







Appendix 9: Summary of Evaluation of the Meeting by Participants

Participant Ranking of Meeting Session/Component

Participants were asked to rank the following statements (n = 88)

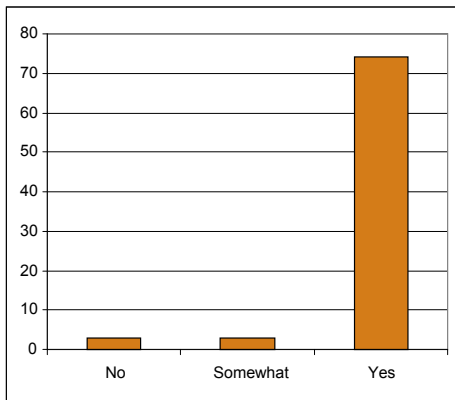
	<i>Poor</i>		<i>Average</i>		<i>Excellent</i>
Pre-meeting session at the CSCHAH	1	2	3	4 	5
Opening Speaker	1	2	3	 4	5
Biology and Diagnosis of Influenza Virus	1	2	3	4 	5
Pandemic Planning including Ethics and Legal Issues	1	2	3	 4	5
Poster Sessions	1	2	3	4 	5
Control of Transmission and Spread	1	2	3	4 	5
Vaccines and Immunization	1	2	3	4 	5

Participant Ranking of Meeting Session/Component

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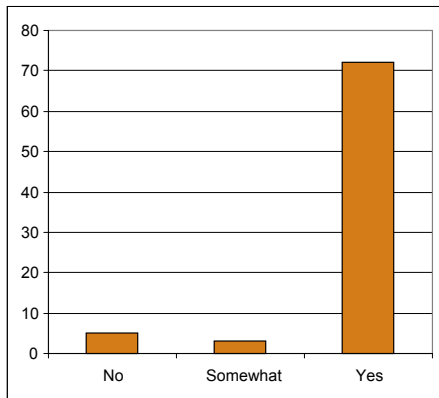
Venue	<i>Poor</i>		<i>Average</i>		<i>Excellent</i>
	1	2	3	4	5
				↑	
Food	<i>Poor</i>		<i>Average</i>		<i>Excellent</i>
	1	2	3	4	5
				↑	
Other meeting logistics	<i>Poor</i>		<i>Average</i>		<i>Excellent</i>
	1	2	3	4	5
				↑	

Presentations were effective in summarizing the current state of pandemic and influenza research.



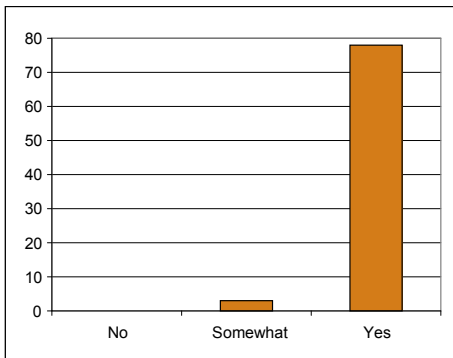
Most participants thought that the presentations gave a broad overview of current research in Canada. Some stated that they would have liked to also have learnt more about research that is being conducted in other countries. Many enjoyed the format of the oral sessions with a longer keynote address followed by shorter talks. One participant suggested that each speaker should be asked to present the implications of their research for practice—this is especially important with such a diverse audience. Some of the research presented is in very preliminary stages: it will be interesting to follow the progress over the next year or two.

Roundtable sessions were useful.



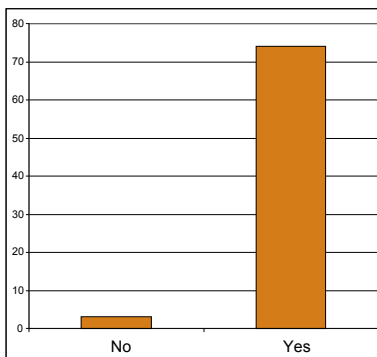
Many participants thought that the roundtable discussions were dynamic, interactive and thought-provoking and provided an opportunity voice their ideas and suggestions. A number of good suggestions were made for future research efforts. Several participants would have liked to have had more time to discuss research needs and gaps. This might be accomplished in the future by having one longer session at the end of the meeting or by inviting other experts to join the panel with the presenters. Perhaps breakout sessions would also have allowed people who are more comfortable in small groups to voice their opinions.

Meeting was effective in enhancing networking and collaboration among pandemic and influenza researchers and research users.



Participants stated that the conference had provided an excellent opportunity for networking and meeting researchers in different fields. The organization of the meeting, including group meals and longer poster sessions, afforded several opportunities for networking. The majority of participants thought that the assigned seating on the second evening was a great way to get to know new people and discuss research. To further develop linkages, it would be useful to have a shared website for participants to correspond on an ongoing basis.

If another meeting of this type was held, would recommend others attend.



The majority of participants thoroughly enjoyed the meeting, and would attend a meeting of a similar type themselves and would recommend the meeting to others. Other professionals might be encouraged to participate in the future include: pharmacists, more pandemic planners, more frontline health-care practitioners, researchers who focus on animal reservoirs of influenza viruses, veterinarians and administrators. Several participants recommended that the meeting should be held every year in order to sustain research efforts.

Suggestions for additional components or topics to be incorporated into the program of future meetings.

- Several participants stated that a greater effort should be made to encourage industry/academia interactions and industry attendance at the meeting. Industry-sponsored research updates could be incorporated to showcase the basic and clinical research that is being sponsored and communicate gaps of interest. Industry would like to see a greater focus on types of vaccine delivery systems and recombinant vaccine development.
- It would have been useful to have a presentation at the meeting on pandemic planning from a government policy maker to provide an overview of the state of the stockpile and the government's vision on vaccines and antivirals. This would help participants understand how research is translated into policy and help to identify gaps.
- While several research areas were represented at the meeting, there is a need for a multidisciplinary approach to influenza. Therefore, pathologists and mathematical modelers should be included along with infectious disease specialists, virologists, immunologists, etc.
- Would like to see more break-out sessions for more focused discussions that promote networking.

- It would be useful to establish web-based networking and a repository to allow participants to collaborate and share molecular tools.
- Include a graduate student panel and poster competition at a future meeting to encourage and further engage graduate students.
- Participants suggested several additional topics that they would like to see incorporated into future meetings. They are:
 - Emergence of new viruses in poultry and swine.
 - Molecular epidemiology and evolution of influenza strains.
 - Whole genome sequence analysis of influenza strains across the world.
 - Mathematical modeling.
 - Advances and challenges for diagnostic tests.
 - Drug resistance.
 - Development of standardized animal models and viral strains.
 - Research on methods to improve or develop more effective vaccines, including adjuvant systems and new technologies.
 - Research on influenza therapies including combination therapy. Consider inviting representatives from the ICAV.
 - Research on reasons for low annual vaccine uptake; public perceptions and needs during a pandemic, public health measures in a pandemic such as school closures, use of masks in the community; Aboriginal pandemic preparedness.
 - Methods to improve communication about pandemics with the media.
 - Influenza pandemic and chronic diseases (cystic fibrosis, asthma, etc)
 - Prevention/interaction studies including occupational health and safety, infection control in primary care settings, social distancing, public transportation impacts/strategies and definitions of essential services and industries.
 - Business continuity/essential health services planning i.e. what priority health services do we continue to provide?