

Evaluation of a Clinical Track Program in the Experiential Learning Curriculum

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BACKGROUND

- Advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPEs) provide exposure to a variety of clinical settings and prepare students for independent pharmacy practice.^{1,2}
- Some pharmacy schools have established clinical programs within the APPE curriculum in an effort to better prepare students for post-graduate residencies and to increase the competitiveness of track participants
- Clinical track programs prepare graduates to be highly competitive for residency programs nationally and have been previously recommended to other students.³
- The clinical track program was introduced at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) in 2012 and is defined as a 20-25 week program where students complete four to five APPEs at a single health-system
- Each clinical track site assigns a program coordinator who serves as the point person for student selection, rotation scheduling, project management, and other APPE activities.

OBJECTIVES

- To establish the motivation for participating in a clinical track
- To evaluate clinical track site coordinator and student satisfaction with clinical track program participation
- To determine the perceived benefits of participating in the clinical track program

METHODS

- Anonymous, online questionnaires to assess clinical track participants' perceptions of the clinical track experience were created and delivered to program graduates in 2017 and 2018
- A separate, similar questionnaire to assess program coordinators' perceptions of the clinical track program was developed and delivered to the clinical track program coordinators affiliated with UMSOP
- Demographic information and the responses of surveys were analyzed using descriptive statistics
- A 5-point scale score was assigned for each individual respondent
- Mean scores were compared using independent t-tests

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 52.9% of student participants have pharmacy technician experience in a health-system
- 85.7% of site coordinators completed a PGY-2 residency program
- 71.4% of site coordinators have practiced at their current institution for at least 10 years

RESULTS

Figure 1. Student Motivation for Clinical Track Program Participation

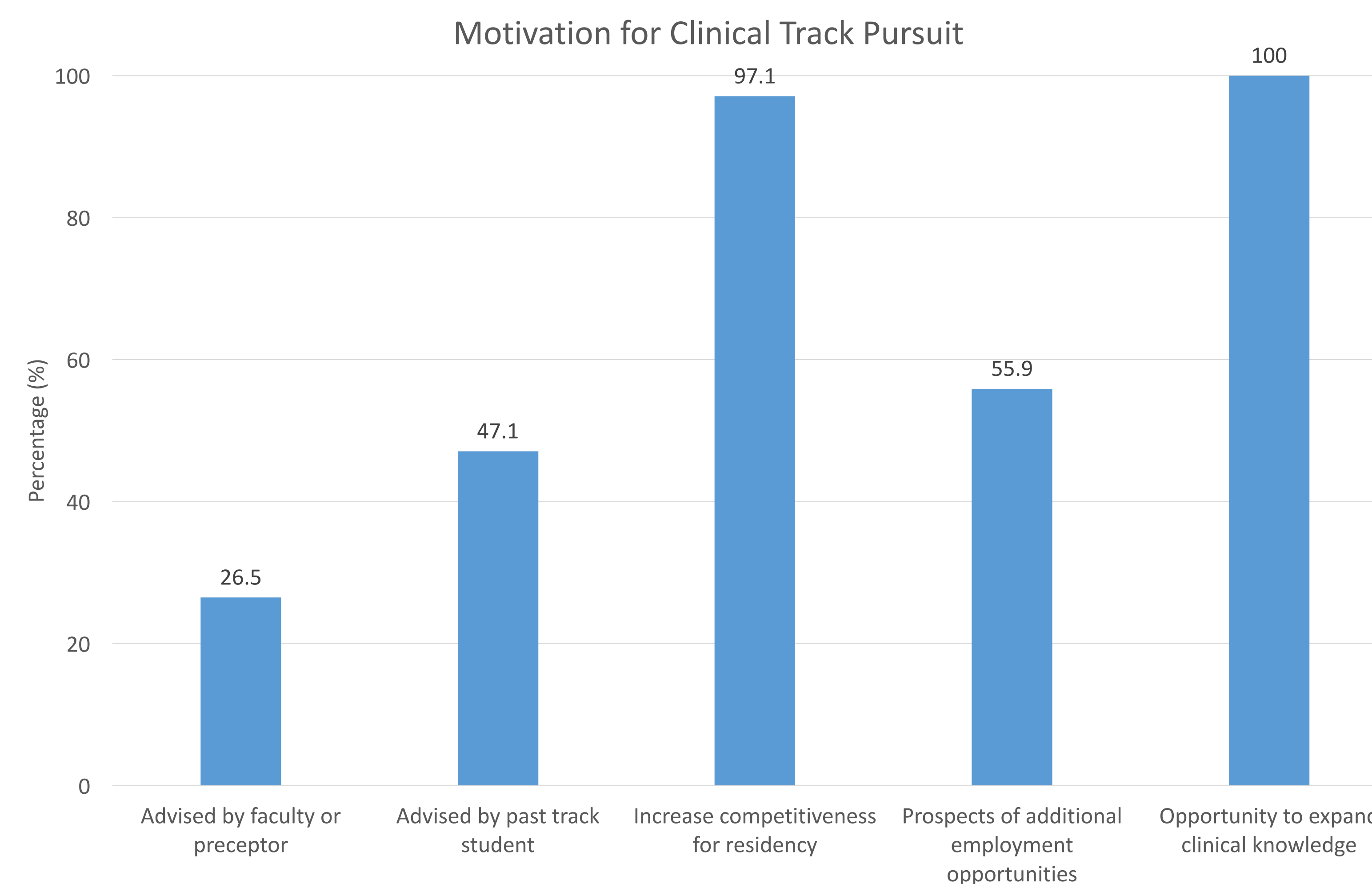
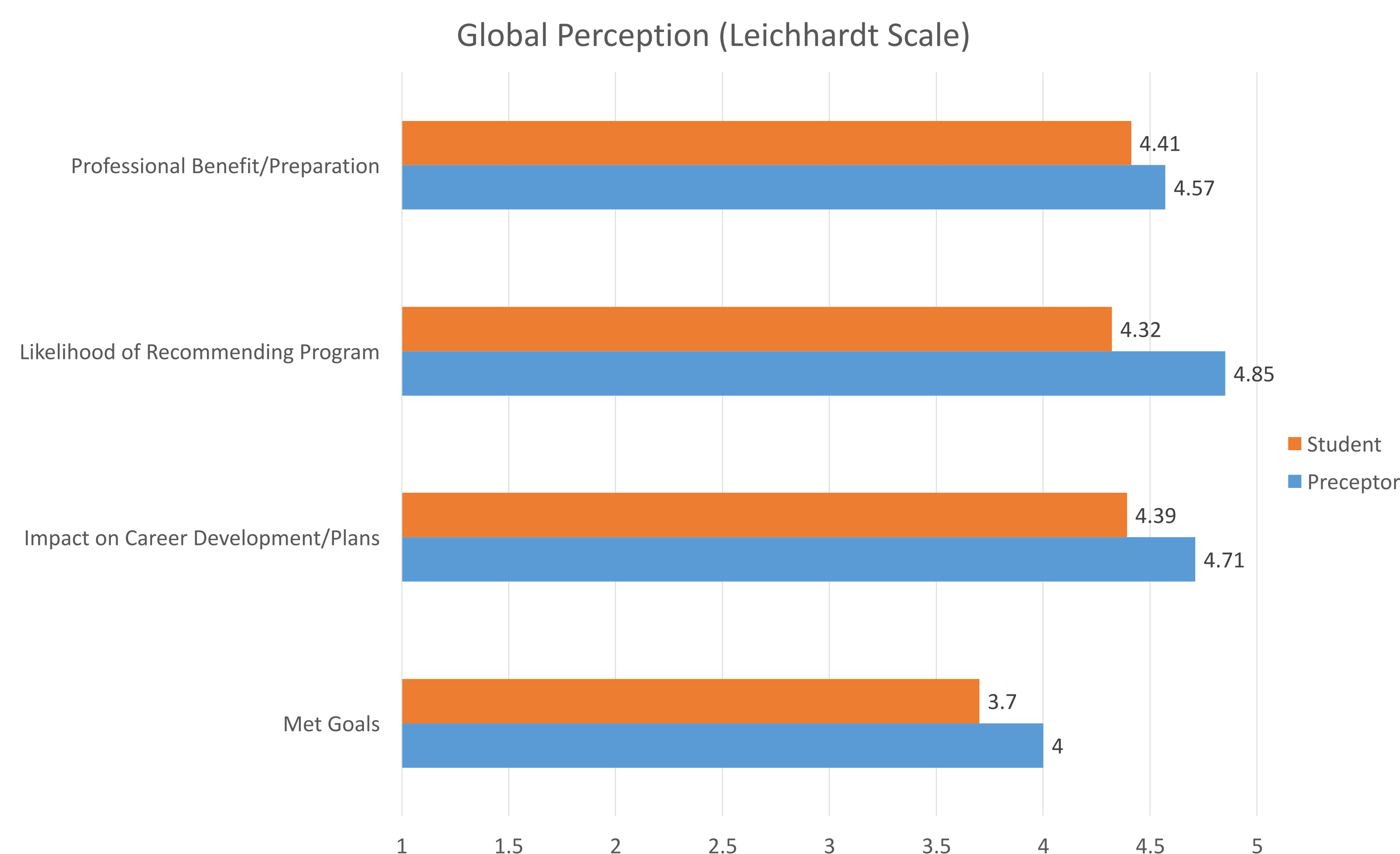


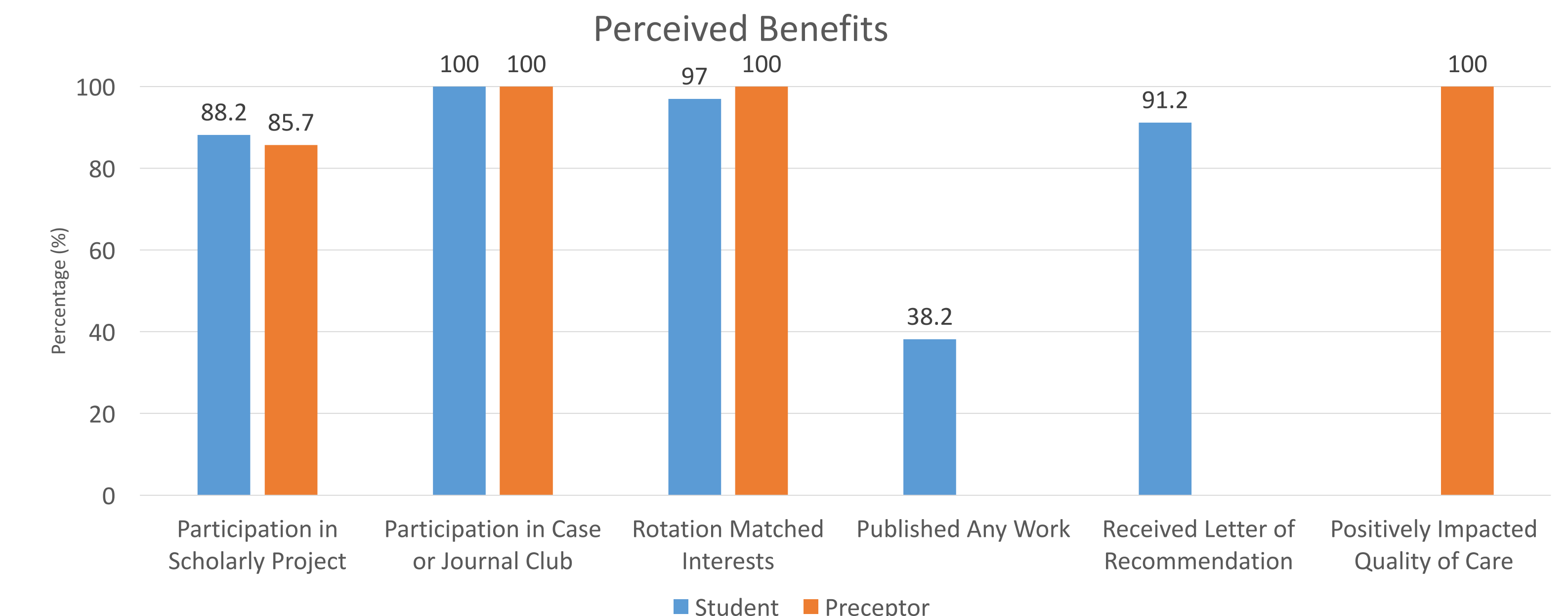
Figure 2. Satisfaction of Program Coordinators and Student Participants



Note: A mean score of >3 was considered a more favorable attitude about the clinical track program

RESULTS (CONTINUED)

Figure 3. Perceived Benefits of Clinical Track Program Participation



- 64% of coordinators responded to the questionnaire while 49% of the participants from the classes of 2017 and 2018 responded
- Of 34 students, 97% were motivated to participate in a clinical track program to become more competitive for residency with 92% intending on pursuing residency, and 100% were motivated by the opportunity to expand their clinical knowledge
- On a Likert scale from 1-5, students rated their professional development benefits with a mean score of 4.41 (± 0.92)
- Preceptors were significantly more likely to recommend the clinical track program than students ($p=0.02$)
- All program coordinators agreed that participating in a clinical track program decreased orientation time

CONCLUSIONS

- This study is one of the first to examine the satisfaction with and benefits of participating in a SOP clinical track program from both student and site coordinator perspectives.
- Students and coordinators are very satisfied with the program and report a wide range of benefits from participation.
- Students felt that participation in the clinical track increased their competitiveness when applying for residency positions, and all coordinators were confident in the preparation of clinical track students for a PGY-1 residency program.
- Other schools may consider implementation of a clinical track to enhance the competitive edge of their students when pursuing residency training.

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