

Survivors Advising Scientists Educational Program: Collaborating to Create Educational Tools

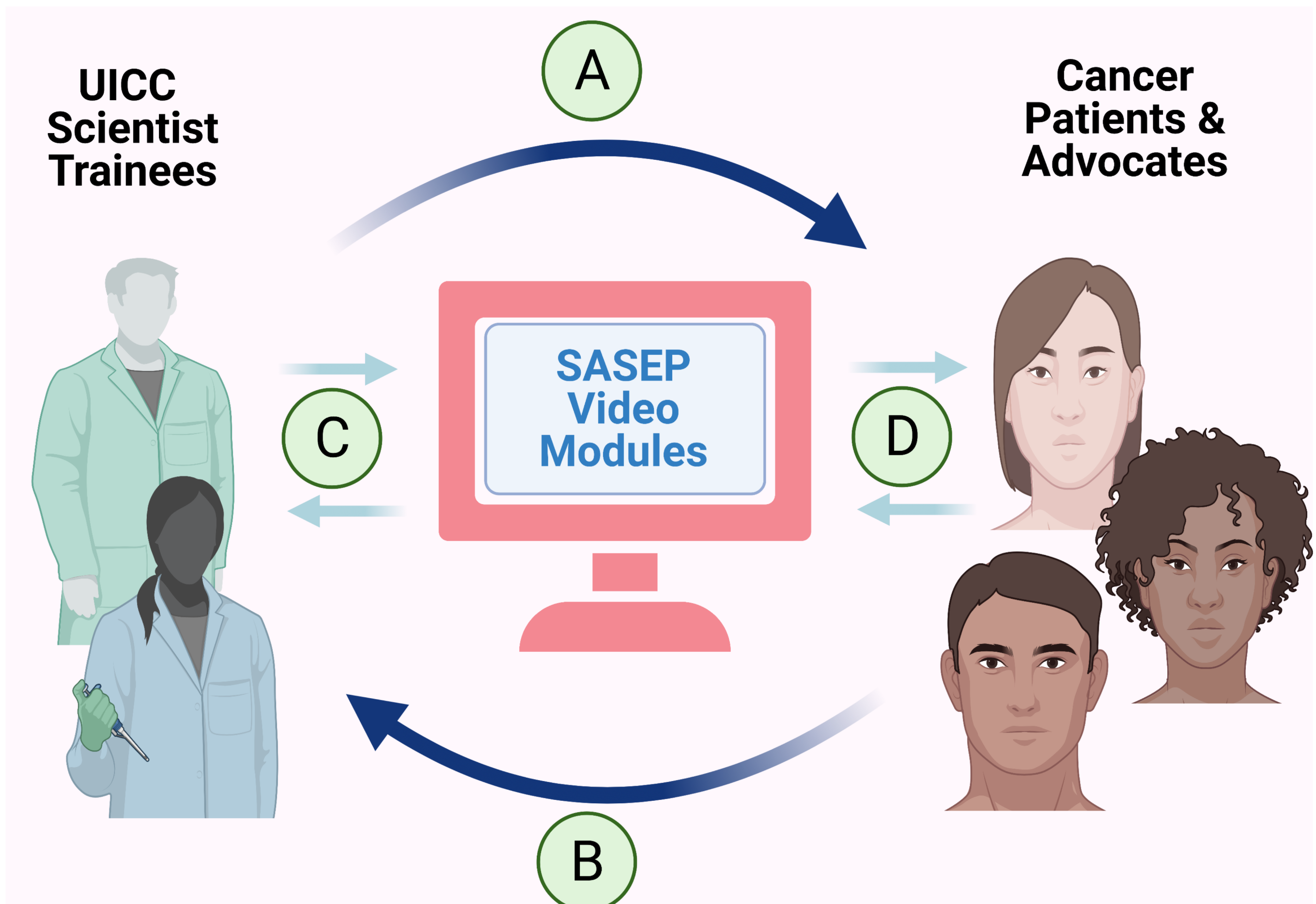
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Introduction

- There is a noticeable lack of easily accessible materials that explain science and cancer to people without rigorous scientific training.
- Involving cancer patients, survivors, and advocates in creating such material would ensure that the material caters to the needs of the community.
- We created Survivors Advising Scientists Educational Program (SASEP) to address this gap through a bidirectional educational platform.

Methods



MD/PhD students drafted educational narrated presentations on basic scientific and experimental topics (A). These modules were reviewed and edited collaboratively by a group of cancer patients, survivors, and advocates to make them more understandable and accessible (B). MD/PhD students incorporated reviewer feedback before finalizing presentations and professionally recording them (C). Modules were disseminated to the cancer and scientific community with certificate granted upon completion; a survey was then distributed to participants (D).

Results

Demographics:

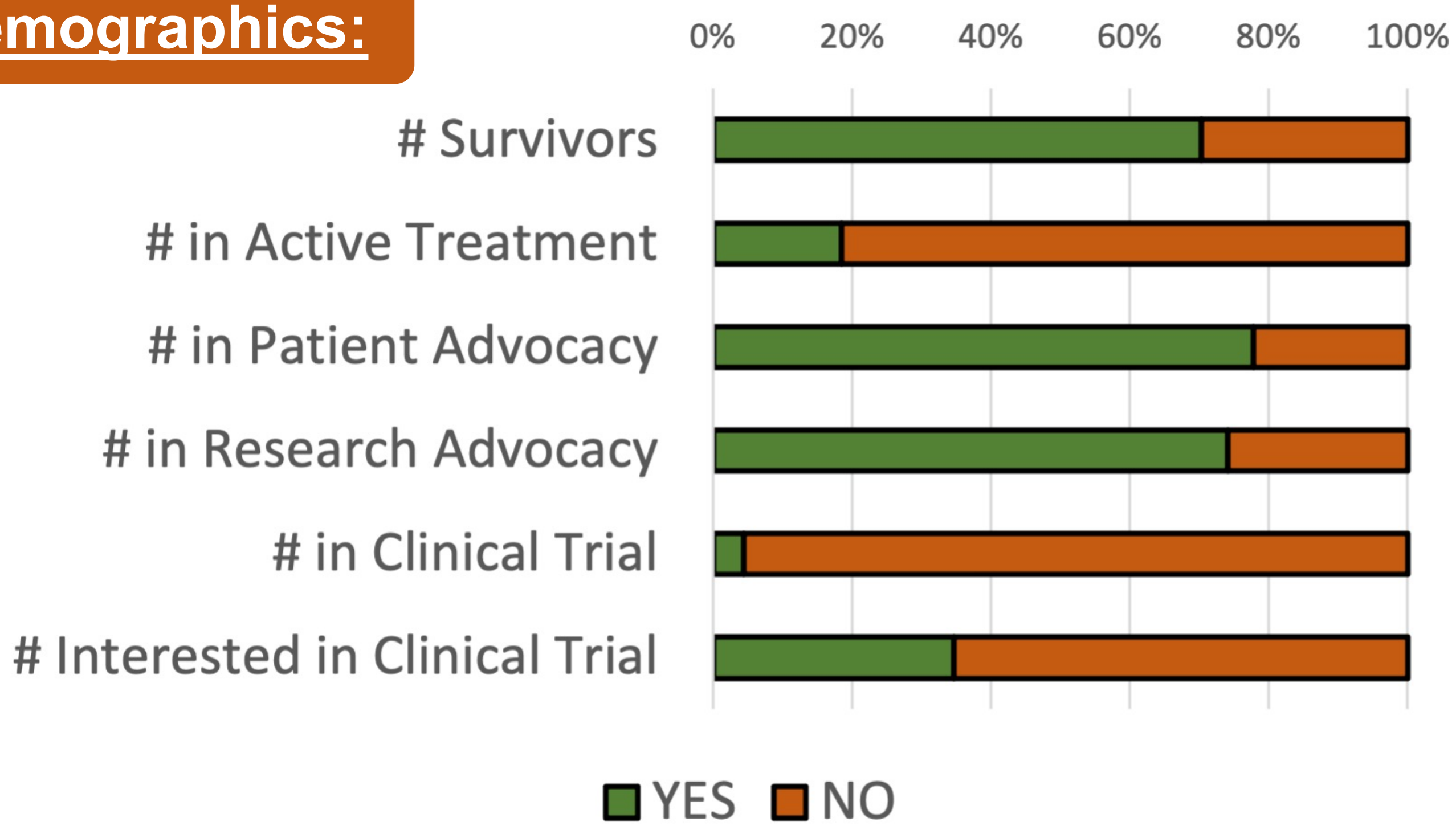


Figure 1. Cancer demographics of module participants.

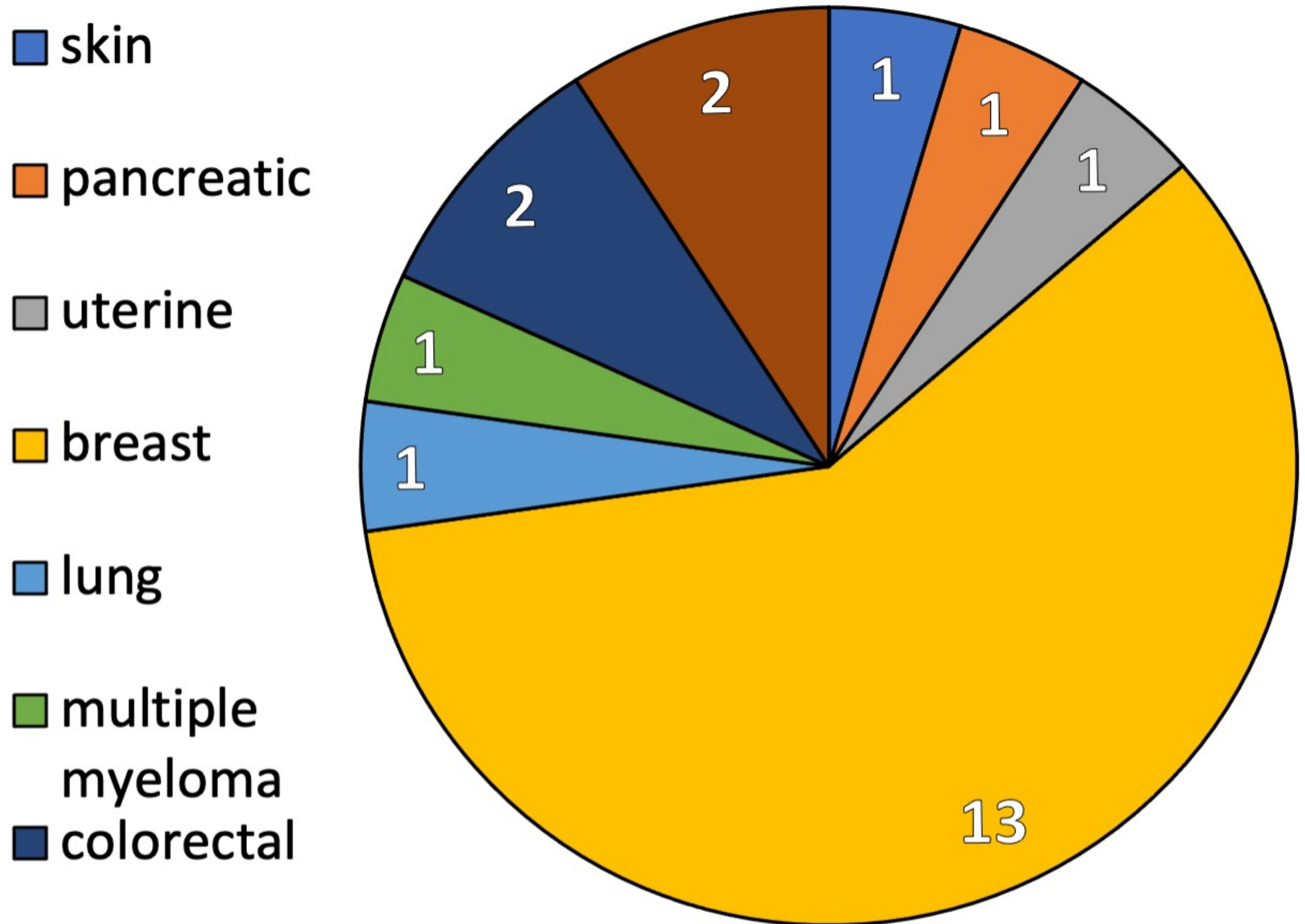


Figure 2. Cancer types among module participants.

Objective Data:

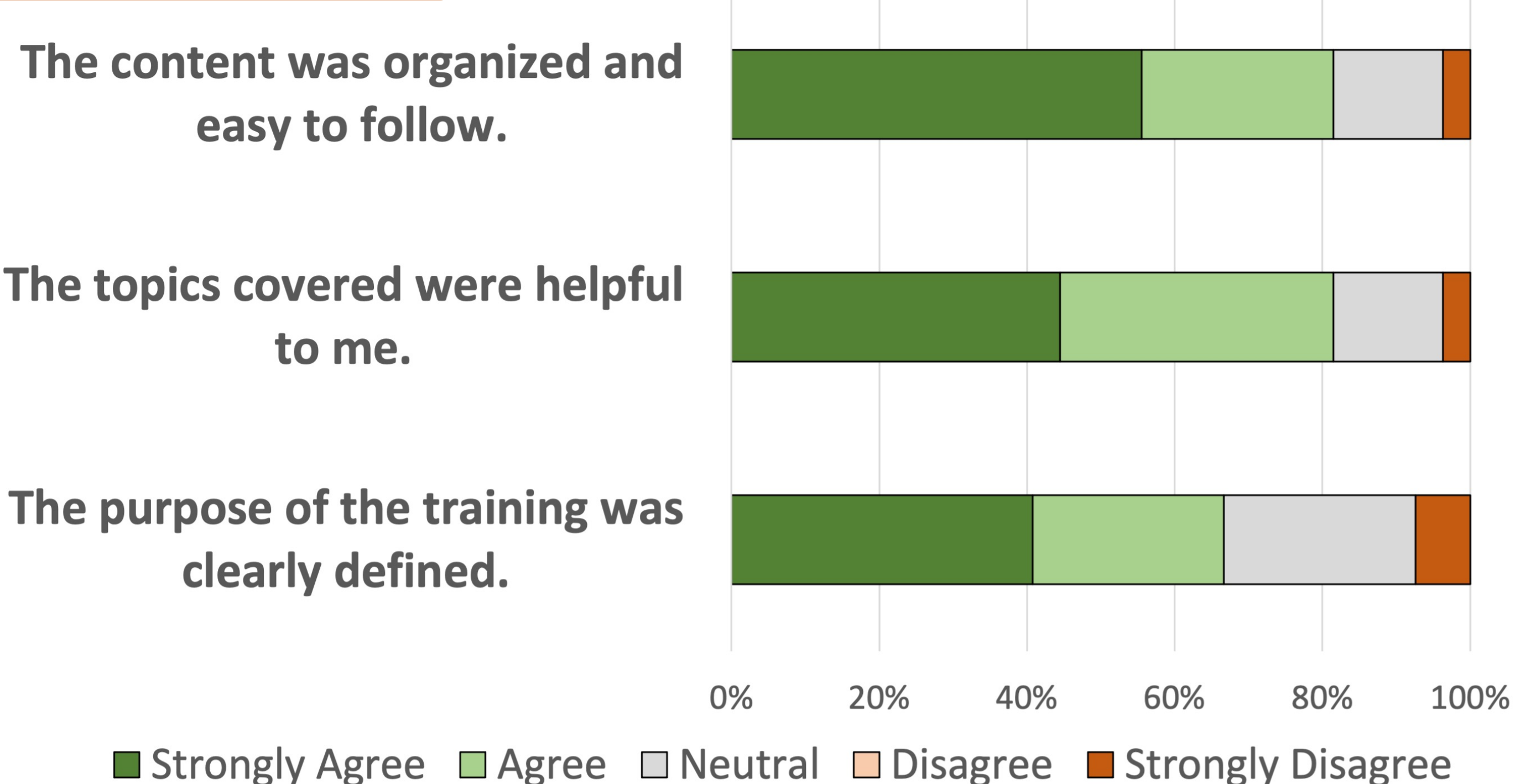


Figure 3. Module participants' agreement with above statements.

Impact and Conclusions

MD/PhD Students:

- "Being able to involve patients at the core of this work is so unique" - Tova Bergsten
- "We need to educate each other and help drive research together." - Casey Blaha

Survivors/Advocates:

- "The ability to understand how research gets done in the first place gets to the heart of a patient's ability to ask important questions and make choices that align with their desires for potential outcomes and quality of life." - Betsy Glosik
- "As a patient advocate, it was an honor to help with this project because I know it has the potential to bridge the gap between scientists and survivors" - Allison Rosen

Leadership:

- "This is a different dynamic and a pioneering venture in using novel educational modules to take patient advocacy to the next level. This is how you do it." - Kimberly Richardson, SASEP Founder
- "This program in higher education is true to the spirit of partnership. It takes advocacy to a new level through collaboration with talented and motivated students that raises the level of research and its impact, and makes our communication with each other bidirectional." - Jan Kitajewski, UICC Director

Future Directions

- Using this bidirectional platform, we will continue to collaboratively create diverse modules.
- Empower and educate all members of our scientific and advocacy community.
- We hope this unique program will set the standard to inspire and guide others within their research communities to develop their own bidirectional partnerships!
- Scan the code to see our video modules:

