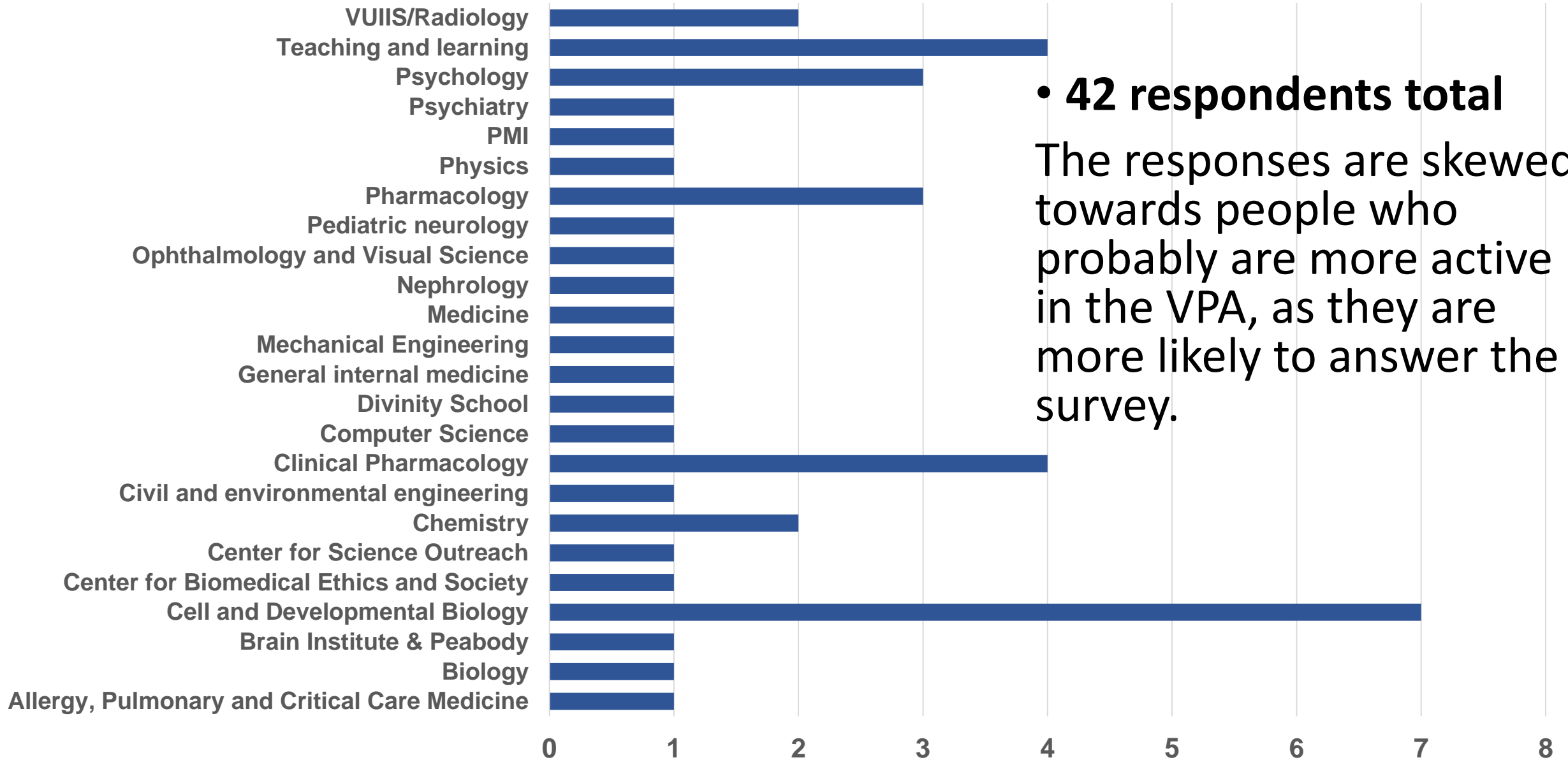


VPA Bi-Annual Survey August 2017 Report

Why a big bi-annual survey?

- We want to quantitatively track VPA participation
 - Which events work, which don't
 - What do postdocs want to see us organize
- Get input from postdocs from all departments and schools
- Tailor events to postdocs' needs

Survey results – Respondents

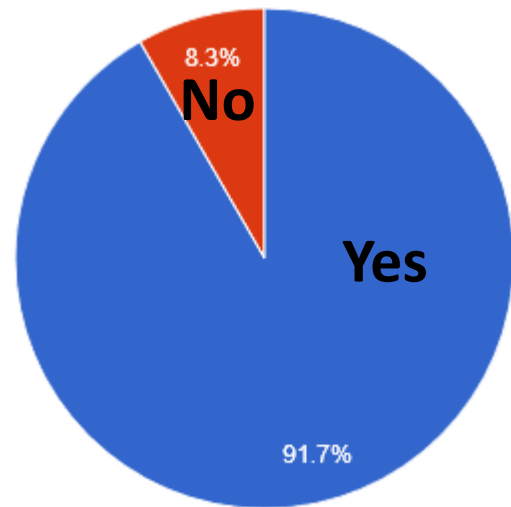


• **42 respondents total**

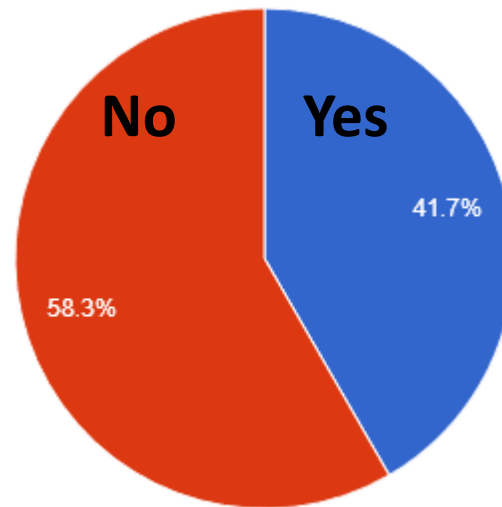
The responses are skewed towards people who probably are more active in the VPA, as they are more likely to answer the survey.

Survey results – Attendance at previous events

- ~60% of postdocs (who answered the survey) attended events last year
 - Most non-attendants are new postdocs (started in 2017)
- Social events were better attended than others
 - Instead of CBAS/VPA seminar we will have our own seminar series

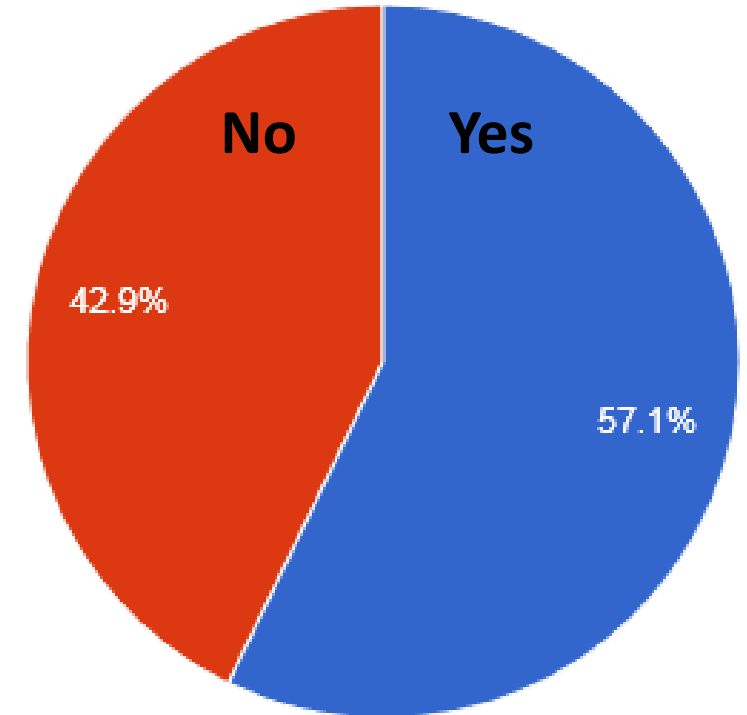


Social events

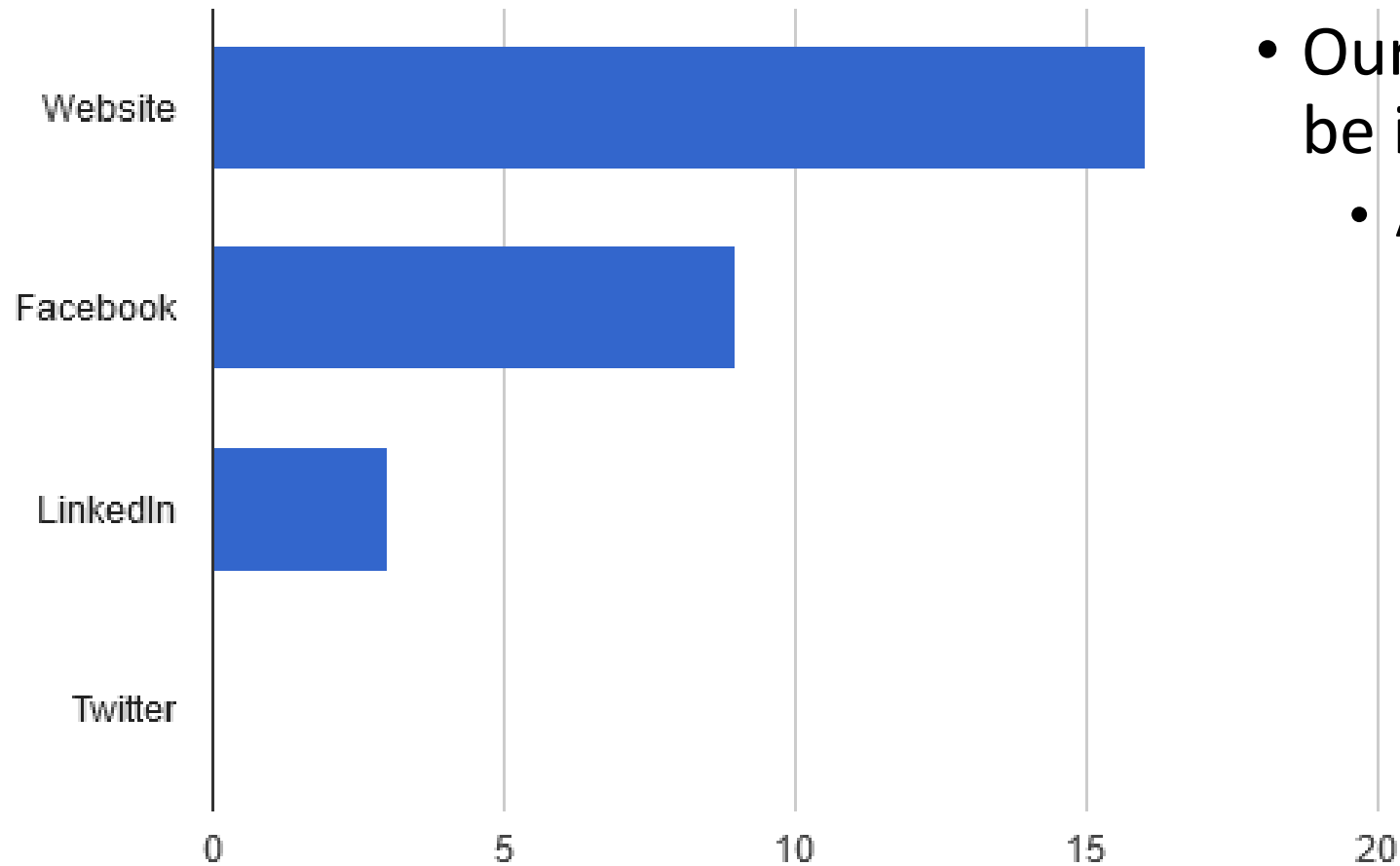


CBAS/VPA seminar

Any VPA events 2016-17



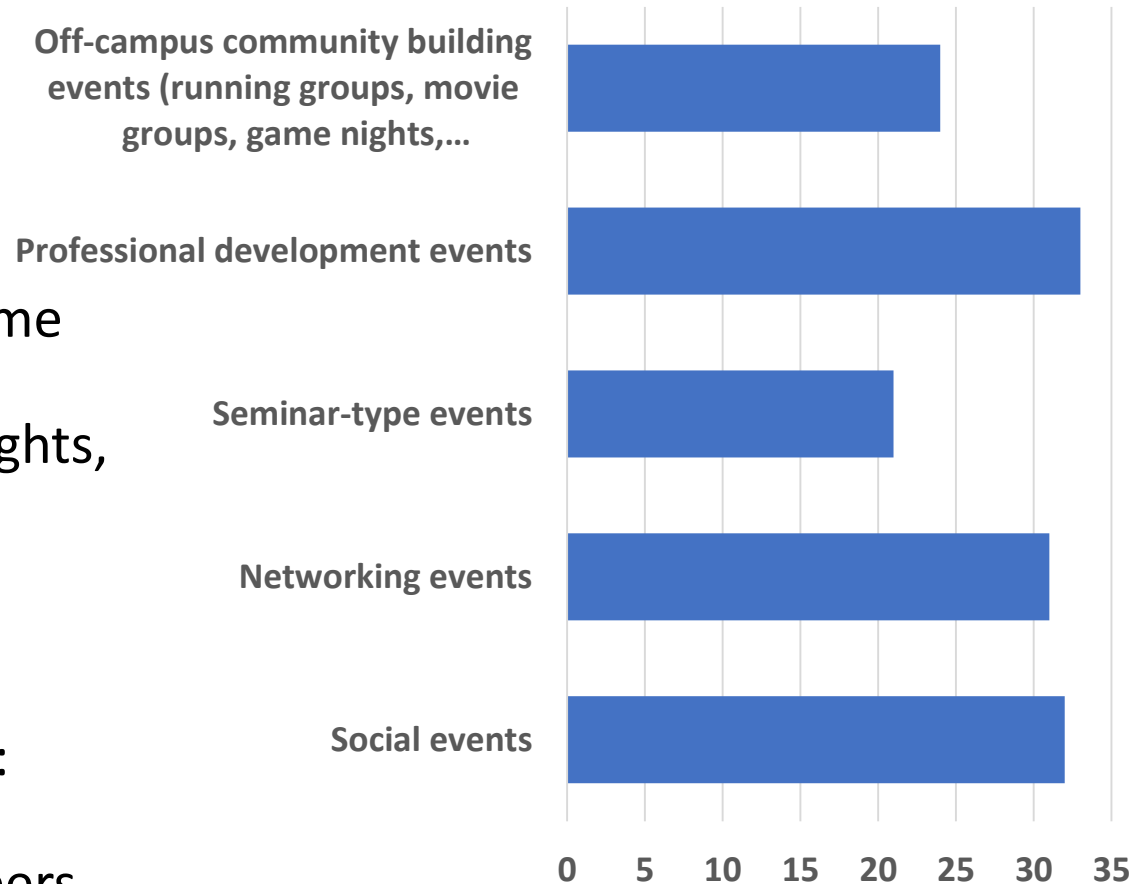
How can we reach all postdocs across Vanderbilt?



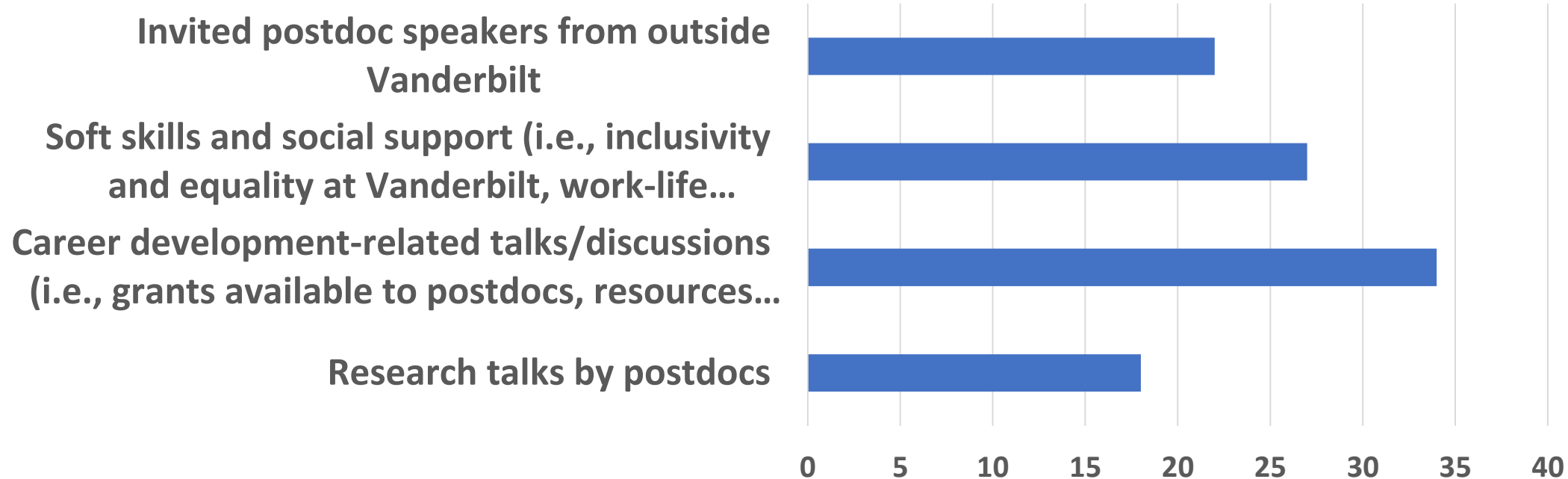
- Our online presence needs to be improved
 - Active use of social media

How can we improve VPA events?

- Social events:
 - More diverse activities than happy hour @ Sportsman's
 - Other activities, more family-friendly
 - Other times so people with commitments at home can attend
 - Organized social outings on weekends: movie nights, running groups, live music events
- Career-related events:
 - Standing networking/community building event: coffee hour, cookie break etc.
 - More professional events outside academic careers
 - Themed seminars



What would postdocs like in a VPA seminar?



- Themed seminars
 - Can focus around a (broad) research topic
 - Career development
 - Soft skills

Conclusions from survey

- New postdocs don't immediately attend VPA events
 - Could a postdoctoral representative who introduces the VPA at the start help to get postdocs involved?
- Postdocs want to see more social events at family-friendly times
 - Have social coffee mornings or lunch events?
- Postdocs want more non-academic non-research career-related events
 - Networking coffees
 - Non-research speakers