



Educational Needs in Surgical Oncology, Surgeon Internet Usage & Research Interests 2001 Survey Results

In December 2001, the BC Provincial Surgical Oncology Council & Network conducted a survey to assess the education needs, Internet usage, and research interests of provincial surgeons. The September 2001 College of Physicians & Surgeons directory was used, selecting surgical specialists who reside in BC. 1045 surveys were mail out anonymously and an incentive prize draw was held.

Dr. Rona Cheifetz, Chair of the Surgical Oncology Council's Continuing Medical Education committee, developed the survey, with speciality specific content by experts. The survey was piloted with VGH General Surgeons and revised.

Response by Region

BCCA Region	Number	%
Fraser Valley	26	14
Southern Interior	29	16
Vancouver	93	50
Vancouver Island	37	20
TOTAL	186	

Response by Speciality

Speciality	Mailed Out	Returned	Response Rate
Plastics*	59	17	29
General Surgery*	186	48	26
Neurosurgery*	33	3	24
Gynaecology*	186	40	22
Urology*	66	14	21
OTL*	76	16	21
Thoracic*	34	6	18
Paediatric General Surgery	6	1	17
Dermatology	58	7	12
Vascular	8	1	13
Orthopaedics*	161	19	12
Ophthalmology	172	7	4

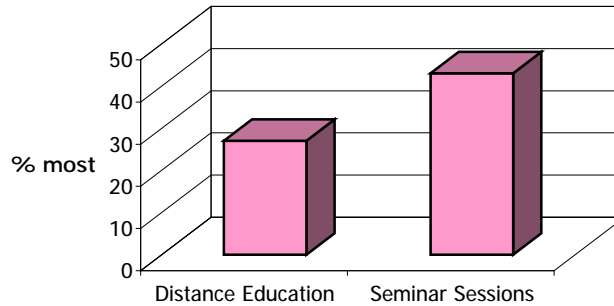
* Specialities sent specific topic choices (University based surgical specialists in oncology provided complete topic lists in their own fields).

Responses were distributed across the province. Rates were higher when surgeons were sent speciality specific topic choices. Response may have been influenced by the extent of oncology involved in the field (e.g. low for ophthalmology) and patterns of practice (i.e. established referral practices for oncologic care).

Educational Needs Assessment

Educational Method

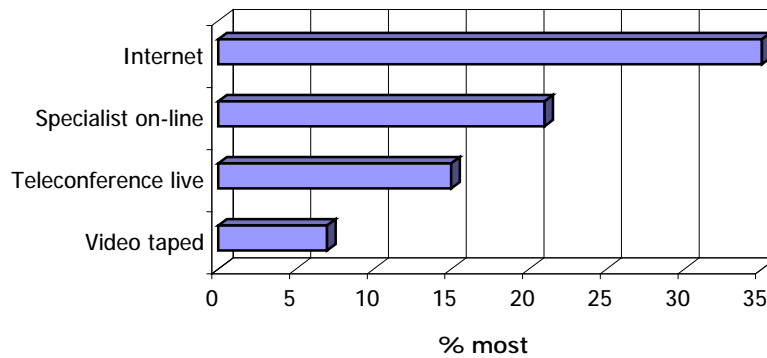
Educational Method



While seminar sessions are preferred, there is a significant interest in distance education as well.

Distance Education Type

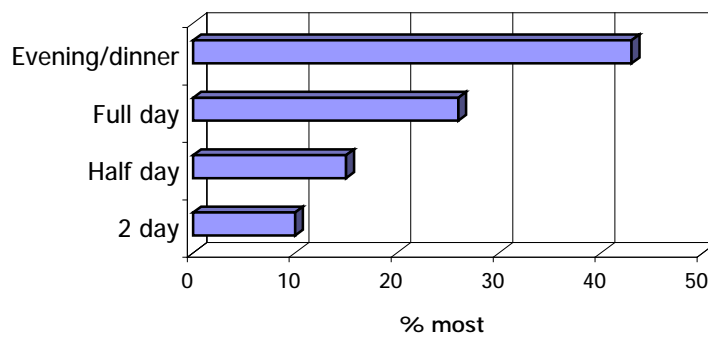
Distance Education Type



There is more interest in the Internet than other forms of distance education.

Styles of Sessions

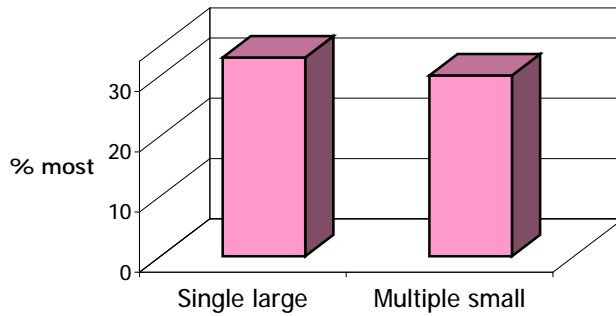
Style of Sessions



There is a preference for an evening/dinner style of presentation.

Frequency of Sessions

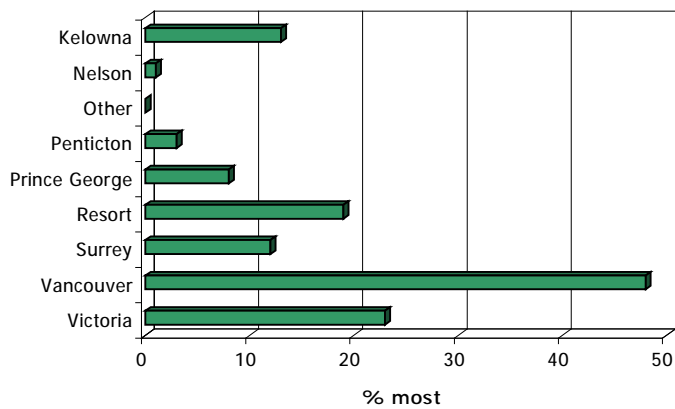
Frequency of Sessions



No real preference between single and multiple sessions was found.

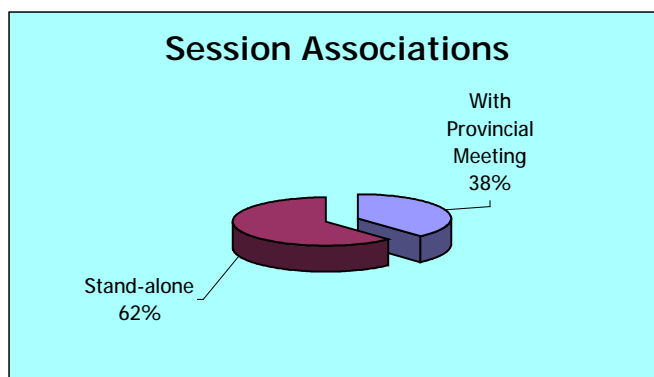
Location of Sessions

Location of Sessions

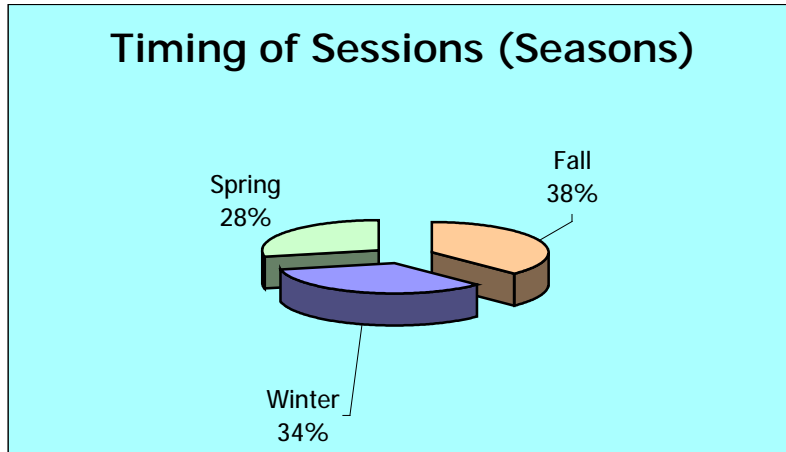


While it appears that there is a preference for session in Vancouver, this data reflects the regional distribution of responses and really indicates that there is an interest in sessions in each major region.

Session Associations

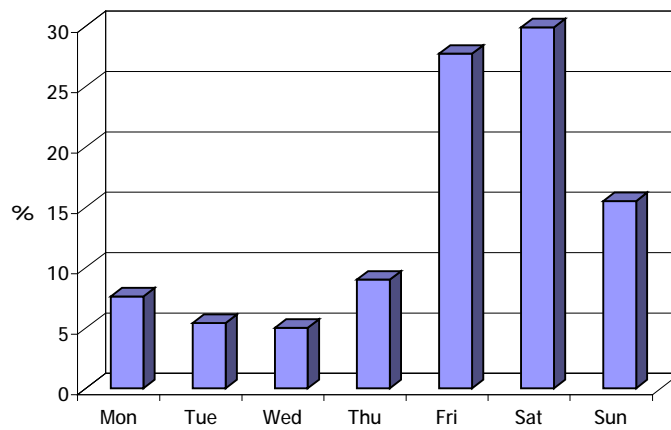


Timing of Sessions



There is no obvious preference in what time of year to hold educational events.

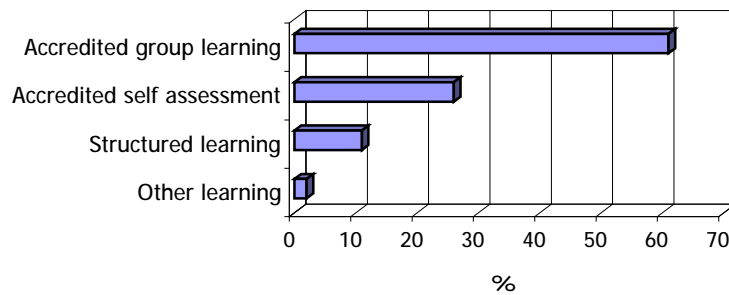
Timing of Sessions (Days)



There is a preference for Friday or Saturday sessions.

Accreditation

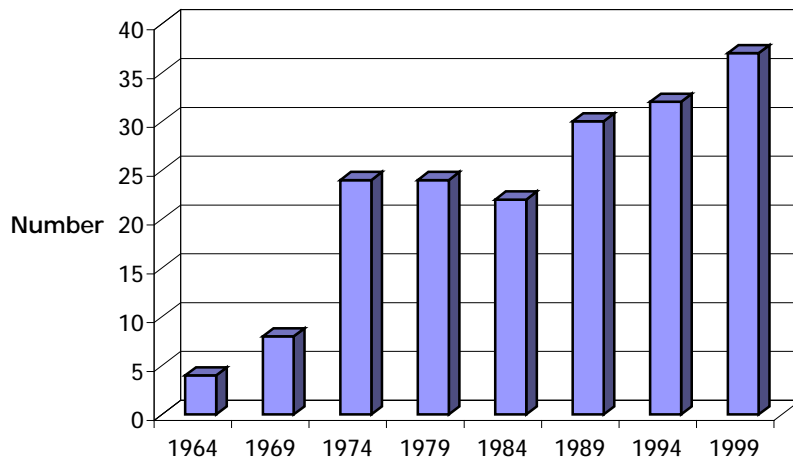
Accreditation



25% of respondents (not shown) had no preference for the type of accreditation.

Year of Fellowship

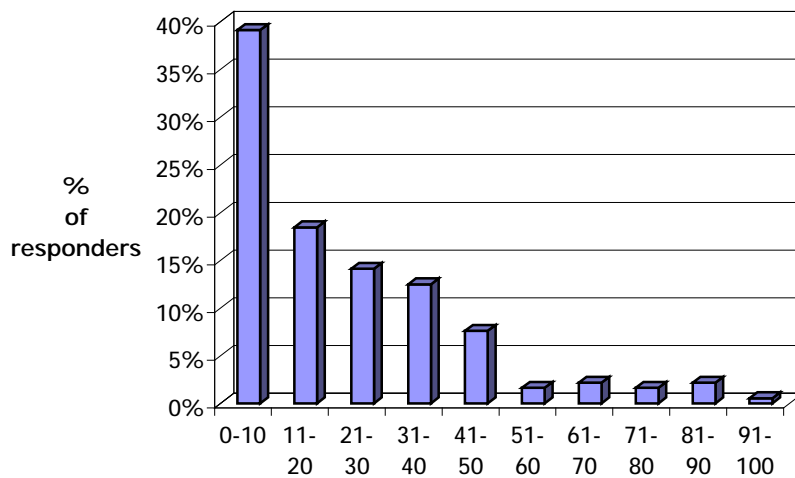
Year of Fellowship



The median year of fellowship was 1988. The largest number of respondents was from recent graduates in years 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Percent Oncology

Percentage Oncology



Respondents were asked what percentage of their practice is related to oncology. This varies amongst the specialities. The median percentage is 20%.

Areas of Speciality Interest

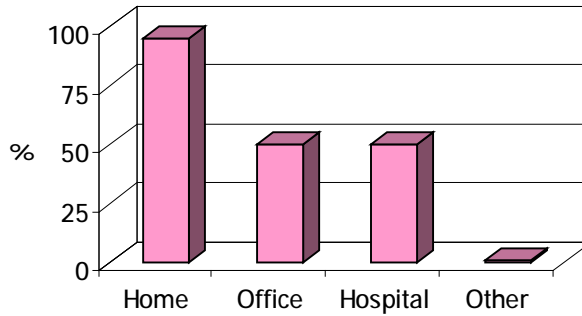
Speciality	N	1st Choice	2nd Choice
General Surgery	48	Breast	Colo/rectal
Neurosurgery	8	Brain	Meninges
Thoracic	6	Lung	Mediastinal
Orthopaedic	19	Malig. Bone	Benign Bone
OTL	17	SCC H/N	Salivary
Urology	14	Bladder	Prostate
Gynaecology	40	Ovarian	Uterine/Cervix

The 3rd and 4th choice for General Surgery was upper GI and thyroid. Surgeons were also asked about specific topic areas within each subject to help further guide program development.

Internet Usage

Site of Internet Access

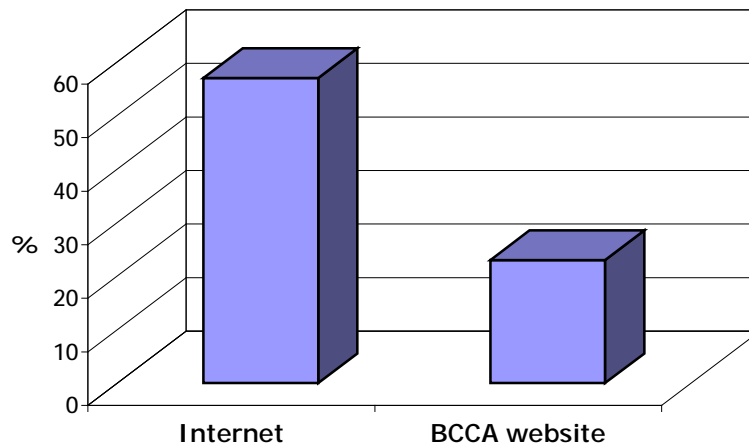
Site of Internet Access



Almost all respondents have Internet access from their homes. Less than half have access from their offices or the hospitals.

Use of the Internet for Treating Patients

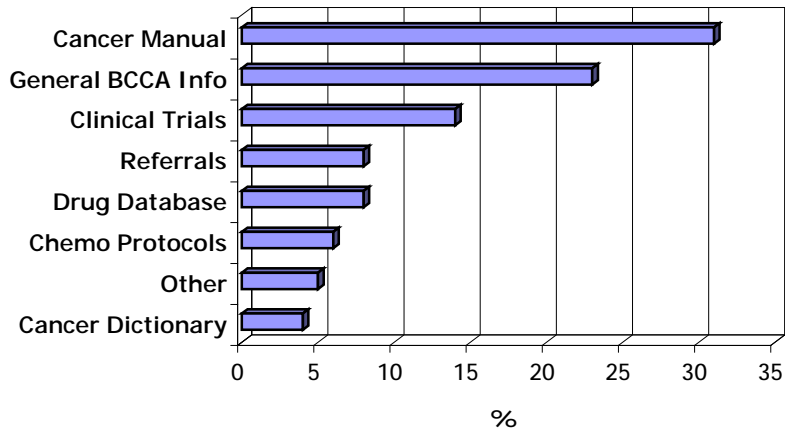
Use of Online Information for Patient Care



In excess of one half use the Internet to get information about treating cancer patients. Approximately one quarter use the BC Cancer Agency website.

BCCA Website Usage

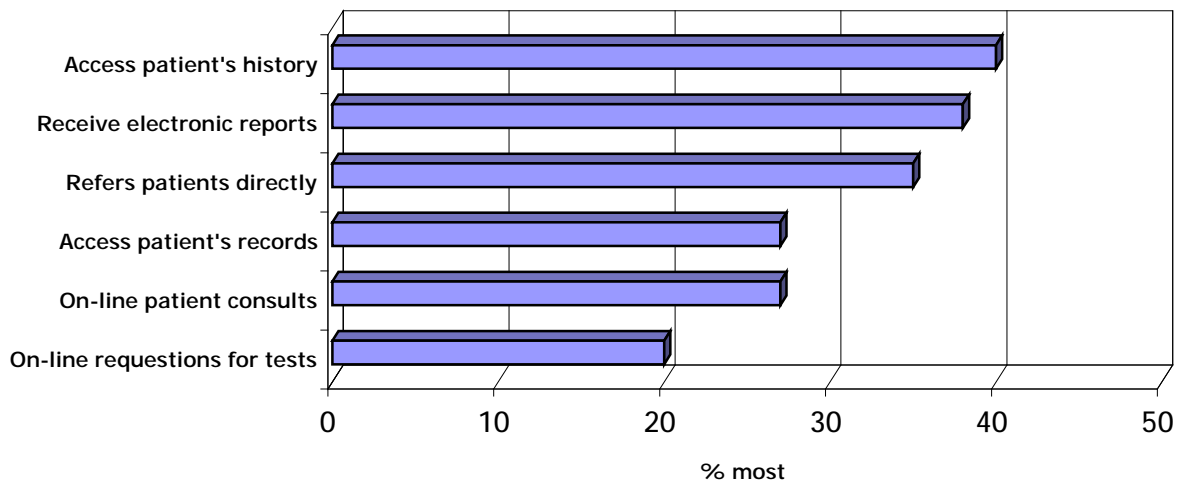
Types of Information from BCCA Website Used



The Cancer Manual (Treatment Guidelines) is the most commonly used resource.

Extranet Uses (i.e. what surgeons would use Extranet for)

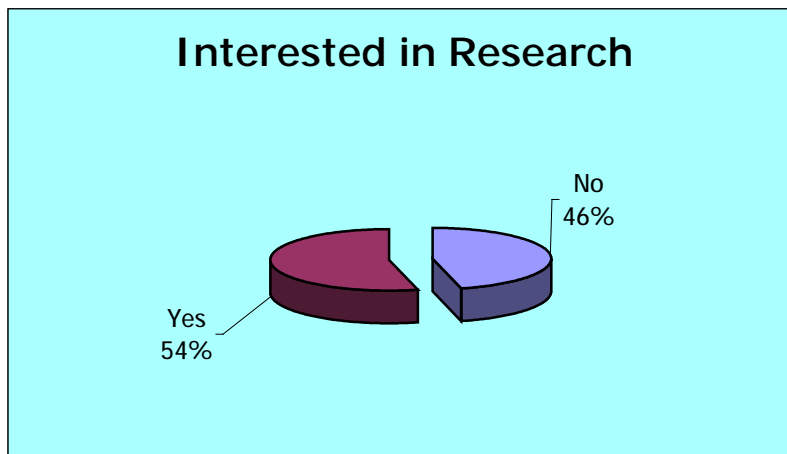
Extranet Services of Use



Respondents were most interested in using the Extranet for viewing patient reports as well as for referring patients directly to the BC Cancer Agency.

Research Interests

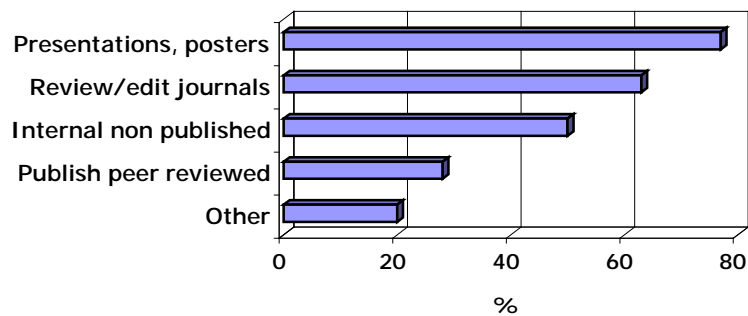
Interest in Research



Slightly over half expressed interest in research.

Previous Research Experience

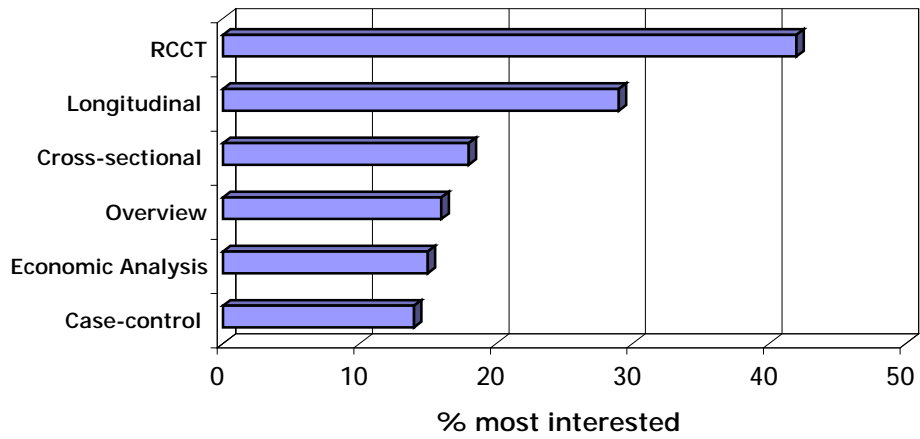
Previous Research Experience



The majority of respondents interested in research has attended and/or presented at meetings, while several had been reviewers/editors of journals. Well over half of those interested had been principal or associate researchers.

Current Research Interests

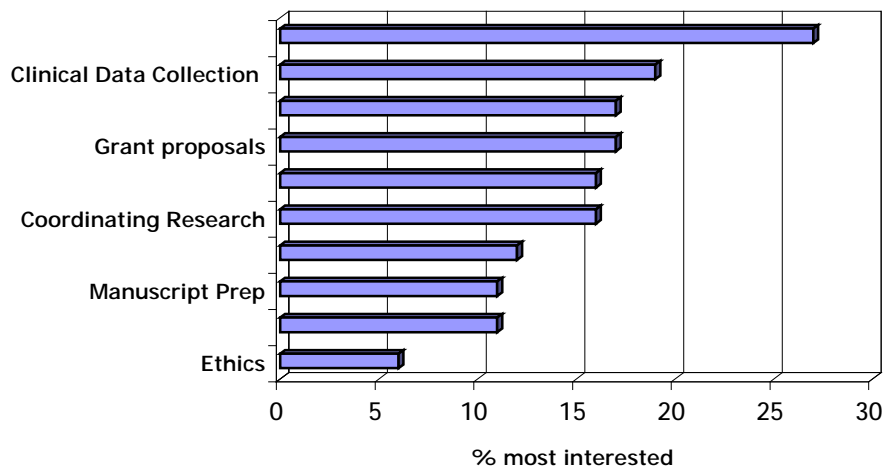
Current Research Interests



Randomised control trials are of most interest to researchers.

Assistance Needed (i.e. research area in which surgeons require assistance)

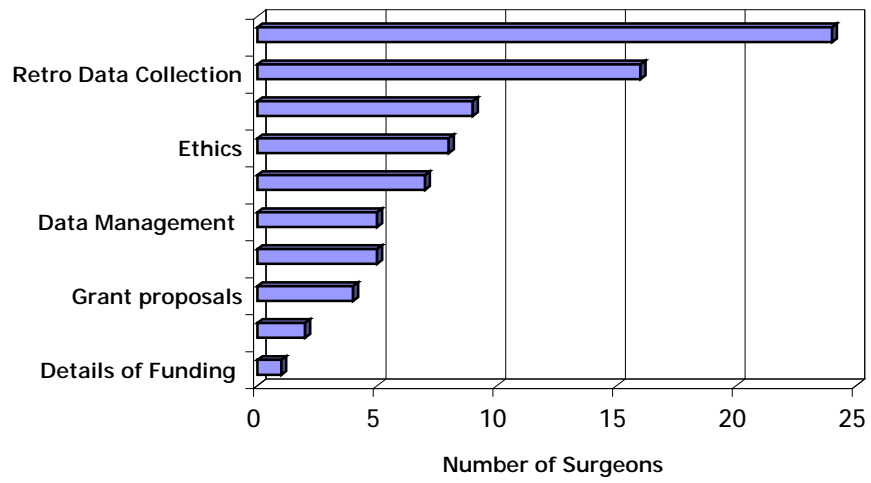
Area of Need



Researchers felt they most needed assistance with analysing data.

Skill Sharing (i.e. areas in which surgeons can provide assistance)

Assistance Capable of Providing



Researchers have skills in the collection of data that they are prepared to share.