

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

Most respondents attended in person (74.1%) for both day and the day I was the most attended by respondents (88.9%; Table 1). For both days, most respondents were affiliated from UPR-MSU (50.9%). The largest group of respondents was Alliance leaders (36.5%), followed by staff (26.9%; Table 2).

Table 1. Number of Attendees by Modality

Modality	n		
	Day I n=48	Day II n=46	Both Days* n=54
In person	39	37	40
Virtually	9	9	11
Hybrid	-	-	3

Note: Hybrid includes in-person and virtual modalities. *Only includes unique number of participants that attended both days.

Table 2. Participants by Affiliation and Alliance Role

Institution	n		
	Day I n=51	Day II n=49	Both Days* n=53
UPR-MSU	25	22	27
PHSU	10	11	11
UCC	7	6	7
Other†	9	9	8
Role	n=49	n=47	n=52
Leader	18	18	19
Staff	14	12	14
Advisory Member	6	6	7
Collaborator	1	1	1
Other‡	10	10	11

Note: UPR-MSU: University of Puerto Rico, Medical Science Campus; and PHSU: Ponce Health Science University.

*Only includes unique number of participants that attended both days.

†Other includes: Asociación Puertorriqueña del Pulmón (n=1), University of Texas Medical Branch (n=1), San Juan Bautista School of Medicine (n=2), MGH (n=1), UPR-Comprehensive Cancer Center (n=1), UPR-Rio Piedras (n=1), and Morehouse School of Medicine (n=1).

‡Other includes: Mentor (n=3), Pilot Project Awardee (n=2), Coordinator (n=2), Consultant (n=1), EAC member (n=1) and Laboratory student (n=1), and Unknown (n=1).

Activity: Alliance 2021 Retreat

Date: December 2 and 3, 2021

Registered: 122

Participants: 92 (62 in person and 30 virtual)

Surveyed: 54

BACKGROUND

The 2021 Alliance Retreat was a two-day event that brought together leaders, investigators, and support personnel from the partner's institutions to report and evaluate our performance over the past year. The Alliance Internal and External Advisory Committees, and community members participated in this Retreat in a hybrid modality. The Retreat was offered on December 2 and 3, 2021 at Royal Sonesta Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico and was transmitted virtually through the Zoom Platform. Click the following link to know more about the [Retreat Program](#).

Ninety-two individuals attended this Retreat, 62 in person and 30 virtually. The Tracking and Evaluation Core (TEC) of the Alliance evaluated participants' experiences and impact through a post online questionnaire in REDCap. Of the total of attendees, 54 (58.7%) completed the online questionnaire. This report presents results from this questionnaire.

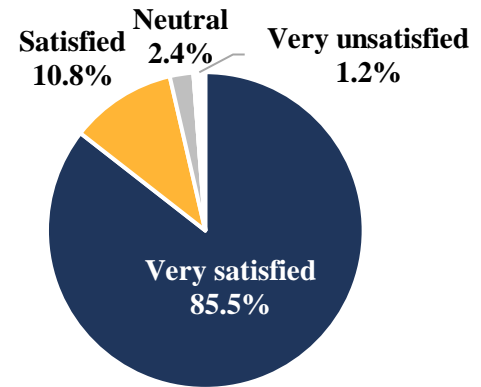


EXPERIENCE

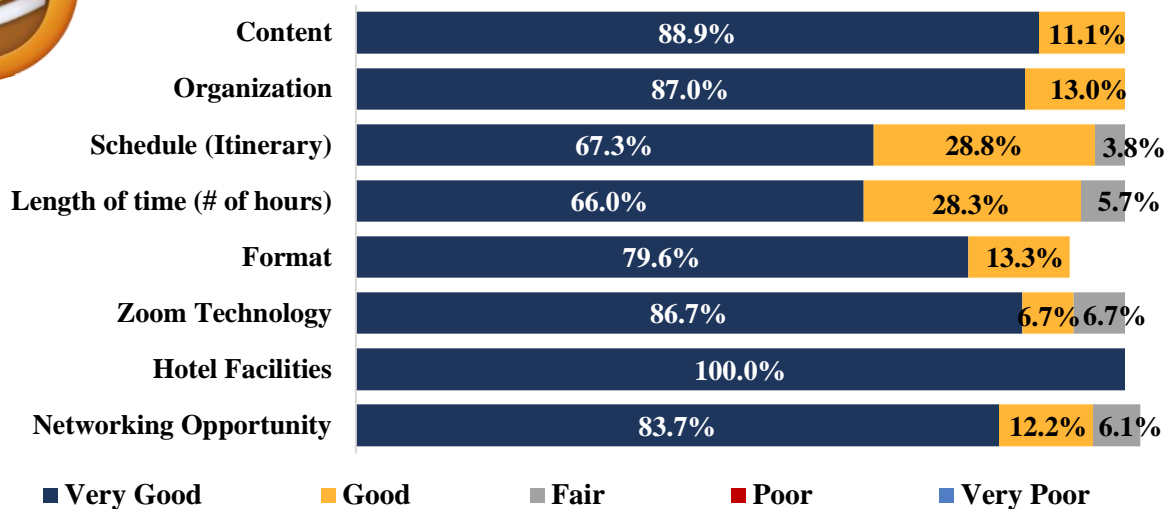
The 96.3% (n=44) of respondents were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the Retreat experience (Graph 1). Most surveyed (96.3% or more) were “very good” or “good” the Retreat in terms of content, organization, schedule, length of time, format, zoom technology, hotel facilities and networking opportunity (Graph 2).



Graph 1. Overall Quality of the Retreat (n=54)



Graph 2. Satisfaction with the Retreat (n=54)



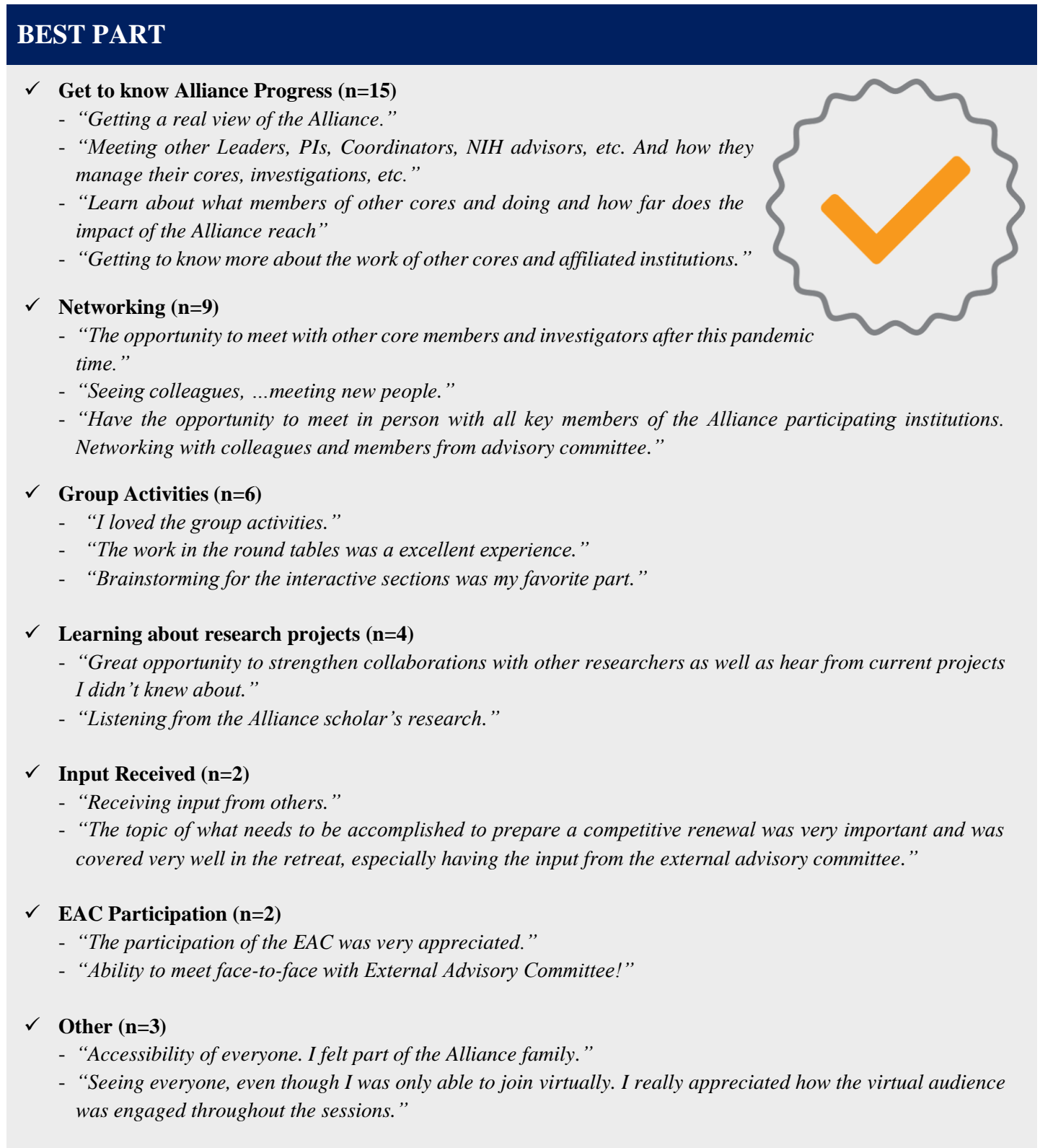
Over 90.6% of the surveyed were “strongly agreed” and “agreed” that this Retreat served to promote commitment, sense of ownership, and participatory and continuous quality improvement among the Alliance members; helped to know more about the progress and outcomes; and encouraged collaboration between Cores and institutions and other stakeholders. Furthermore, the 98.2% or more indicated the retreat fulfilled with their expectations and was a productive experience (Table 3).

Table 3. Retreat Impact (n=54)

Statements	Level of Agreement <i>n</i> (%)				
	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Neutral	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed
This retreat served to promote commitment, sense of ownership, and participatory and continuous quality improvement among the Alliance members.	43 (82.7)	8 (15.4)	1 (1.9)	-	-
This retreat helped to know more about the Alliance progress and outcomes up to date.	48 (90.6)	5 (9.4)	-	-	-
This retreat encouraged collaboration between Cores, institutions, and other stakeholders	37 (69.8)	14 (26.4)	2 (3.8)	-	-
This retreat fulfilled my expectations	38 (70.4)	15 (27.8)	1 (1.9)	-	-
Overall, participating in this Retreat was a productive and beneficial experience	46 (85.2)	8 (14.8)	-	-	-

Figure 1 and 2 include participants input regarding the best part, areas of improvements, and recommendations for this Retreat.

Figure 1. Retreat Strengths and Areas for Improvement



AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

✓ Additional Networking Opportunity (n=6)

- *“More networking opportunities. We were assigned to the same group for both days, so we got to work with the same people.”*
- *“It should have been good to have more spaces for informal networking and social interactions.”*

✓ Additional Time (n=4)

- *“More time for the interactive sessions.”*
- *“More time to present.”*
- *“Half an hour is not enough for the group sections.”*

✓ Materials (n=4)

- *“Make possible the downloading of the Program.”*
- *“Link to recorded sessions after the retreat for re-viewing.”*

✓ Time Management (n=3)

- *“Keep schedule on time. Be stricter in time keeping.”*
- *“Respect times.”*

✓ Other (n=1)

- *“The cold air conditioning was the least I liked.”*



Figure 2. Participants Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS

Program

- *“It is can be up to 4:00 or 4:30pm, and we can have more time to network.”*
- *“More networking activities after each day, like a social cocktail or something.”*
- *“Would suggest one or two longer talks on key projects.”*
- *“In the dynamics, maybe instead of writing the ideas of what would be beneficial to the Alliance renewal encourage to think of ways to make those ideas viable, encourage the practice of turning ideas into reality, and maybe not so much to think of innovative methods but strengthening some of the foundation before incorporating new ideas.”*

Format

- *“Maybe to add one day so time to discuss ideas in the round-tables would be more. Or to make a follow up event only to develop the ideas for new submission.”*
- *“There needs to be additional effort to report Core activities across the Alliance so that all Cores know what is going on in other Cores. It’s always liked a suppressive which is not necessarily a good thing.”*
- *“Better communication strategies.”*

Scheduling

- *“Perhaps doing it between Friday and Saturday instead.”*
- *“Perhaps a full hour of lunch should be allowed, instead of the 40 minutes, which was unrealistic. Another alternative is to give a presentation over lunch, if you want to save time.”*

Other

- *“There should be a moderator to repeat the questions of the audience.”*
- *“Improve the use of technologies.”*
- *“Circulate all core’s presentations so we know what each one is reporting on.”*



Figure 3. Additional Comments



- *“It really enjoyed this retreat, looking forward to next year”*
- *“Good job to all organizers!”*
- *“Please, repeat this activity next year!”*
- *“Excellent resources and presentations”*
- *“My congratulations on an outstanding meeting”*
- *“Amazing activity to engage and motivate teams. Congratulations!”*
- *“After hearing about all the great things that are happening and meeting other members of the Alliance I felt a renewed energy to do science.”*