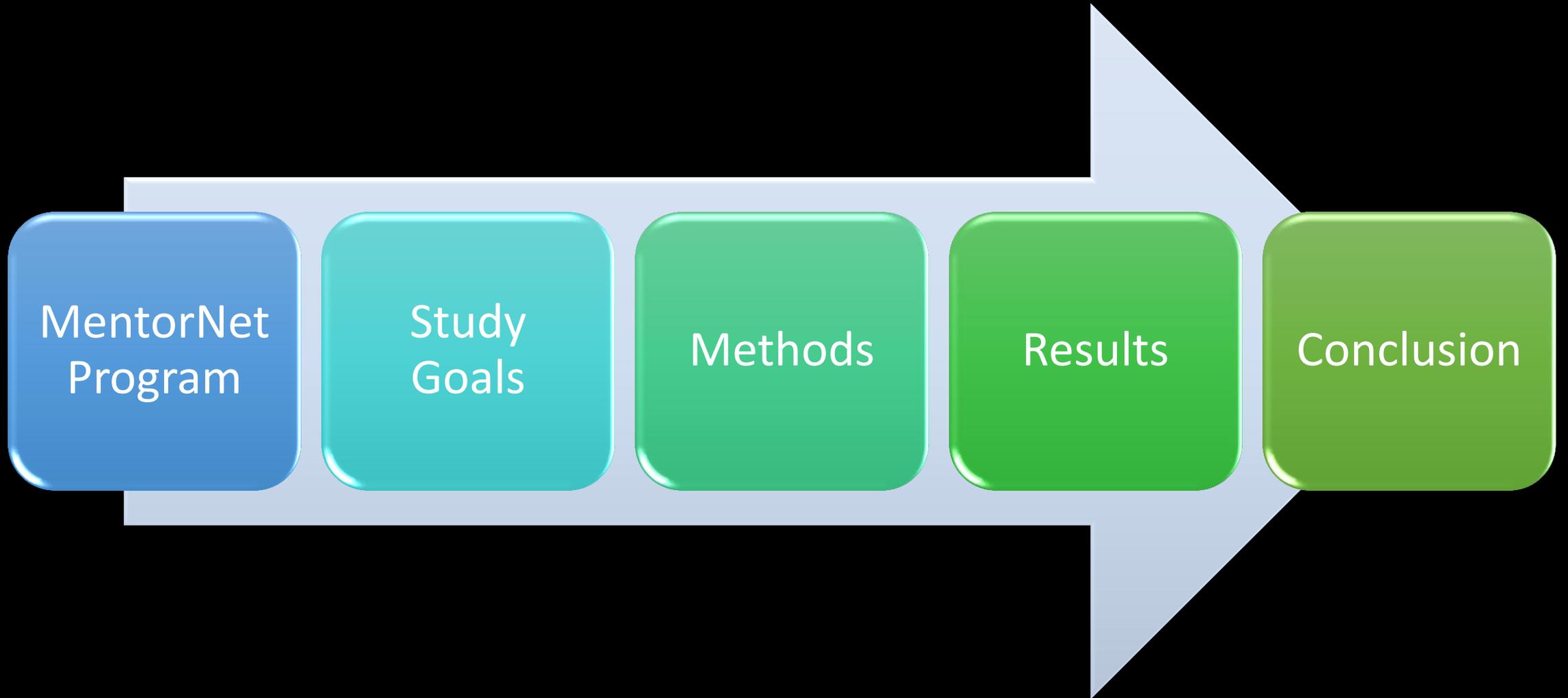


Filling a Gap

In 2011, the Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) created MentorNet, an international, global health mentorship program that connects students and young professionals (SYPs) with experienced mentors across diverse disciplines relevant to global health.



Today's Presentation will Discuss the:



MentorNet Program

MentorNet Program

- A structured program that uses a module-based curriculum to support knowledge exchange, conversations and reflections between SYP-mentor pairs.
- Each module consists of a two to three page document that introduces a global health topic, provides resources for learning and presents discussion questions to facilitate conversation between pairs.
- Presently, there are 40 modules in the program.

MentorNet Program

- Participants are also provided an opportunity to network with other participants through conferences and meet-ups.
- Access to a private Facebook group to interact with SYPs within their cohort and other mentors in the program.

Program Operations

- Run and managed by a team of volunteers:
 - 2 Co-Directors
 - 6 - 8 Steering Committee members
- Members of the team are students and young professional themselves with a background in global health and leadership.
- Steering Committee members:
 1. Liaison between program pairs
 2. Assist in internal program activities.

Program Operations

- Participation in the program spans over the course of eight months starting at the beginning of the calendar year.
- MentorNet is open to international applicants and receives over 150 SYPs applications for 30 spots in the program.
- After the highest scoring SYPs and mentors are identified, they are matched based on:
 1. Goals of participation in the program
 2. Area(s) of interest within global health
 3. Geographical location

Goal of our Study

Goal of the Study

- A preliminary analysis from years one and two evaluated the experience of SYPs, identifying the benefits, barriers, and opportunities associated with participation in the structured mentorship program.
- 65 SYPs completed pre- and post-program evaluation surveys, indicating that over the first two years of the program, MentorNet has consistently:
 - Improved SYPs' awareness of opportunities in the global health field
 - Enhanced their understanding of global health issues
 - Increased their interest in pursuing a career in global health
 - Expanded their contacts and networks in global health.
- Building on this previous study, this study seeks to understand how MentorNet impacts the skills and knowledge of SYPs from across four program cohorts (2012-2016).

Methods Undertaken

Post-Program Survey

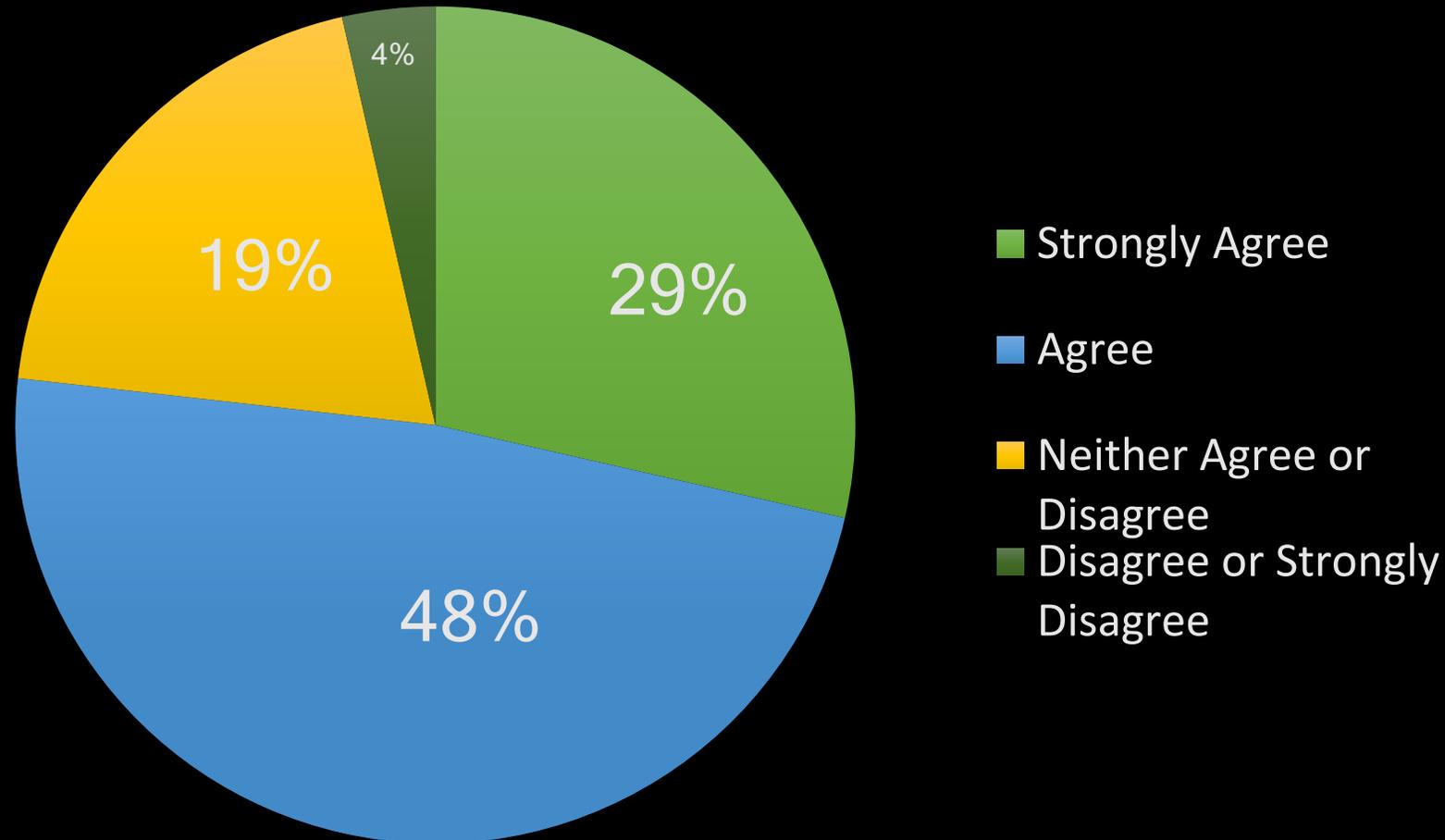
- SYPs were asked to complete a post-program year survey
- Three questions were selected for this analysis because these questions were:
 - More reflective of the overall aims and objectives of the MentorNet program
 - Asked of participants during the last section of the post-program survey, allowing them the opportunity to reflect on their experience as a whole.

Post-Program Survey Result Analysis

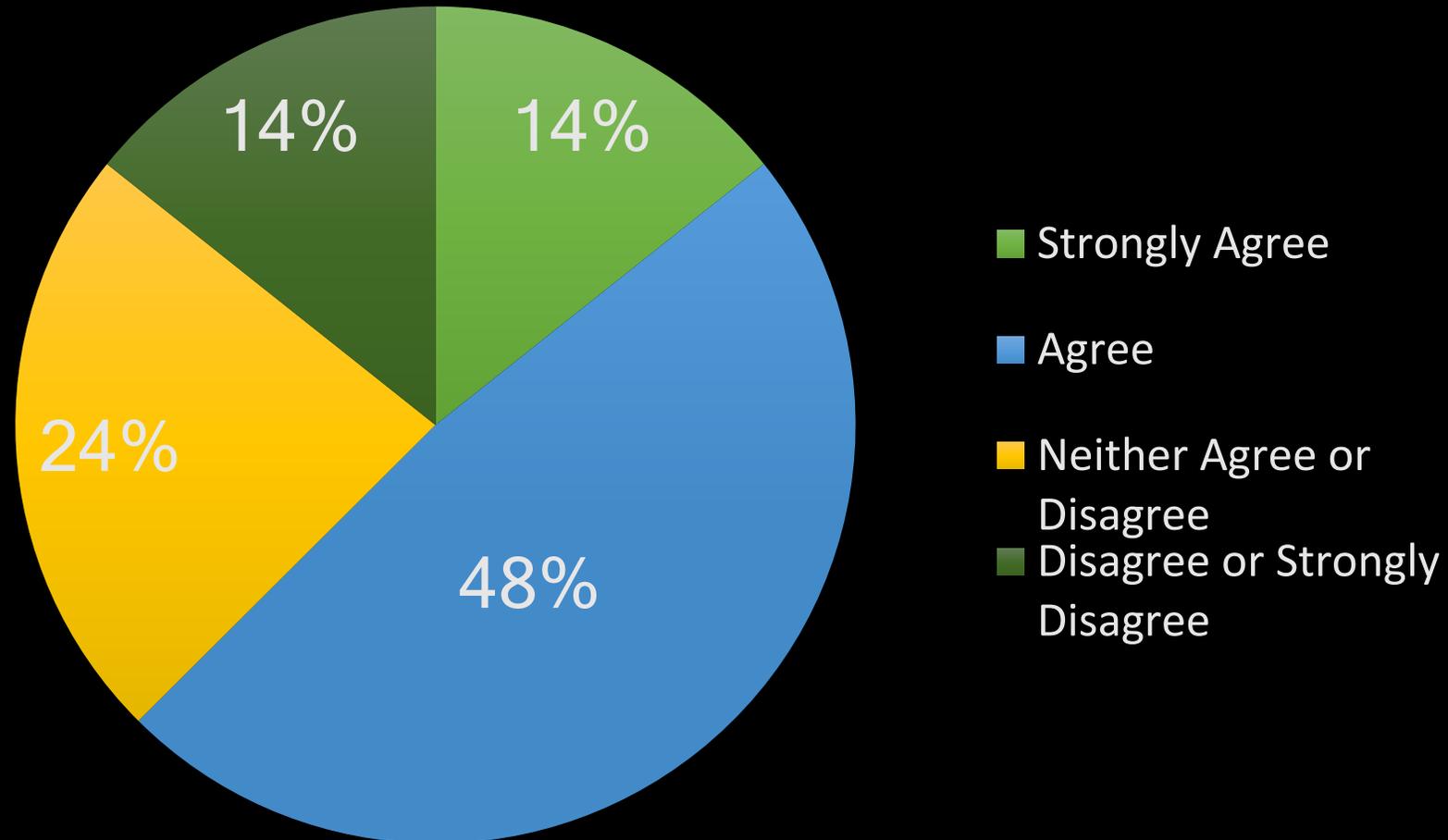
- Analyses were descriptive, with basic inferential statistics for cross-tabulations of categorical variables completed.
- STATA was used to conduct both Fishers' exact and Cramer's V tests.

Results

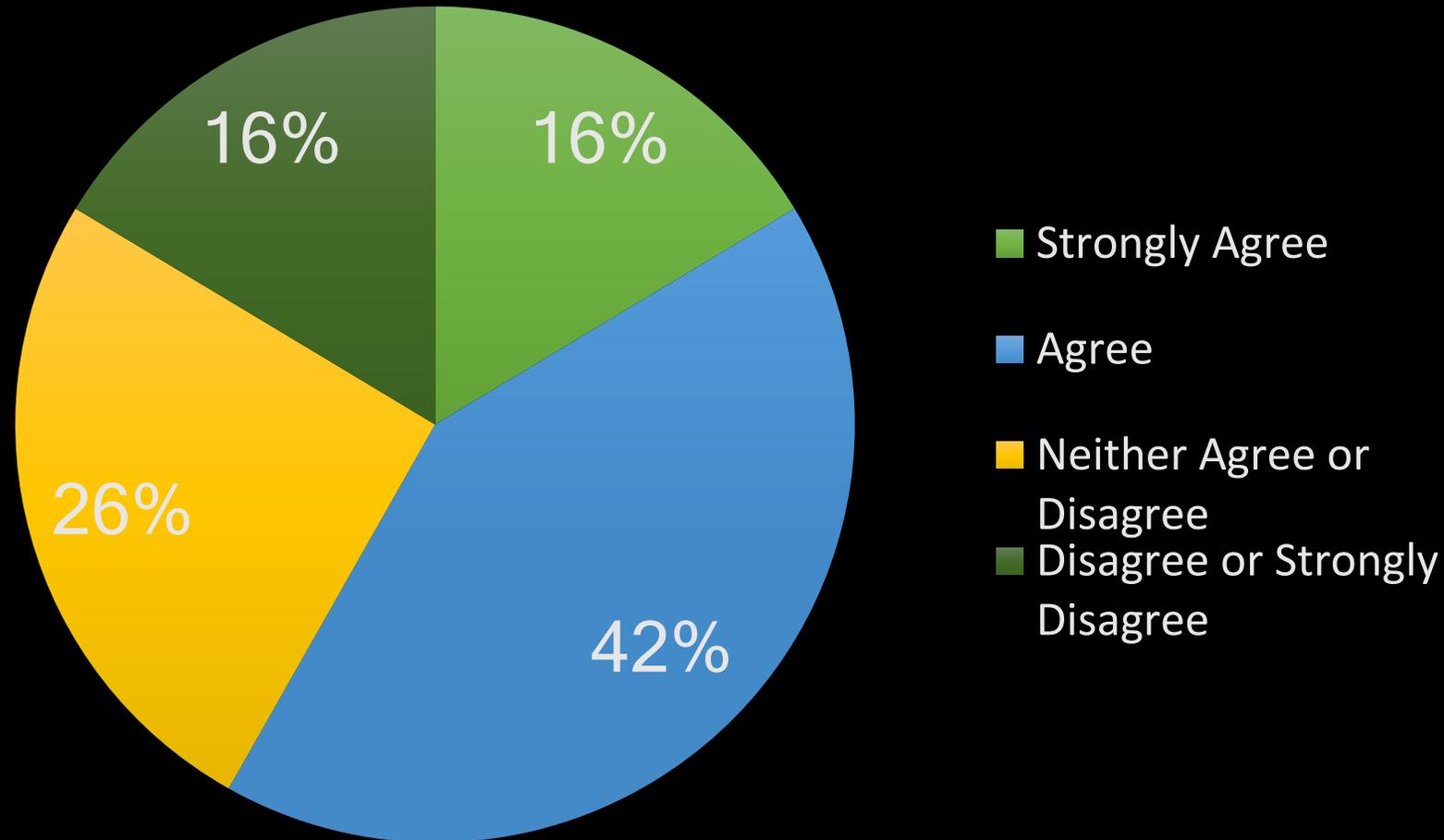
1. “I am better informed about global health and the issues involved in this sector”



2. “I have more personal contacts in the field of global health”



3. “I have learned about opportunities available to me in global health”



Conclusion

Key Findings

- Based on the analyzed responses from the post-program survey, the MentorNet program generated mostly positive responses from SYPs.
- The MentorNet program and structure appears to provide an effective approach to education, potentially contributing to health system strengthening.

Opportunities

- Opportunities such as mentorship, provide another avenue for SYPs to learn and train for the challenges they will face within their global health careers.
- MentorNet offers a relatively low-cost model by which SYPs can enter the field of global health with greater knowledge, connections, and awareness of professional opportunities.

Potential Limitations

- Not all participants responded, may lead to selection bias.
- Questions posed with positive connotations, opportunity to use vignette technique in future studies.

Future Directions

- Our evaluation demonstrates that MentorNet enabled responding participants to have an opportunity to enhance their capacity through relationship building, research, and practice.
- SYP/mentor relationships are strengthened, bringing the global health community closer and unifying field professionals.
- Other global health associations may be able to adapt MentorNet approaches to both meet SYPs needs and build their associations' contribution to global health workforce development.

Thank you!

Any additional questions?



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