



XXVIII IFSO World Congress

9-12 September 2025 | Santiago, Chile

WHY I BELIEVE THAT OBSERVERSHIP PROGRAMS ARE WORTH IT

G. Prager

IFSO 2025 Santiago

Combined Therapies, The Dawn of a New Era

ifso2025.org

Observership increases quality of care

Expanding physicians' knowledge

Improving their skills

Fostering a culture of teamwork, innovation and networking!



cutting-edge techniques - global standards - best practices

commit to surgical excellence, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes and a higher quality of care.

Impact of Participation in an International Surgical Observership Program: Results of an Online Survey

Nancy Valencia-Rojas¹, Edgar B Rodas², Paula Ferrada³, Michel B Aboutanos⁴

The present survey adds further evidence of the **positive impact** that international observerships offer to physicians in training

Panamerican Journal of Trauma, Critical Care & Emergency Surgery (2019): 10.5005/jp-journals-10030-1248

Clinical/Basic Science Research Article

THE OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL OF
ORTHOPAEDIC TRAUMA

OPEN

Orthopaedic trauma observerships in North America for international surgeons: the visitors' perspective

Mayur Urva, MD^a, Abigail Cortez, MD^a, Toshali Katyal, BS^b, David W. Shearer, MD, MPH^a, Saam Morshed, MD, MPH, PhD^a, Theodore Miclau, MD^a, Madeline C. MacKechnie, MS^a, Sanjeev Sabharwal, MD, MPH^{a,b,*}, COACT Study Group

helpful in improving their surgical and clinical skills. However, financial constraints and resource limitations

OTAI (2023) e229

WHEN should you go for Obeservership?

1. Rookie

- Beginning of your surgical career: to see other teams/surgeons performing at highest standard: Tipps and tricks...

Copy/Paste

- Don't hesitate to ask for proctoring!



„Take the good things with you and leave the bad ones here“ (G.P)

WHEN should you go for Obeservership?

2. Fellowship finished

- You want to run your „own show“
- Looking for innovations
- You want to perfect your technique



2002 G Prager visited J Himpens
Sleeve Gastrectomy

WHEN should you go for Obeservership?

3. Expert

- You are already an expert but you want to implement a new technique...
- 2016 GP → Madrid (A. Torres&A.Sanchez-Pernaute)



>500 SADI-S performed



OBSERVERSHIP PROGRAM IN METABOLIC BARIATRIC SURGERY 2024



Upgrade your skills in MBS
Learn from the most experienced experts in the world

APPLY NOW!
Deadline June 8, 2024

The Observership is meant to offer members in the **early phase of their career** the chance to visit the best MBS centres in the world for a period of **one to three weeks**, to do an amazing experience and bring back home knowledge and new skills

max amount of the grant: 2,500
USD\$

20 observerships

50.000 USD\$ in 2024
→ 100.000 USD \$ in 2025

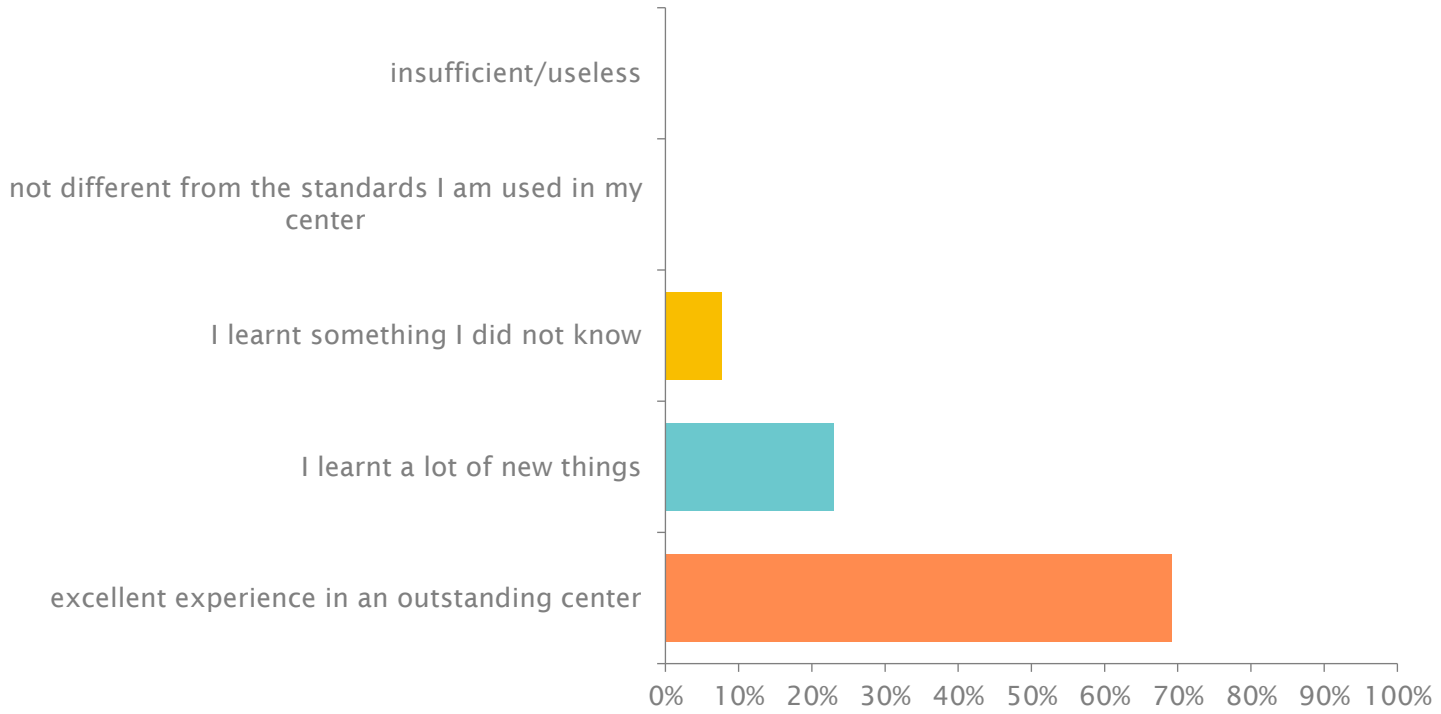
97 applications

16 Surgical Observerships
(EC sponsored 1 extra)

5 IH: Criteria to be defined

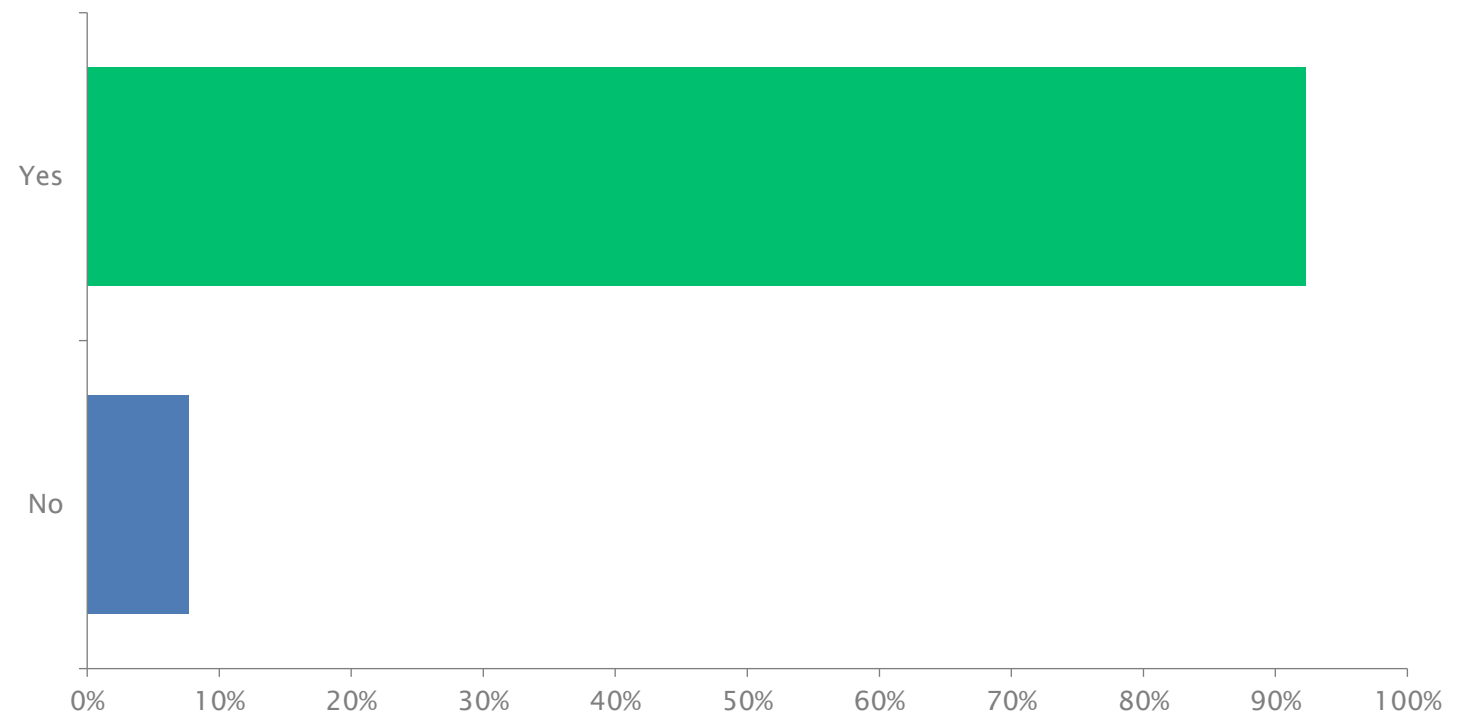
Q6: On scale of 1-5 how would you rate this observership experience:

• Answered: 13 Skipped: 0



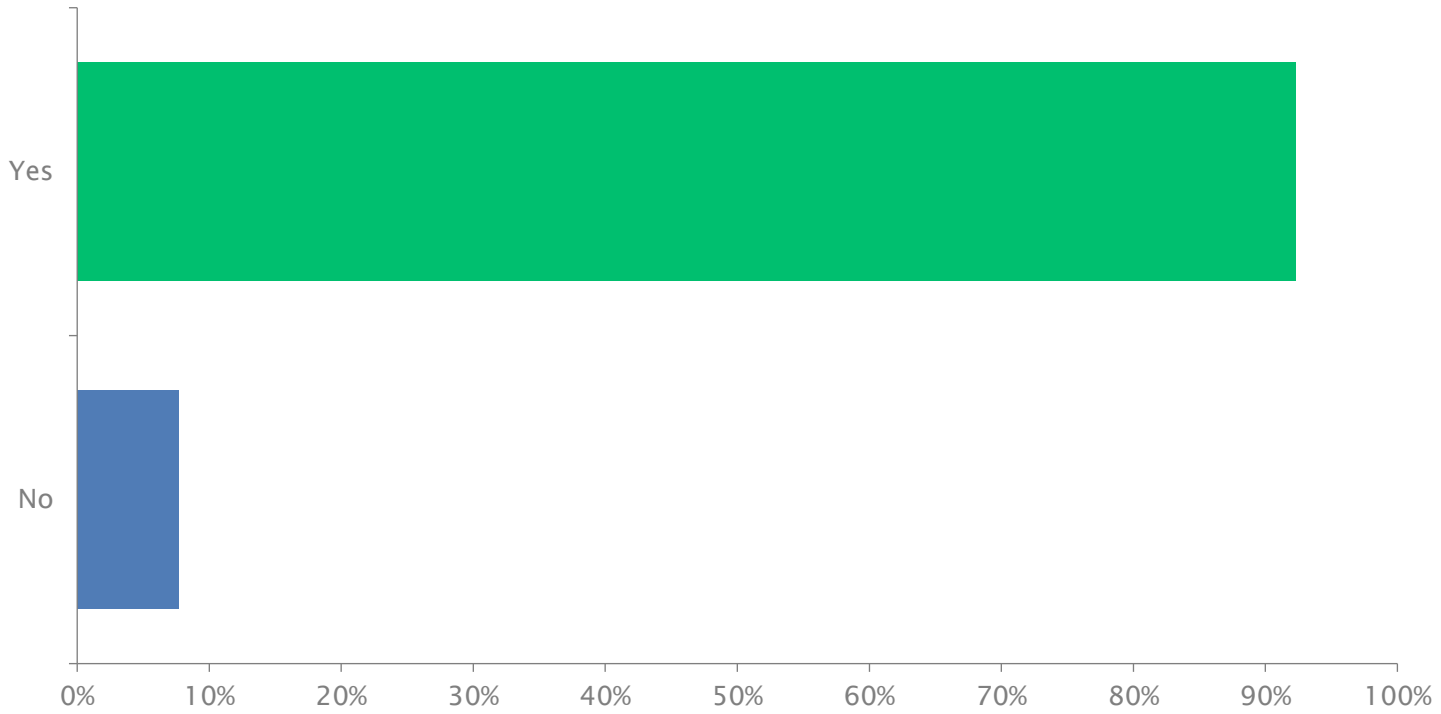
Q9: Did you meet your objective for this observership?

• Answered: 13 Skipped: 0



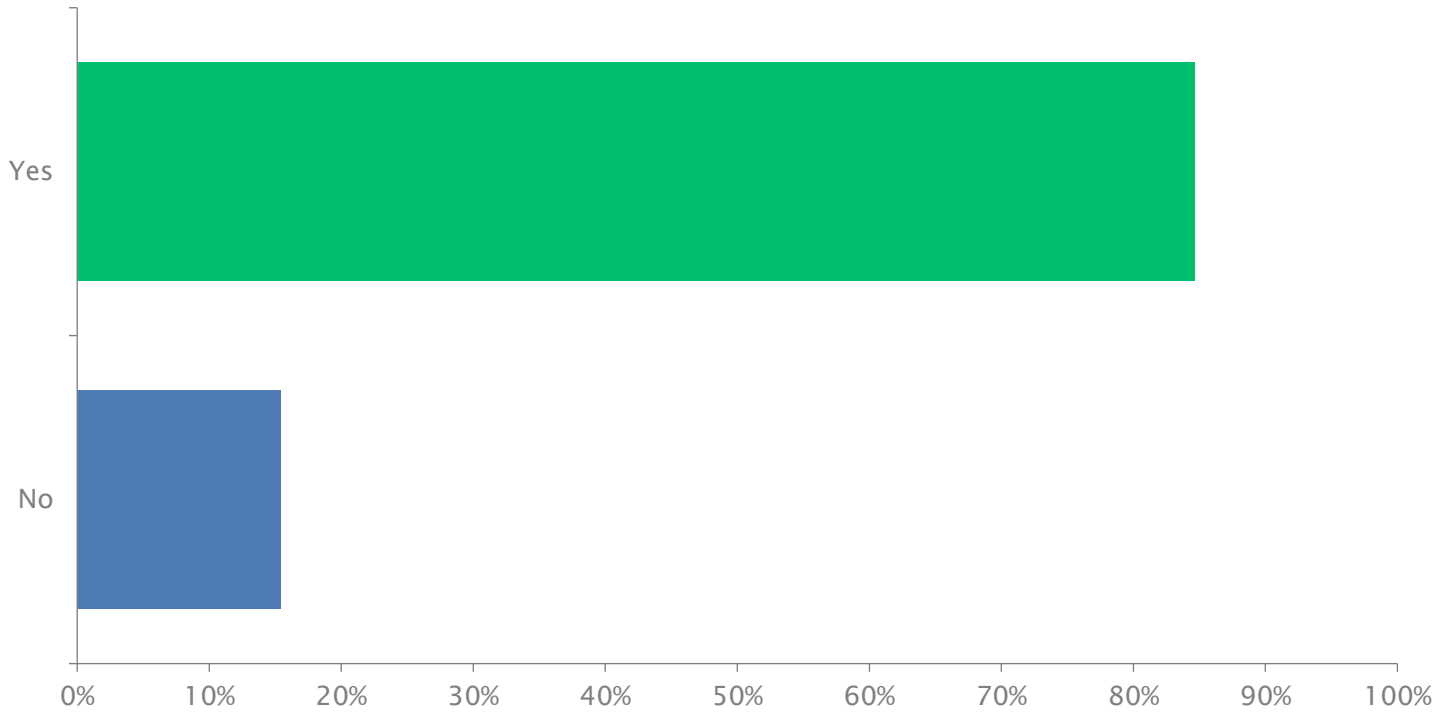
Q10: Will you recommend to others to apply to this Observership?

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Q11: Was there an opportunity to observe the MDT in MBS?

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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
insufficient/useless	0.00%	0
not different from the standards I am used in my center	0.00%	0
I learnt something I did not know	7.69%	1
I learnt a lot of new things	23.08%	3
excellent experience in an outstanding center	69.23%	9
TOTAL		13



Scopinaro Foundation Committee:



Chair: Martin Fried

Uniquely equipped with **100.000 Euros**

Goals: To help to develop Metabolic/Bariatric Surgery (MBS) in countries where there is a need. The intention is to support and promote preferably but not only **young surgeons and IH members (<45 years)** and national societies

supported activities:

- travel
- grants
- training courses
- help in establishing/developing national societies
- support in establishing national registries
- mentoring and tutoring.

Foundation Committee composition:

Chair: Martin Fried

Vice-Chair: Luigi Angrisani

4 members of the BOT including the chair of the BOT

5 members nominated by the Chapters

Young IFSO president

IH president

Observership: ALWAYS!

= continuous learning

Open your mind

Beyond one's own nose



International Clinical Immersions

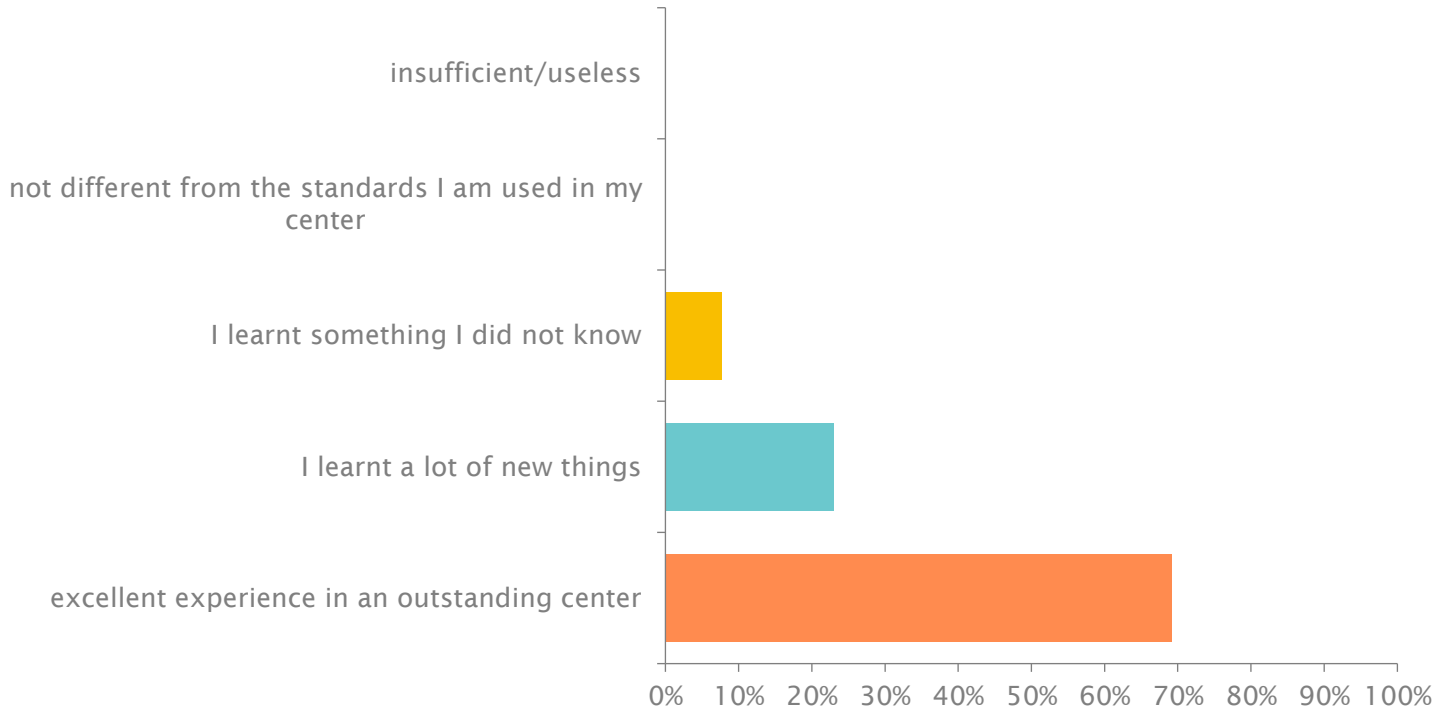
≈ 120 CI with >400 participants from >40 countries

(Österreich, Schweiz, Deutschland, Frankreich, Italien, Zypern, Jordanien, Iran, Ägypten, Chile, Saudi Arabien, Israel, Qatar, Libanon, Kroatien, Serbien, Venezuela, Bulgarien, Sibirien, Slowenien, Belgien, Griechenland, Russland, Irland, Malaysia, Italien, Rumänien, Sri Lanka, Großbritannien, Niederlande, USA, Australien, etc.)



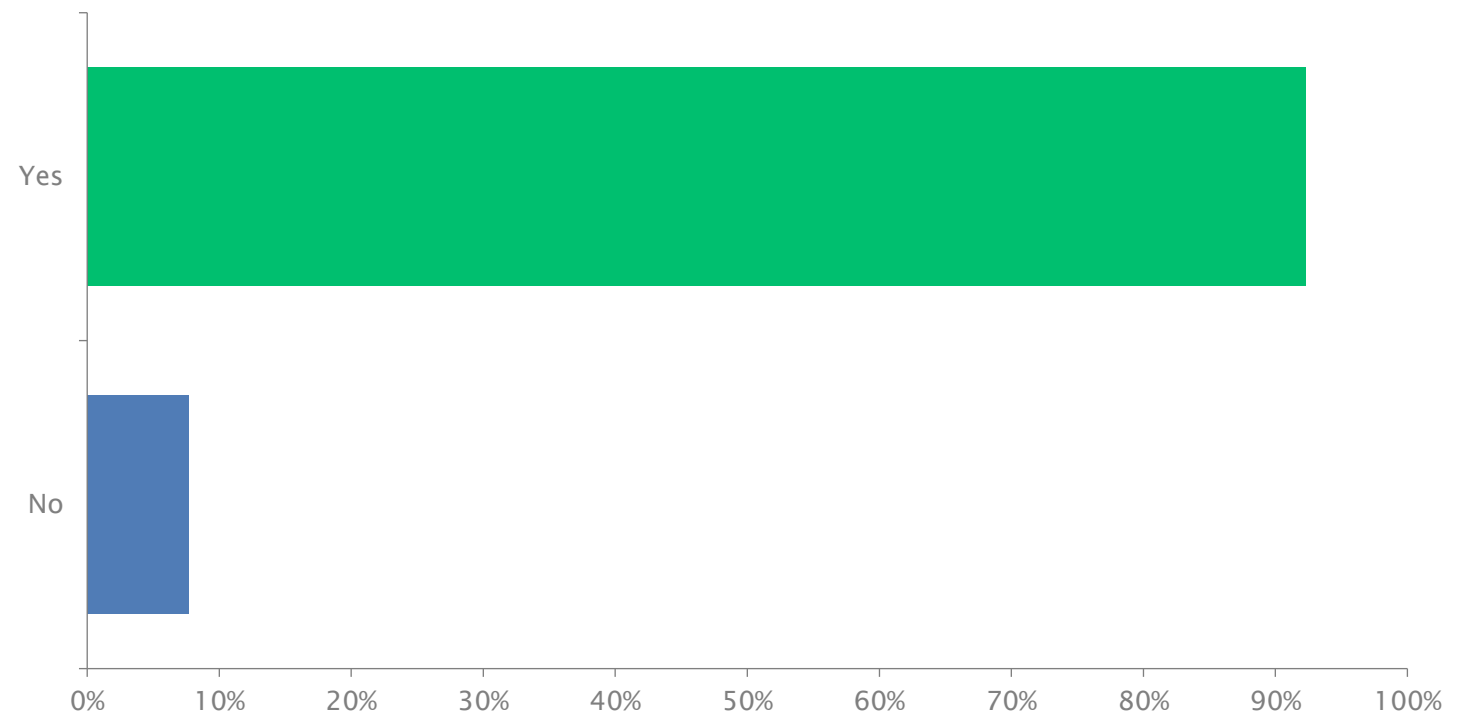
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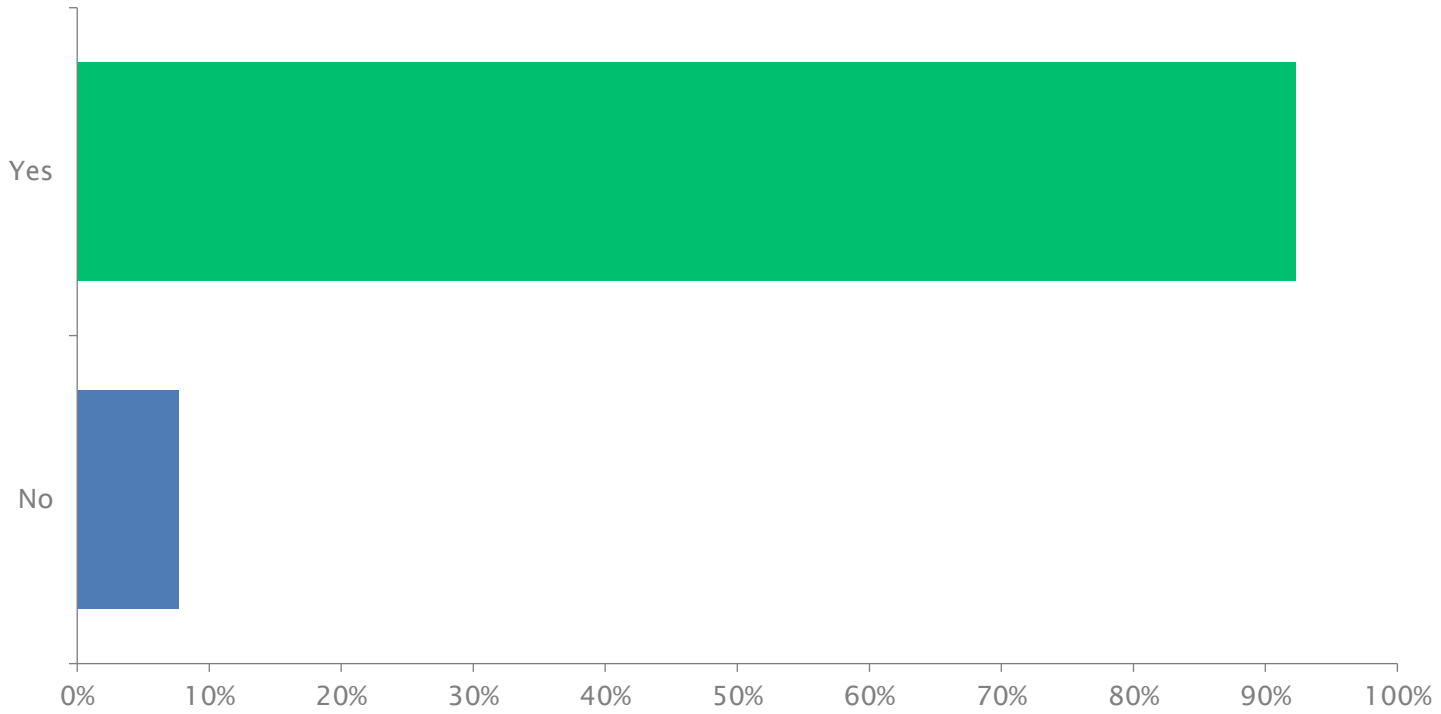
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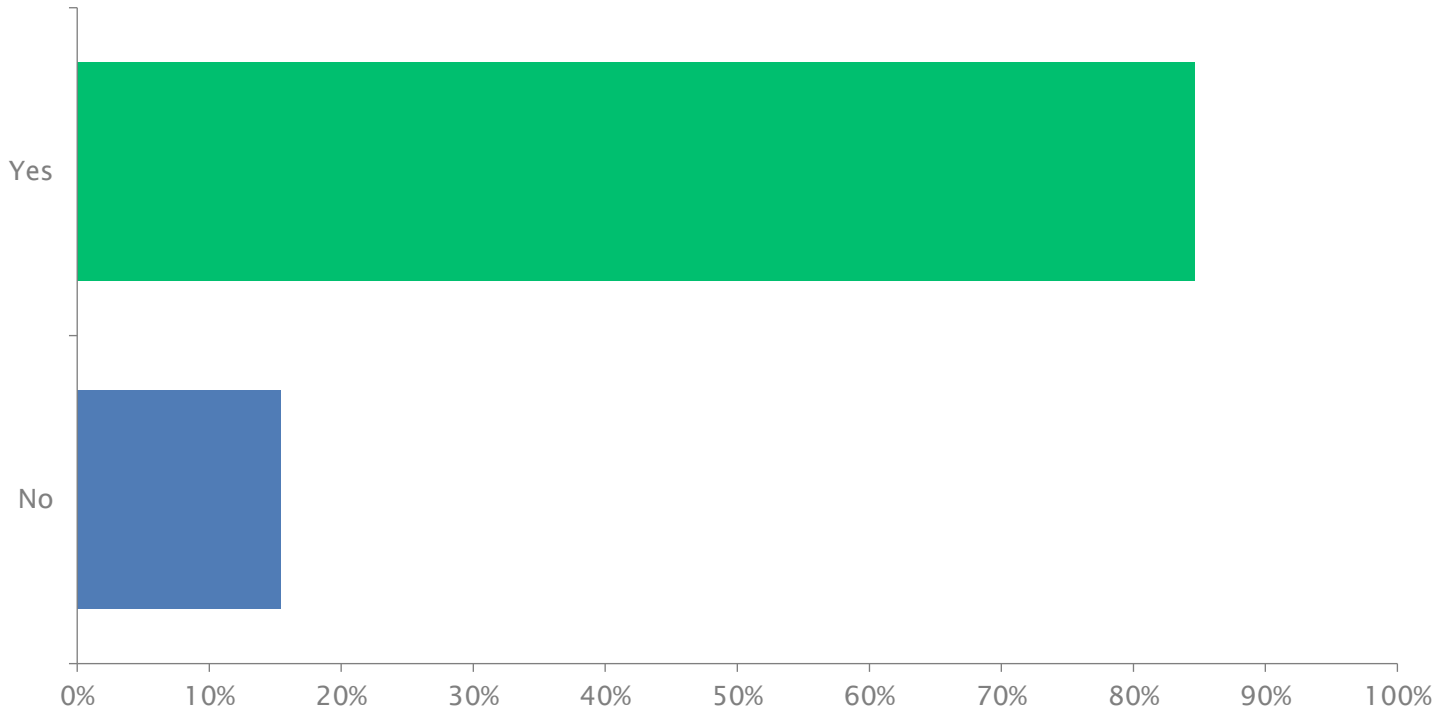
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