

Global Health Imaging and International Radiology: a National Survey among Canadian Radiology Residents

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Disclosures

- R. Zener: No financial, commercial, or personal disclosures.
- I. Ross: No financial, commercial, or personal disclosures.

Background

- Global Health
 - Interest has steadily increased among North American medical trainees
 - U.S. radiology residents are motivated to gain global health experience¹
 - Discrepancy between U.S. radiology resident interest and opportunity availability¹

Background

- However, no similar studies have been performed in Canada

Purpose

- What is the **level of interest** of **Canadian radiology residents** in **global health imaging (GHI)**?
- What **global health imaging opportunities** are **available to residents** at **Canadian training programs**?

Method

- Study population
 - Radiology residents at Canadian training programs
- Methodology
 - Survey
 - Multiple choice questions
 - On www.surveymonkey.com
 - Invitation to participate emailed to program coordinators

Survey

- Resident demographics
 - Prior experience working in the developing world
- Radiology resident:
 - Interest in global health imaging
 - Perception of global health imaging
 - Perception of the role of Canadian radiologists in global health imaging
- Current opportunities for Canadian residents to participate in global health imaging

Results

- Respondents:

- 50 residents (10 programs)

- Birth Country

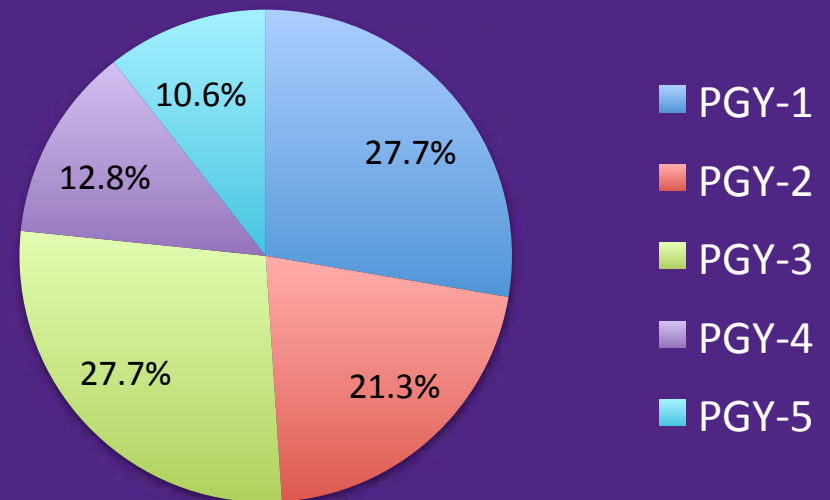
- 79% Canadian/American
- 21% were born abroad

- 49% had close family outside of North America

- 28% (n = 14) had previously done work/volunteering in the developing world

- All prior to residency
- Only 1 in radiology

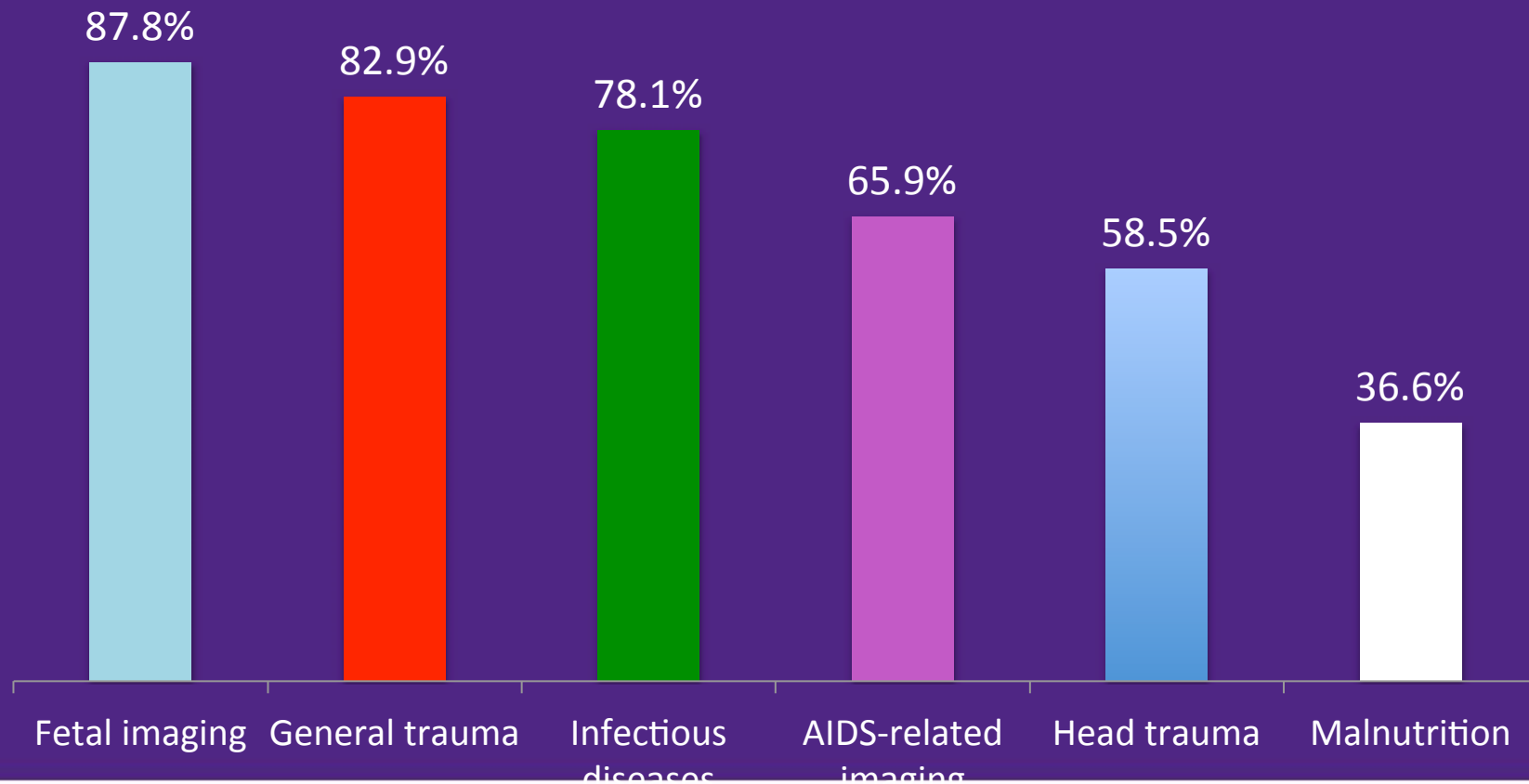
Year of training



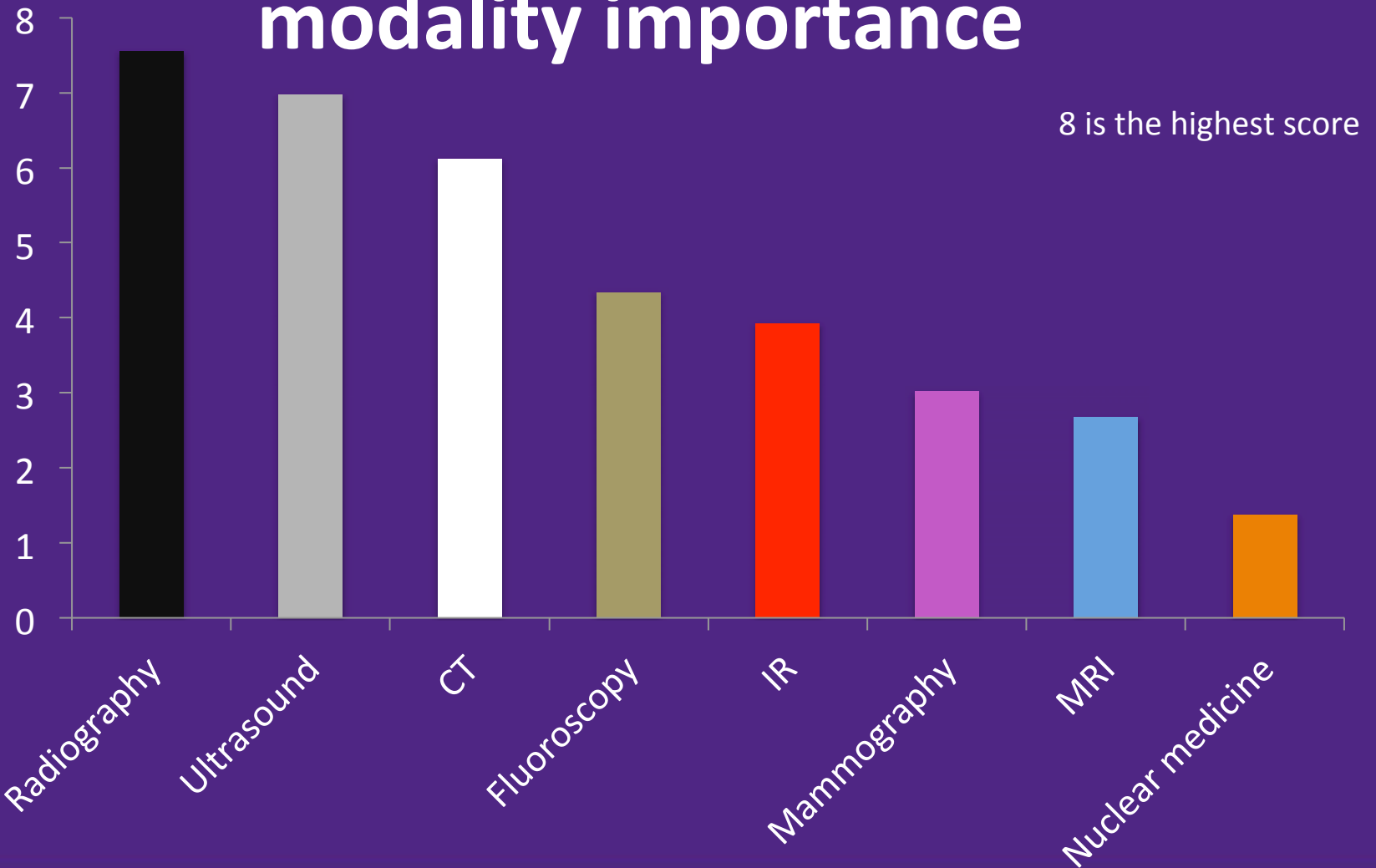
Canadian resident perception

- 72% believed there is an **unmet need** of medical imaging services in the developing world
- 79% believed there is an **increasing need** for medical imaging services

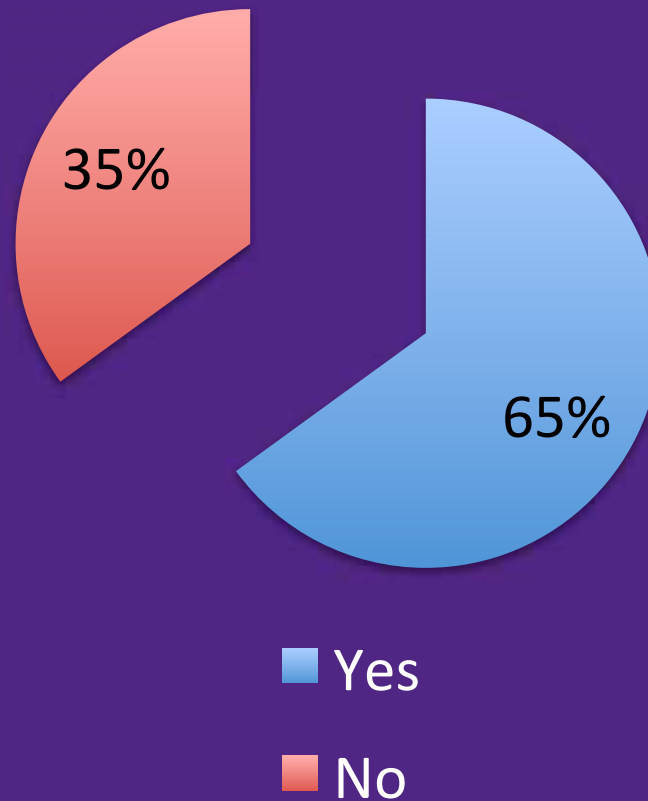
Clinical entities with important imaging applications requiring attention in developing countries



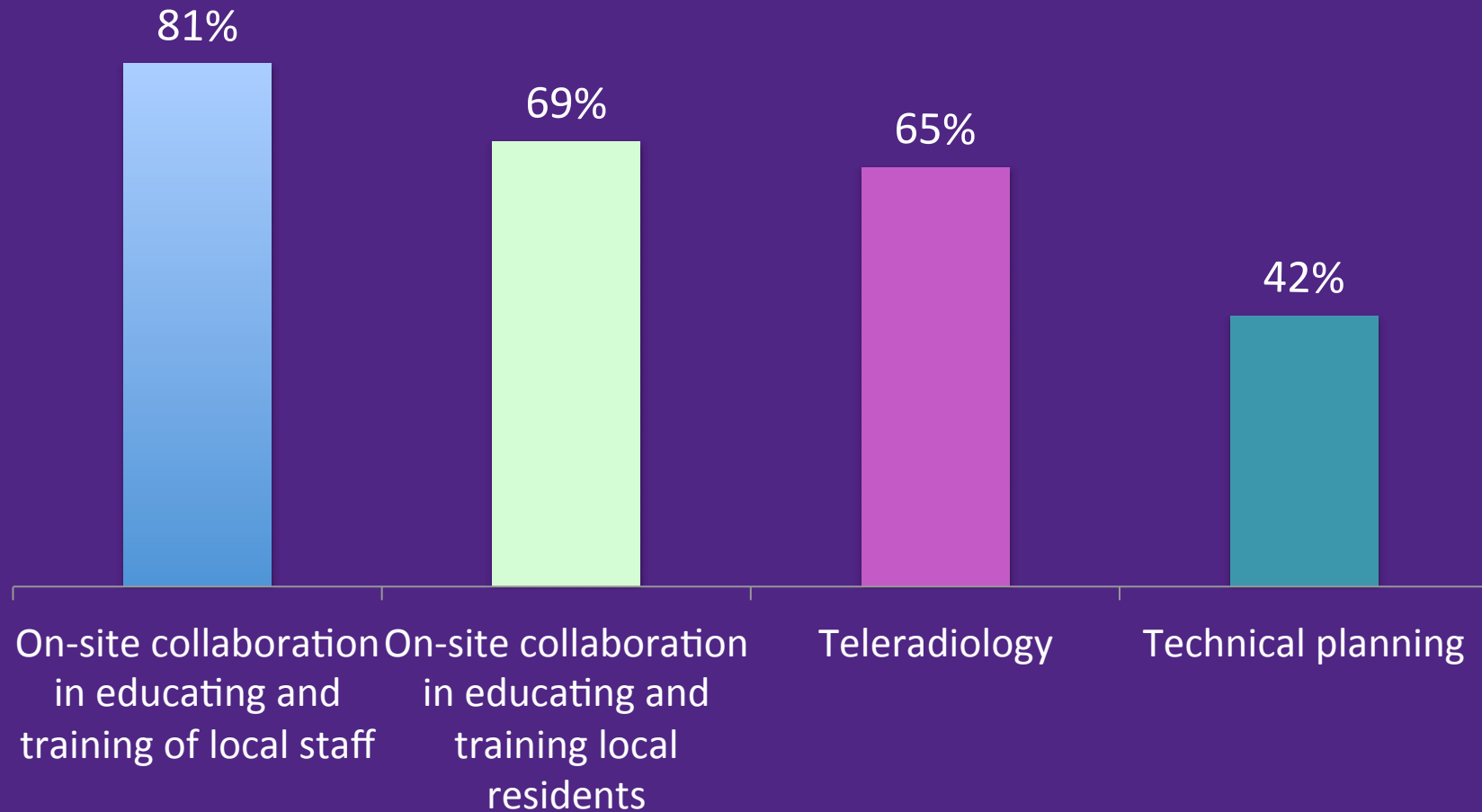
Relative perception of imaging modality importance



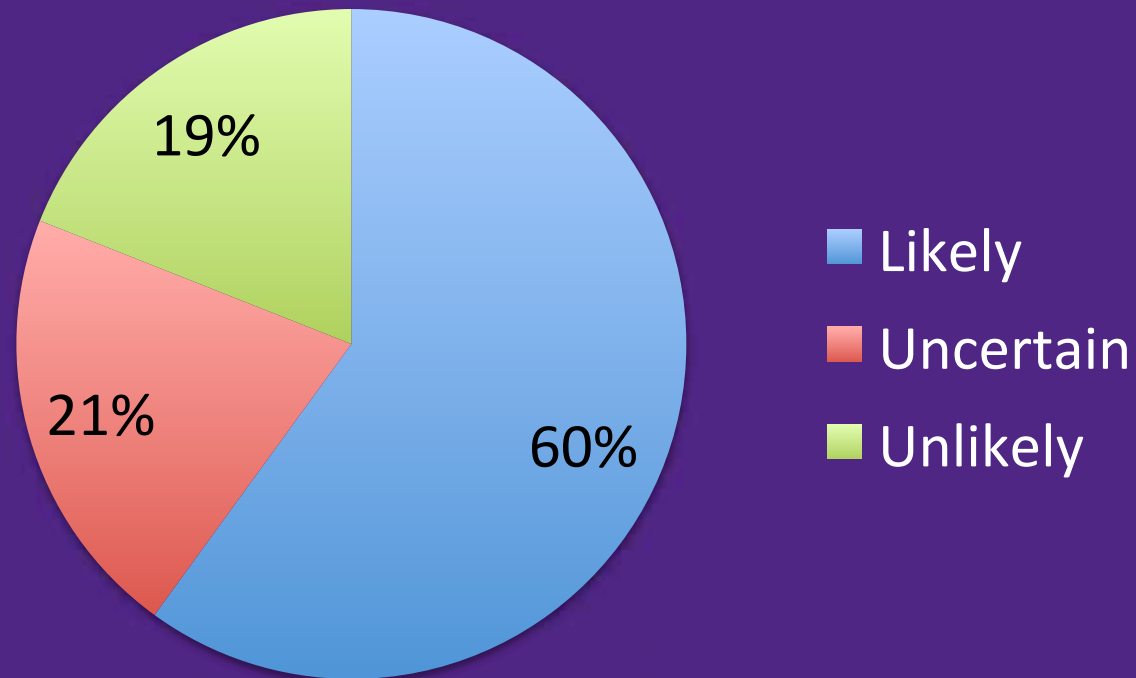
Plans for future pursuit of international medical imaging work



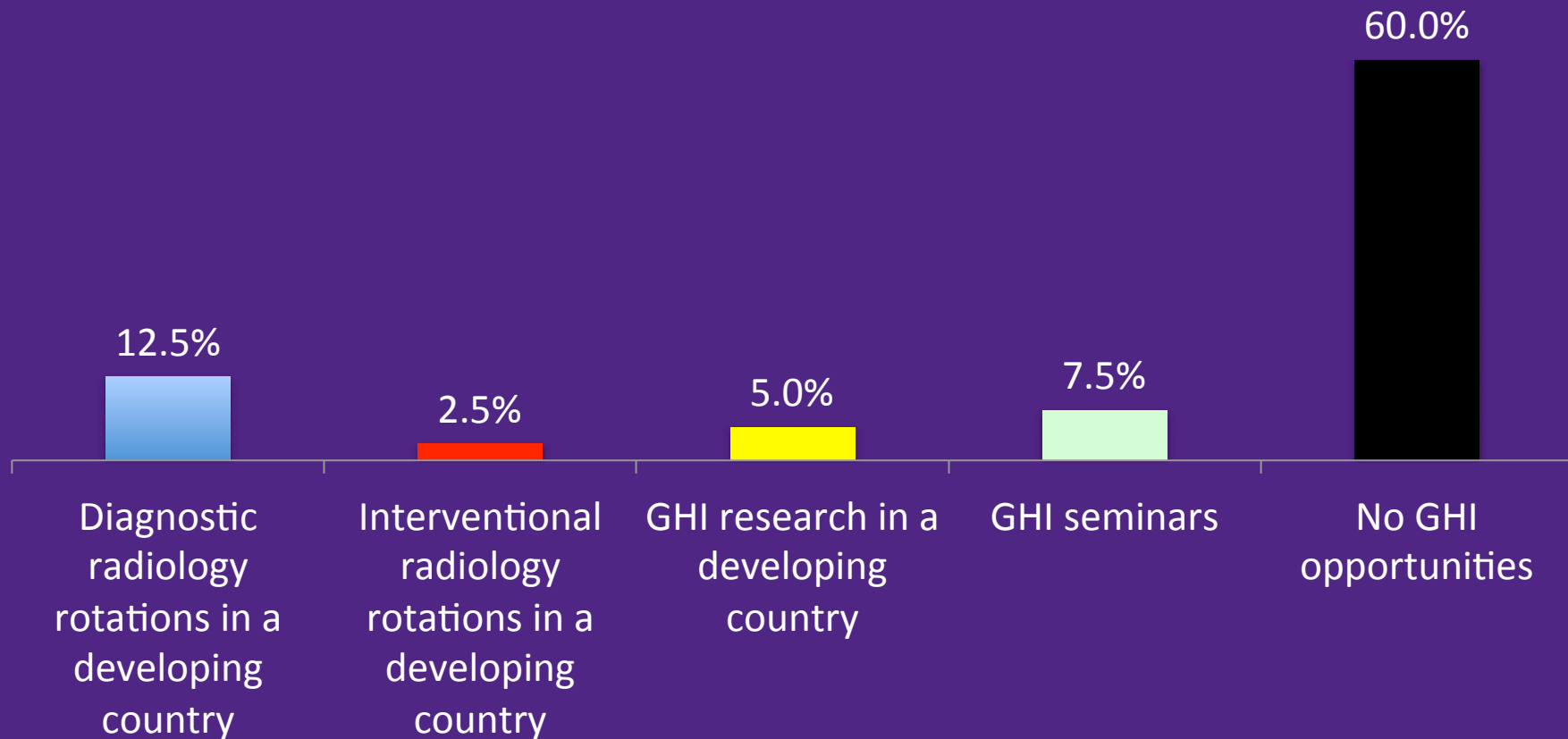
Type of future medical imaging work



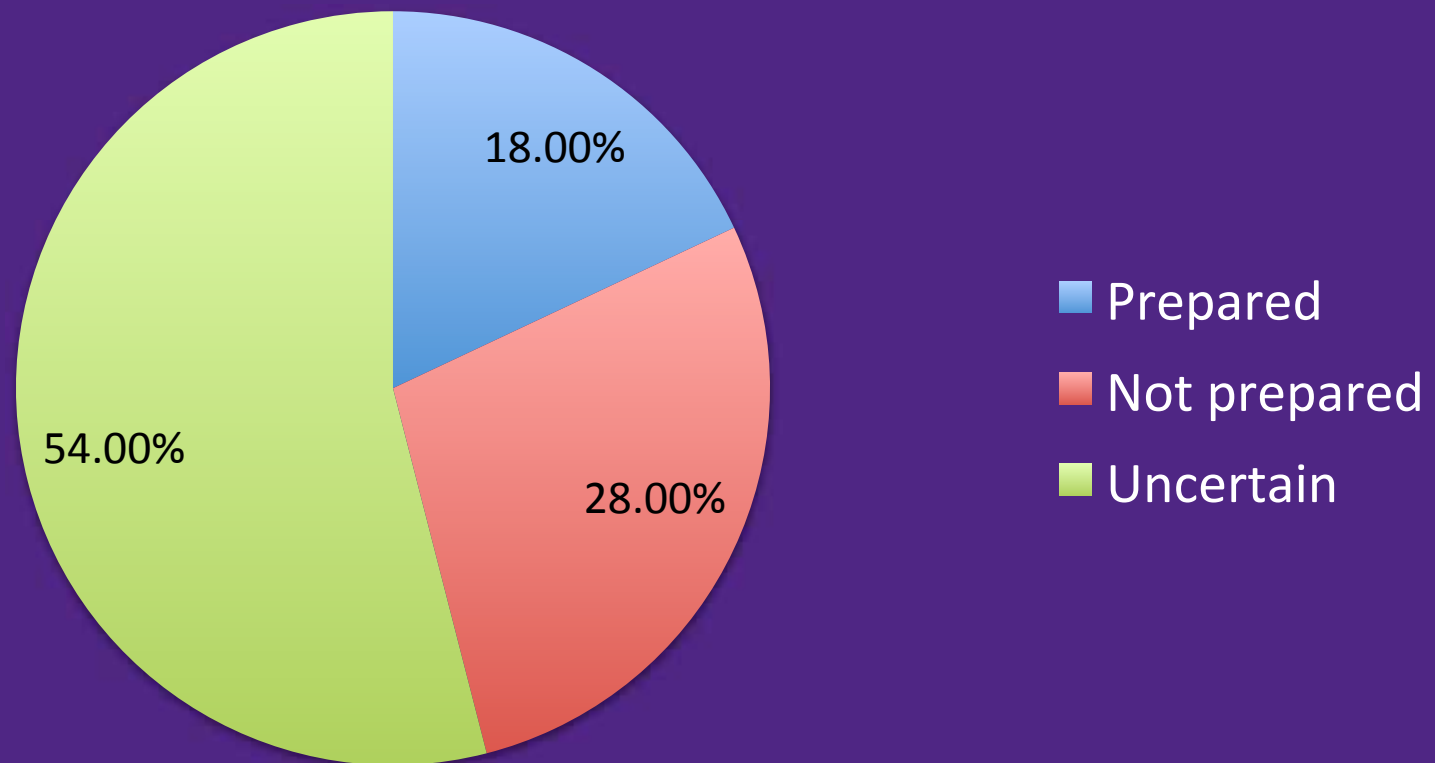
Canadian radiology resident interest in participating in GHI



My program offers...



Resident preparedness for improving access and availability of medical imaging in developing countries



Discussion

- Our findings are congruent with the previous study of American radiology residents by Lungren *et al.* (2011)¹:
 - 61% planned to pursue future international medical imaging work
 - 59% believed they would not be prepared
 - 62% would participate in a GHI curriculum if available
 - 91% of respondents stated their programs had no GHI curriculum

Conclusion

- Many Canadian radiology residents are interested in participating in GHI
- However, their preparation to do so may be inadequate with the current training model
- Likely an imbalance between radiology resident interest in GHI and opportunity availability

References

- 1. Lungren MP, Horvath JJ, Welling RD, et al. Global health training in radiology residency programs. Acad Radiol 2011; 18:782-791.

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