2019 SPRING RESEARCH SOCIAL: CORE DAY

Researchers at Columbia require access to specialized, high-end scientific instruments and services to achieve their aims. These instruments are often too expensive to be purchased and maintained by a single laboratory, and must be used on a shared basis by multiple labs. Several shared resources have been established across departments, centers, and institutes to provide these services to Columbia affiliates. However, based on anecdotal evidence as well as survey results, it appears that faculty, students, and staff are often unaware of the resources and services that are available for their use.
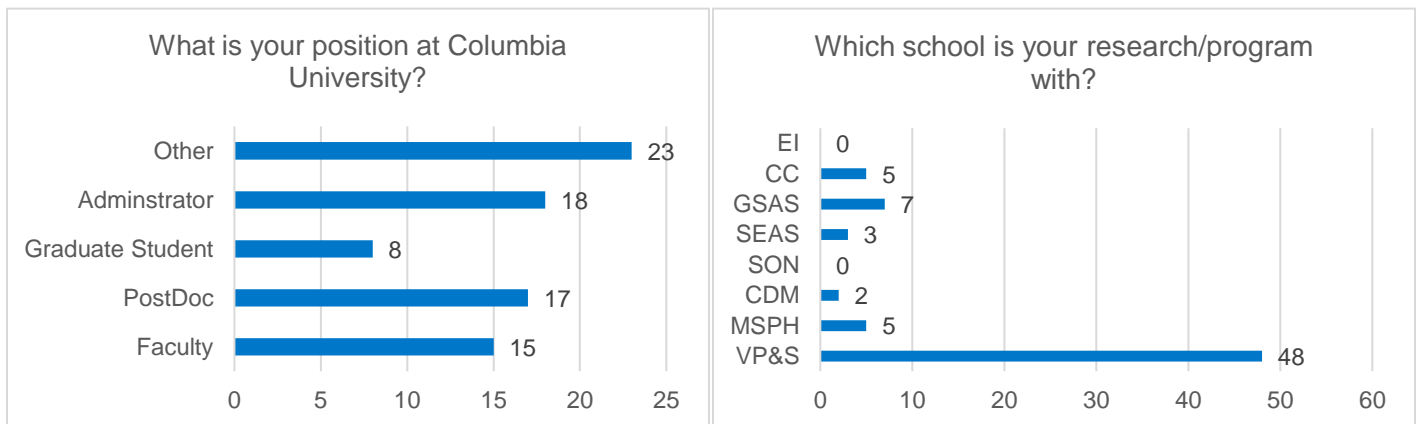
In an effort to increase awareness of the shared resources available to Columbia researchers across campuses, the VP&S Office for Research, together with the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research, organized a Research Social ("Core Day") to invite shared resource staff to meet and interact with faculty, postdocs, students, and staff performing research. Each shared resource was asked to create a poster to highlight their services, and invitations were sent to research faculty, the postdoc listserve, and the CUIMC GSAS listserve. The event was also advertised on digital signage at CUIMC. 39 groups signed up to present a poster, and 297 individuals registered to attend the event. The event was held on April 2, from 4-7pm in Bard Hall (50 Haven Avenue) on the CUIMC campus.

EXIT SURVEY

At the suggestion of core presenters, an exit survey was performed to gauge satisfaction with Core Day and interest in future Core Day events. 81 individuals participated in the exit survey. Results are summarized below.

Demographics

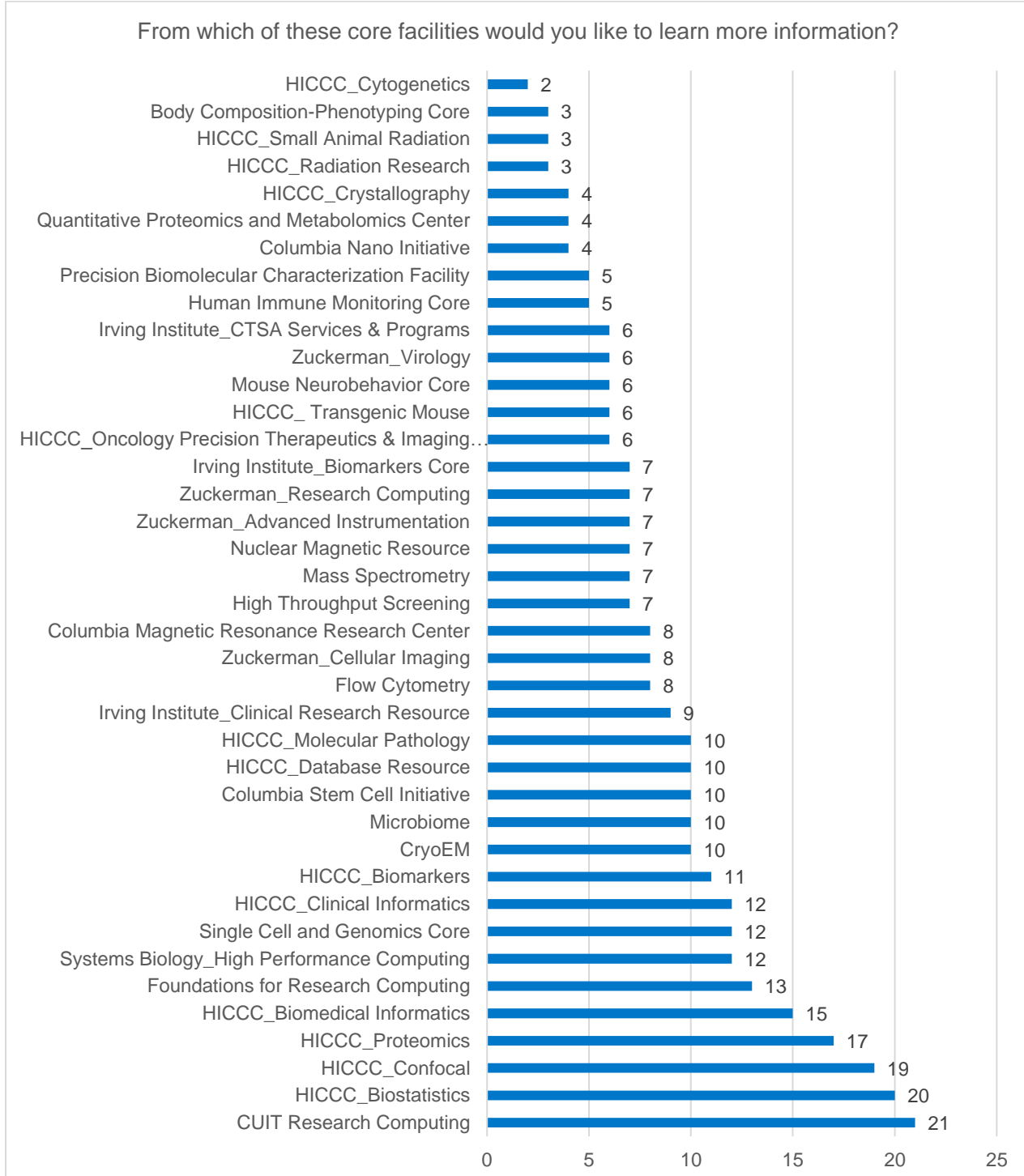A mix of postdocs, students, faculty, and administrators attended the event. Most individuals were affiliated with VP&S. EI: Earth Institute; CC: Columbia College; GSAS: Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; SEAS: School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; SON: School of Nursing; CDM: College of Dental Medicine; MSPH: Mailman School of Public Health; VP&S: Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.
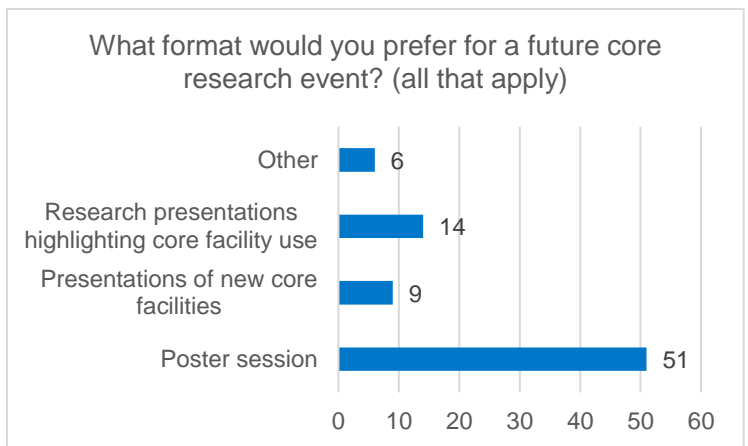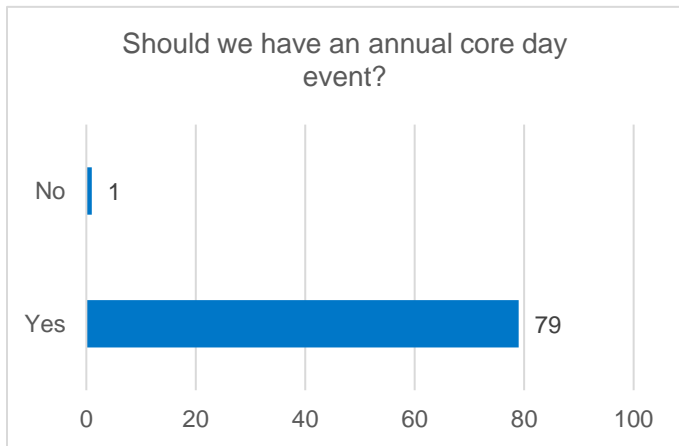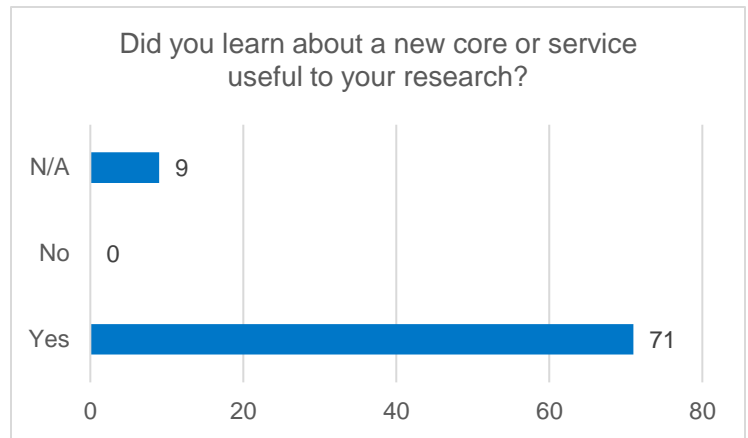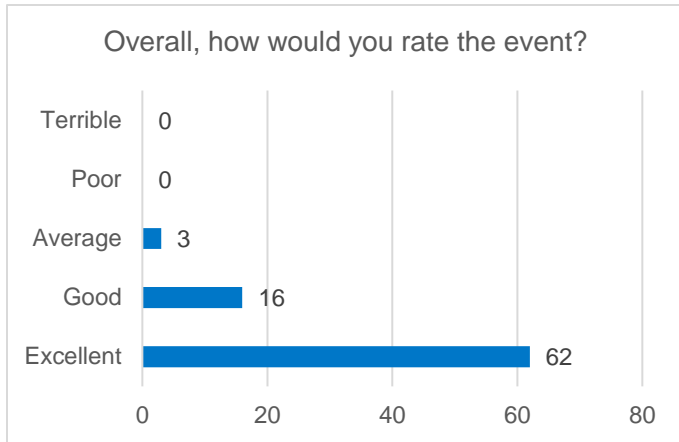
Interest in Cores

Participants expressed interest in a number of shared research facilities across all campuses. Computing resources appeared to be of particular interest.

From which of these core facilities would you like to learn more information?

Core Facility	Count
HICCC_Cytogenetics	2
Body Composition-Phenotyping Core	3
HICCC_Small Animal Radiation	3
HICCC_Radiation Research	3
HICCC_Crystallography	4
Quantitative Proteomics and Metabolomics Center	4
Columbia Nano Initiative	4
Precision Biomolecular Characterization Facility	5
Human Immune Monitoring Core	5
Irving Institute_CTSA Services & Programs	6
Zuckerman_Virology	6
Mouse Neurobehavior Core	6
HICCC_ Transgenic Mouse	6
HICCC_Oncology Precision Therapeutics & Imaging…	6
Irving Institute_Biomarkers Core	7
Zuckerman_Research Computing	7
Zuckerman_Advanced Instrumentation	7
Nuclear Magnetic Resource	7
Mass Spectrometry	7
High Throughput Screening	7
Columbia Magnetic Resonance Research Center	8
Zuckerman_Cellular Imaging	8
Flow Cytometry	8
Irving Institute_Clinical Research Resource	9
HICCC_Molecular Pathology	10
HICCC_Database Resource	10
Columbia Stem Cell Initiative	10
Microbiome	10
CryoEM	10
HICCC_Biomarkers	11
HICCC_Clinical Informatics	12
Single Cell and Genomics Core	12
Systems Biology_High Performance Computing	12
Foundations for Research Computing	13
HICCC_Biomedical Informatics	15
HICCC_Proteomics	17
HICCC_Confocal	19
HICCC_Biostatistics	20
CUIT Research Computing	21

Interest in Core Day Events

Overall, participants appeared to find the Core Day event useful, and would like an annual (or semi-annual) event of the same format.

Overall, how would you rate the event?

Rating	Value
Terrible	0
Poor	0
Average	3
Good	16
Excellent	62

Did you learn about a new core or service useful to your research?

Response	Value
N/A	9
No	0
Yes	71

Should we have an annual core day event?

Response	Value
No	1
Yes	79

What format would you prefer for a future core research event? (all that apply)

Format	Value
Other	6
Research presentations highlighting core facility use	14
Presentations of new core facilities	9
Poster session	51

Suggestions for Improvement

This open-ended question received a number of responses, including suggestions to change the timing of the event, to have the event more frequently, and to increase PI involvement.

1. Room with carpet; the sound was terrible. It was lound and could not understand each other. 2. Short talks 7-10 min from each core so everyone can hear about all cores and further investigate the ones of interest at posters. 3. Posters were too close to each other. Could have used a small table at each poster as everyone had materials/raffle and could also be used to set a laptop with presentations. 4. Twice a year event would give us more exposure. 5. The event was poorly advertised. Email lists/posted on digital pannels and paper
You may want 2 per year, with half each session, a bit too many and too crowded for one session.
Excellent event!
No suggestions. It was really good. Just a note for the second survey question: my school isn't listed. It's the Zuckerman Institute.
Great event! Thank you! Can have it around lunch time also. And twice a year? (Like a vendor show.)
Time morning
na
Advertising intensively
Get more PI s to attend
What a fantastic event. Thank you very much!
a
None
Thank you
Add keynote speakers
Add talks
earlier
none
Short informational on each department
Do more of this!
More information about the event around campus
perhaps a larger room
Earlier
Demos
Very useful event, thank you. My only suggestion is to also update the website with all the core facilities so they are easy to find on the web
No