

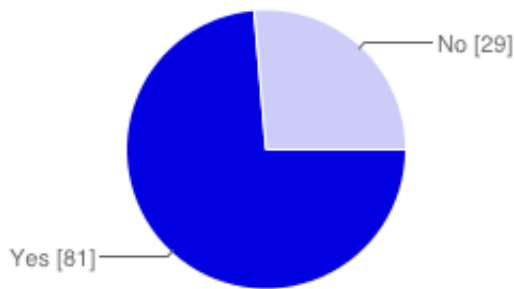
110 responses

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Summary

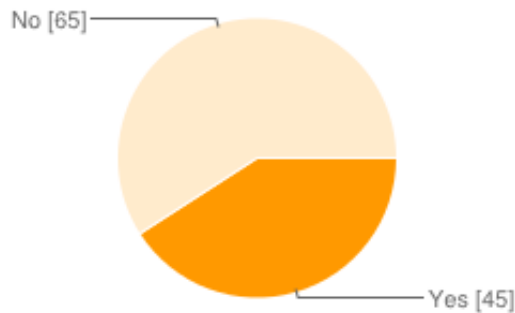
Your attendance at ABiC and AGTA this year

Did you attend ABiC 2014?



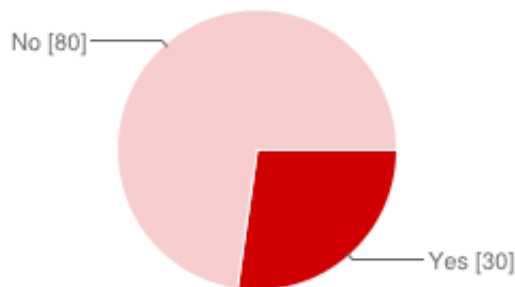
Yes	81	74%
No	29	26%

Did you attend the AGTA 2014?



Yes	45	41%
No	65	59%

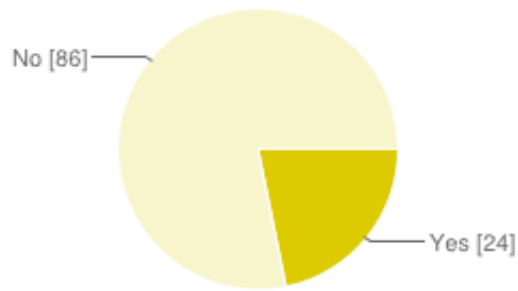
Did running these events in tandem affect your decision to attend ABiC 2014?



Yes	30	27%
No	80	73%

Did running these events in tandem affect your decision to attend AGTA

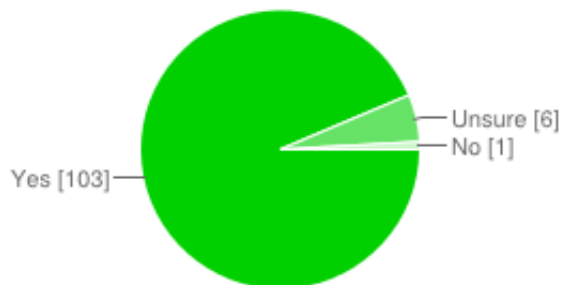
2014?



Yes	24	22%
No	86	78%

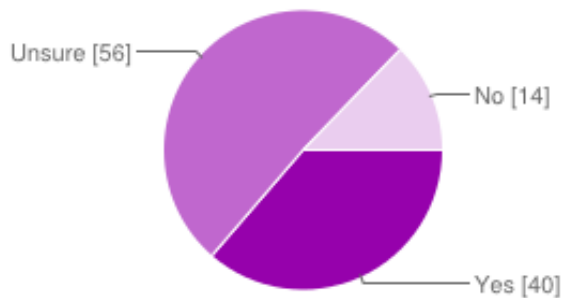
Your intention to attend ABiC and AGTA next year

At this point in time, would you like to attend an ABiC-style meeting in 2015?



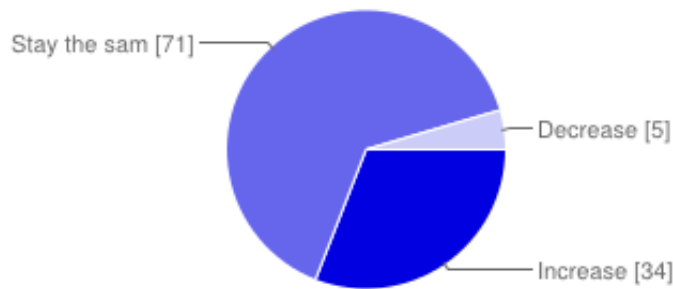
Yes	103	94%
Unsure	6	5%
No	1	1%

At this point in time, would you like to attend AGTA 2015?



Yes	40	36%
Unsure	56	51%
No	14	13%

If these events were run in tandem, would your desire to attend an ABiC-style meeting in 2015



Increase	34	31%
Stay the same	71	65%
Decrease	5	5%

Why did you say that?

Content was well-presented and highly-relevant. I have comparatively-little interest in AGTA.

Relevance to my work. AGTA had many sessions that were not of particular interest to me, such as clinical seq., cancer, rare diseases.

Travelling from the West coast to the East coast (where I assume the conference would be held) is expensive and it would be beneficial to attend both meetings in one hit.

Timing and relevance are the main issues.

Haven't been in any, unsure on how good/bad could be running them together
convenience

There are advantages in doing both with sharing speakers but it means that going to both is a bit time commitment

Bioinformatics moves very fast and keeping up is difficult. A yearly overview of the State of the Art is important, as well as keeping the community active.

Was a good meeting

Key note speakers, topics of presentations,

Makes travel easier & more affordable if both events are held in conjunction.

Meeting was enjoyable and helpful for me as an early-career bioinformatic worker, mainly in the talks and posters, but also somewhat in meeting people. If it were not in Melbourne it would be harder for me to get to. It is possible I would go to AGTA next year (many people from my division did) in which case it would be easier to get to ABiC if they were connected

Only because you get two conference for the price of 1 travel cost.

It's the other way round for me: I loved ABiC, and plan to attend again next year. I'm fairly indifferent to AGTA, but if it were run in tandem, it would definitely influence my desire to attend AGTA.

we need to cut down on carbon emissions, hence less travel is preferred.

great meeting and would love to come back for next year

I don't yet have my schedule finalized for 2015. Interested in bioinformatics.

Specialised bioinformatics focus; community; networking

The two formats compliment my interests, which are cross-disciplinary.

Learn from others, make connections, help others

The fact that it is a bioinformatics meeting in aus

For bioinformatics, it's more relevant to me than AGTA.

I would like to learn new data analysis and modeling methods.

I expect I'll enjoy myself as much next year as I did this year, perhaps more.

Relevant & useful talks; opportunity to talk to people doing relevant work in my field.

Great to have an Australian meeting focused on Bioinformatics.

The 2014 meeting was so incredibly valuable for me in seeing the Australian bioinformatics community that I would absolutely attend another event; bundling it with AGTA increases my ability to get signoff etc to attend.

Its targeted at my expertise and interest

It doesn't matter whether it's tandem or not. Not included in previous section why I didn't attend two conferences, which I really wished. Because of high registration, accommodation, and airfare, students cannot make it easily. The rule for student benefits is "supervisor needs to attend AGTA", but organizers should think that these days, lots of students doing bioinformatics are not necessarily having supervisors who have worked on bioinformatics. Also, compared with other conferences, your two conferences have limited options for student bursary.

I enjoy the bioinformatics focus and the cost

Get in touch with other bioinformaticians.

Travel funding synergy.

I'm interested in ABiC but not AGTA.

More interested in ABiC than AGTA.

ABiC is \$99. AGTA is \$900

Whether I have the funding required to attend

It is convenient to attend two useful conferences within the same block of time.

It was a very relevant, interesting and useful meeting, but travel expenses always need to be justified, and that can be harder with a short meeting. It's much more cost-effective to extend a conference visit than to have two separate ones.

Because I liked it the first ime

More convenient

Because I never thought of going to AGTA.

ABiC 2014 was one of the best conferences - and the best bioinformatics conference - that I have attended. On this basis. ABiC 2015 would be top of my conference priority list for next year.

The fact that it's more directly relevant to bioinformatics.

ABiC was an excellent experience and I would want to attend regardless

Because after the last ABiC meeting, I intend on going again, even if it's not held concurrently with AGTA.

Cost of flying and staying interstate is sometimes hard to justify. It helps if the two events are tied together in some sense.

I would think we'd get a more diverse crowd running closer to AGTA, as it's value adding potentially for people to go to both conferences. (if only AGTA wasn't so damn expensive...), and by being side by side there's the potential of co-opting the relevant speakers from AGTA to ABiC, and also the potential to keep new conversations going from new friends at ABiC into AGTA.

Interest in computational biology/molecular modelling. Not so much in genomics.

After the 2014 ABiC experience, I would prioritise going to the 2015 no matter where or when it was.

ABiC is much more my thing, but running it on the WEEKEND is the best way to guarantee I'll have to miss it - or bring my kids along!

Both events are worth while and I would like to attend both regardless.

Keeping up to date with new bioinformatics developments and local networks.

To stay in the cohort.

For all the reasons outlined on the previous page - it was a great meeting.

Holding in tandem would limit the time available - would much rather at least a 3 day conference.

I am very keen on attending but it's a decent journey (from NZ) and will be during a busy period next year

Decision of conference timing/location is of less importance than relevance of the content

Not much, I'll go if I can.

I had a great time this year, and I think attending in future would be beneficial for me. I haven't been to AGTA before, so it doesn't (yet) have an effect on whether I'll attend ABiC or not.

Saving on travel costs

It's easier to book flights/hotels and kill two birds (conferences) with one stone. Furthermore, as an ECR, I don't have too many funds for attending conferences, so being able to attend 2 meetings while paying for flights only once is definitely a good thing.

cheap and convenient

want to go to both, but if in different places, this is a lot harder to do

conference for bioinformaticians by bioinformaticians

In terms of travel cost etc it is easier to have the meetings in tandem. Also given the overlap in attendance it provides more opportunity for further discussion etc

Get more insights into the wide range of bioinformatics techniques that are being used and developed

ABiC was much better than AGTA in terms of organisation and program. I would attend regardless.

Location, length of time, opportunity to present a poster or talk

I liked ABiC

ABiC already shaping up as a must attend.

I do not plan to attend AGTA next year because of the price.

I really enjoyed attending a conference where I could understand the majority of the talks.

To see where aus Binf has come in the last year

I will endeavour to attend the next ABiC-style meeting regardless

ABiC was a great way to interact with the (larger than I realised!) Australian bioinformatics committee.

Tandem meetings benefit both sets of attendees IMHO

See what happening nationally in bioinformatics Opportunity to network

I am not clear what topic will be covered at the conference. Thus, it is difficult for me to make a decision at this moment.

coming from NZ, it is a lot cheaper and easier to organise the journey for these 2 meetings conjointly.

better return on investment for flight costs (2 meetings for one flight)... also extended stay in Melbourne means more time with partner's family

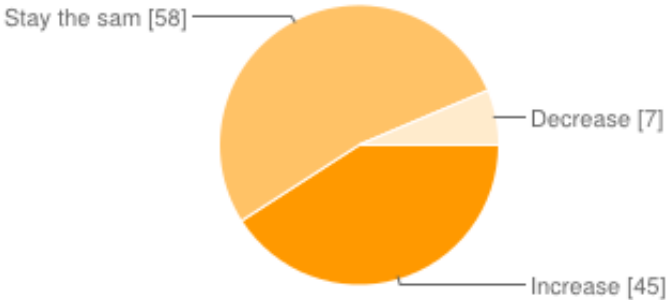
Will go either way

It was a really narrow definition of "bioinformatics" at the meeting that was set up this year. This was really bad, because it was not welcoming to people who are not working on only genomics algorithms. The message that was sent out on emails said that it is only for people working on genomics and algorithms. It was not open for the lots of interesting people and research.

It was great to learn and network.

Makes a long overall conference. Temptation would be to choose one or the other.

If these events were run in tandem, would your desire to attend AGTA 2015



Increase	45	41%
Stay the same	58	53%
Decrease	7	6%

Why did you say that?

I don't know much about the AGTA conference and what is presented there

Never attended.

I might go to part of AGTA if it was in tandem with ABiC.

Cost and program speakers.

I never attended to attend AGTA so running in tandem doesn't bother me.

Haven't been in any, unsure on how good/bad could be running them together

Cost - it's a quite an expensive conference. If it was a choice between ABiC and AGTA I would pick ABiC.

not alot of agricultural research represented at AGTA 2015

ABiC really complements AGTA in that it reduces the longing for bioinformatics heavy talks in the genomics conference. It might also attract more informatics people to AGTA making the conference more balanced.

I am less enthusiastic about AGTA

I'd expect to attend AGTA 2015 anyway, but it's a bonus if I can include ABiC in the same trip.

I am not motivated on way or the other regarding AGTA 2015.

Simply because I'd already made a commitment to attend AGTA meetings. I suspect I'll make the same for ABiC in the future.

Although I haven't attended AGTA previously, I believe it has more of a biology focus. This together with the additional time away from family means I'm more likely to choose to attend just ABiC.

It's my people...

we need to cut down on carbon emissions, hence less travel is preferred.

More viable to get funded to come

expensive

I would travel primarily to attend ABiC and perhaps stay for AGTA, since we've already paid for flights.

Would depend on whether I thought the content would be useful

Depending on the content of AGTA15, may increase due to convince of having it back to back

AGTA is not as relevant so most likely I wouldn't attend.

Travel funding synergy.

I haven't attended AGTA.

no desire to attend agta

Doesn't look quite as relevant to me as abic

ABiC would probably be more useful for me, but if they're run in tandem, I might as well attend AGTA as well (assuming I haven't blown all my travel funds again).

I'm paying for my attendance out of my own pocket.

See the previous box!

I'm not focused on genomics.

if different locations, less likely to go to AGTA as would likely go to ABiC

It is convenient to attend two useful conferences within the same block of time.

More convenient

As above, and price, and also ability to get time off work/study.

Unsure if I would attend, but definitely want to go to ABiC, so more likely if together. AGTA is relatively expensive.

I would love to go to AGTA again, but if I only had funding for one national trip I would go to ABiC. So having ABiC/AGTA in the same general area would increase my likelihood of going to AGTA, but I would go to ABiC no matter what.

AGTA cost can be prohibitive for students.

AGTA strikes me as a more specialist conference that is not wholly in my domain. I was unable to attend this year due to teaching commitments and therefore do not know what I am missing to make it high priority by itself. Blocking out a longer conference break during term time is probably easier than two separate conferences.

same

AGTA was not as good

Because I'd be exhausted from 5 days of conferencing.

I'd most like to attend ABiC

that I would be going to ABiC 2015. Although AGTA is a good conference I got more out of ABiC

Opportunity to take in AGTA at the same time as ABiC

Both events are worth while and I would like to attend both regardless.

It's an important meeting for the community, even if the sessions are not as good as ABiC.

If AGTA runs parallel sessions, as to accommodate also non-model organisms I would attend. It was not clear what the focus will be and it lacked clear aims...

Still not interested in genomics.

To stay in the cohort.

It would depend on the cost and relevance of sessions to my work

At this stage, I feel ABiC was more beneficial to me than AGTA.

Decision of conference timing/location is of less importance than relevance of the content

Location and convenience

Saving on travel costs

better biological context from people working in different areas.

I was unable to attend the AGTA meeting as I had work commitments to get back to, having them spaced apart would probably be my preference

Location, length of time, opportunity to present a poster or talk

It would depend on cost, but ABiC is more interesting to me.

Desire independent from whether conferences run in tandem

Just want to go because it's interesting, relevant and Australia's bioinformatics meeting, so good to network. Having 2 conferences means there are more opportunities to network and hear cool talks.

Number of relevant sessions/talks/speakers mainly. Tandem with abic would save travel money/time as I am going to abic anyway.

Tandem meetings benefit both sets of attendees IMHO

I am not clear what topic will be covered at the conference. Thus, it is difficult for me to make a decision at this moment.

As above

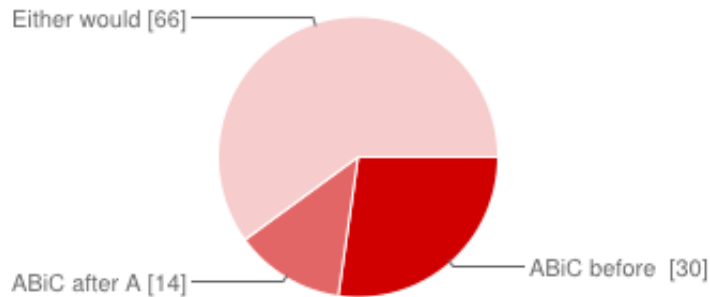
I'm involved in organising AGTA 2016 so I need to attend AGTA 2015 regardless of my interest levels. Really, I'd come just for ABiC!

Interested in genomic technologies.

Makes a long overall conference. Temptation would be to choose one or the other.

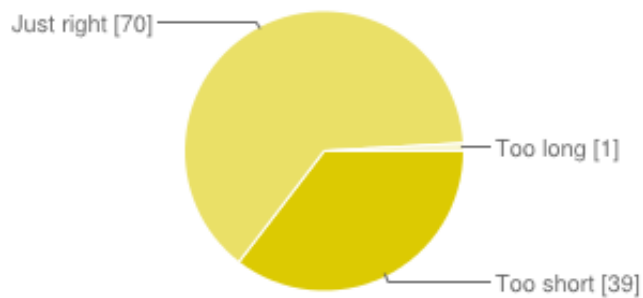
Your thoughts on the timing and duration of ABiC

Noting that AGTA 2015 is set to start on Sunday 12 October 2015 (with plans for a workshop that day also) if these meetings were run in tandem, would you prefer



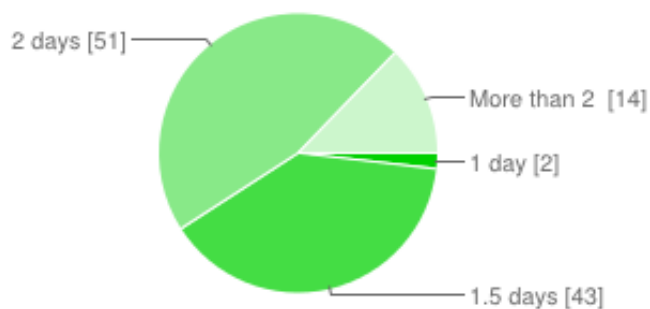
ABiC before AGTA	30	27%
ABiC after AGTA	14	13%
Either would be fine	66	60%

ABiC 2014 ran from 9:30am Saturday to 2pm Sunday (1.5 days). Do you think this was



Too short	39	35%
Just right	70	64%
Too long	1	1%

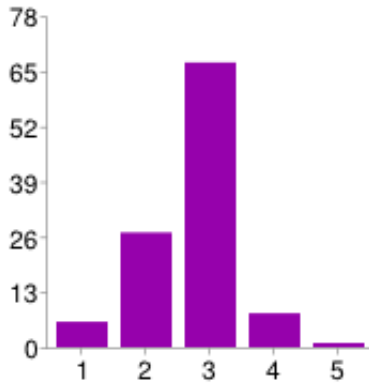
How long would you like an ABiC-style meeting in 2015 to run for?



1 day	2	2%
1.5 days	43	39%
2 days	51	46%
More than 2 days	14	13%

Your thoughts on the range of topics at ABiC

Looking at the ABiC 2014 program, from your point of view, was the range of topics



1	6	5%
2	27	25%
3	67	61%
4	8	7%
5	1	1%

What did you think of the topics presented at ABiC 2014?

Very useful

with apologies to medical bioinformatics and statisticians - these talks started to get repetitive and a bit dry... non-model species bioinformatics is where most of the interesting bioinformatics is performed

Too narrow. I did not see any thing in the area of structural bioinformatics, computational biology, and systems biology.

Too narrowly focused on theoretical bioinformatics (the algorithms, stats, and maths) - not enough computational biology.

diverse

Interestingly diverse. I suspect there was always someone working in the audience working in the same or similar fields as the speaker. Most of the topics were relevant to me.

focus was genomics, so it fitted well

Good, but would prefer a broader range

Excellent. From software to application. Perfect

Excellent. Although coming from an agricultural research background I would like to have had a little less human-related bioinformatics and more plants. More generally, I'd say to include more non-model organisms as these present a different challenge in bioinformatics to model organisms.

very much biased towards genomics It was not complete bioinformatics conference!

ok

I found the topics very interesting. Wasn't too focused and wasn't too wide that you forgot it was a bioinformatics conference.

Great, but I don't mind a bit more variety as long as the presenters do a good job of setting the scene for those who don't know about their specialisations.

Excellent More Software Engineering talks More future looking talks More how to talks

I liked that it was nuts and bolts about bioinformatics

Happy with programme

I would like to see some bioinformatics applied to other fields - biospectroscopy and genomics researchers may benefit from talking to each other.

I appreciated the breadth - some deep science talks, Terry's historical overview, and the *essential* talks touching on how to become better bioinformaticians (Titus, software carpentry, etc).

Very good. Almost all felt relevant. I would like a bit more detailed talks on methods though, as well as overview talks.

Too genomic centric. Then again ABiC 2014 was advertised as such. Hopefully it will get more diverse and cover more of the "computational biology and bioinformatics" fields.

I thought it was perfectly focused.

They looked OK

Good

excellent

Very good, good range of topics - but possibly could have done with more variety

Perfect range.

Varied an interesting, appreciated talks about how process (communication, testing, reproducibility) can be improved as well as analysis

more variety, application as well as theory

All informative and interesting, regardless of relevance to current work

Great.

I believe that the range of topics was really good

Evenly distributed, with elements of both biology, human research and non-human research. Looking at both the challenges we face and ways to analyse the data.

I thought the program was excellent.

Although there was a genomics focus, I think that this was a fair reflection of the current focus of bioinformatics. The content seemed to reflect the reality of the community. Furthermore, many of the genomics talks had general interest and applicability.

good to see the diversity and wide range of topics

great, most were very interesting

Ok need more biology input

It was still tilted to sequencing and disease genomics, but presented a nice range of topics. The topics on education and best practices in bioinformatics were a nice addition. They're important too, but I don't get to hear such talks often.

I was pleasantly surprised by how wide the range of topics was, but thought there was still scope for some more non-human-focussed genomics talks and potentially some non-genomics talks as well.

Well-rounded and comprehensive

I am working in genomics, so the topics were of interest to me, but a little wider would have been even better

Ironically, the least enjoyable talk was in the field I have the most interest in, structural bioinformatics.

Good, although very focused on clinical bioinformatics, ecological/quantitative genetic or phylogenetic topic could easily fit in too.

Good.

If you are going to run a 'bioinformatics' meeting that is focused solely on genomic bioinformatics, the name of the meeting should suggest so. I liked the teaching talk in there.

Already a good mix.

I think the range of topics was excellent and I wouldn't want it to be any wider

Just felt from Twitter mentions

Excellent

The variety was good. Relevant.

The focus on genomics makes a lot of sense given the association with AGTA, and that many (most?) bioinformaticians Australia are working in genomics-related areas.

I really enjoyed the diversity of topics.

Very good.

I followed the conference on Twitter, and was very impressed that the meeting had good depth in terms of methods and best practise.

Excellent

Could be more widely covered.

Good mix

Methods focused.

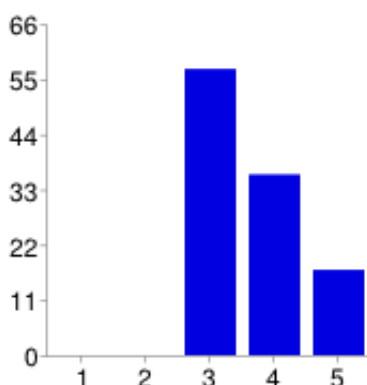
great

Good mix of topics, albeit nucleic acid heavy. The practical talks (iPython notebook, versioning) were very useful.

I found the talks (and the posters) very interesting - there wasn't a single session I felt like ditching, which surely is a sign of a good program!

only "nucleotide" informatics covered

Thinking about an ABiC-style meeting in 2015, and in comparison to the ABiC 2014 program, would you like to see the range of topics



1	0	0%
2	0	0%
3	57	52%
4	36	33%
5	17	15%

What topics would be interesting to you in 2015?

Molecular modelling Computational chemistry Cheminformatics Computer Aided Drug Design

Perhaps more representation of Systems/Computational Biology, but that's my personal bias.

All topics are good, though anything to do with large software projects or bioinformatics closely integrated with biology is even better. I would like to see everybody who attends get to present - even if nobody gets more than 10mins to speak. Folks talking about problems they are solving - or can't solve - is interesting.

High throughput biochemical assays; population genomics

Open Science; reproducible research; non-model organisms; plants

genomics; transcriptomics; statistics; metagenomics; software development; reproducible research; education; perspectives

Structural Bioinformatics (ligand discovery, protein design, protein structure/function prediction) and computational biology (molecular dynamics simulations)

chip-seq;CNV;differential expression;cancer;clonality

Not too focused on computations or maths. Need to be something in biology - we all work on these questions. Just for reference, I am not from Bio background :D

A workshop/session at the beginning for those new to the field. Definitely some applied talks (preferably all cancer/disease).

agricultural bioinformatics

Proteomics; systems biology; clinical bioinformatics; ontologies

Easy to use bioinformatics; Best practise bioinformatics;

Would love to see some single cell analysis, including for FLOW, included.

epigenetics, esp. DNA methylation Hi-C data / topological data / 3d genome interactions

Functional variant identification from NGS data; Overlapping different biological information for disease gene identification

RNA seq; emerging technologies; statistical techniques; cancer genomics; software development; visualization; networks; variant calling; GWAS

epigenomics non-model organisms

Any of the topics that were appropriate for 2014 would be appropriate for 2015.

Illustrations of when "data integration" has worked; Talks about bioinformatics problems/hurdles just as much as solutions

cancer genomics, computational biology, tools

Current best practices for next-gen sequencing technologies.

epigenetics; software development; highlighting new software and best use practices; software deployment

Perhaps add training courses.

Both Proteomics and Genomics

More Software Engineering talks; More whats going to happen in the future talks; More how to talks;

more metagenomics; more comparative analyses of programs;

Structural bioinformatics;synthetic biology;systems biology

microbial genomics metagenomics algorithms

RNA-Seq ; assembly

More genomics and bioinformatics. More biological genomics (i.e. results not technologies/methods/techniques).

need to widen to proteins, structure, systems biology, software demos, etc.

de novo assembly, k-mer analysis, structural bioinformatics and not just virtual screening but some structural DNA stuff i.e. ChiA-PET/Hi-C analysis, cutting edge NGS/3GS analysis, image analysis, biogeoinformatics, metagenomics balance is good but much more interested in seeing bioinformaticists with "domain expertise" that are driving advances in research with scientific rigor... rather than solving informatic problems and/or employed to run routine analysis... the latter should be strongly encouraged to embrace their inner-biologist

More genomics; molecular modelling; proteomics; open science;

metagenomics; phylogeny; more molecule modelling; (but still mainly genomics)

methods; theory; application; NGS is not everything.

Non-model organisms; comparative genomics; metagenomics; metabolomics
population genetics

keeping the genomics focus is perfect, but always options for variations that naturally happen between years

I'm happy to leave it to the organizers

Methods to develop best practices in specific analysis fields (like RNAseq), use of ERCC control data, and lots more on the "build a better bioinformatician" end - as we find it hard to pick those concepts up in other places even though we know they are important.

Other omics technologies such as Metabolomics and Proteomics; Systems Biology

Proteomics; Network biology (protein-protein interactions);

Future; collaboration; clinical; meta analysis

Extending beyond biomedical research would be good, more agricultural application would be good possibly.

structural bioinformatics

Don't worry about the topics now.see what is important in july next year. The keynote speakers were very good

Bacterial genomic Transcriptomics

Anything to do with clinically applicable research

clinical diagnose.

Epigenomics; transcriptomics

Evolutionary genomics, combining bioinformatics tools in non-standard ways to tackle non-standard problems, statistical analysis

Metagenomics;Image recognition;3D visualisation

Would depend on the length of the program

training; tools; workshop

Mapping;RNA-seq;new tools

Single-cell genomics;

RNA biology

maybe a session with a bit more biology for the ones not attending AGTA

more genomics

Biospectroscopy.

Software development. Medical applications of bioinformatics Clinical Bioinformatics.

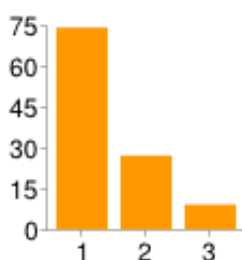
see above

NGS phylogenomics visualisation pattern discovery

Genomics

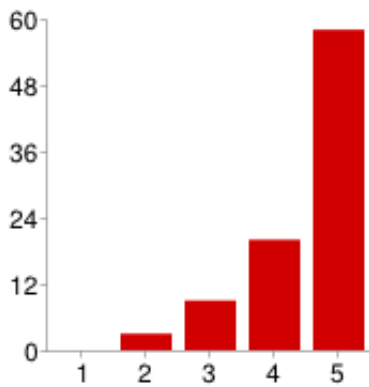
Your thoughts on the cost of ABiC, and the venue

How important to you is it that the costs of ABiC 2015 are kept low?



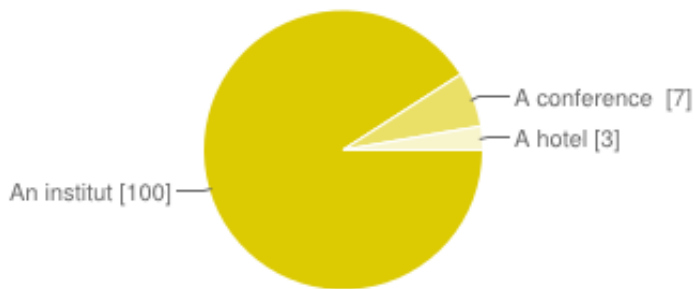
1	74	67%
2	27	25%
3	9	8%

How would you rate the venue for ABiC 2014?



1	0	0%
2	3	3%
3	9	8%
4	20	18%
5	58	53%

To keep costs down, an ABiC-style meeting in 2015 could use an institutional venue (e.g., university auditorium) rather than a conference centre or hotel. All things considered (facilities, cost-accessibility), would you prefer a 2015 meeting to be at



An institutional venue	100	91%
A conference centre	7	6%
A hotel	3	3%

What are your thoughts on future venues?

hospital was good universities good too though parking needs to be considered

easy to get to, food and drink availability, amenities, free wifi, power points for laptop charging are all important

Don't need luxury.

The audio-visual should be up to scratch, and the venue should be accessible.

There is a lot of value in having the conference close to accommodation and near good places to network and socialise. But for 1.5days, an institution is a great option.

Hotels are generally poor for actual lecture theatre comfort. A decent poster display space with a lot of room to mingle and move around is essential.

University of Sydney Law building? Charles Perkins Center Lecture Theatre?

The facilities at MCRI are top-class, so it's hard to know whether other institutional venues can match those. The AV and seating were superior to any conference centre or hotel I've been to. I'm all for keeping costs down by avoiding hotels and conference centres.

I think a uni/institution would be fine so long as it is easy to access for out of state visitors.

AGTA is fairly expensive and paying two lots of high registration fees could put people off attending both events if they are run in tandem.

1. Institutional venues are not free at least at universities and the cost of specialist approved catering along with lack of parking might actually prove more expensive than negotiated conference venues. 2. If bundled with AGTA, Saturday at Crowne Plaza may be expensive but could be negotiated - only downside would be starting the meeting at 9.30 on Sat - need to give people time to get to the venue: maybe shift schedule to Sat. afternoon to Sunday evening or mid-afternoon. 3. Hotel will be fine if during the week - Sat evenings are most expensive as they are booked for weddings or parties.

In addition to a good place to actually have the talks (which are usually much better at Universities than hotels, since most lectures are delivered in that format), you need a good place to network, which usually involves a relatively "confined" space, so that people don't drift off too much to do their own thing - hotels are better for this, since there really isn't that much else to do except "hang out" (think the Lorne meetings, and why they work so well: apart from going for a swim/surf, there really isn't much to do except hang out at the Mantra or along the main street's cafe's ... it would be interesting to quantitate how many collaborations were spontaneously set up while people were waiting for their coffees at the 2 bakeries). So if you have ABiC at a university auditorium, you need to provide free food and a comfortable place to mingle, preferably segregated from Uni Students and non-conference-participants, to encourage people (especially the senior speakers) to not run off with other senior speakers to their favourite haunt and instead to mingle with ECRs, including from labs that they don't know of previously/don't collaborate with.

Auditorium is important. Access to good coffee. Easy to get to. Keep the informality of the dinner.

MCRI was fine

Uni campus is good.

I have no strong opinion (but the question is compulsory!)

Really loved the venue at ABiC 2014 for its comfort and convenience with the pull out table etc. So would like a similar venue for 2015

No frills, all thrills

The lecture theatre for ABiC 2014 was great, especially when compared to AGTA conference room

Wherever they are, it does help a lot if they're easily accessible by public transport.

cost would be major consideration

na

Crowne plaza hunter

I'm a fan of fitness for purpose. As long as there are adequate facilities I don't much care about how fancy it is

Should be close to city and potential accommodation, public transport accessible, WiFi access would be great too.

Well, you could always have it in Brisbane. ;)

Hotels are typically location/facility-convenient, but it makes little difference, so long as the institution is relatively CBD-central (walking distance). If one needs to pay \$20 each way for taxis every day, it defeats the point of keeping the registration costs lower...

I think that keeping costs down by using institutional venues doesn't reflect on the quality of the conference. I thought that the Royal Children's Hospital was a great venue, and felt that the facilities were excellent. Happy to attend other such venues in the future.

As said before. A seminar make it much more enjoyable to sit for the whole day

It's great to keep costs down so students can attend.

I don't mind too much, as long as the seats are comfortable

I would like it even if it was in a muddy field (so long as there was power and wifi).

mild preference for an institutional venue for accessibility. Depends really on the deal for a hotel. The main issue is the cost relative to research output collection. If there is no proper proceedings, then funding is very hard to get for students.

I felt that the venue for ABiC was better than the one for AGTA. Few hotels, and relatively few conference centres, have lecture rooms that suit scientific presentations as well as the venue for ABiC 2014 did

Cheap (affordable anyway) is good. ABiC in future doesn't necessarily need to have a grass-roots feel (like it did I think this year) but it should be accessible to technical staff and students in the field to keep it dynamic and relevant.

keep them coming, cheap and good quality

I think it's important to keep costs down as we saw that there were a lot of stunts and ECRs at ABiC2014

No problem with institutional venue

Properly raked so everyone can see speaker and screen is the most important; good sound system so everyone can hear is next most important; not crowded, so it is OK to get up and move/stretch

Institutional venue is a good idea.

Cheaper is better, otherwise attendance may be difficult.

As long as the as the venue fills the needs for presentations cost and accessibility are more important.

venues like RCH would be great

I really liked the set up of the children's hospital. I don't think there is any real need to have the conference at a conference centre. As long as there is an adequate number of toilets and a place to eat that is convenient to get to I think an institutional venue is fine. I think institutional venues help to keep the vibe relaxed and casual as well, which for me encourages participation and networking.

Cheap is good; I'd attend for the quality of content, not the venue

As long as the AV is good and the chairs are comfy, i'm happy.

As above

I thought the institutional venue for ABiC was fine - it was COMFORTABLE and really, a good seat and wifi are all I need. The catering was superb, so if we need to be at an institutional venue to keep the food and drinks great, let's do it.

Venues should move around all states.

As long as the required facilities and services are available (eg internet, catering) and the venue is comfortable, I don't have a problem.

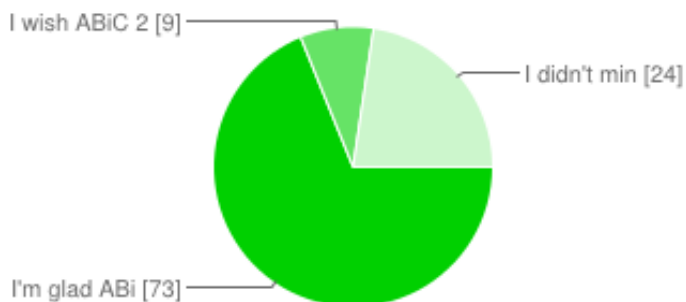
The MCRI auditorium was great, catering was excellent

don't really mind, as long as it is close to accommodation, and affordable.

I think it would be good for the Australian bioinformatics community if ABiC was able to move around the different states so everyone has an opportunity to be involved in the planning, running and attendance at ABiC.

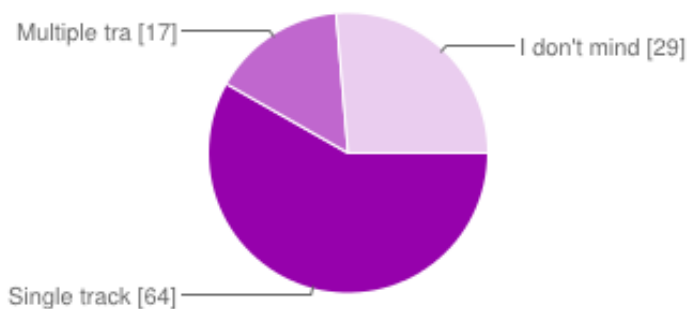
Your thoughts on single/multiple tracks

Would you say



I'm glad ABiC 2014 was single track	73	66%
I wish ABiC 2014 had had multiple tracks	9	8%
I didn't mind either way	24	22%

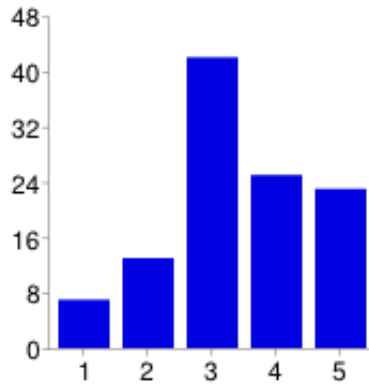
Would you hope that an ABiC-style meeting in 2015 would be



Single track	64	58%
Multiple track	17	15%
I don't mind either way	29	26%

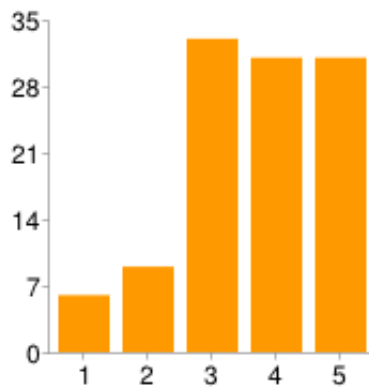
Your thoughts on ABiC's location

Hunter Valley



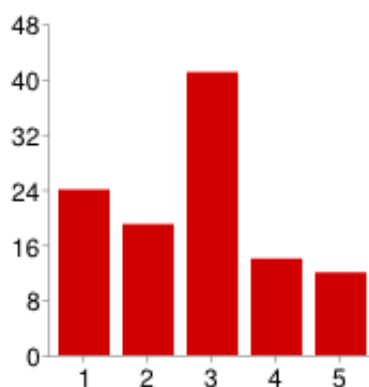
1	7	6%
2	13	12%
3	42	38%
4	25	23%
5	23	21%

Sydney



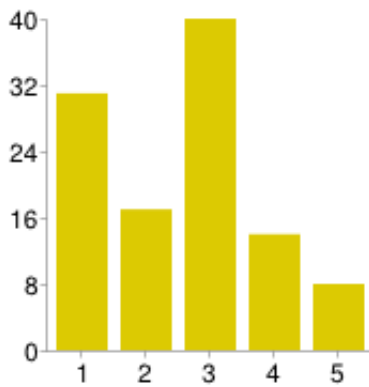
1	6	5%
2	9	8%
3	33	30%
4	31	28%
5	31	28%

Newcastle



1	24	22%
2	19	17%
3	41	37%
4	14	13%
5	12	11%

Canberra



1	31	28%
2	17	15%
3	40	36%
4	14	13%
5	8	7%

What are your thoughts on next year's location?

If in tandem, it should be in almost the same spot.

No strong preference.

If it is held at the same time as another conference, it should be in the same location.

If the content is appealing, I'll be there wherever it is held.

brisbane?

Being from Melbourne, I'd be more likely to attend both meetings if they were located in the same place or very close to one another.

I think it's best to keep them together for now

Wherever you have it, I'll be there.

It's all Australia to me ㄟ(ˉ▽ˉ)ㄟ

Hunter Valley makes sense to me.

Sydney and Canberra defeat the benefits of saving on travel, since at best both need a long coach trip or at worst an extra plane flight. Newcastle would be less of a problem, and the presumably greater range of accommodation available there, together with the opportunity for an institutional venue, would probably make the transfer worthwhile. Especially since most AGTA attendees will probably have to fly into Newcastle airport anyway.

Needs to be cheap to get to and affordable accommodation for students.

If running in tandem with AGTA then it should be somewhere nearby. If not, it is not so important. If hosting in Sydney, it might be worth laying on a coach for those attending both.

Neutral

I'd like a location that maximises participation

My family live in the Hunter and UoNewcastle is my alma mater, so personal bias. The Canberra idea is a joke, right?

Maybe not next year but what about having the meeting in NZ in the next few years?

Shame that AGTA is so out of the way. It will make getting between the two difficult for some people on the Sunday... 2 hr drive from Sydney, 1 hr from Newcastle...

ABiC bus to AGTA?

matching AGTA makes sense

Doing it in a city or university town would be great for keeping costs down. I think ABiC would attract more locals in Sydney or Canberra. A city would also make running satellites or social events easier. If running back to back with AGTA, but in a different place, maybe think about organising transport between the two conferences?

If it is with AGTA then I think it should be at Hunter Valley or Sydney or maybe New Castle. If it is separate then Canberra would be good

Happy for AbiC to be at an institutional venue near a main centre easily accessible to The Hunter Valley. Suspect Sydney might be easiest - with majpr airport - but drive to Newcastle isn't bad and this may be cheaper in terms of accomodation etc.

Would be preferable if I didn't have far to go between ABiC and AGTA, but having a range of affordable accommodation near the venue is important too.

Hunter valley would be great!

Hunter Valley would be nice if the costs could be kept low.

As close to AGTA as possible is probably sensible for logistic purposes.

Somewhere within a taxi/train/tram ride of a hub airport (bris/syd/melb/canb etc). If it were Perth it may as well be in Fiji from my point of view.

I would like the location to rotate through cities in Australia and New Zealand.

None

Don't mind

If not close in space, you lose a lot of the value of being close in time.

If its a 1.5 day length conference that I have to travel interstate for, I would prefer it to be in Sydney so I have the chance to use the second half day to visit the city.

Venue quality and price most important, location secondary, but not having to change accommodation between ABiC and AGTA is desirable

Hunter is great

I think having ABiC 2015 in a location not immediately accessible from a major airport means that the cost and inconvenience of interstate travel will become prohibitive. As such, I would strongly urge a more convenient location which is in the same state as AGTA. That way, AGTA attendees can also attend ABiC.

The Hunter Valley is a bit annoying to get to for a 1.5 day conference. You'd want somewhere that is easy to get to for interstate people. But, I do understand that a lot of people who attend ABiC will attend AGTA.

Outside the city is nicer

Choice 1: Sydney: Given the large number of computational biologists/bioinformaticians in the Sydney area, perhaps CSIRO or Garvan could offer free venues for ABiC 2015 Choice 2: Hunter Valley Negotiate with Crowne Plaza for room(s) pre AGTA....(not sure how many people attended ABiC this year). Newcastle and Canberra - not good if immediately before AGTA as it would mean going to two places for the rest of Australia.....

Hunter Valley would be nicest (because that makes hotel logistics easier), and Newcastle is a good runner up (because hotels are not too expensive and it's not too far away). Sydney is quite expensive to find a hotel in, so it would be a bit of a hassle to have ABiC there, and Canberra is too far away to drive, so having it there is almost like having it as a standalone conference.

WA???

MRCI or WEHI

I'm coming purely from a cost-of-travel perspective on this one. Getting to Sydney is cheap, getting to those other locations is a costly bother.

Canberra would be fantastic. I don't think abic needs to be with any other conference.

Collocation is good as long as costs can be kept reasonable.

Big city is fine.

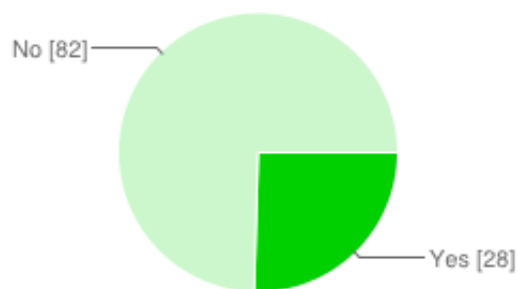
I'm most likely happy with any location which I can go to by public transport.

Regional is a great idea,

great idea, hunter valley or sydney

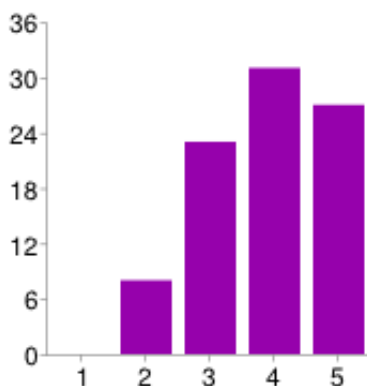
Your thoughts on posters

Did you present a poster at ABiC 2014?



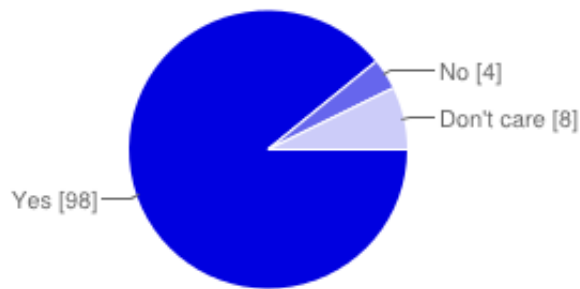
Yes	28	25%
No	82	75%

How much did you enjoy the poster session?



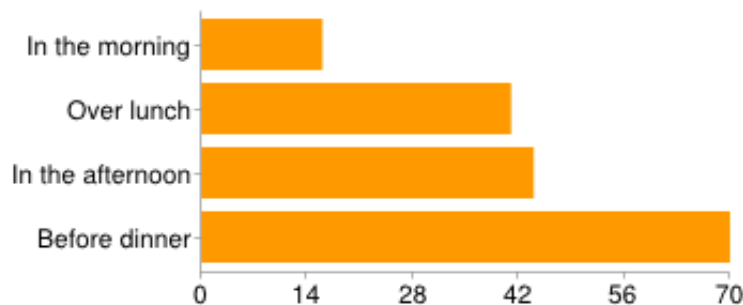
1	0	0%
2	8	7%
3	23	21%
4	31	28%
5	27	25%

Would you like to see a poster session at ABiC 2015?



Yes	98	89%
No	4	4%
Don't care	8	7%

When do you like poster sessions?



In the morning	16	15%
Over lunch	41	37%
In the afternoon	44	40%
Before dinner	70	64%

Any other thoughts on future poster sessions?

I'd prefer a session of 5 minute talks instead.

important for students especially

It would be good to have the poster on during all the meeting so that it is possible to read them during any break.

I have detailed this in a previous box: AGTA worked really well for poster sessions because they had a dedicated block of time after lunch.

Perhaps the Lorne approach of having posters after dinner with free wine (even if it's just a glass) would be good?

continuous

Great opportunity to present what they have been doing. Could perhaps have more structure to facilitate discussion

I didn't much see the point of some posters, and the presenters were either absent or just didn't really sell me on why I should care. The judges seemed bored.

Don't cram poster sessions and social sessions together. Extend the conference by half a day if need be. Keep the posters up all conference. Have the capacity for hosting posters as 'demos'

No

Food and drinks with posters is a must.

There were too many posters ?

In the hallway.

Make two poster sessions (odd/even numbers).

If there are as many posters then two poster sessions of slightly shorter time would be my preference - just trying to get around even the ones I considered relevant to me and talk with their presenters was a serious challenge.

Alcohol is great at a poster session. So afternoon or evening might be wise.

Fast-Forward poster session?

Multiple poster sessions essential to allow the many poster presenters to also wander and view other posters

Drinks with the poster session always work well. Maybe there could be two poster sessions if they conference lasted 2 days. I felt a bit like there wasn't enough time to see all the posters I wanted as well as presenting my own.

worked well before dinner

How about more, shorter sessions (in essentially every break), where a smaller fraction of the posters is in focus, and the author is really expected to be at her/his poster that session? Idea would be to not have to choose between staying at your poster or looking at others, and having a better chance of talking to the author of a specific poster. Also easier to concentrate in shorter sessions. Possibly a good idea to not group by subject, to allow authors to look at other posters of the same subject. Also better to not have everyone crowded around 10 adjacent posters.

I think you could maybe make it 15 minutes or so shorter. It kind of faded a bit towards the end.

ABiC2014 got it right with posters accessible throughout the conference and passed on the way to coffee etc. Many smaller poster sessions are better than one big one.

Alcohol essential.

Always nice to talk science with a good beer ;)

Drinks essential!

Decouple them from drinks/coffee sessions, and perhaps have quick 2-3 minute oral presentations about poster content.

Given so many poster submissions, have a fast forward session so that attendees get a better overview

Having drinks with poster sessions makes them extra-fun, especially for some of the more reserved stereotypical bioinformaticians. Keep drinks in the mix, please.

They go well with drinks! Also, I'm a fan of "Fast Forward" presentations before poster sessions.

depends on when the meeting starts - posters are excellent for students and newbies to present a piece of their research...

They are key to a conference, keep them on.

I liked that ABiC 2014 had posters setup almost from the start and that they were in the same vicinity as the coffee and lunch breaks. That way, you could taking in the posters a bit at a time each day.

I think having two sessions help to see all the poster.

More space.

It was too narrow this year. Hard to get around to see all the posters.

Posters should be up for the whole conference

It would be ideal to keep both meetings in same location.

Your thoughts on dinner

If you went to dinner at ABiC 2014, how much did you enjoy it?

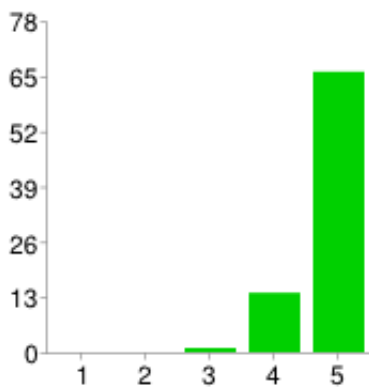


For this kind of event, do you prefer dinner to be



Tell us what you thought about ABiC 2014

How would you rate the event overall?



1	0	0%
2	0	0%
3	1	1%
4	14	13%
5	66	60%

What did you like about the event?

Broad applications without getting too bogged down in the nitty-gritty. Learnt and took something out of 90% of the talks to take into my own research.

everything

Pretty much everything. Details can be found here:

<http://cabbagesofdoom.blogspot.com.au/2014/10/every-conference-should-be-like-abic.html>

It was very well organised!

Positive energy, supportive atmosphere, excellent speakers, great chance to network

Presentations, community.

Great talks, good venue, well organised.

The range of bioinformatics techniques covered.

very high standard talks

talks, chairs and food

Firstly, I think it attracted a really good group of people. At first I was hesitant about attending because it was on the weekend, but I think this probably resulted in the great group. I thought the mixture of talks was great and there was lots of opportunities to network and ask questions etc. I think the venue was also really good.

A small group of people with very high quality bioinformatics research presented, and the ability to interact with the invited international presenters.

Variety of topic covers, one of the few Australasian conference with a dedicated bioinformatic focus

fast paced. inspiring speakers. general topics.

Where to begin... - The quality of the talks (probably aided by the low number) - Single-strand - Appropriate duration - Surprisingly good food/coffee - The 'best student presentation' recipient was a very handsome individual

the size (smaller conferences offer more valuable experiences - in my opinion the presentations and posters were all of high quality the 'vibe' of the conference was that of fantastic collegiality

Quality presentations. Many talks of broad interest. Comfortable seats! Liked that it was more about tools than specific applications

Good talks, good location.

Excellent mix of useful methods and good science. I particularly liked the atmosphere

pretty much everything short, sharp, engaging

Venue, organisation, topics, attendees

The sense of bioinformatics community. Meeting lots of amazing people. Hearing great talks (all of them were fantastic). The organising committee did an amazing job.

The calibre of the speakers was excellent, and I appreciated the community feel. Catering was superb (much better than AGTA).

Lots of time for interaction Good presentations Great venue Mix of student/ECR/established researchers

Bioinformatics for bioinformaticians by bioinformaticians

Terrific talks and posters

I was able to meet and speak with researchers in the field of bioinformatics.

Great atmosphere. Strong program. Good opportunities to hear from students and early career scientists.

See plenty of interesting bioinformatics research going on around australia.

Excellent speakers and sense of community

The relevance to bioinformatics. i.e. it wasn't overly focused on the biology. Talks were short and snappy. It was good to hear for less senior researchers; the ones actually performing the day-to-day work.

Food, nice lecture theatre, interesting talks.

* Subject matter is a niche much needing to be filled among Australian conferences.

* Selection / variety of talks was great * Food was good

Mix of students and senior scientists Relaxed / informal atmosphere

Nuts and bolts details of tools, processes and protocols. So much was relevant.

Great program and atmosphere. It was amazing to see so many Bioinformaticians together (I had no idea there were so many on Oz!)

I thought it was a great community-building conference. It was very affordable - by far the best value conference I've attended - which is so important for students. And despite the budget price it was organised better most "professionally organised" conferences.

Great speakers. Well organised.

Good catering Lots of attendees Sessions were of right length Good opportunity to network Great venue

I thought that the quality of the talks were high. I also enjoyed the focus was on bioinformatics, and not biology.

Well organized and informative

The whole event.

Wide variety of excellent and engaging speakers.

I liked the community feel. I also thought it had a good focus on genomics and wasn't too broad so that all the talks were relevant. I also thought the twitter engagement was excellent

Everything ran to time and the food was excellent!

A chance for bioinformatics community from across the country to meet

The focus on methods talks that spanned a wide range of areas within Bioinformatics (not just genomics), and the useful biology coming out of the Bioinformatics community in Australia.

Very good talks, excellent keynote speakers, good venue, active and engaged post session

It had the perfect mix of Bioinformatics and Science, leaning slightly to the bioinformatics side. It wasn't too long. Had a great line up of speakers. The seating and venue was very nice and comfortable.

Speakers were able to go into more detail on mathematical and computational methods they tend to in a "biologist-focused" conference. This meant pretty much all talks were potentially useful to my work.

Relaxed vibe, great talks, the chance to network with fellow bioinformaticians. The fact the focus on was solely on bioinformatics from a practical standpoint rather than an algorithm standpoint, was really attractive to me as well.

Really interesting talks relevant to general bioinformatics work. Good posters across a broad range of topics. Convenient venue. Good venue: comfortable, easy to see from everywhere in the auditorium Food was good too

Because of the smaller focus of the event, all the talks were either relevant to me or at least interesting and understandable, and the general atmosphere was very enthusiastic and supportive. I met some great contacts and enjoy the social aspect as well. Also the food was AMAZING. Much better than AGTA's catering, but don't tell them, I wouldn't want to hurt their feelings.

Good, relevant talks.

Almost all talks and posters were of a very high quality Location good Food good

Really good talks. Inexpensive. Very reasonably priced conference dinner. Food was good. Soda!

good breadth

Informal, great venue. Real community feel.

Interesting and engaging speakers

Talks, coffee and food.

Well structured, extremely informative, enjoyable

focus on bioinformaticians and bioinformatics

The size was perfect - made for a cohesive group, which was probably also helped by not having concurrent sessions. Also, the quality of the talks was very high, the

venue was fantastic and the food excellent :)

Great sense of community (even though I didn't know many other attendees), convenient and appropriately-sized venue, interesting talks across a range of topics

Excellent speakers & excellent talks.

Excellent selection of presenters and quality of presentation. Very accessible - was worried I'd have to deal with more algorithms and stats. The collegiality associated with (most) bioinformaticians I know was very evident.

showcased some good examples of bioinformatics-focussed scientific research

Very interesting talks and invited speakers

The talks were great. Good diversity of topics.

Low cost, high quality.

Location Food very well organized

Talks, location, social program, catering

What three words would you use to describe ABiC 2014?

bioinformatics, convivial, cutting edge

Fun, informative, unique

bioinformatics friendly wordcloud

Diverse. Interesting. Fun.

Posters, Enlightening Experience

interactive informative perfect

Relevant Interesting Funny

Community Informal Dynamic

Really great bioinformatics.

Excellent, informative, enjoyable

Freakin' Awesome #classicLovell

engaging, enlightening, enjoyable

Informal, informative, practical

Interesting, engaging and productive.

Lively, Great Value

twitter community community (the sense community was so important, I'll use it twice)

awesome bioinformatics community

Value for money

informative collegial practical

interesting useful

cheap, high quality

Learning, encouraging, growing

Bioinformatics for bioinformaticians by bioinformaticians

Interactive, high-calibre, thoughtful
Interesting. Quality. Brilliant.
fast, inspiring, general
Good community feel
Biased Genomics No proteomics
collegiality valuable inspiring
Lots of learning
Vibrant, engaging, enjoyable
Very Melbourne focused
High-quality, interesting, large
Fun Informal Informative
Motivating Social Inspiring
Fun, organized, diverse
Quality, collegiality, interactive
interesting, worthwhile, fun
Organised, Fun, Community
Enlightening, entertaining, enjoyable
Relevant. Welcoming. Professional.
Fun, informative, social
Cutting-edge, lively, diverse
Relaxed, organised, informative
First bioinformatics conference
friendly, lively, efficient
great, informative, networking
Great X 3
Excellent bioinformatics focus
interesting, comprehensive, informative
Collegial Vibrant Engaging
Relaxed, Engaging, Twitter
Sociable, helpful, friendly
cool, casual, relevant
Fun informative energetic
Informative Convivial Energetic
Short, sharp and sweet.
an excellent conference
Full of bioinformaticists
Australian Bioinformatics Conference
fun, community-building
experimental interesting enjoyable

quality, openness, engaging

inspiring, social, and silo-breaking

Exciting, wide-ranging, inclusive

What would you try to do the same next time?

Poster session Coffee stand!

everything

Quality and breadth of speakers/presentations Timing to coincide with AGTA Coffee machine!!

Keep the number and duration of talks the same.

Pretty much everything. Please try to keep this an inexpensive conference.

Everything was great. The talk times were great. The schedule was well organized. The invited/student talks were a good mix. The venue was great. The food was great.

Use a lecture designed seminar, it make a big difference when sitting all day. Same range of speaers

Keep talks reasonable short and allow the younger researchers an opportunity to talk about their work.

Talk lengths, topics; venue

Good international speakers Great intro talk from a internationally recognised local speaker Nice poster reception Great to see students involved

Attend all talks

The venue was good and comfortable. It was easy to see and hear talks even from the very back of the room.

Pretty much everything! The low cost and availability of grants makes it a great conference for students and ECRs. Tweeting was great fun. Get more people involved?

everything, I'm struggling to find fault

Same sorts of high quality speakers

Pretty much everything.

pretty much everything

I loved the informality of the atmosphere, how everything ran to time. Also price was really good. Basically do what you did this time and it will be awesome!

Great venue with good social breaks. The group was kept together throughout the day. The session on practical bioinformatics was more useful than expected. Please keep this around.

Everything except for having it on the weekend

- Same format - Same quality foods and speaking sessions - Keep it over a weekend, could have a mixer/dinner opening event / keynote on the Friday night for those in location. - Recruiting in the international bioinformatics speakers from AGTA

- keep it low cost

Focus and range of talks (and posters) was excellent. Amount of time available for networking (if you count lunch, dinner, poster sessions etc) was probably about right. I quite liked that there were *not* streams, because everything was reasonably relevant to me.

Community feel (hard to quantify except in it's absence). Mixture of student, ECR, established researchers talks good

If it runs for two days only again, make it a satellite again.

Invite/select good speakers!

short talks, short sessions

Everything

The layback formality. Inclusive feel.

Mostly everything

Cheap registration, international keynotes if possible. Drinks with the poster session.

I would encourage such a spectrum of the Australian bioinformatics community to attend. I would continue to hold this conference in a comfortable venue with good wifi.

Maintain the positive atmosphere and community spirit. Ensure the speakers are excellent.

Speakers.

Sunny outdoor lunch time.

Most things.

The right number of talks per session (not too long). Superbly organised overall cost

comfortable seats Tool-focused General talks on version control, note keeping (eg the ipython talk), good programming practices etc.

Barristas!

Continue delivering a great diversity of topics.

Everything. Honestly, don't change a thing.

The talks.

Keep the great breadth, depth and interest level of the talks

Keep the scientific focus. Make day two a bit longer.

Choice of speakers was excellent. Venue was comfortable. Twitter.

Yes

similar amount of time period (2-3 days), level of information, good structure

venue was great, topics covered

Everything! I think the rego cost (ie very cheap) was particularly helpful for getting people along (I'd already spent all my conference funds for the year, but happy to stump up for it myself if it's only \$90!)

Informal atmosphere

Submit an abstract, attend both days

Most things

The food The timing

yes, but not sure about AGTA

attend, eat food, listen, see fish and meercats

Keep up the variety number of topics & good speakers.

What would you try to do differently next time?

Slightly longer, two days perhaps. This might allow for additional broader content outside the genomics space.

Nothing!

Nothing, and please especially ignore all 'wise suggestions' from those who weren't in attendance. Less cynically, -maybe- - Dedicated poster-viewing sessions (i.e. not overlapping w/ drinks), or alternatively some sessions where people give 2-3 minute 'talks' about their poster to gauge interested - More advertisement. I was the only person in my lab who knew about it (and we're in the Parkville precinct, so there's little excuse)

Make the event slightly longer and have more speakers More variety in presentations, both in subject matter and home institution Make it more representative of bioinformatics nationally The vast majority of bioinformaticians do not develop new methods. Find some way in which they could present their work Lots and lots of posters submitted. A fast-forward session would help illustrate the breadth of activity in bioinformatics nationally.

more talks from overseas scholars

I suspect it could easily be twice the length and still have high-quality talks! Now that it's proved itself I don't think it particularly needs to be attached to AGTA (though it probably doesn't hurt, unless the total time becomes too long for people to take at once).

Could there be room for some sort of shared data analysis? Provide a dataset and some questions, break up into teams either pre or during conference and either analyse or discuss how to go about analysis. Sort of like a mini GAW.

Nothing.

Not spill water on my poster and run the ink

Extended or split poster sessions to give more time to get through them all - very impressive that there were so many fantastic posters but it was hell trying to get time with them all and their presenters.

More time, more talks. Flash talks for posters.

?

I'm not exactly sure how this could be facilitated. Possible to have small "mash pit" meetings beforehand targetted at particular research questions/types of analysis. They'd have to be size limited with everyone having access to the data etc - perhaps

aimed at generating a publication! So there could be a number of these and an individual would have to commit to one! Could we make it an Australasian - rather than Australian group/association?

Do it Thursday/Friday after AGTA

More ABiC! Maybe two full days? Two poster sessions? Something to get the students together? Maybe a social event?

Ensure that the audio equipment works properly.

Some round table/discussion panel to evaluate the future/challenges in Bioinf A slot on training and challenges therein An overview of all fragmented Bioinf resources/groups in Australia and how to centralize knowledge/platforms/contacts No live demonstration, rather screenshots of potential of new tools to increase information Better accessibility of presentation slides and posters (secured website)

maybe one more session after lunch on the Sunday

longer with more talks, more time for posters

Too many posters. Audio was annoying in the lecture theatre.

more time in breaks to meet people and network

maybe extend it a bit longer to 3 days to include some workshops, and accept paper submission

Not on a weekend. Make it longer. More talks on software engineering. Get Terry Speed to look at the FUTURE not the PAST

One thing that I thought worked particularly well at AGTA was the separation of poster sessions and food+drink events. By putting the poster session directly after lunch, attendees weren't preoccupied with Food / Caffeine / Bathroom breaks, nor were compelled to leave and ignore the poster session because they were before the afternoon talks. It's a format I'd like to see adopted at other conferences!

na

nothing

More social opportunities

Not sure, potentially attend the dinner

Fitting in a few more talks would be good and might allow for more scope in topics (e.g. some more non-human-focussed talks)

I could have done another day.

Maybe try to hold at least some of the conference on weekdays. Consider a 'lightening talks' session to give presentation opportunities to some of the selected speakers.

As little as possible

Not obvious

bring my students and encourage to submit abstracts & posters, submit an abstract myself

Longer conference perhaps with more talks. Longer poster session. Dancing with the conference dinner.

I'd like to see more structural bioinformatics.

more balanced form of talks between model & non-model organisms related omics

Have an open review system for talks

Hard to improve. I think it was right in the pocket

3 full days

- Run workshops for those with an intermediate or advanced level of bioinformatics. -

Meetings between students and keynote speakers - Make presentation slides available

Make it a 3 day conference

Prefer not Saturday/Sunday.

Widen the poster area, it got a little crowded in the hallway Not a weekend

The dinner venue was a bit far to go, although it was a good choice in all other respects.

Better microphone

Different organisers and location. Spread the experience!

Try to take more notes during talks and ask more questions and network more.

I'd love to see a mini-session on funding of bioinformatics research in Australia.

Perhaps have it on a week day

Check the event doesn't coincide with school holidays in other states. I couldn't attend both ABiC and AGTA as kids were still on holidays in SA.

More high-level talks from senior invited speakers (Terry and Titus did it best). More short talks are better than a few long ones. Meetings are for exposure to new ideas, not details.

Make sure that eduroam was not strangely blocking http sites. (i.e. nothing important.)

Have a live Twitter feed on screen for the presentations

Set the poster session in a more spacious place.

I would try to organise the poster session a bit different. For many posters it was hard to find one of the poster authors. Maybe two poster sessions (odd/even numbers) are an improvement.

Tell us your thoughts and ideas to make ABiC great next year

What is your constructive input towards holding an ABiC-style meeting in 2015?

- Bring in the wealth of topics that are included in the definition "computational biology and bioinformatics" - Make it multiple track as the topics can vary quite a lot
- Offer workshops where for example a software company can showcase their

product, while teaching how to use it. - Have a satellite student symposium

This was such a pleasant experience, I hope it continues every year. Please keep the focus on short, competitive abstract talks instead of invited speakers, so we can be exposed to more new ideas.

I really enjoyed this year so keep it up guys!

see prev comments re research topics and scientific over informatic emphasis

I really want to see this happen.

Happy to work with the organizers of ABiC to assist organize this based on experience of running InCoB2014

Increase the applied section, provide opportunities for networking for new to the field by having informal morning and afternoon teas. The more you keep people together, the more they network. It would be really nice to have an early/mid career researcher session/social function.

Please, lets make it happen again!

Would very much prefer if it could clash with teaching dates as little as possible (the suggested dates, just before and after AGTA on 12th Oct, are both pretty bad in this regard). Either after session or during the non-teaching break week are way better! Overlapping a weekend also helps.

See earlier comments

Somewhere central, lots of short talks, plenty of informal interaction.

Accept that elements will be different to 2014. Embrace the opportunity to try things with positive intent and see how they go.

I think the organisation of the meeting needs to start ASAP. There needs to be a strong organisational team and a diverse set of scientist to judge abstracts. Abstract selection should always be done on merit and the views of the judges should be respected. Last minute organisation shows. It is perhaps a good idea to invoke organisers from the previous year to lend advice but the main organisers should be local to the event. I don't like the idea of broadening the topics as one of the great things about this year was that you could get something out of every talk.

If you do everything next year the same way you did it this year, I'll be happy!

This years event was great and has the potential to become an integral part of the Australia bioinformatics community. Please do again.

None

great start, keep up the good work.

I didn't attend two conferences but really wished. So, I put my comments and thoughts here. Also, I've followed them on Twitter - thanks for all did it. I copied my comments previous one below. Please find them. ----- It doesn't matter whether it's tandem or not. Not included in previous section why I didn't attend two conferences, which I really wished. Because of high registration, accommodation, and airfare, students cannot make it easily. The rule for student benefits is "supervisor needs to attend AGTA", but organizers should think that these days, lots of students doing bioinformatics are not necessarily having

supervisors who have worked on bioinformatics. Also, compared with other conferences, your two conferences have limited options for student bursary.

Most important probably to get good speakers. I'd like a selection as this year, plus a few more sessions of more technical talks.

Try to improve networking between assistants. By this I mean that is good that people talk more to each other, in an informal way, to know what other people are doing and looking forward possible collaborations or just feedback from other people that could help to achieve your current or future project

Keep it similar to this year. Relaxed, get the word out to as many students and ECR. I think the lunch break could potentially be shorter if you wanted to increase the length of any talks. You could also potentially consider having one session as a 3 minute thesis type session to encourage students to submit abstracts for presentations not just posters.

Wider audience and maybe a bit better advertising, I heard some bioinformatician at AGTA who didn't know about ABiC...

I didn't participate in ABiC 2014. I would like to see a conference of this nature with full proceedings if this is sustainable in ANZ. I like the collocation ideas, but worry about the costs and about the difficulty in funding attendance if there is no publication outputs

This style meeting is essential for Australia. A chance to talk to our peers without the western blots and cut up mice

bioinformatics trivia (like at AGTA) at the pub would be fun and good for networking

I found the start time hard to meet. Coming from Brisbane, I was up at 4am to get to the airport and I was still an hour late to the venue. The alternative to an early rise is another night's accommodation and that just adds to the cost of attending. Being closer to Brisbane next year will make it easier to meet the start time, for me, but there seemed to be a lot of empty time on Sunday afternoon that could have supported a later start time.

Would love to have a 3 day conference, separate from AGTA, in an informal setting, preferably in a city that is cheap to get to for most participants

Holding it coincident with another meeting is a good idea and helps minimize costs for those attending both. Keeping the costs down is good - keep it professional, but simple. It needs a range of topics to cater for the broad bioinformatics community.

Keep it low-key and accessible to students!

If the meeting is to be held in tandem, then it is likely that delegates may attend both so the programs need to complement each other.

Don't be restricted by last year. Get lots of people involved in the running of the conference. Build the goodwill

More of the same is fine by me.

Do it. Funding for travel for students etc is essential (very grateful I was funded)
Make AGTA move somewhere closer, a CBD, so it's more streamlined. Heck, if it can't be Sydney move it back to Melbourne.

It was a fantastic event this year and I'm sure it will be fantastic next year as well

Great that it's happening! And thank you for all the hard work to make it happen!!!

Have it in the Hunter Valley to have AGTA participants find it easy to attend, perhaps by hiring a venue from the Hunter TAFE to save on costs? Alternatively, hold it at the university of Newcastle? Or one of the (less expensive) Hunter Valley hotels? And (of course, because it's Hunter), have either a pre-conference or (if the conference is 1.5 days like this year) during the remaining 0.5 day conference-associated wine tour thing. Basically, arrange a deal with some of the wine touring companies that attendees can sign up for wine tours (which they pay for in addition to registration, of course) [before and during the conference] so that one of the cool networking events ends up being wine tours with other attendees.

COMBINE student symposium satellite? Hm, this response might not be anonymous anymore...

Could you please notify us the upcoming events in advance?

I'm sure a student-run pub event one of the days would make a great addition. I hear COMBINE is excellent ;)

Keep doing what you're doing, because ABiC 2014 was great.

Expand the bioinformatics area to be more inclusive.

Similar format as 2014 but bigger and bit more wider.

- Longer conference (not too long) - Longer breaks (for networking, discussion) - A panel session

See: <http://cabbagesofdoom.blogspot.com.au/2014/10/every-conference-should-be-like-abic.html>

It would be nice to have some unconference features, and a board and rooms available for birds-of-a-feather sessions.

Should have wide range of topics. Shouldn't be worried much about AGTA conference

I don't have a lot of experience with these types of meet ups but I thought everyone did a great job.

It was great this year! and anything next year will also be awesome. I'm already looking forward to it!

Last page! Tell us about yourself

What is your Australian postcode?

2145

3086

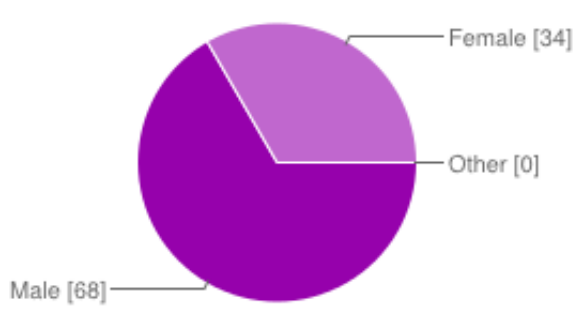
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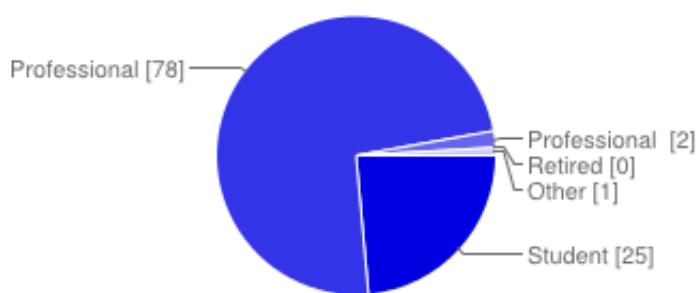
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What is your gender?



Male	68	62%
Female	34	31%
Other	0	0%

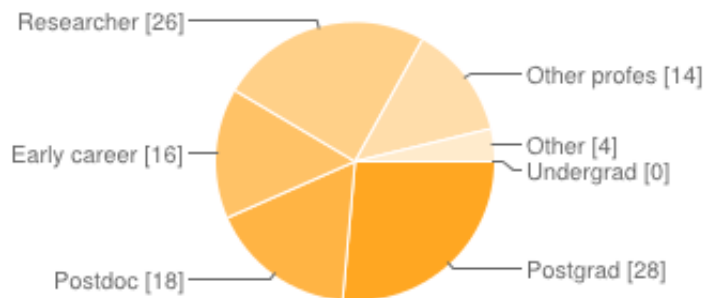
What is your professional status?



Student	25	23%
Professional and employed	78	71%
Professional and unemployed	2	2%

Retired	0	0%
Other	1	1%

Where are you in your career?



Undergrad	0	0%
Postgrad	28	25%
Postdoc	18	16%
Early career researcher	16	15%
Researcher	26	24%
Other professional	14	13%
Other	4	4%



Number of daily responses

