

ASN 41 Exit Survey

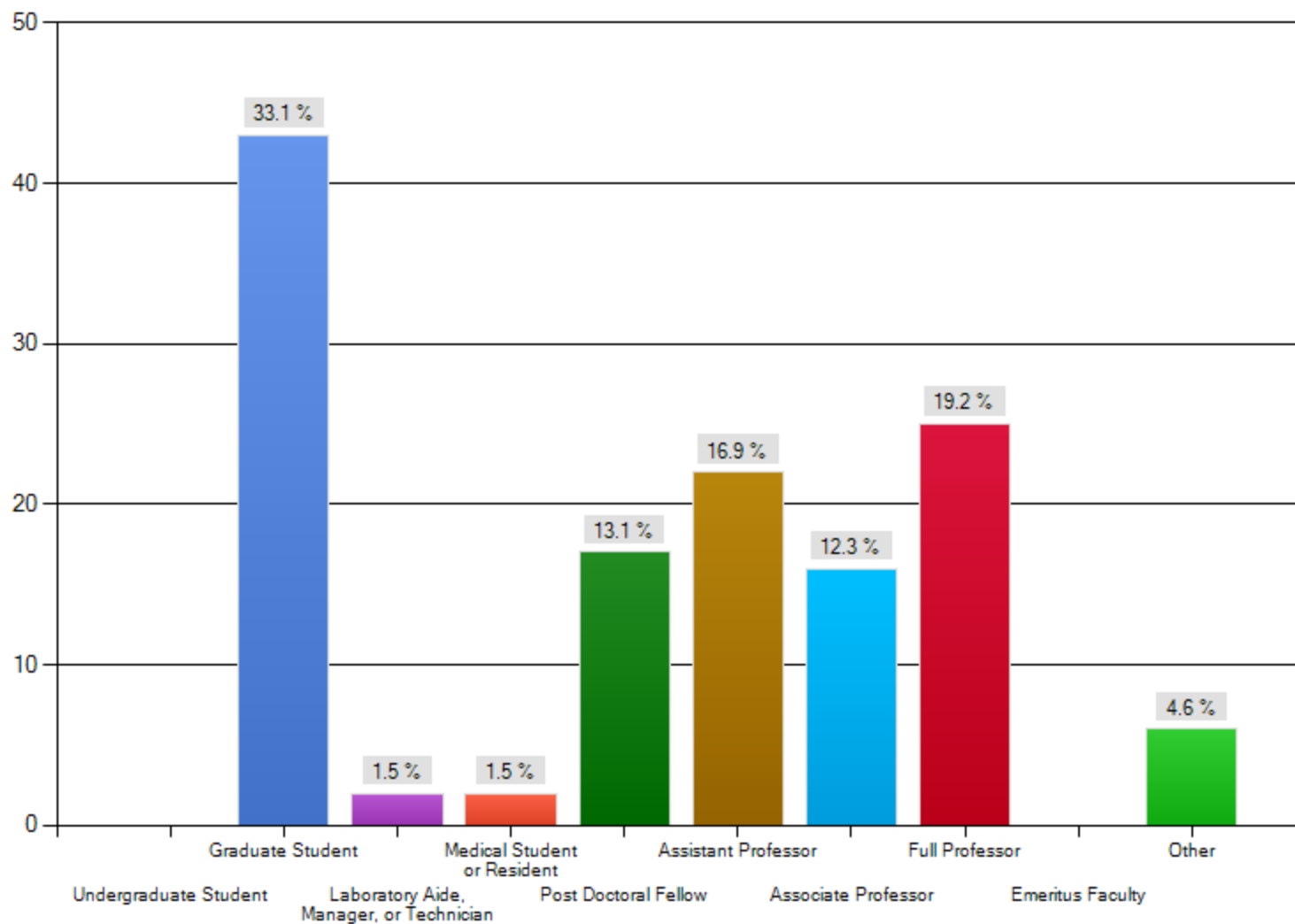
Total of 128 surveys collected; all General Information: Anonymous

3 questions regarding demographics

8 multiple choice questions regarding various aspects of meeting

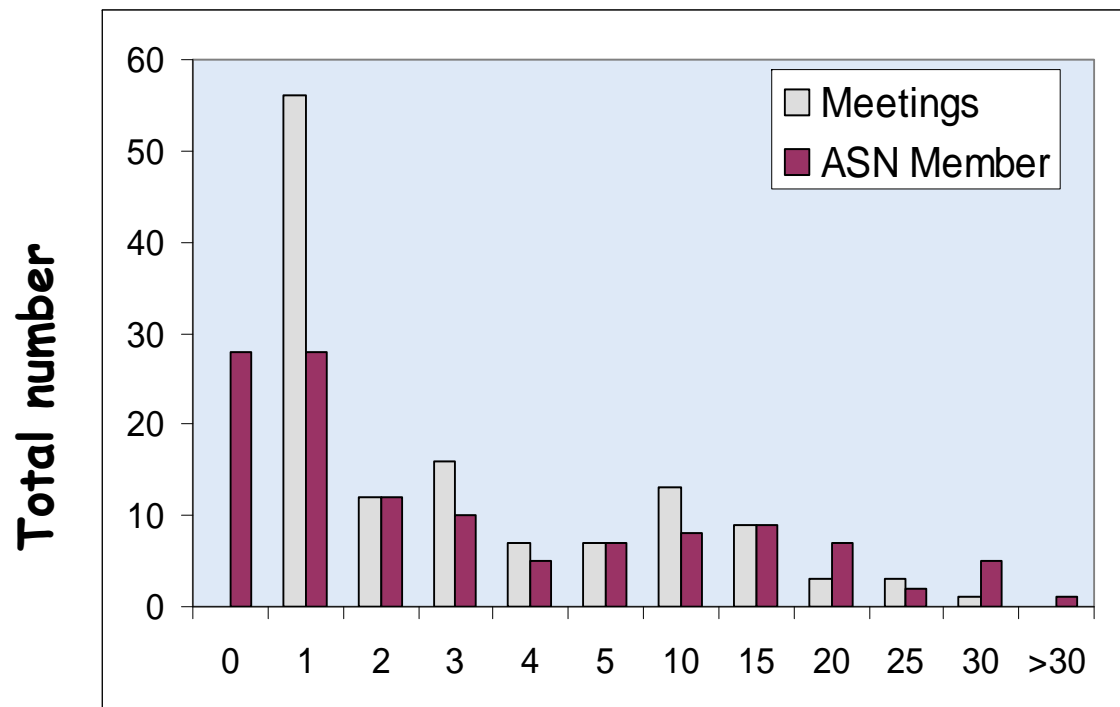
7 questions asking only for comments and suggestions

What is your academic appointment?



How many meetings have you attended?

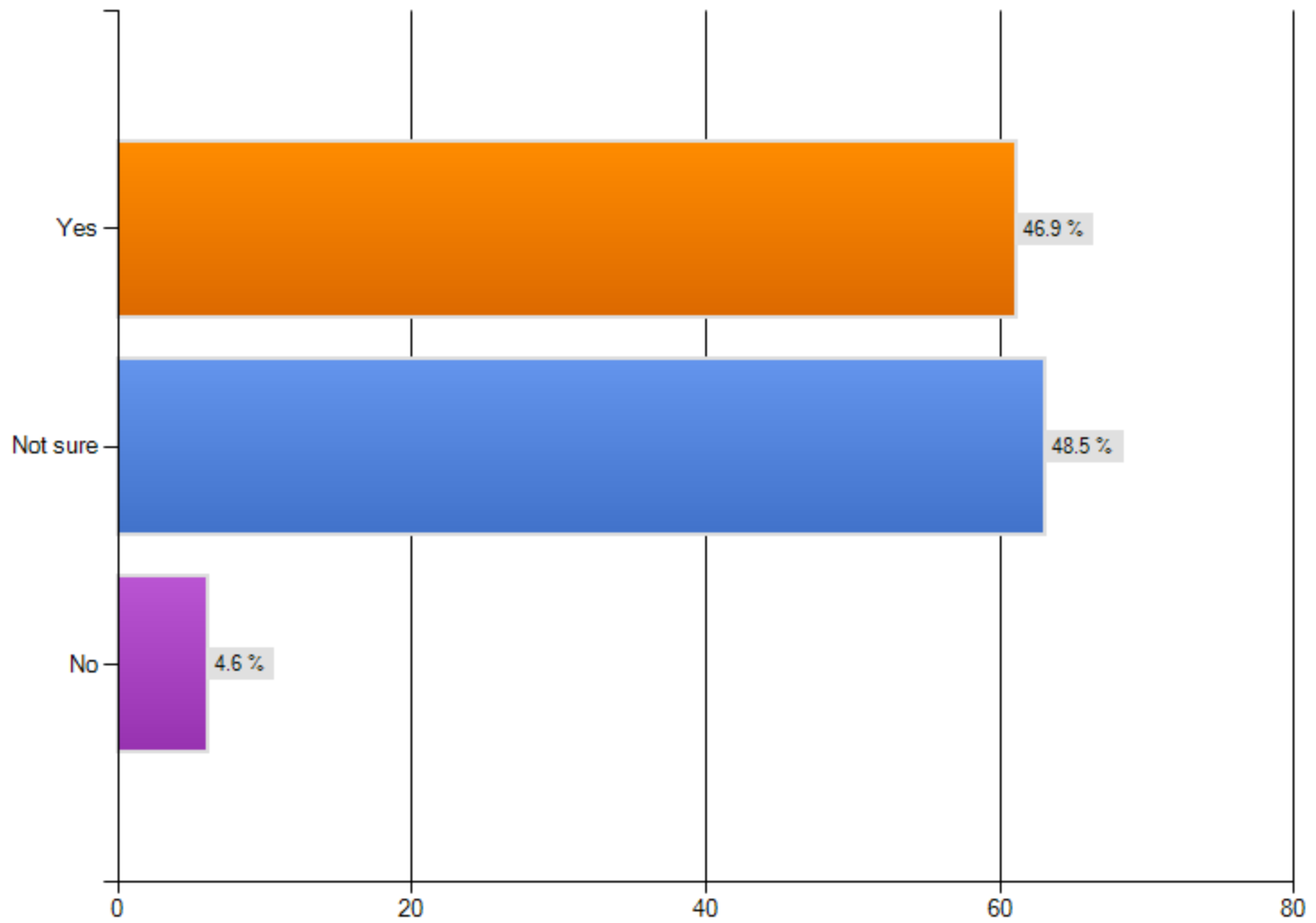
How many years have you been an ASN member?



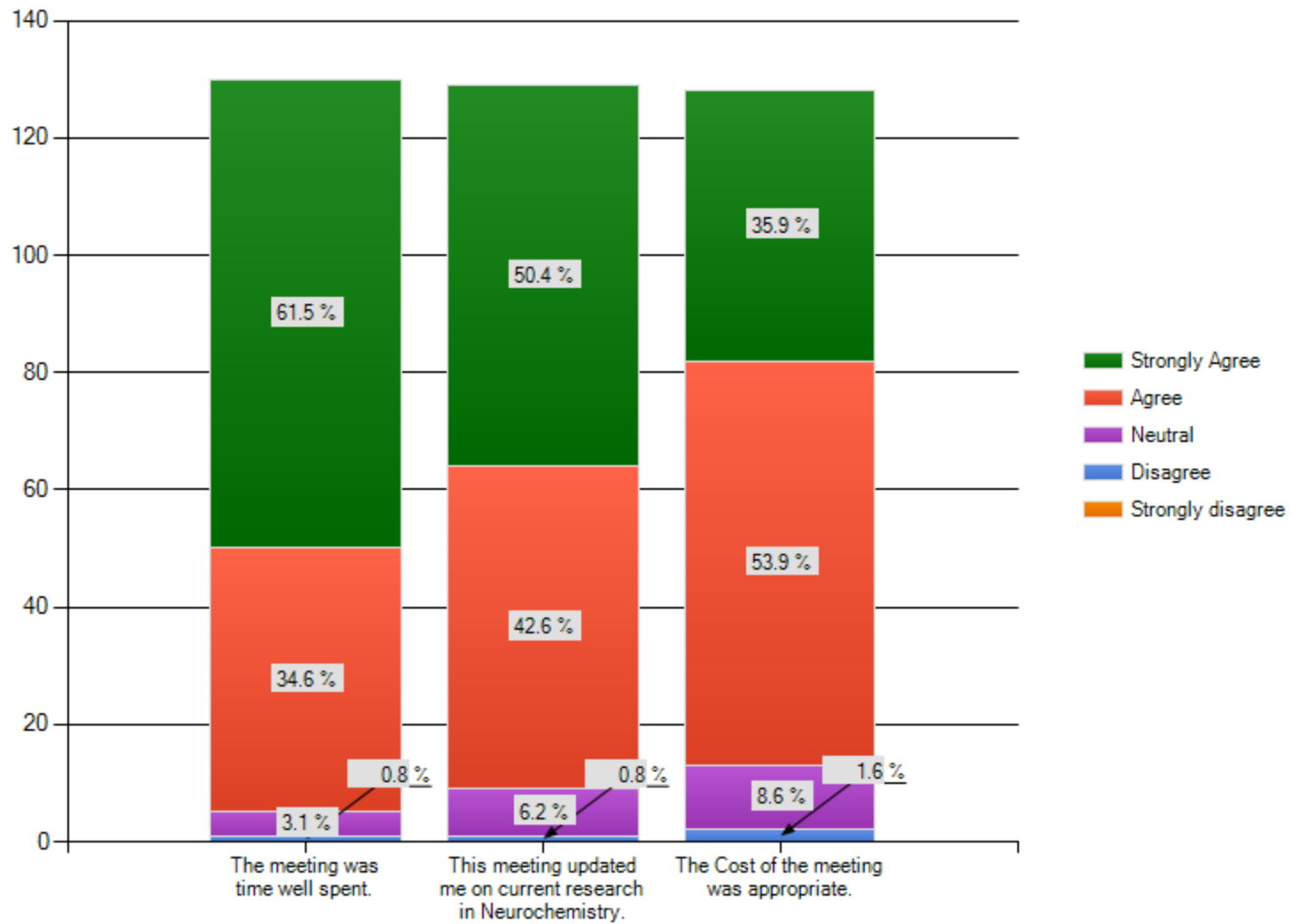
Meetings Years a Member

Mean	4.54	5.61
Variance	5.85	8.06
Standard Error	0.52	0.72
Max	30	33
Min	1	0

Do you plan to attend ASN 42 next year in St Louis?



General Information:



Some General Comments about the Meeting

1 ASN is my FAVORITE scientific meeting!!!!

My perception was that there was very little neurochemistry as such discussed at the meeting, reflecting the current trends in biology (there also less and less biochemistry in Journal of Biological Chemistry). Nonetheless, it was interesting and gratifying to see the work on display at the meeting.

2
3 Great opening reception, the best in years. Great meeting and the bang for the buck was quite good.

4 Flying into Santa Fe or ABQ was a little expensive. The city was nice though.

5 More neuroscience than neurochemistry, but very informative nonetheless from top-notch scientists.

6 Santa Fe was really inexpensive compared to other venues-- also it was beautiful-Great job organizers.

7 Need more young blood

8 A great meeting. Focused and intimate interactions.

9 very expensive stay (hotel tariff), as students it is difficult to pay upfront till we get paid back.

10 In my opinion, the meeting is 1 day too long. This year, for example, we didn't need 4 separate sessions on microglia.

11 A little bit more time for posters would be great!!

12 The cost of the meeting (lodging/restaurants) was very modest. The meeting was quite a bargain.

13 AWESOME MEETING

14 Awesome meeting

15 Town was pricey, meeting was reasonable. events were great.

This year was the 1st time I went to ASN and it was a very enjoyable meeting! (And not expensive, which was a plus!) I enjoyed the session topics... they exposed me to areas of research I am not familiar. I would have liked to see more sessions related to neural development. I felt that the sessions heavily favored myelin/demyelination biology. While it was very interesting, I felt it was a bit too much. I wished there were more sessions on "building the nervous system."

16 But overall, I really liked this meeting and hope to return next year.

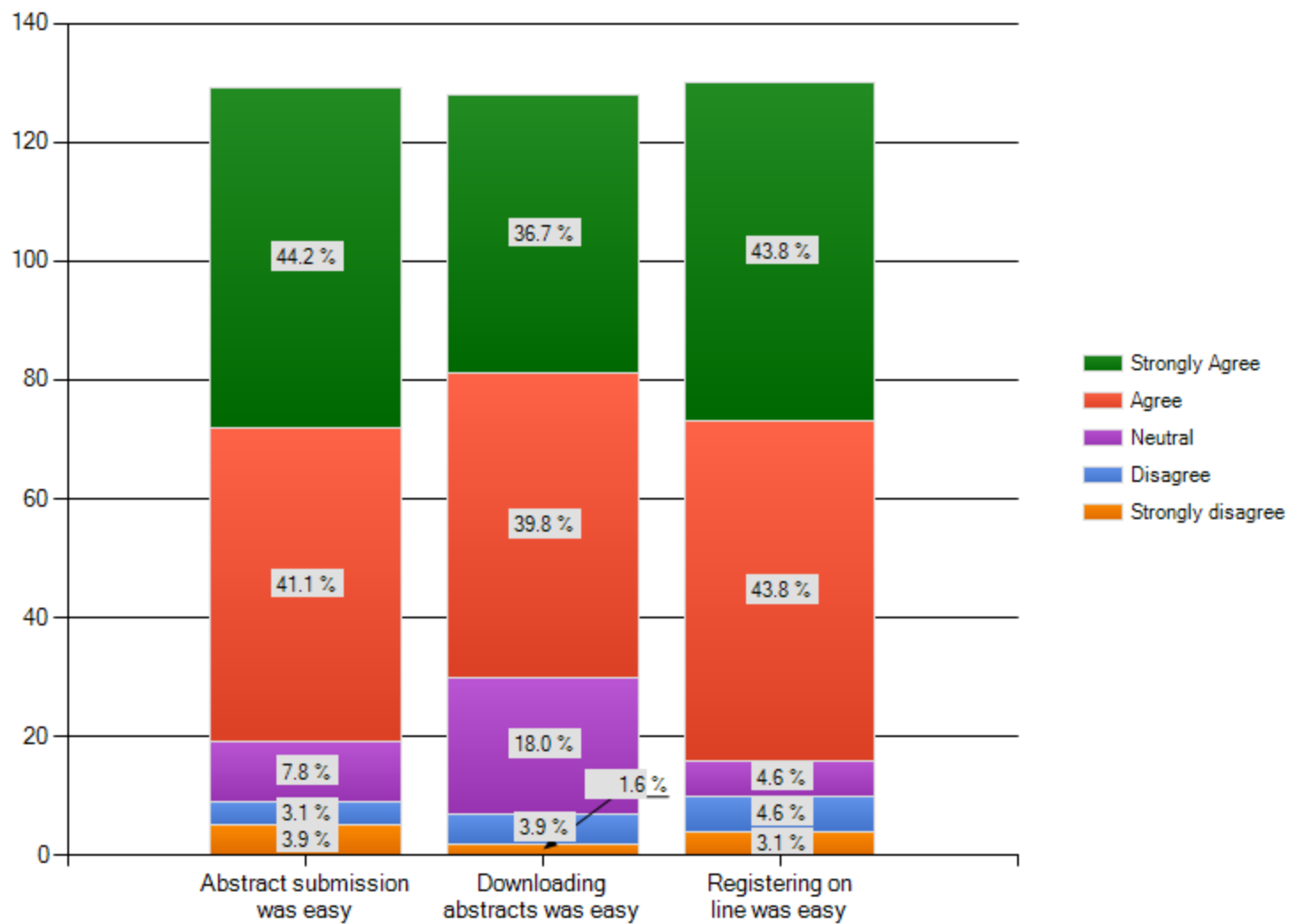
17 We came from Guelph Canada and really thought that the trip was very worth while.

Santa Fe is a beautiful city. The choice of this city contributed tremendously to my satisfaction of attending the meeting.

18

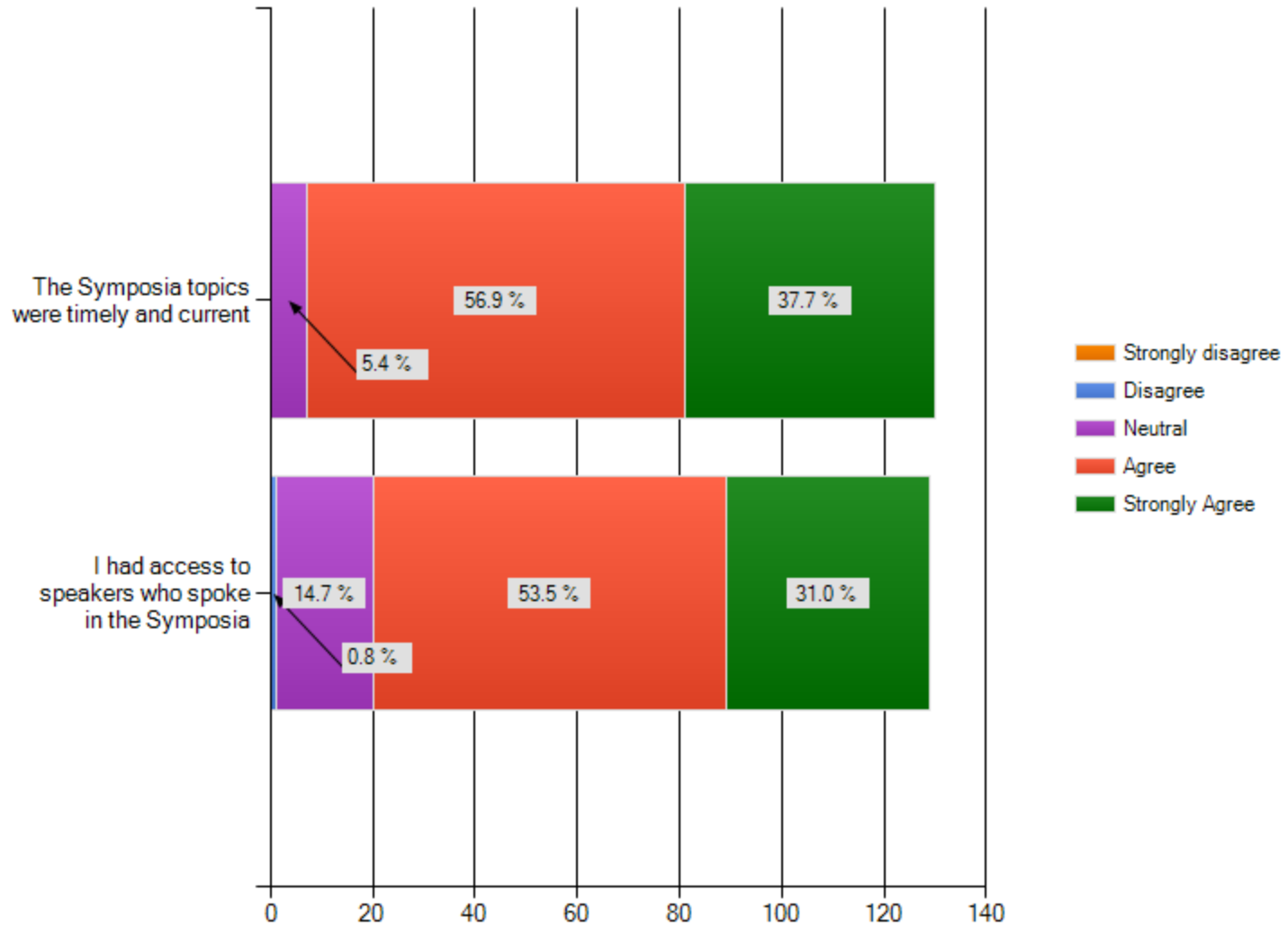
19 The \$100 student registration fee made it easier for students to attend. Thank you!

Abstracts and Registration

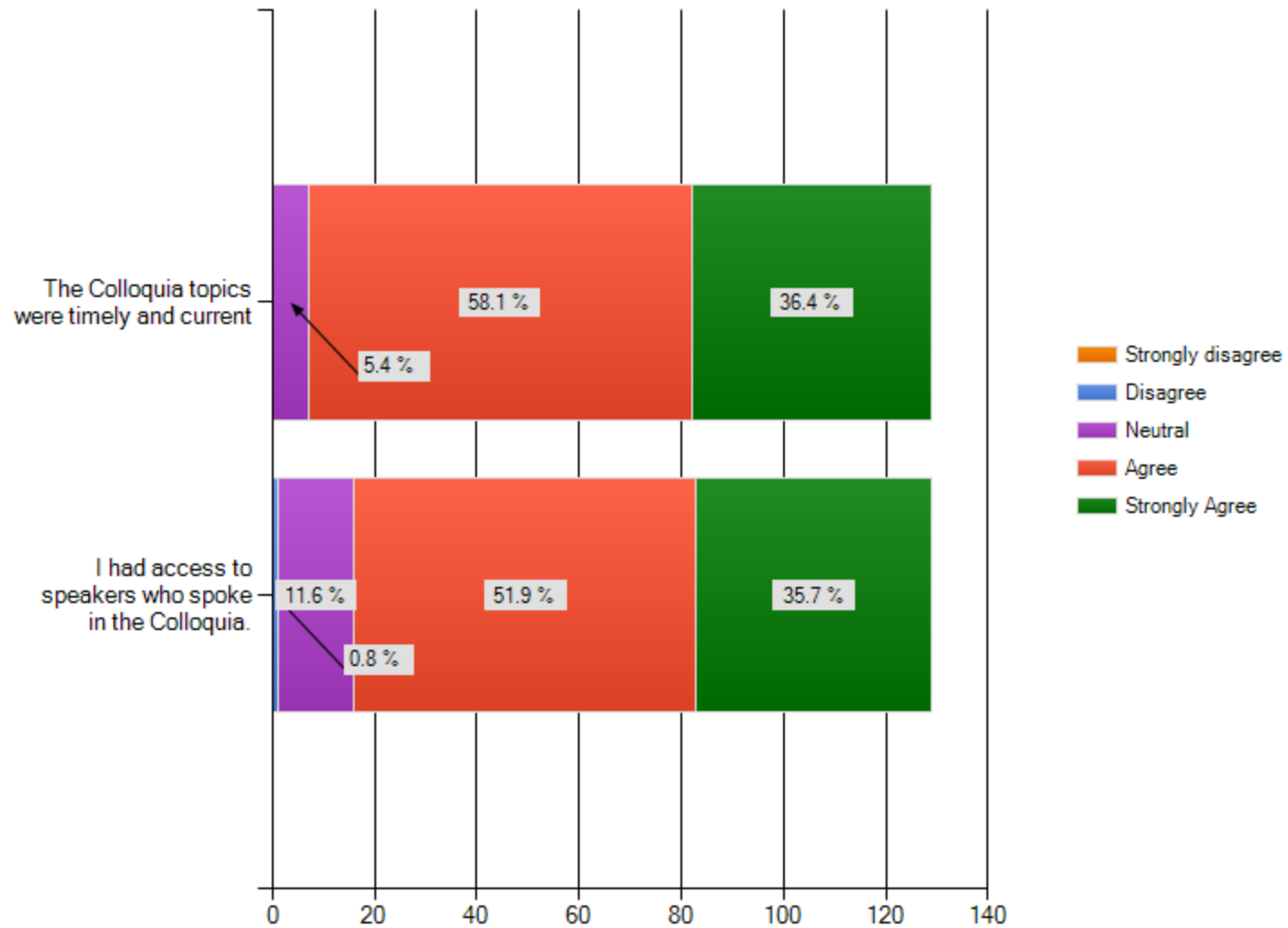


- 1 Instructions for abstract submission need to be available before one registers. You lose people because the website is too complicated. Use SfN as an example of how to do it easily and quickly.
- 2 I didn't mind that there was not a hard copy of the abstracts, but it was probably the most common complaint at the registration desk.
- 3 I found the on-line registration quite cumbersome and difficult. Compared to other meetings, this one was quite a bit more difficult. The timing was poor on how fast forms loaded and the overall layout was not good.
- 4 Character limit was a bit hard to follow.
- 5 It would be better to do things by mail. The current system is somewhat clumsy and the abstracts should be in a printed book for easy reference while at the meeting.
- 8 It was time consuming to download abstracts before the meeting.
- 10 You should give a copy of abstracts book at the registration desk!
- 11 I had some problems uploading some documents because of size restrictions. Would be helpful if website could provide information on size limitations and maybe technical help how to circumvent common problems .
- 12 You didn't accept American Express
- 13 It would be very useful to make abstracts searchable online in HTML format (author, keywords, etc.). It would also be nice to publish the abstracts in Amazon Kindle format. I did like the CD though.
- 14 I found it difficult to log in to the site after I had registered. I found the best way was to click "pay membership dues" (though I had no dues to pay), and that would bring me to the page for logging in.
- 15 It is good for the society to pay the annual membership fee before registering and submitting an abstract.
- 16 I found it very difficult to find abstracts, especially before the meeting. Although, I never looked at the CD of the abstracts since we got it at the meeting. There should be a better way to search the abstracts before the meeting, and a printed version offered at the meeting would be helpful for deciding which lectures to attend and whose posters I wanted to view. Also, the titles of posters and talks were printed in the program with only the first author listed; it would have been helpful if it listed all authors, especially for posters
- 17 Having abstracts searchable online would be helpful.
- 18 The abstract PDF was corrupted on the day of the meeting which preventing me from viewing the abstract book Also, when trying to view PDF files on an iPhone the text spacing was corrupted and could not be viewed after zooming in..
- 19 I didn't welcome the idea of the Abstract CD. It is better having the book.

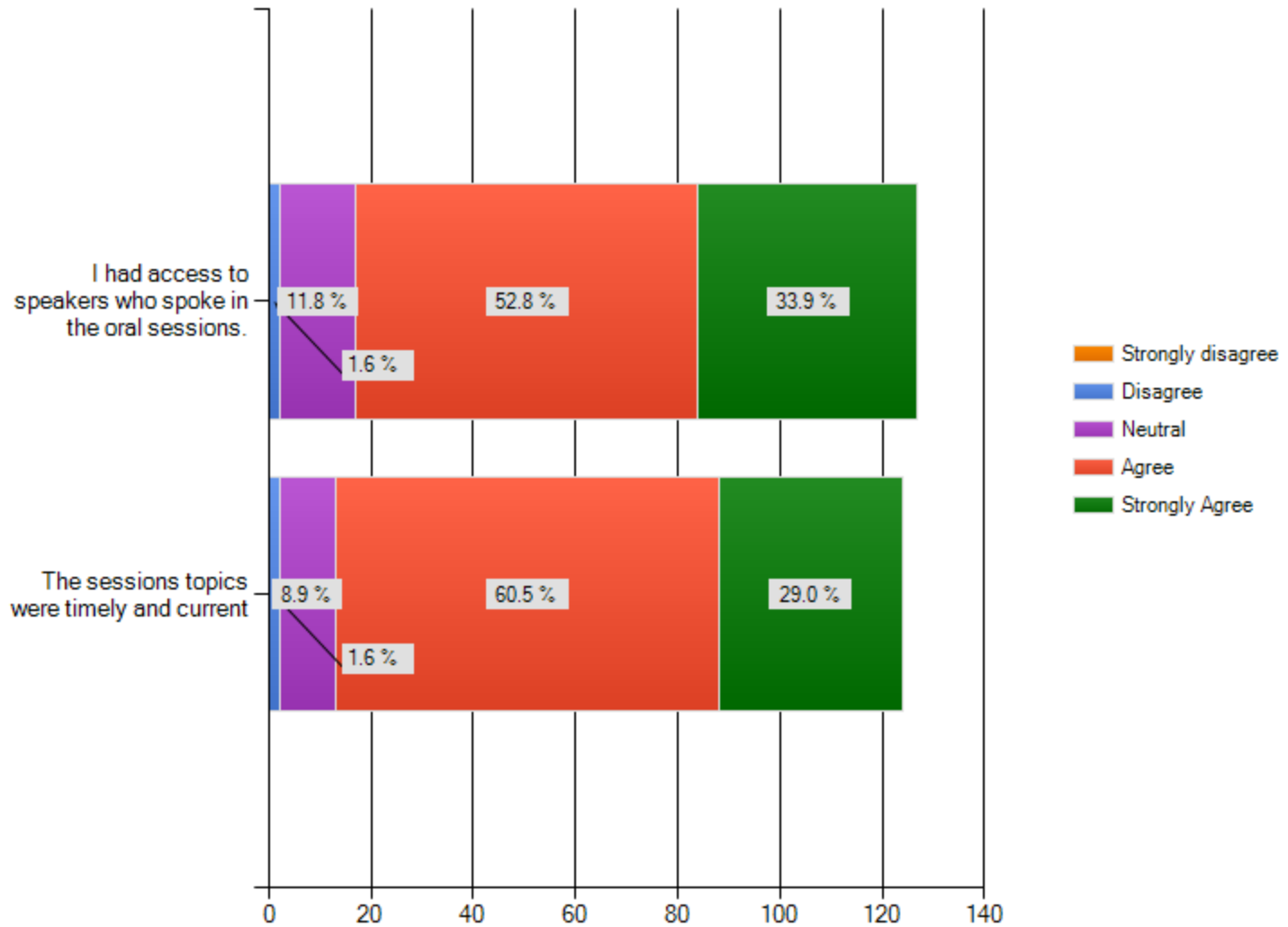
Symposium



Colloquium



Oral Sessions



Some Comments about the Sessions

Some sessions were good but a lot of the sessions were the same old data, same old speakers. At least one speaker gave 3 talks.

Speaker accessibility is one of the strongest points of the ASN meetings

Some of the symposia on Tuesday and Wednesday seemed to change their schedules slightly (maybe because a speaker was absent) which made it difficult to move from room to room if you were interested in several different topics.

Some of the speakers were magicians (i.e. they were able to disappear!)

One of the hallmarks of ASN is accessibility to speakers. This is by far one of the strengths of this meeting.

Some of the people disappeared (went home) after their symposia but this is par for the course and difficult to avoid.

It is very nice to have a moderate to small meeting because it allows more flexibility for more one-on-one interaction with speakers

Because the meeting is fairly small-- people are approachable.

I couldn't distinguish between Symposia and Colloquia in quality or general interest - so suggest they be more evenly distributed - not 2 vs 4 as on Wednesday.

All oral presentations should be at a specific time and timed by the moderator so that if we want to switch rooms for different talks, we can.

My main complaint was apparent concurrence of related symposium and colloquium topics. For example on Sunday, both sessions were related to astrocytic biology. This also occurred on Monday morning and afternoon sessions.

I always enjoy this meeting because it is small, everyone is approachable and friendly. I find myself overwhelmed by larger meetings but feel that I gain a lot personally and professionally from ASN.

Too many colloquia with similar topics were scheduled for the same time-slot.

Does anyone know what the difference is between a symposium and colloquium except for the committee. Except for one colloquium, no mention was made at the beginning of the session as to whether it was a col or sym.

Lot of overlap between several Colloquia and Symposia, so a little repetitive. Not much real "neurochemistry or molecular biology". Too much cell biology - ie we see this lets see if it is the same in a K/O with no real depth to findings.

All oral presentations should be at a specific time and timed by the moderator so that if we want to switch rooms for different talks, we can.

As a chair of one of the colloquia at ASN 2010, I received wonderful feedback throughout the meeting on my session and the meeting as a whole.

These oral sessions, where students and postdocs present were competing against sessions presented by professors. If possible, it would be ideal to schedule these sessions at a time when they don't conflict with other colloquia.

Scheduling was occasionally a problem. A couple of times it seemed to me that two competing sessions (whether 3, 4, or 5) covered the same topic, so that it was difficult for people to choose between them. Then, the next time-slot, there would be nothing on that topic.

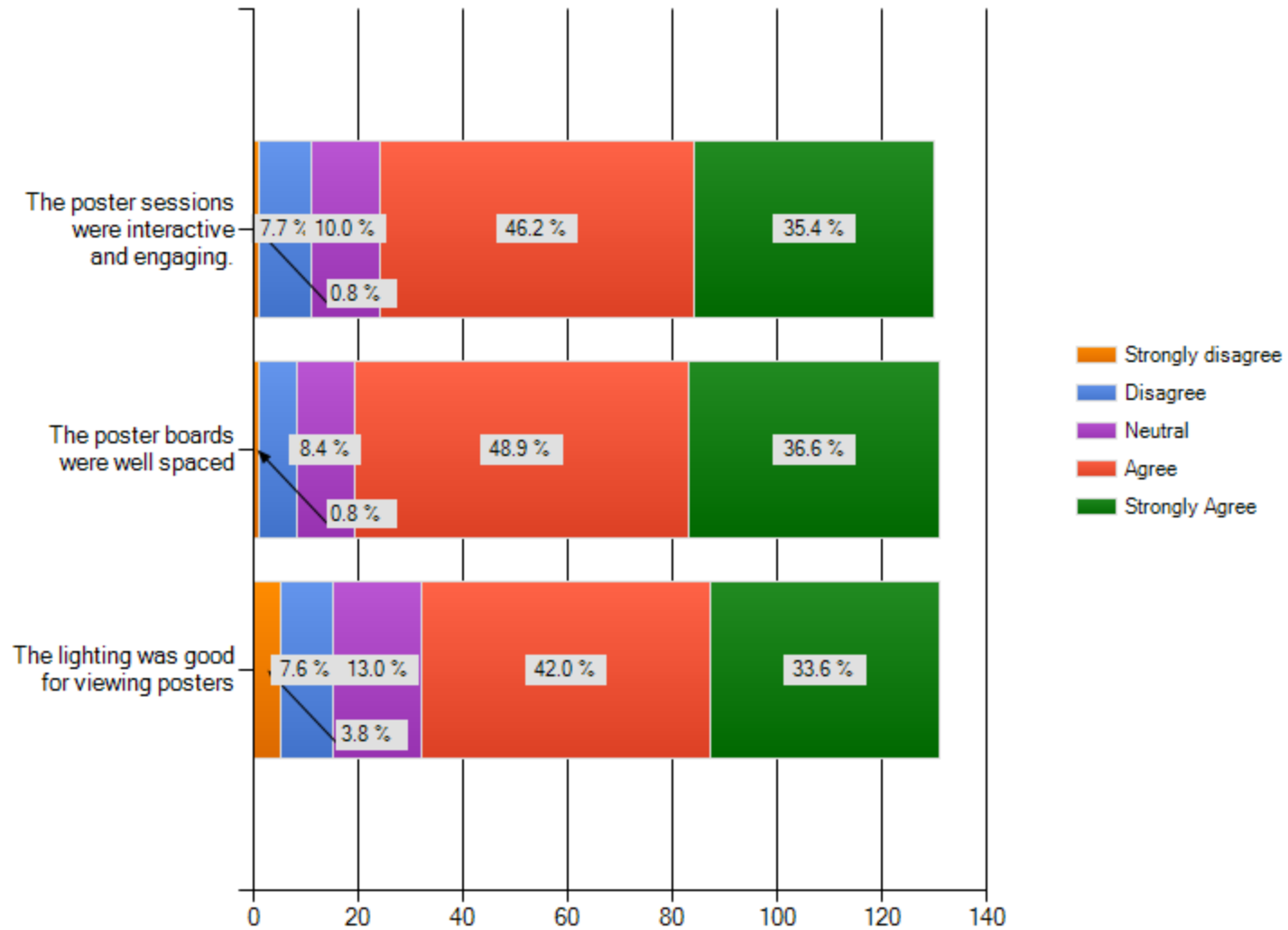
Oral sessions cannot compete with Symposia and Colloquia. We might think about new timing for Oral sessions to increase their attendance.

The oral session were much like the symposiums and colloquia in the smaller size making it easy to talk to speakers afterward.

Presentations were not always well related in a session.

Nice to see young investigators given the opportunity to talk at oral sessions!

Poster Sessions



Comments about Poster Sessions

LIGHTING

Lighting was not good enough for pictures with fluorescence

The poster area was a little dark and crowded, but it was otherwise a wonderful venue, and everyone seemed to manage well enough.

The lighting was poor. It was difficult to see data on some posters. Too much crowding in the aisles.

I had no problems reading the posters

Lighting was poor - pretty gloomy in that room. Plus did not seem to be very many posters.

PRESENTERS and 2 DAYS?

I really liked the idea of having presenters stand by their posters for 2 days instead of just 1. Gives us more time to catch posters of interest.

Keep 2 day format!!!! Add back evening presentation time!!!!

Poster presenters should spend MORE TIME by their posters!!! Especially during the second day!!

presenters were not at their posters for most of the time. Require them to be there both days?

The fact that posters with on similar field are presented at the same time prevented the presenter to speak with other presenters in the same field.

Posters

Poster sessions should be held later in the day and preferably with wine and cheese. When the poster session occurs right after lunch people may arrive late because of visiting with friends and/or the fact that the morning sessions may have run late and into the lunch hour.

Poster presentations in late afternoon are better; gives people a chance to go to dinner together.

Again more time to view and discussion around posters.

Not more poster sessions, but more time for them.

The spacing of talks is good, but at least another half-hour per poster session (with authors present) is needed.

The poster sessions should not require the presenter to be there at all times. It would be better to have them in the late afternoon.

I liked when the poster presentations were 1/2 during the day and 1/2 during the evening with drinks and food! I didn't like last year when the posters were up for only one day. This year's poster sessions were also good since they were posted for two days and right in the middle of the meeting. This helped me to present to colleagues during the coffee breaks. The poster sessions are one of the most important parts of the meeting for presenting science and meeting colleagues.

The number of posters was great, but there needs to be more time to talk to the presenters.

Comments about Poster Viewing Time

DURATION

Not enough time for the posters and the lighting was just not very good. Too many posters were a bit dark and some images nearly impossible to see. As we focus on younger people, many of whom will be presenting posters, I think the sessions should NOT be right after lunch, but later in the day and for 1.5 or 2 h per day.

A good thing was having the posters up two days in a row.

There wasn't enough time allocated for viewing posters. I'd prefer wine and cheese from 5:30-7pm for posters every other day like in 2008 in San Antonio, Tx.

The limited poster session times also limited those who were presenting posters to go and discuss other posters with other presenters at the same time.

Duration of the poster sessions was the only problematic moment of this meeting. One hour after lunch is not enough to meet poster presenters and have meaningful discussion. I liked very much "wine-and-cheese" poster sessions conducted during the previous meetings.

More time for the poster sessions would be good.

The poster session could have been longer

The poster session needs at least another half-hour of time per session so people can get around and have a conversation with the authors who's posters they are interested in getting more information on from the author.

pls allow more hours for authors to stand next to posters. some of the authors left early to attend oral presentations, so itll be better if there is some time given before the presentations start.

not enough time, and at the wrong time of day (better late afternoon, without as much conflict with oral presentations)

More time for attending posters would be appreciated.

Problem - in a typical session interest is in many posters - hard to see all presenters.

Increase time per session to 1.5 hr, too short as is to visit several posters.

Even More Comments about Poster Viewing Time

DURATION 2

Having only one hour when the poster presenters are to be at the poster is a bit short. I would suggest adding another hour at some other time, maybe first thing in the morning or as the last thing in the day.

Not enough time to talk to poster presenters.

The 1 hour poster session with authors present was quite short. Particularly for authors who also wanted to see and speak to other authors.

The time to see posters seemed too brief. Many posters were removed before the Wednesday session. Perhaps having a 1.5hr poster session each day would allow for more poster viewing. Also planning the session around 3 or 4 in the afternoon instead of after lunch would facilitate more poster viewing.

The poster session being an hour seemed a little short to adequately allow presenters to see other posters and interact with others.

I don't know how to solve it, but for example as a presenter on Tues/Wed, there wasn't enough time for me to go around and talk to other Tues/Wed presenters while also manning my poster.

The time allocated for poster-discussion was not enough, (1 hour/day for 2 days total 2 hours), the discussion and interactions suffered and there was much less interaction than in previous meeting, the poster time in the afternoon has always been the best.

One hour to talk to the presenters was not enough time. I was able to talk to few presenters due to this.

The time for posters, without competing sessions, was too short.

I really didn't like the timing of the posters. But posters always seem to get short shrift at ASN.

New Additions to ASN 41

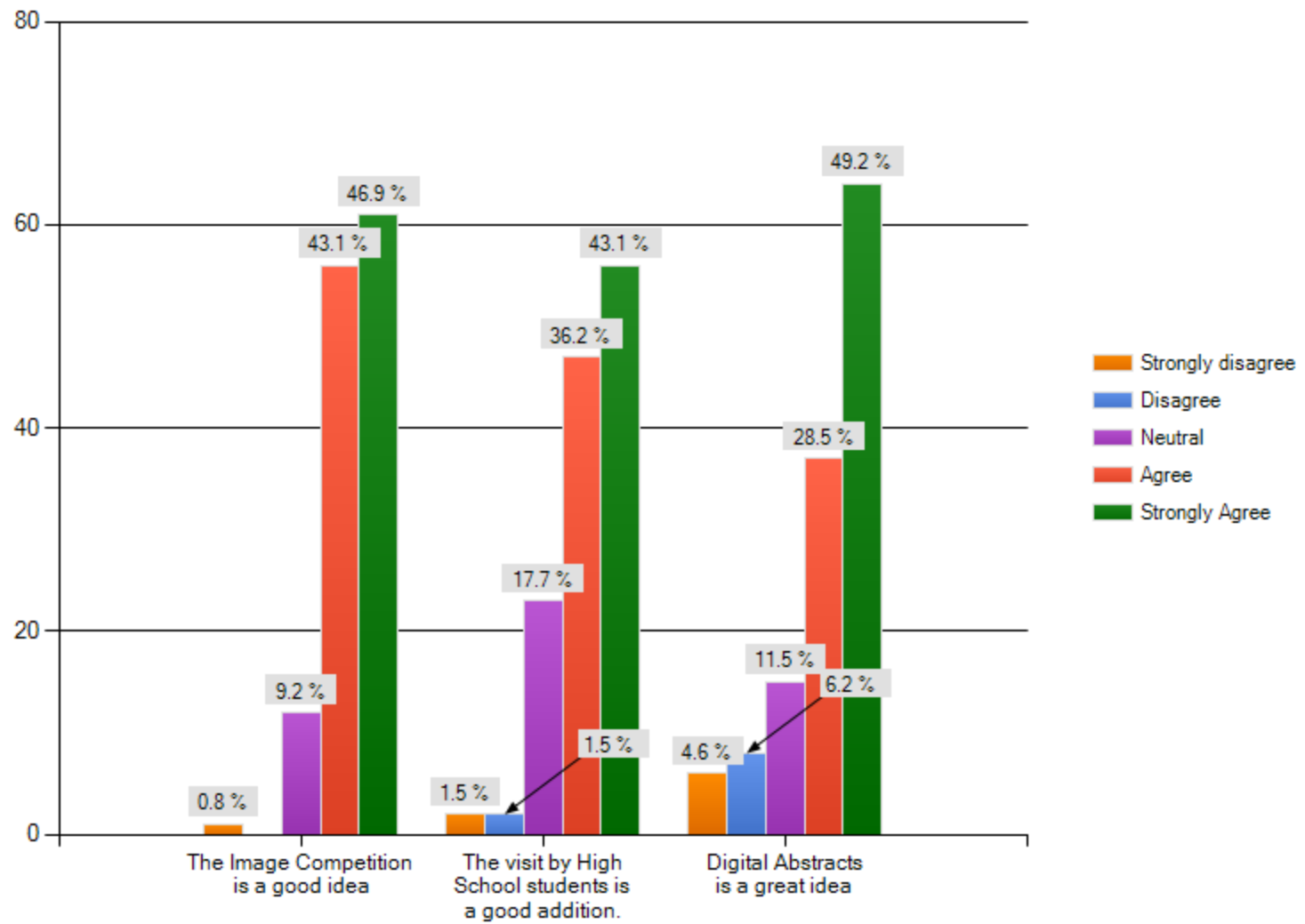


Image Competition

Absolutely enjoyed the image competition!!

Image competition was a good idea but it was over before I got my vote in - should have been more clear about when the vote should have been in.

The Image Competition is a great idea! Encourages creativity in our research!

I enjoyed looking at the image posters.

The image competition is a little side note and not worth much other than something nice to look at and to cheer for your favorites (ala March Madness).

Image Competition was a fun and creative addition to the meeting, and the high school student visit was a wonderful experience. I hope the Society will continue both next year!!

I would also suggest a video competition (timelapse movies, etc.).

I LOVE the science as art competition. There is beauty in this field, and it's great to take a moment to step back and see our work in a different way.

We want MORE image competitions! And we would like to actually SEE image authors during the closing party (and cheer !).

High School Visit

The visit by the high school students is a good outreach tool, but some of this stuff may be over their head. We don't want to intimidate them.

Taking the high school students through the posters needs to be better organized. The high school students interrupted my poster presentation to a senior colleague.

I strongly disagreed the visit of High School students, because some of poster is full of students during the poster session and hard to access to the poster. I don't like I was surrounded by high school student when I looked at a poster. There was no bather, but I felt they should look around the poster during other symposium etc.

I think high school student attendance is greatly beneficial for young, budding scientists. Great way to expose young students to research and graduate student programs. Think this should be repeated in future meetings.

The high school students is a nice touch, but can be difficult depending upon the city, who is on the ground at the meeting to prearrange everything etc. Flies nice with the NIH, but I don't know what the feedback was from the students. As an attendee, it did not present a problem one way or another

Felt that the high school students interfered with the poster sessions

High school visit a good idea although they got in the way of the poster viewing at times. Digital Abstracts fine if you could view them on site but couldn't get near a computer.

The level of research presented is too complex for high school students. They have no background on the material at all.

Digital Abstract Book

Digital Abstracts is a great idea as long as abstracts remain available on-line after meeting.

I still would like to have a nice abstract book with space to take notes.

It does save on paper but I miss the hard copy. The CD is unnecessary as most have saved them to their computer or have them in their email, I think.

I found it very difficult to find abstracts, especially before the meeting. Although, I never looked at the CD of the abstracts since we got it at the meeting. There should be a better way to search the abstracts before the meeting, and a printed version offered at the meeting would be helpful for deciding which lectures to attend and whose posters I wanted to view. It was also difficult to tell in which lab the presenting author works due to listing of first author in program.

Digital abstracts are OK, but get them to us beforehand!!! I did not have much to go on in planning i think it would be helpful if a hard copy is also given.

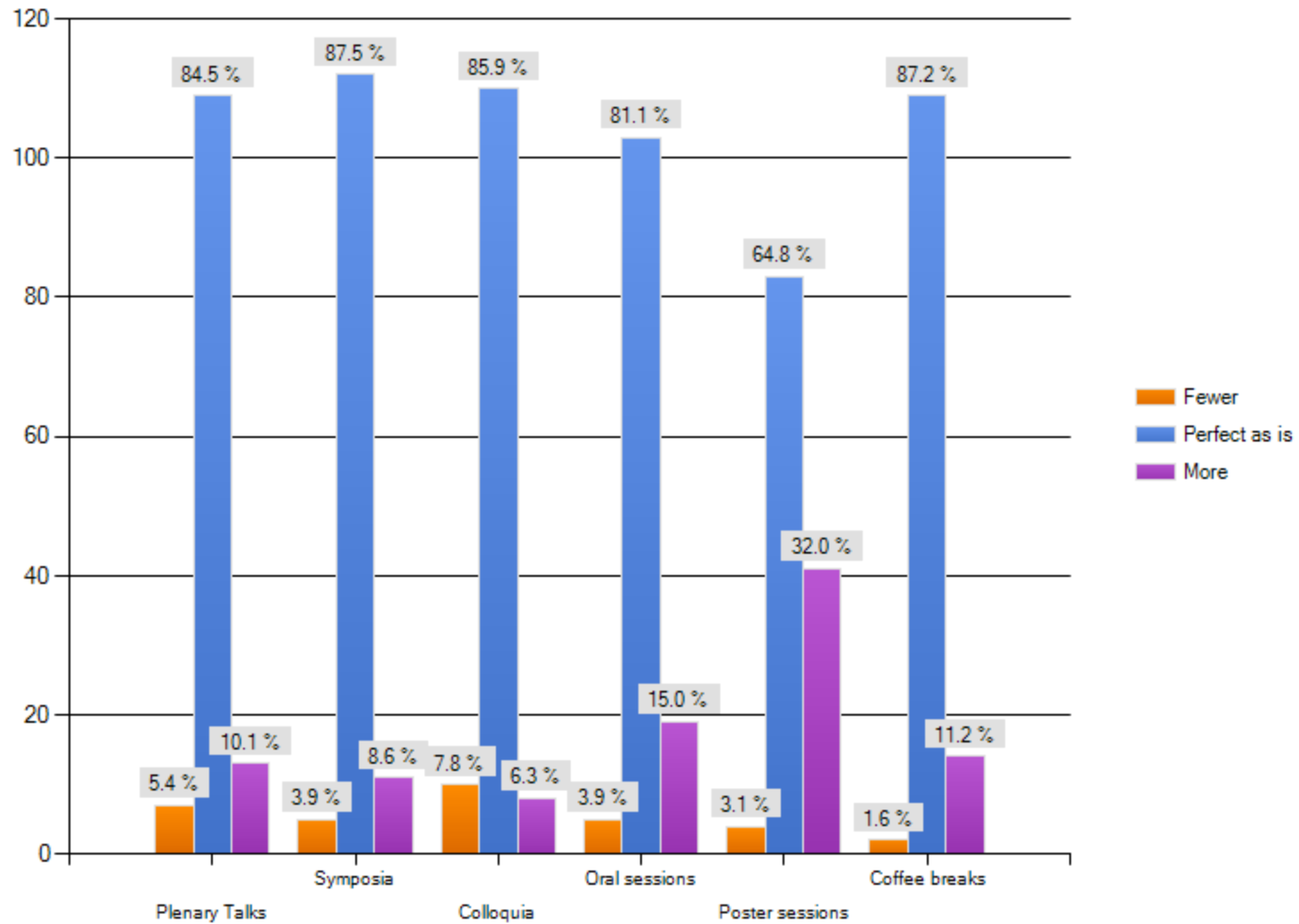
terrible for learning during meeting for me. Must have printed abstracts for reference during meeting. Also need full names on presentations available. Want affiliations to help connect and consolidate information.

Printed abstracts for at least symposia and colloquia would help.

It is a good idea to have digital abstracts, but a printed copy needs to be available at the meeting for each registered participant.

I understand that digital abstracts are better for saving cost and waste, but the pdf was difficult to download due to the size and speed. It would be better to put it on a file sharing website rather than download directly from the ASN website in the future.

Please indicate your preference for each of the following:



Plenaries, Workshops, Colloquia vs Symposium?

There were no workshops. Tradition is to have workshops in the evening, although some have taken these to mean symposia, the reality is workshops are important and a good way to give young people an opportunity to hear the how to side of science. In San Antonio, there was a workshop on industry for PDF and students, great experience for them. Additional oral sessions would be nice to give young people a chance to speak. This is a key element in their training that many lack the opportunity to do. Poster sessions, longer, not necessarily more, just more time.

I'd like to see workshops return where controversial topics can be discussed.

A few workshops on hot topics would be welcomed.

Need at least two high profile speakers per day.

I would have liked the Plenary speaker on the last day (MacVicar) to have spoke in the morning at the same time as the other Plenary lectures. The lunch was a bit strained since no one had heard his talk prior to.

It would be better to have the second and third plenary speakers from 11-12 (sessions 8:30-10:30)

Colloquia and Symposia should have a maximum of 4 not 5 speakers.

Have never understood diff between symposia and colloquia so couldnt see the point as it was not obvious how they differed.

The distinction among symposia, colloquia and oral sessions was not salient. That wasn't a problem for me, but this survey makes it seem important.

There were a few sessions that did not live up to expectations, but overall, the sessions were engaging and of high quality.

Breaks

I'd like to have some snacks during the afternoon coffee break.

Wine and Cheese Baby for Posters!!

There were plenty of refreshments!

Coffee all day is great

Coffee breaks (at 30 minutes) is enough time to have a decent conversation with a speaker or colleague. Overall the setup and time table are very nice.

Scheduling

The parallel sessions had overlapping topics of interest making it hard to get info on both. Overall fewer parallel session which perhaps could happen by reducing plenary talks and Colloquia would be good.

I did not like having a session from 4:30 to 6:30, as attendance at these times is way down, so the presenters don't get the same audience and feedback.

The schedule of the meeting is dense at 8-6pm every day and does not allow for "dead" time to socialize, collaborate, or visit the city. We are bound to miss some sessions if it is OK.

It would be nice to have an evening session on at least one day to open an afternoon for exploring the local area.

Oral sessions shouldn't compete with the colloquium. Having four sessions diluted their impact.

It would have been nice to have poster sessions not overlap as much with the oral sessions, so that I could spend more time at posters without missing the talks.

More chances should be given to young investigators.

Oral sessions were actually good in that young people actually presented science rather than waffle - perhaps that is a symposium!