

Annual ICTS Member Survey Summary

Members report the benefits of engagement with ICTS services & programs; many still unaware of opportunities

The annual ICTS survey focuses on member satisfaction and engagement with ICTS resources and services. Administered in late 2019, 586 (21%) members completed the survey, compared to 36% in 2018. Many members reported active engagement in various ways and how engagement enhanced the quality of their work as a key benefit of membership, but cited lack of funding and funding opportunities along with study recruitment as key barriers.

Active engagement

Over half (56%) of respondents reported **using core services** in the past year and 39% **took part in mentoring opportunities** and mock study sessions.

Of the respondents, 15% received **internal ICTS funding** and 17% **held leadership positions**. Most (70%) were engaged in at least one of the above four ways.

Internal ICTS funding recipients

15%

Core directors, committee members, internal funding reviewers

17%

Mentors, mentees, research forum, mock study session participants

39%

Core service use

56%

Any of these types of engagement

70%

“ [ICTS] provided critical core supports that helped our research.

“ [ICTS] membership has helped to enhance inter-institutional collaborations.

Training needed

At least **80%** of respondents agreed that training was needed in working with:

- Community groups
- Industry
- Regulatory groups
- Multidisciplinary teams

Membership benefits

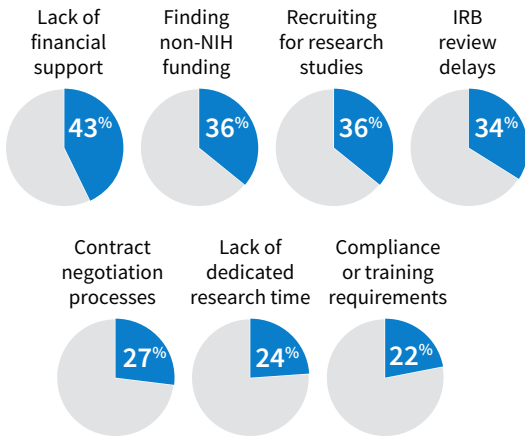
Actively engaged members reported more benefits than others. Almost three-quarters (74%) of engaged respondents agreed that **membership enhanced the quality of their work** or helped them collaborate with other scientists, compared to half (49% or 51%) of less engaged members. Around two-thirds of those actively engaged thought **membership helped to advance their careers** or obtain funding for research, while fewer than half of those less engaged were in agreement. **Developing inter-institutional collaborations** and **translating findings for practical applications** were also key benefits for around half (54% or 45%) of those actively engaged and for slightly fewer of those less engaged.



“ Writing the ICTS grant that I did not receive certainly helped make my project more rigorous and that helped me obtain funding externally.

Barriers for actively engaged members

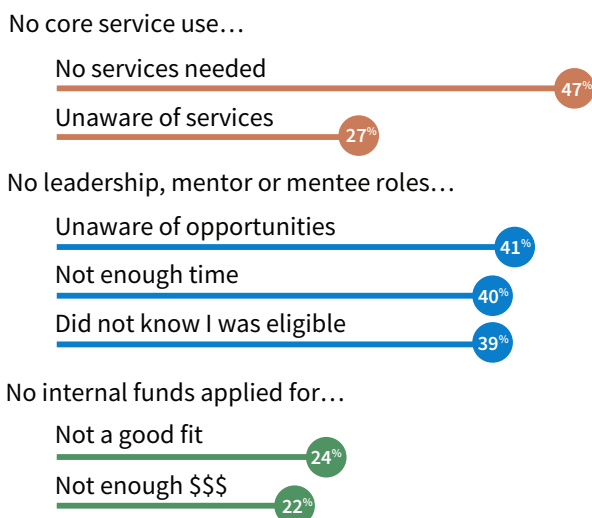
Many actively **engaged members** cited **lack of funding (43%)** or **finding non-NIH funding (36%)** as important barriers to research. Recruitment for research studies and IRB delays were also cited as barriers by more than one-third of those who were engaged with ICTS.



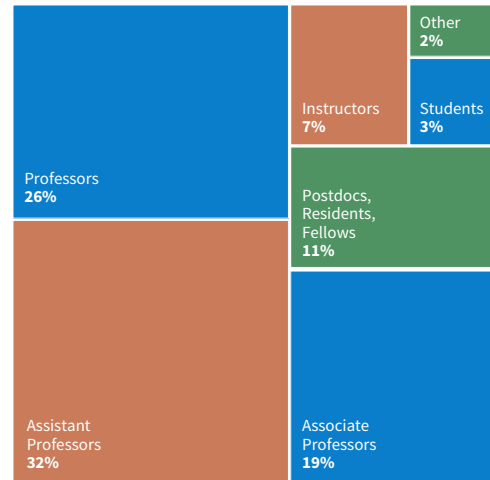
“ Have "funding navigators" to help identify the right possible funding sources for start-up funding on translational projects. It is hard to know where to look.

Barriers for non-engaged members

Of respondents who had not used core services in the past year, **almost half (47%) did not require services**, and **27% were unaware of core service offerings** for members. Many who did not participate in leadership, mentor, or mentee roles were also **unaware of these opportunities (41%)** or **did not know they were eligible** for these positions or programs (**39%**).



Survey respondents



What is the one thing ICTS can do to most help you?

Themes arising from **all respondents** to this question include:

- **Help with IRB:** Address IRB inconsistencies, slowdowns, and non-responsiveness; help streamline the process
- **Increase accessibility and awareness:** facilitate meetings between ICTS experts and junior faculty; increase help to find projects and funding; communicate available resources better
- Create **networking opportunities** to build interdisciplinary teams

Addressing barriers

ICTS is actively working to remove barriers to the research process, for example:

- Launched a **redesigned ICTS website** to more effectively promote ICTS programs and services
- Developed a **targeted approach to marketing ICTS resources** based on researcher type
- **Expedited and coordinated approval processes** for scientific review, IRB, and contract negotiations for COVID-19 research
- Created **new funding opportunities** such as the Partnership Development and Sustainability Support and COVID-19 Research Funding programs