

Introduction

The Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPhO) was founded in late 2012. Previously, the national meeting was held annually in March prior to and adjacent to the APhA national meeting. Based upon organizational growth, currently at 75 University-based and IPhO approved student chapters, IPhO moved its National Student Meeting to a standalone event for the first time in September 2019. The IPhO National Student Meeting opening reception was hosted by the Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Pharmacy on September 28th in Madison, NJ where over 400 student pharmacists, fellows, and experienced industry pharmacists from around the country participated. This research describes the comparison of pre-meeting confidence levels with key audience needs assessment to post-program evaluation results to determine the success of the IPhO National Meeting and gain important information for development of the 2020 national meeting.

Objectives

- Measure P1 to P3 student pharmacists' evaluations of the IPhO-NSM to demonstrate value to attendees and identify areas for improvement.
- Demonstrate the value accrued by attendees via pre-program assessment and self-reflection compared to post-program evaluation.

Methods

- Needs Assessment data for the P1 to P3 target audience track was collected from the planning committee and faculty in design of this program.
- Key program topics were incorporated into both pre and post surveys so that relevant learnings could be directly compared.
- Electronic versions of a 7-question pre- and post-survey were email to all P1 to P3 program registrants 1-week prior and post event.

Results

A total of 375 students attended the 2019 IPhO National Student Meeting, 222 (59.2%) were P1- P3 students. Among them, 111 (50.0%) students completed a pre-survey and 86 (38.7%) students completed the post-survey.

Figure 1. Degree that the IPhO National Meeting met expectations?

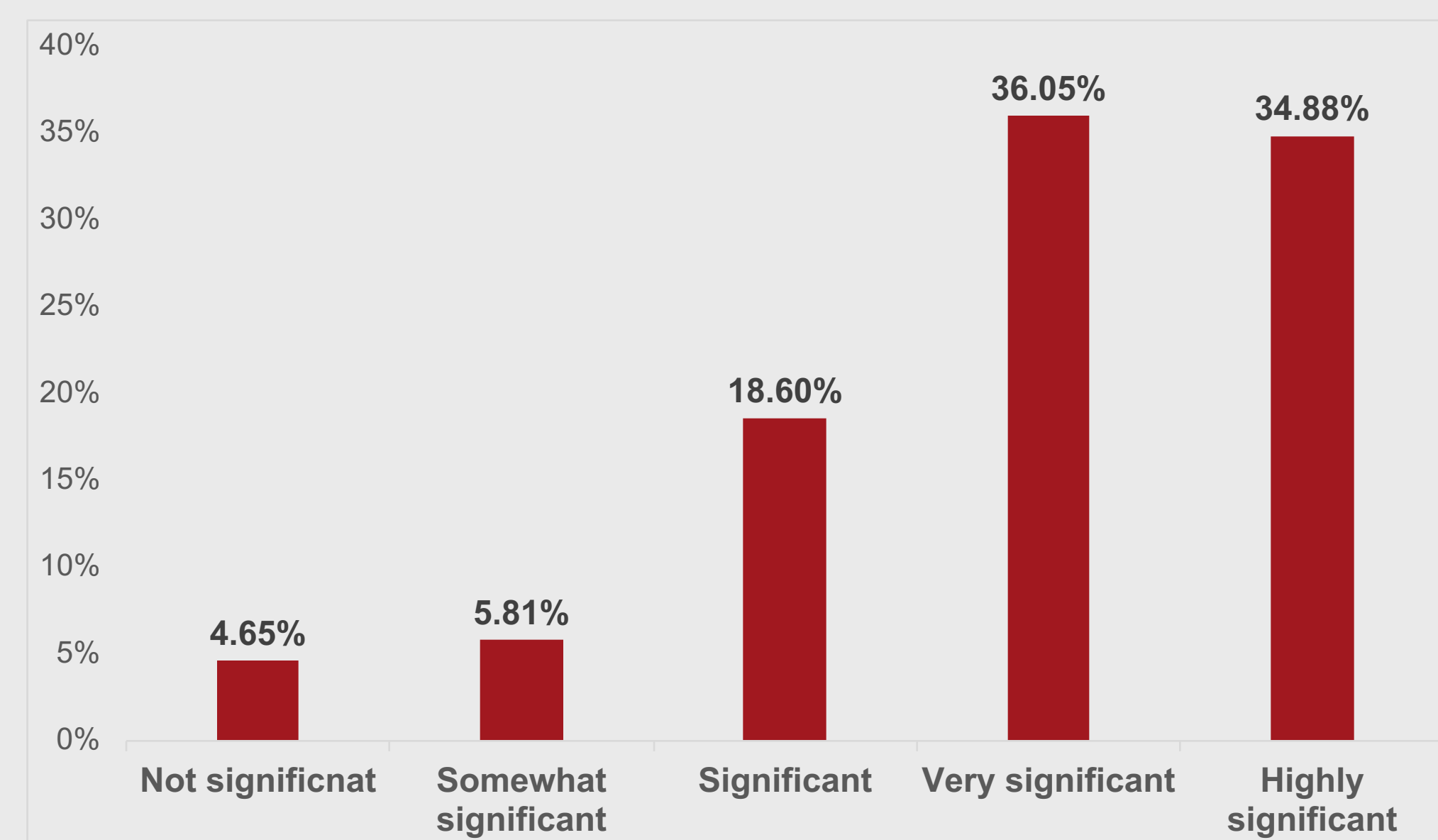


Figure 3. Average Confidence Level Rating on Key topics: Local Chapter Management, Resources to secure Internships, Transferable Skills from Clinical to Industry Setting, Key Industrial Functional Areas, and Skills and Experiences Employers Desire (Pre- vs. Post-survey)

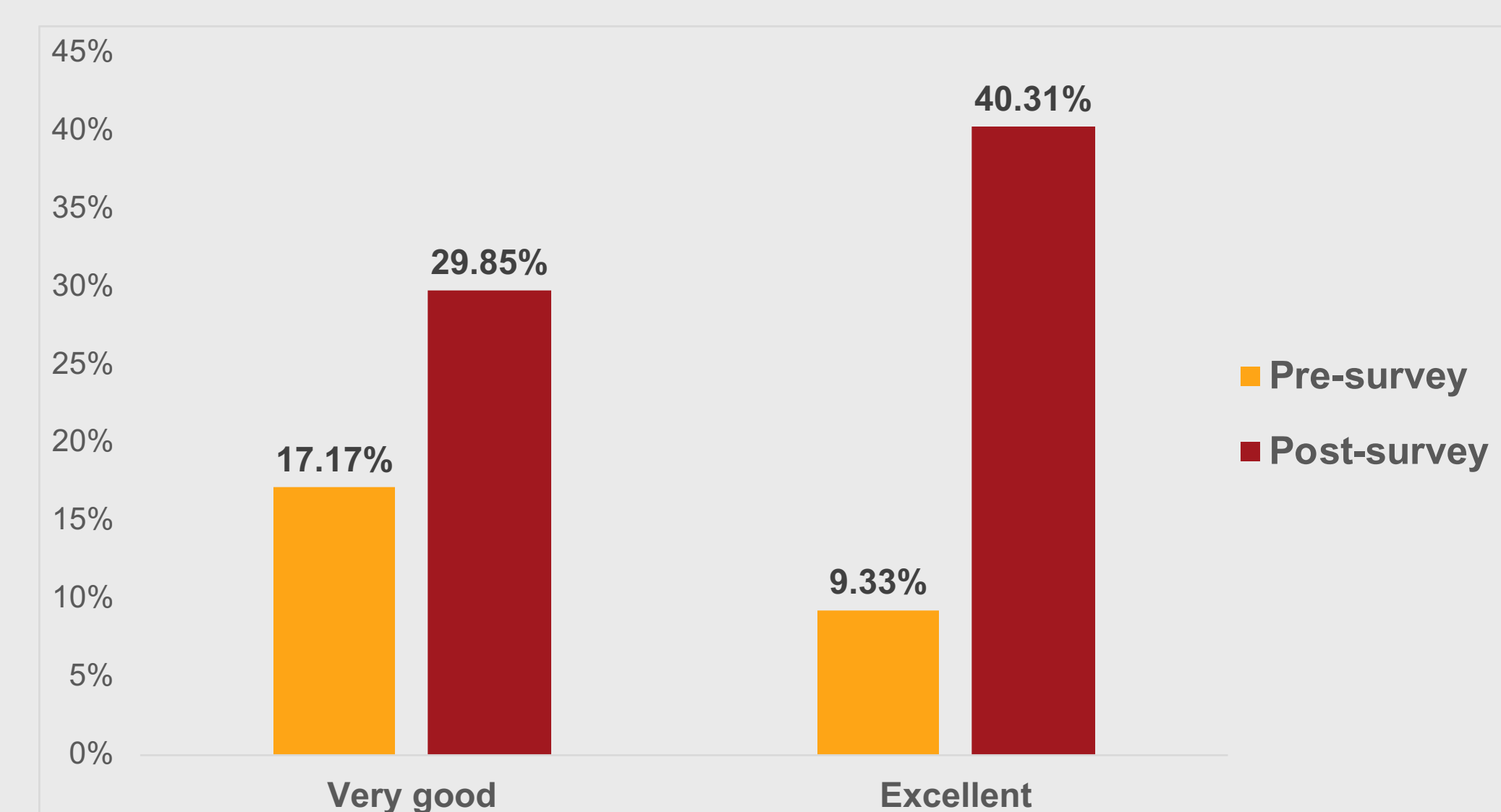


Figure 2. Incremental knowledge rating gained from participating in the NSM program: (n=86)

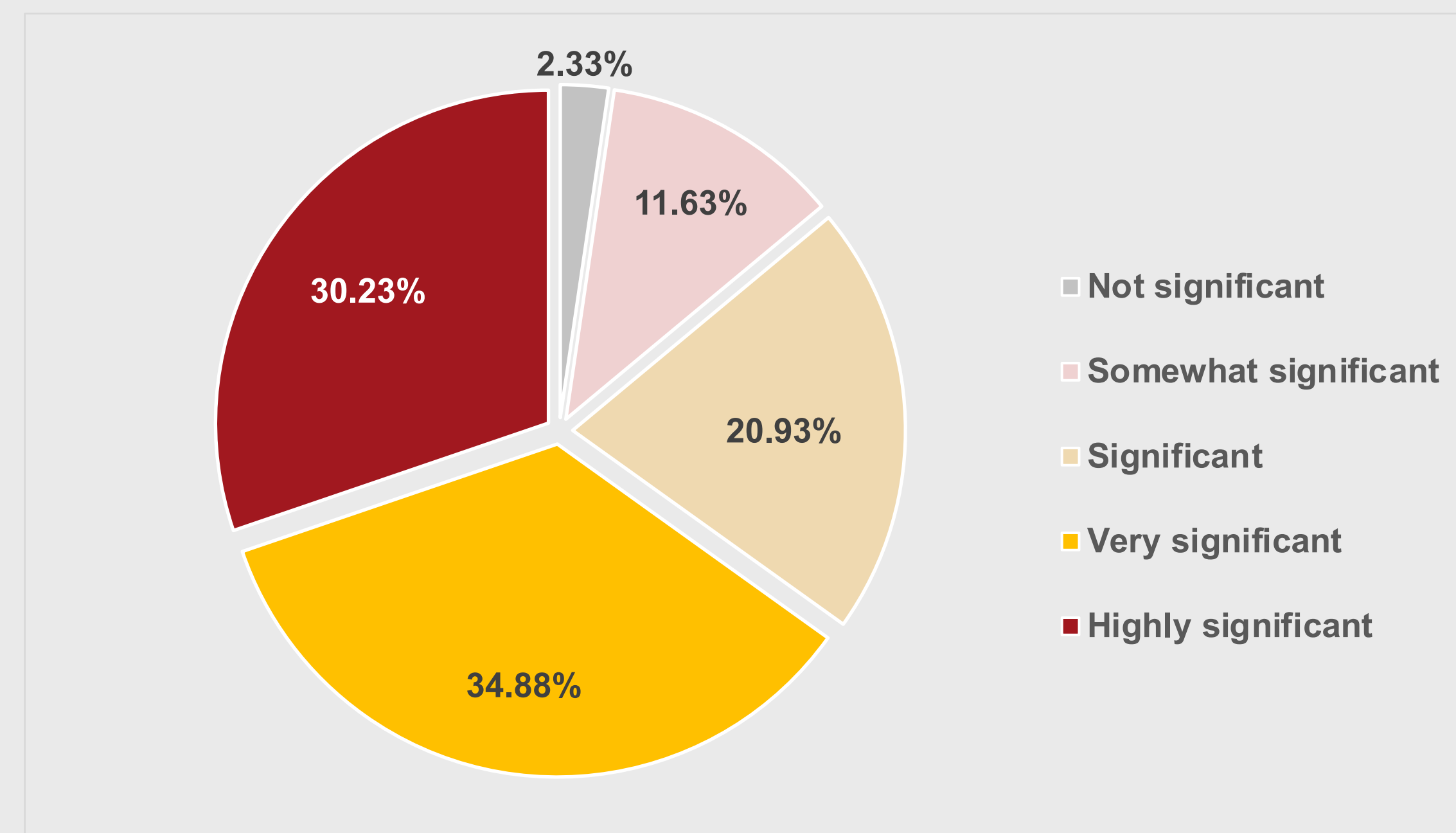


Table 1. Top 5 listed topics that students enjoyed most:

Panel with Current Fellows
Functional Areas of the Pharmaceutical Industry
Sponsor Exhibition
Networking
Transferable Skills from Clinical to Industry Setting

Table 2. Top 5 listed topics that students want to learn more about:

In- depth Functional Area Reviews
CV and Cover Letter Workshop
Internship
Current fellowship programs
Non-fellowship Pathways

Discussion

Of those P1-P3 attendees who completed the post-survey (N=86), about 90 percent of respondents rated the IPhO National Student Meeting as significant, very significant, or highly significant in meeting their expectations. Additionally, 65% of these attendees stated that the amount of incremental knowledge gained was very significant or highly significant. When comparing the responses from the pre-survey to those of the post-survey, a substantial increase in students' confidence level on all key topics resulted. These topics included: local chapter management, resources to secure internships, transferable skills from clinical to industry setting, key industrial functional areas, and skills employers desire.

On average, the percentage of student attendees who reported that their confidence level was *very good* with each topic increased from 17.17% to 29.85% after attending the meeting. The corresponding number of students who reported that their confidence level was *excellent* increased more than fourfold from 9.33% to 40.31%. Upon analysis of free-response survey entries of the, it was clear that the students significantly benefited from the panels with current fellows, discussion of different functional areas of the industry, sponsor exhibition, networking events, and transferable skills from the clinical to industry setting.

Conclusion

The first IPhO standalone National Student Meeting in Madison, NJ in September, 2019 drew over 400 student pharmacists, fellows, and experienced industry pharmacists from around the country exceeding the organizers' estimates. The national program consisted of didactic presentations, panels, and networking/exhibiting activities providing students with a national professional development program focused on pursuing a career in the industry. Sponsors got opportunities to participate in the educational activities as presenters, panelists, and fellowship program advocates. Upon analysis of the evaluation surveys of P1-P3 attendees, a very high number of attendees found the events extremely valuable. The evaluation results of the first IPhO standalone national meeting will be utilized to ensure that subsequent programs will benefit from the learnings gained in the planning of next year's national event.

Disclosures

Chengyang Li, PharmD Candidate 2021 at the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy, Emily Do, Candidate 2020 at Rutgers University, Becky Fritz, Candidate 2020 at Purdue University, and Jerry Silverman, IPhO have nothing to disclose.