

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 P4 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 P4 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 P4 program registrants 1-week prior and post event.

Results

A total of 375 students attended the 2019 IPhO National Student Meeting, 40.8% were P4 students. Among them, 104 (68.0%) students completed a pre-survey and 55 (35.9%) students completed the post-survey.

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

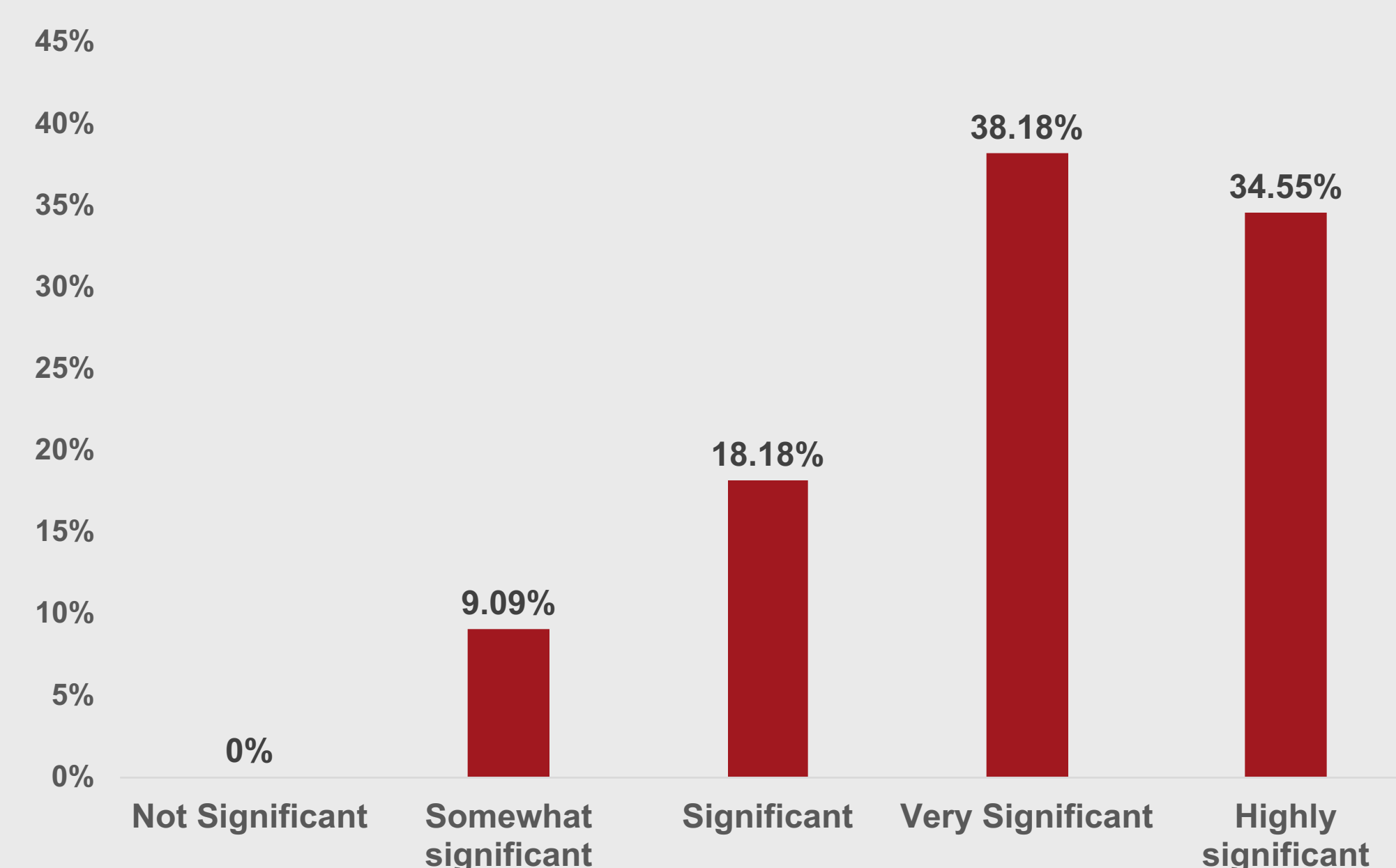


Figure 3. Confidence level rating on the following key topics: Resources to identify Fellowship Programs, Application Timelines and Process, Skills Employers Desire, and variety of different paths to enter industry (Pre- vs. Post-survey)

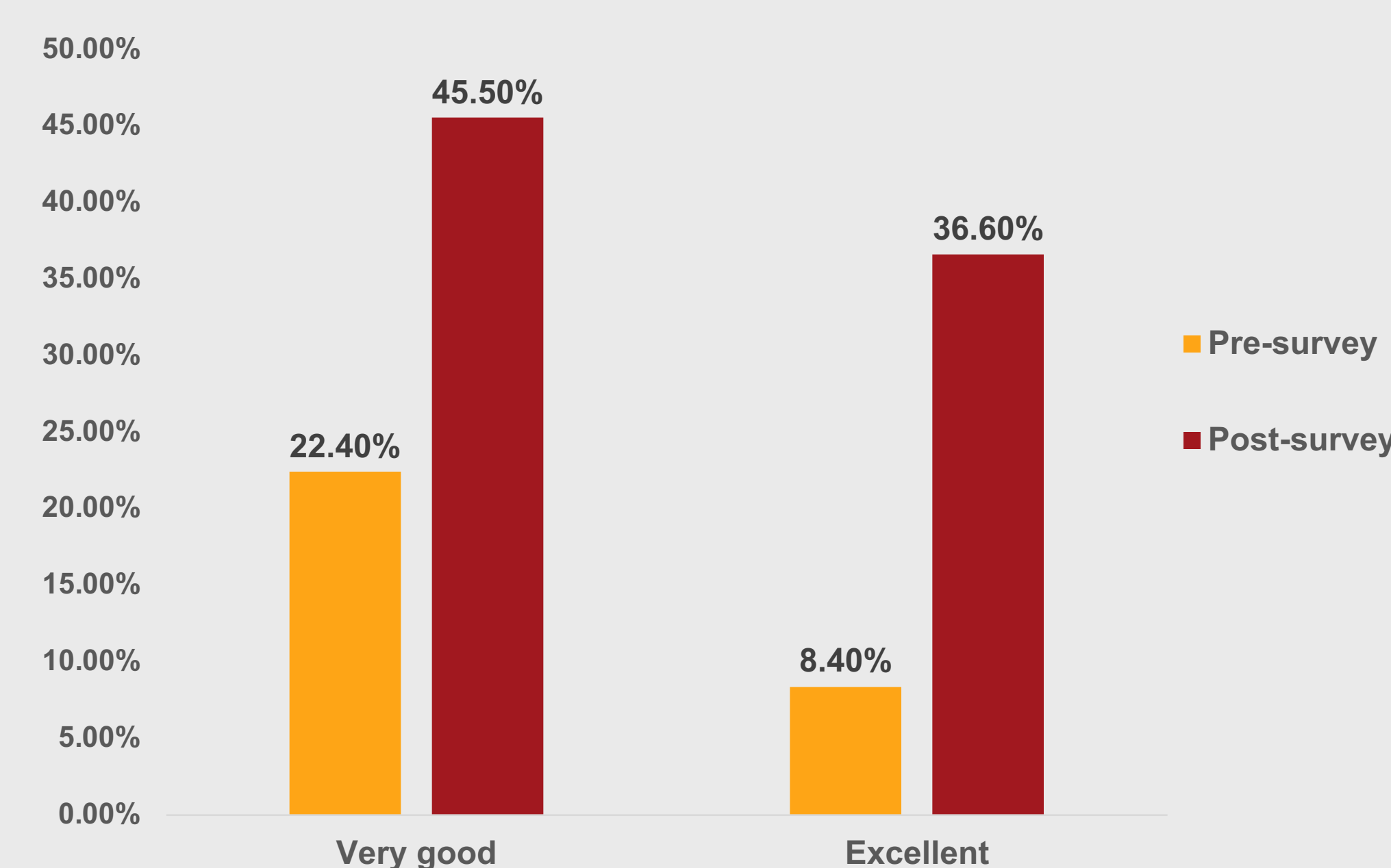


Figure 2. Incremental knowledge rating gained from participating in the NSM program: (n=54)

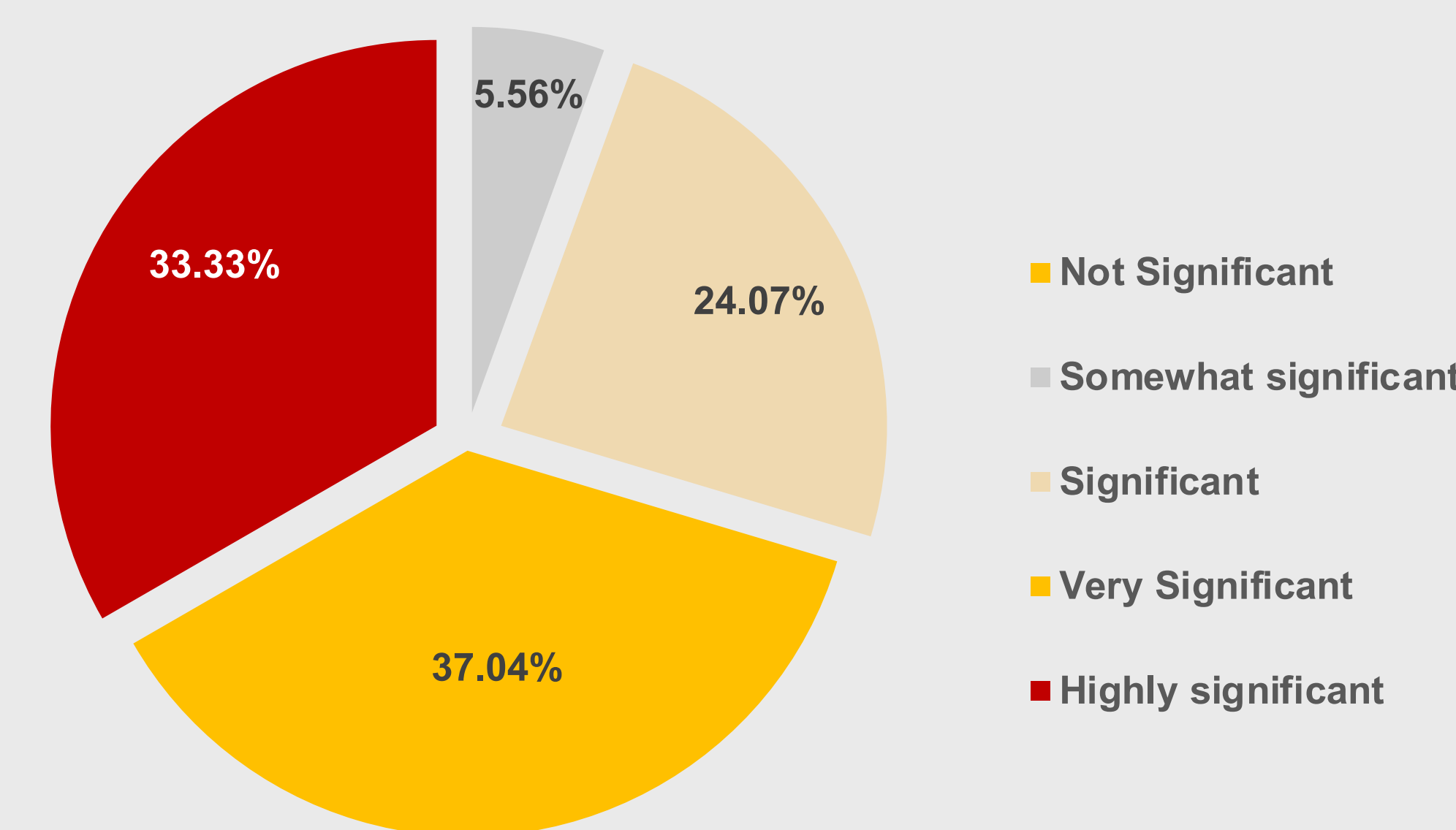


Table 1. Top 5 listed topics that students enjoyed most:

Fellowship Preparation
Non- fellowship Pathways
Fellows Experiences
Thought Leader Panel
Fellowship Presentations

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

In- depth Functional Area Reviews
Interviewing Skills
Midyear Interview Preparation
Current fellowship programs
Non-fellowship Pathways

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.

Discussion

Of those who completed the P4 post-survey (N=55), ninety- one percent of respondents rated the IPhO National Student Meeting as significant, very significant, or highly significant in meeting their expectations. Additionally, 70% of P4 student 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: resources to identify fellowship programs, application timelines and process, skills employers desire most, and variety of different paths to enter industry. On average, the percentage of student attendees who reported that their confidence level was *very good* with each topic doubled from 22.4% to 45.5% after attending the meeting. The corresponding number of students who reported that their confidence level was *excellent* increased fourfold from 8.4% to 36.6%. Upon analysis of the free-response survey entries, it was clear that students significantly benefited from discussions on fellowship preparation, non-fellowship pathways, current roles of fellows, and key insights from fellowship thought leaders.

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 P4 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.