

# The Impact Of A Student-Led Radiation Oncology Interest Group On Medical Learner Interest And Access To The Specialty

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## Purpose

- In many Canadian undergraduate medical education (UGME) curricula, radiation oncology (RO) topics are limited, and exposure in clerkship is restricted to elective rotations
- Medical learners receive scant exposure to RO, possibly impacting global oncology awareness, access and interest
- In December 2020, McGill medical students created the RO Interest Group (ROIG)
- With growing interest, we hypothesized that the ROIG had an impact on strengthening pre-existing interest and on fostering new interest in RO

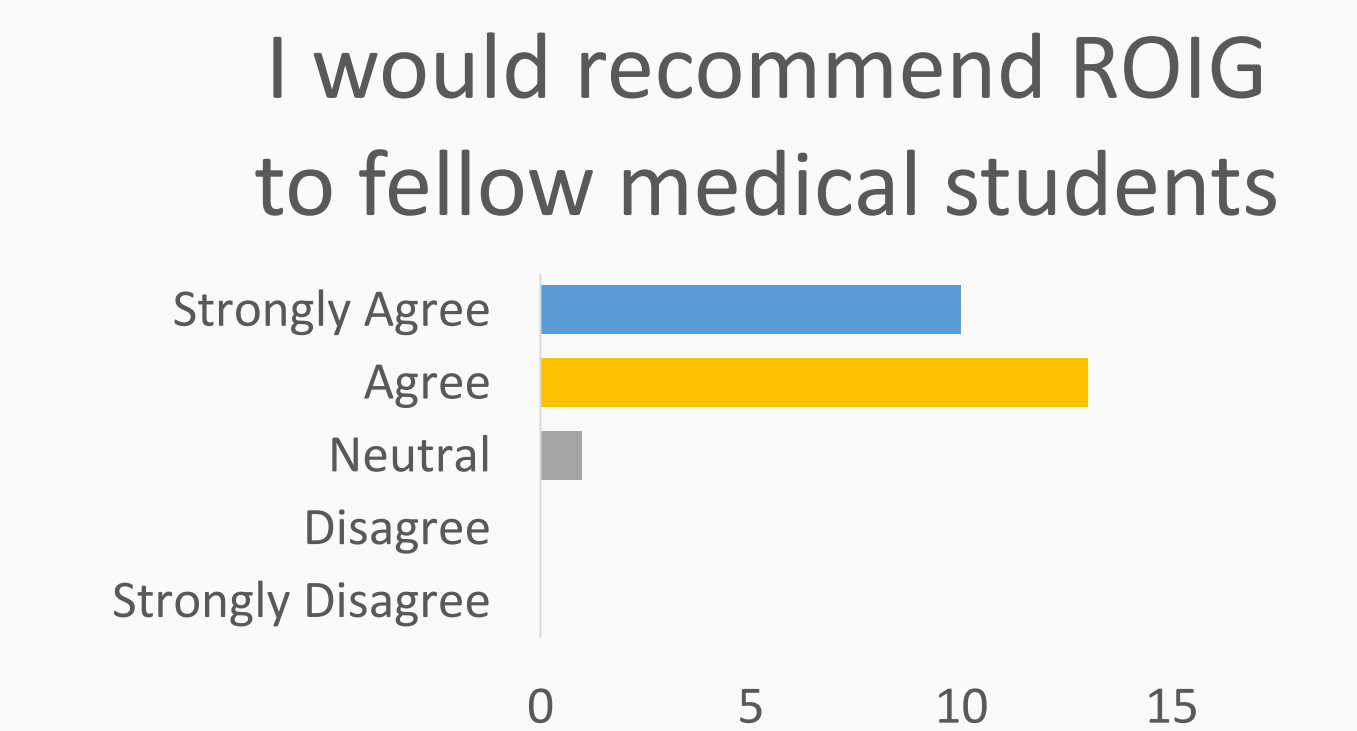
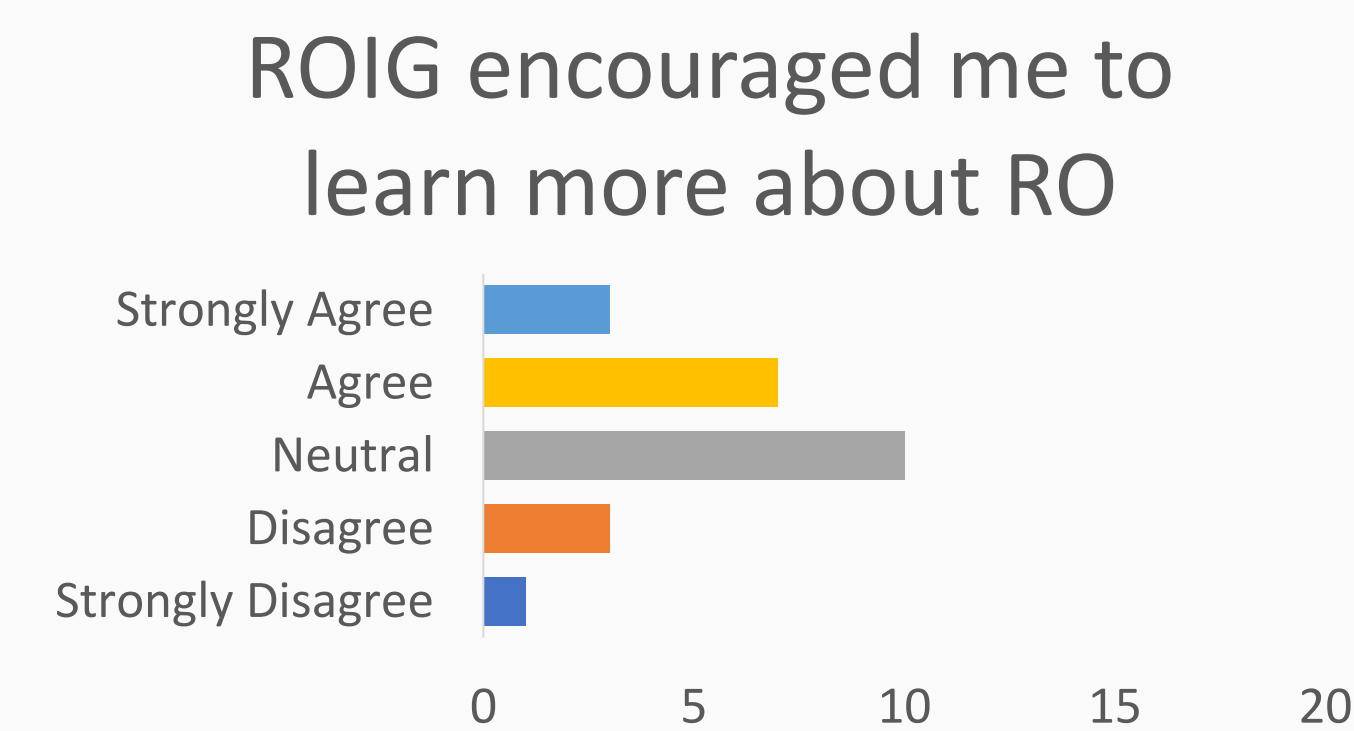
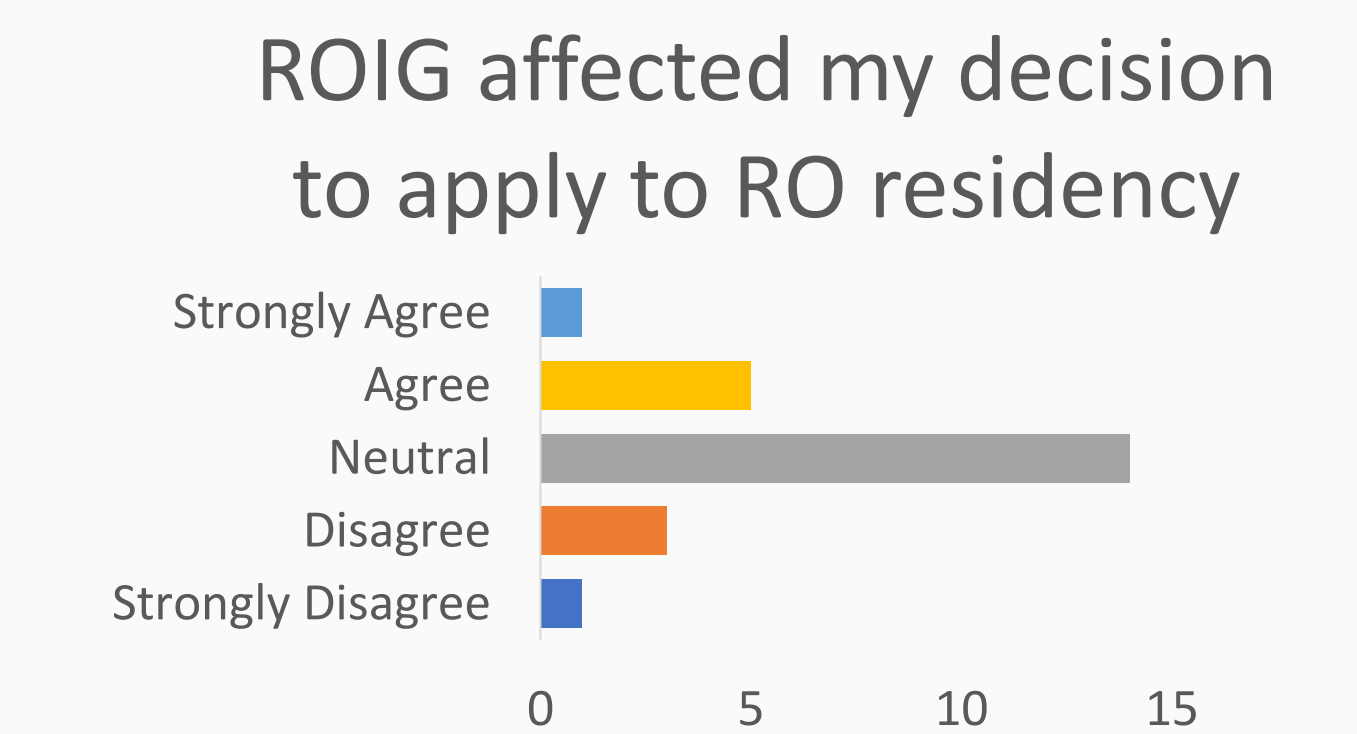
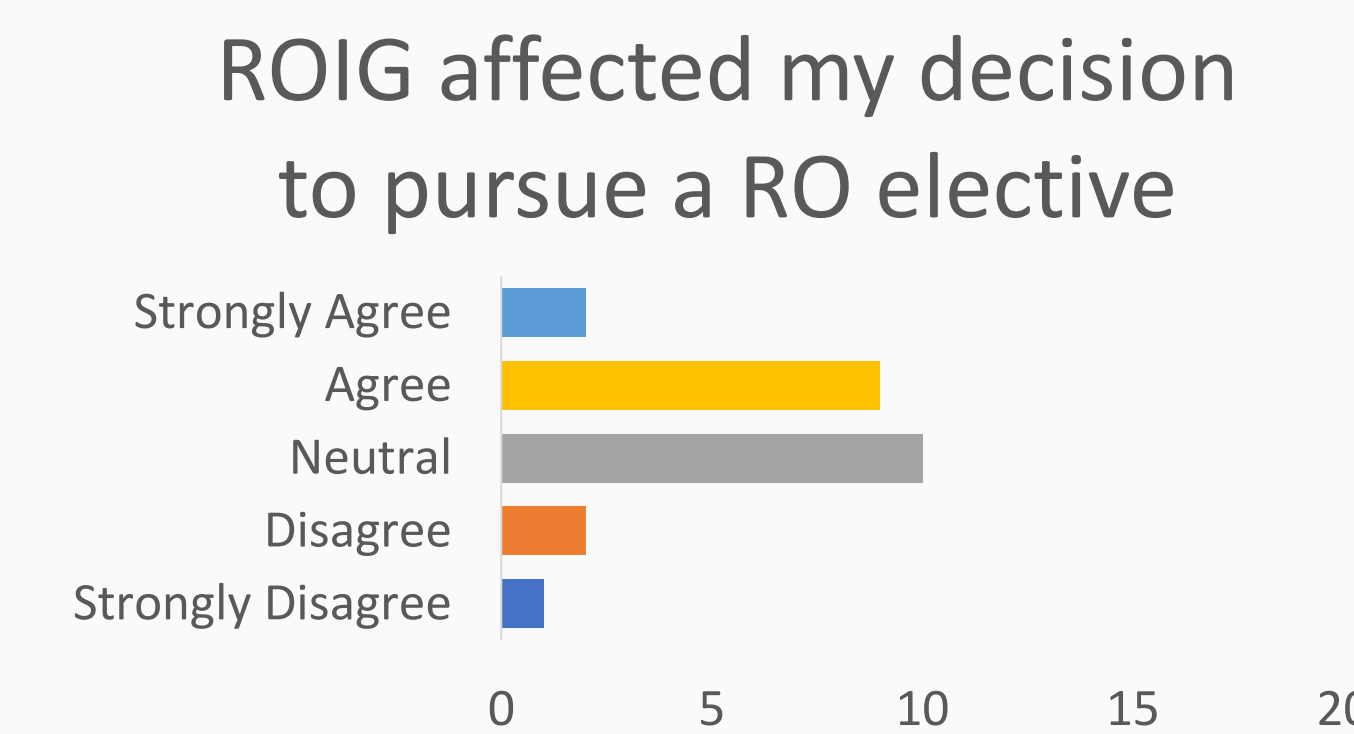
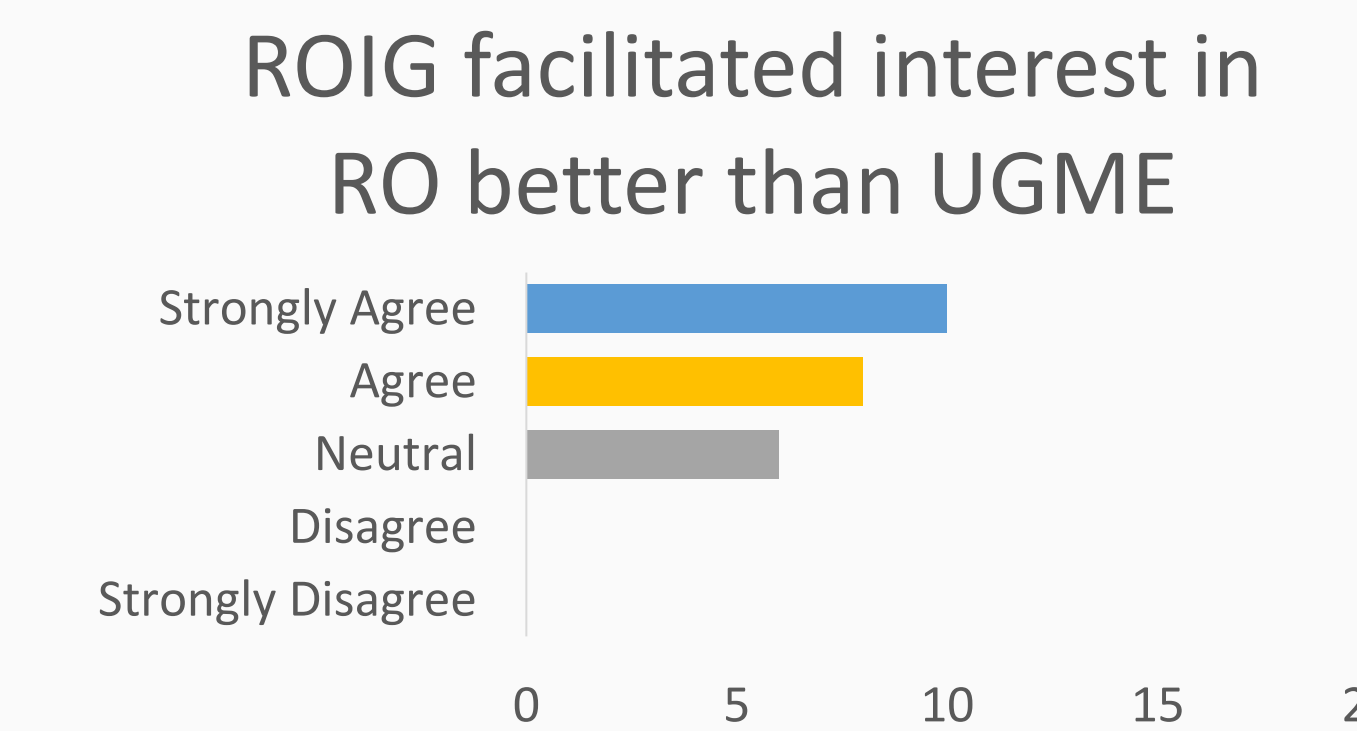
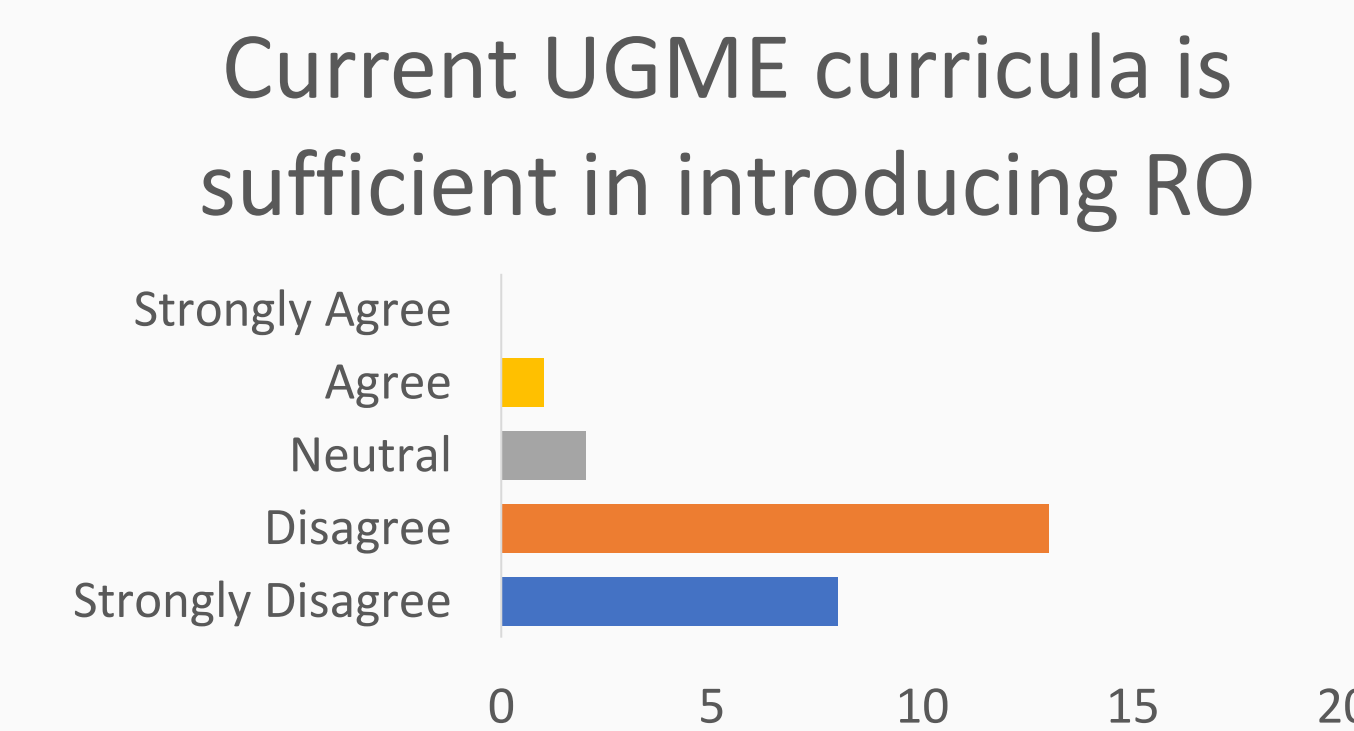
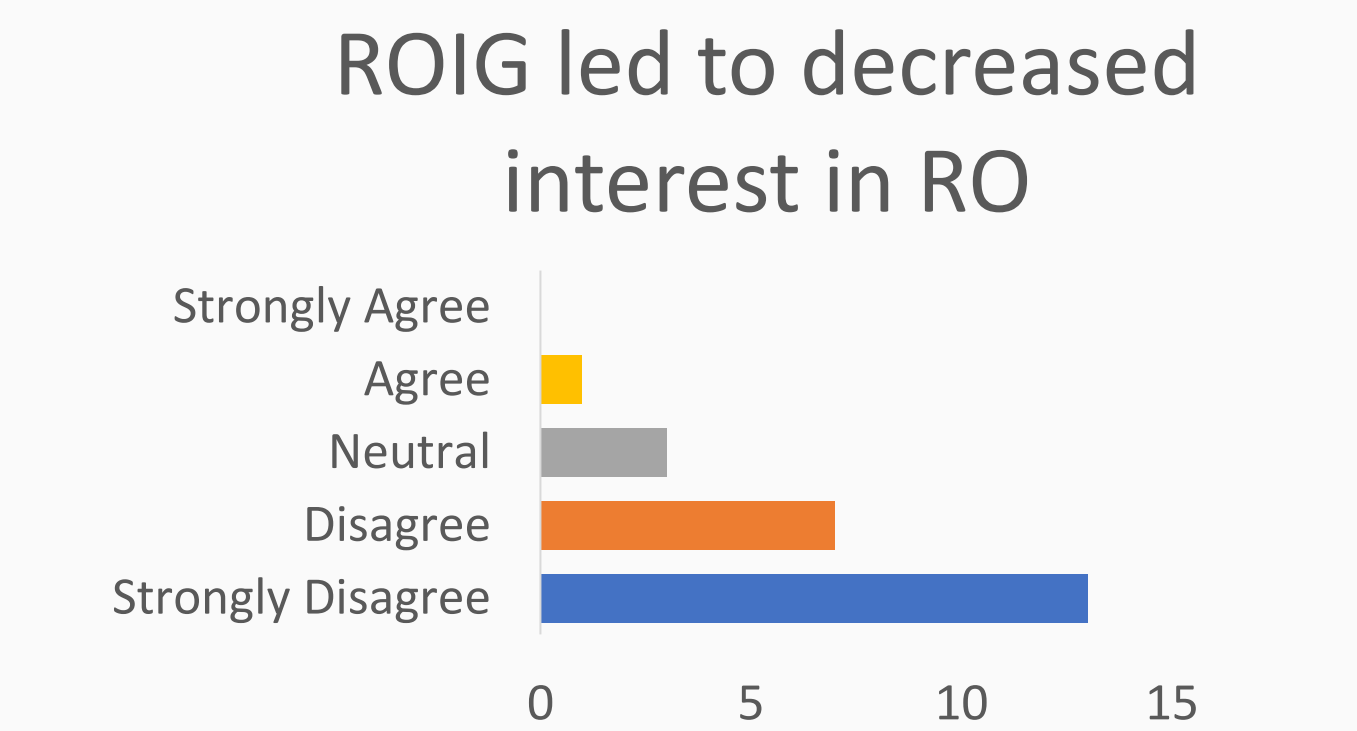
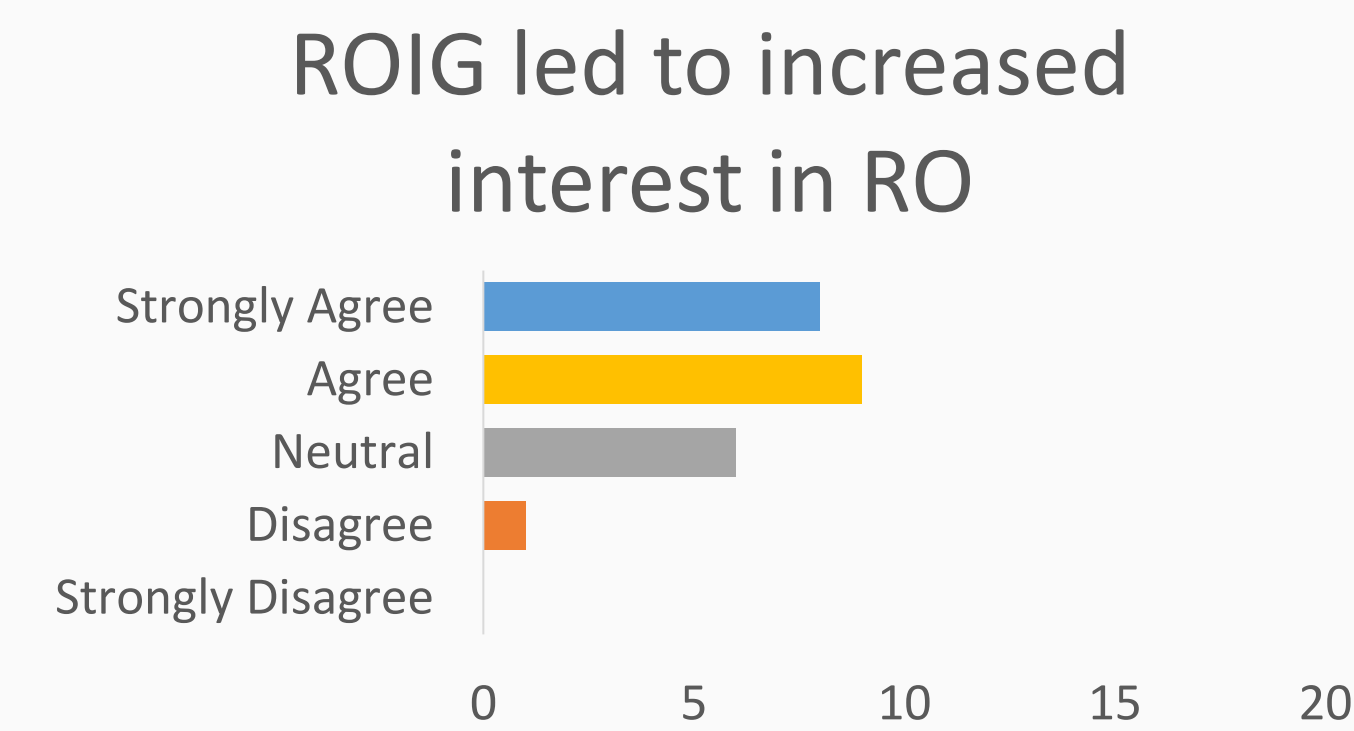
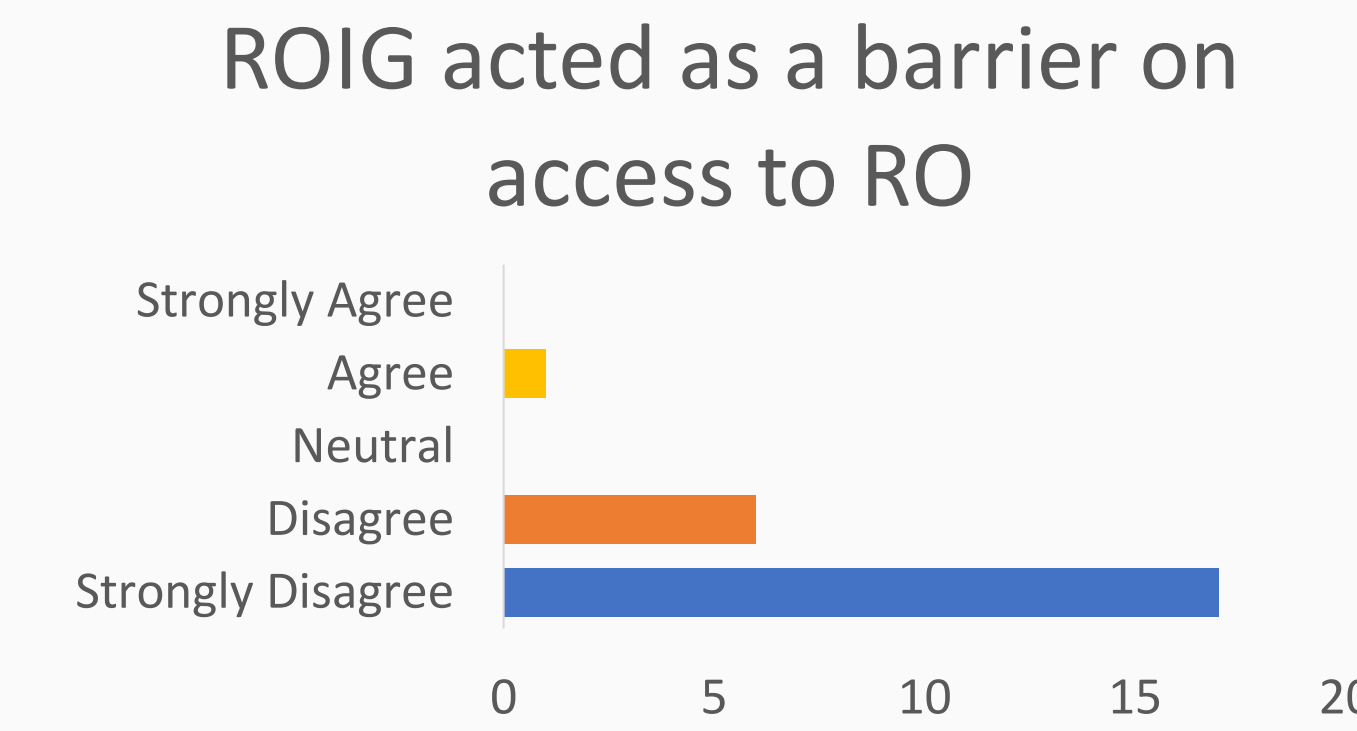
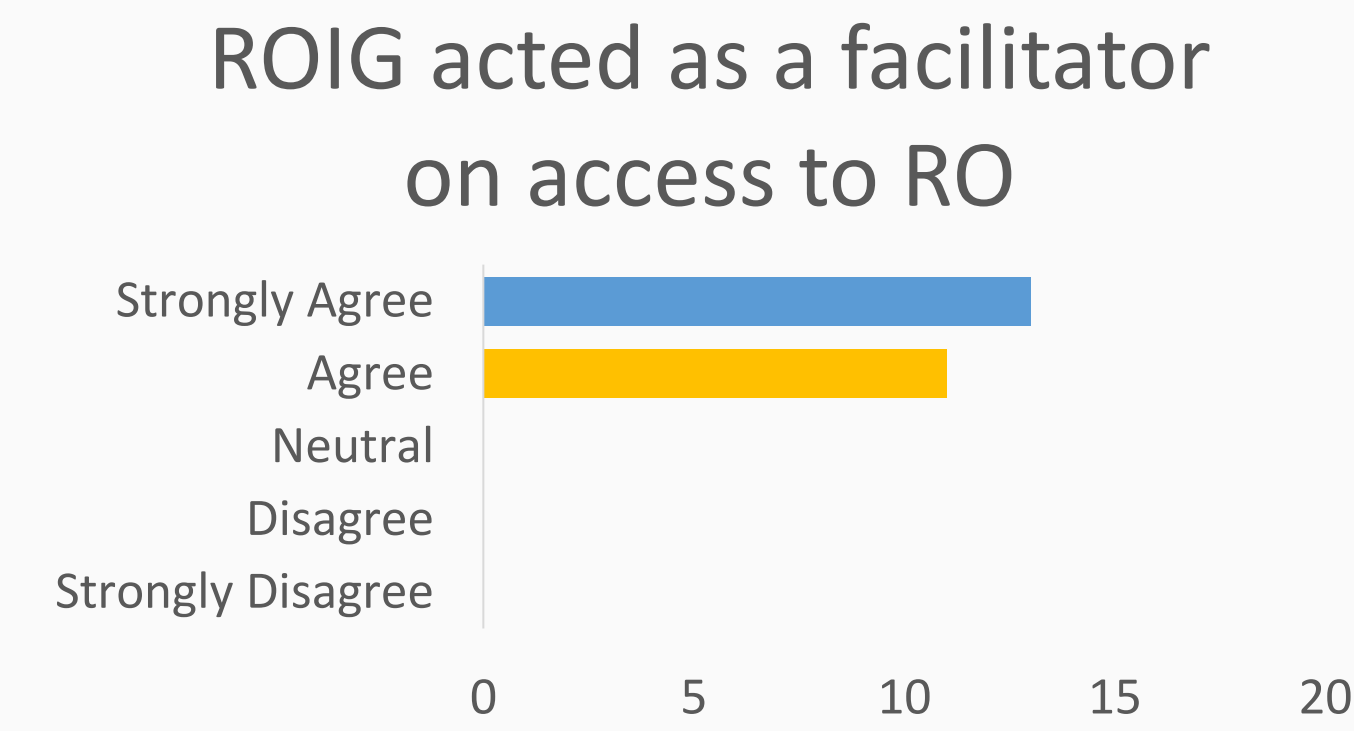
## Radiation Oncology Interest Group

- Since 2021, ROIG facilitated 8 unique events, including online (Zoom) and in-person formats:
  - What is RO? (Spring 2021, Fall 2021, 2022)
  - RO Post-Match Talk (2021, 2022, 2023)
  - Introduction to Treatment Planning (2021)
  - RO Physics and Radiobiology Workshop (Spring 2022, Winter 2022)
  - Canadian RO Practices Panel (2022)
  - RO Department Tour (2022)
  - Day in the Life of an Oncology Trainee (2023)
- Attendee demographics:
  - 114 unique attendees attended one or more events
  - Attendees were pre-medical or medical students at 11 Canadian universities

## Initial Survey on the Impact of the ROIG

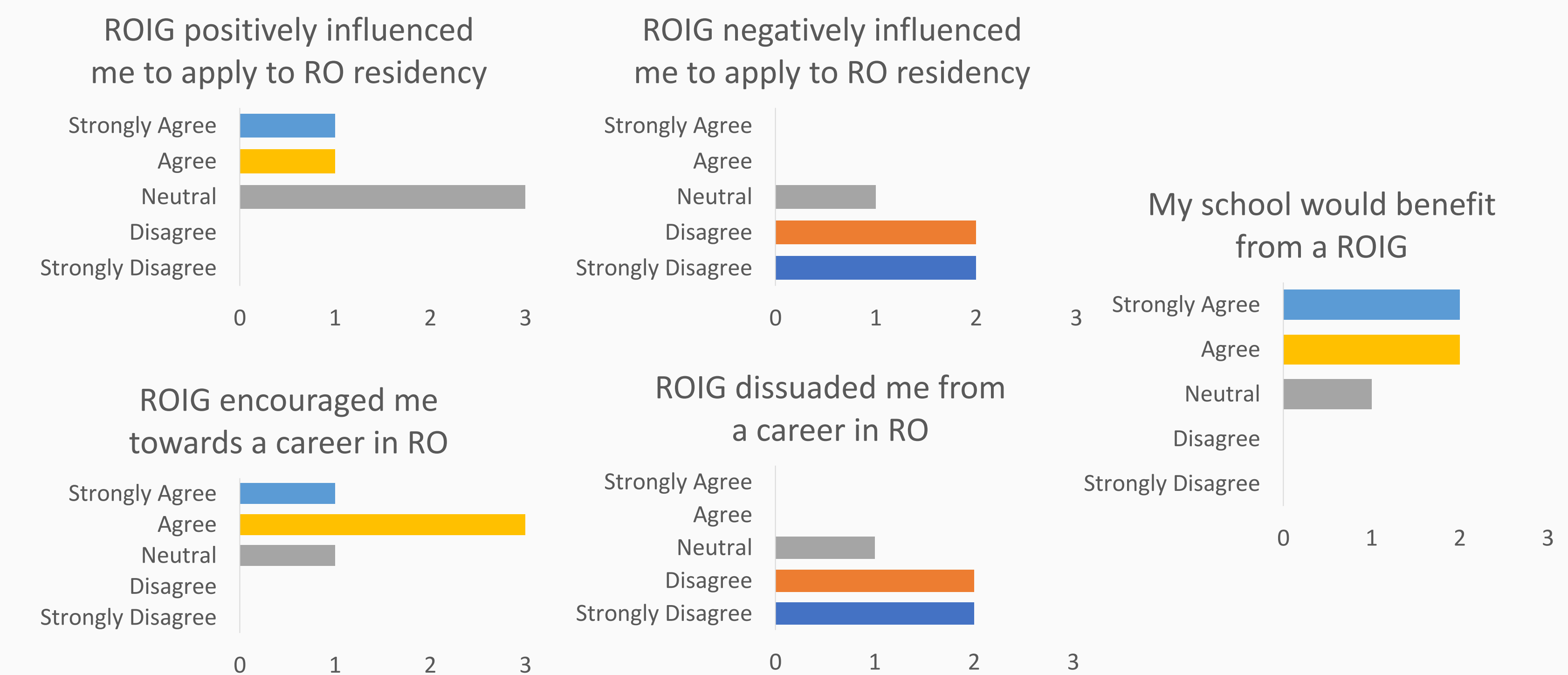
- To evaluate the impact of the ROIG, a Google Forms survey was distributed to all individuals who attended any event via e-mail and social media in December 2022
- The survey consisted of several multiple-choice and drop-down menu questions, ten quantitative five-point Likert-scale questions and three qualitative text questions
- 24 of 114 attendees completed the first survey (21%), all of whom were current medical students. 12 of 24 participants (50%) were fourth-year medical students
- 12 of 24 participants (50%) attended more than one ROIG event
- The Physics and Radiobiology Lectures, and Career Panels were the favourite events, and there was no recurrent least-favourite event
- Suggestions for future events included: networking events, talks on artificial intelligence, a patient panel discussion, and shadowing opportunities
- Six graduating participants consented to a follow-up survey after CaRMS Match Day

## Initial Survey on the Impact of the ROIG



## Follow-Up Survey for Graduating Participants

- 5 of 6 (83%) participants who consented to follow-up completed the second survey in April 2023
- Five quantitative five-point Likert-scale questions, three qualitative multiple-choice questions on match data, and a qualitative free-form text box were used
- Four (80%) participants applied to RO, and three ranked RO as their first-choice specialty
- All four participants that applied to RO matched to RO residency



## Conclusions and Future Directions

- The ROIG was created to address gaps in RO exposure
- Feedback from our first survey on the ROIG was positive
- Our follow-up survey suggested that the ROIG:
  - May influence decisions to consider RO residency and careers
  - Is a beneficial interest group in medical schools
- Limitations of our study include a limited sample size and sampling bias
- Future work includes implementing new events and expanding the ROIG to other universities
- Interest groups may play a role in promoting awareness, access and interest of niche specialties such as RO
- We would like to acknowledge Dr. Sarah Kordlouie (ROIG co-founder), Dr. Ian Gerard (event facilitator), our interest group's current and previous executives, and all our prior panelists for their contributions