Getting to Know Our Membership: The Gastroenterology and Hepatology Advanced Practice Providers
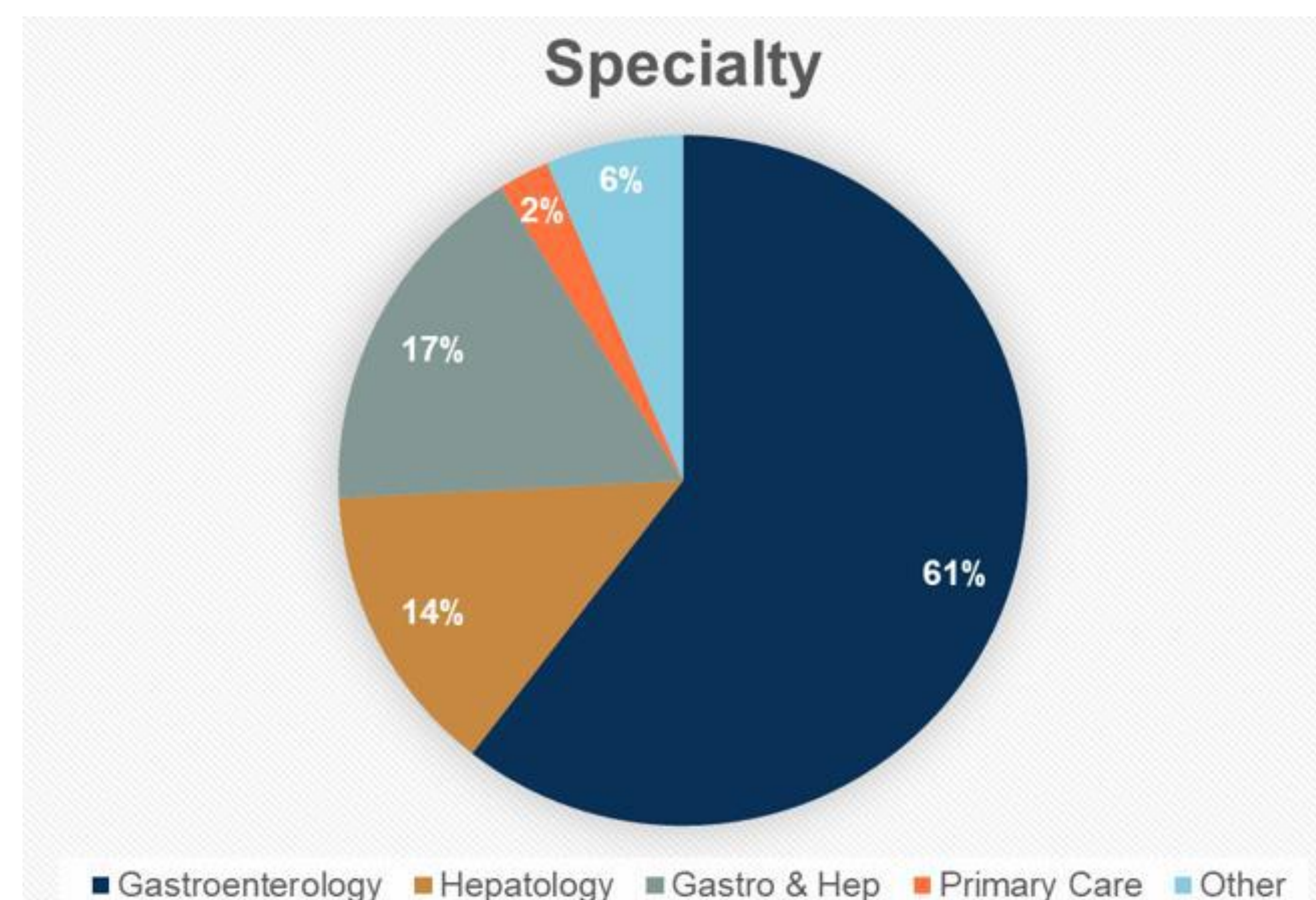
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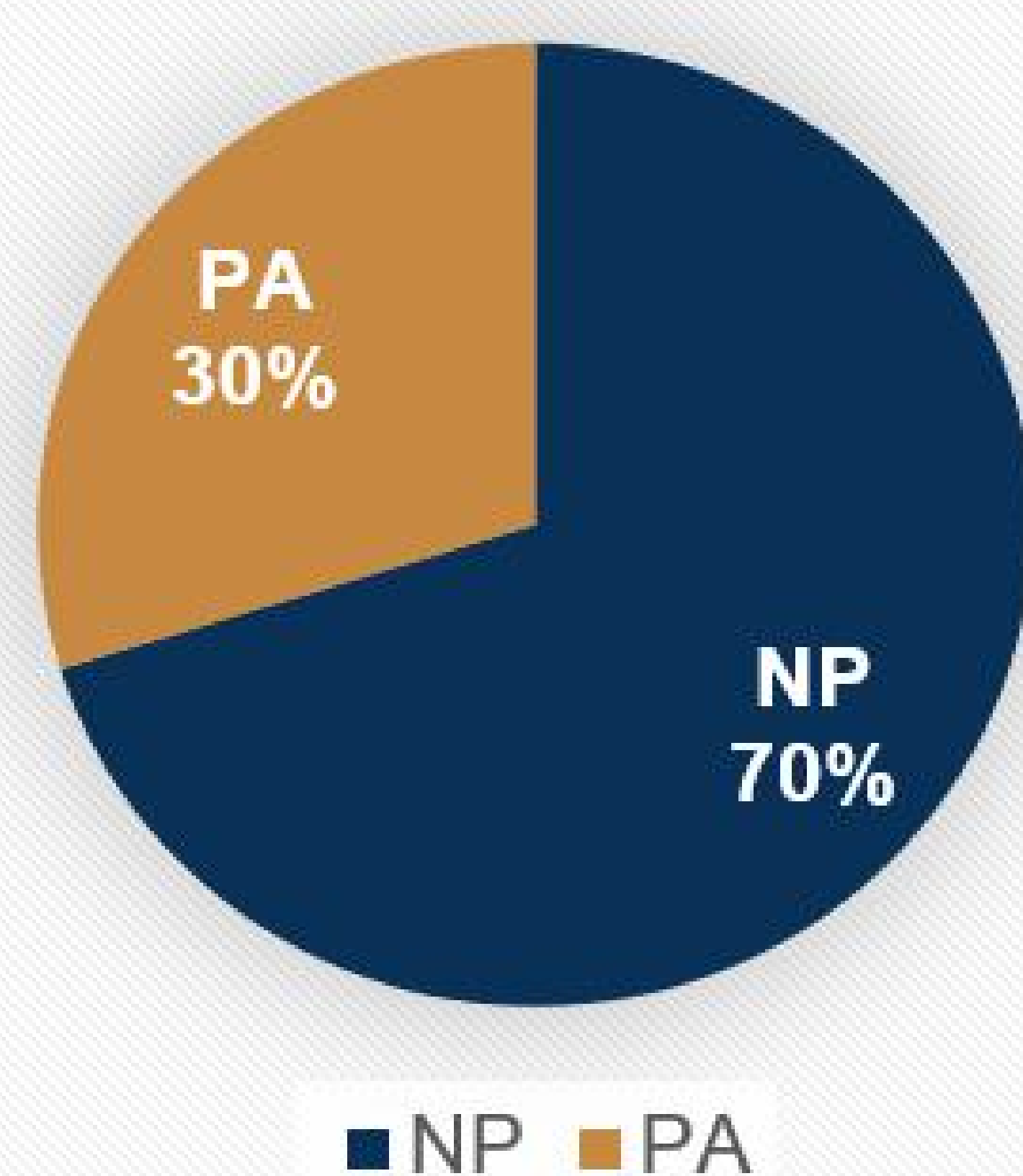
Background and AIM

➤The Gastroenterology and Hepatology Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) (GHAPP) association is the first dedicated professional organization for the advancement of gastroenterology (GI)/hepatology (Hep) APPs, with content created exclusively by APPs, for APPs.

➤A membership survey was created by the Evidence-Based Practice and Research Committee (EBPRC) with the aim of evaluating demographics and preferences concerning research and research experience among GHAPP members.
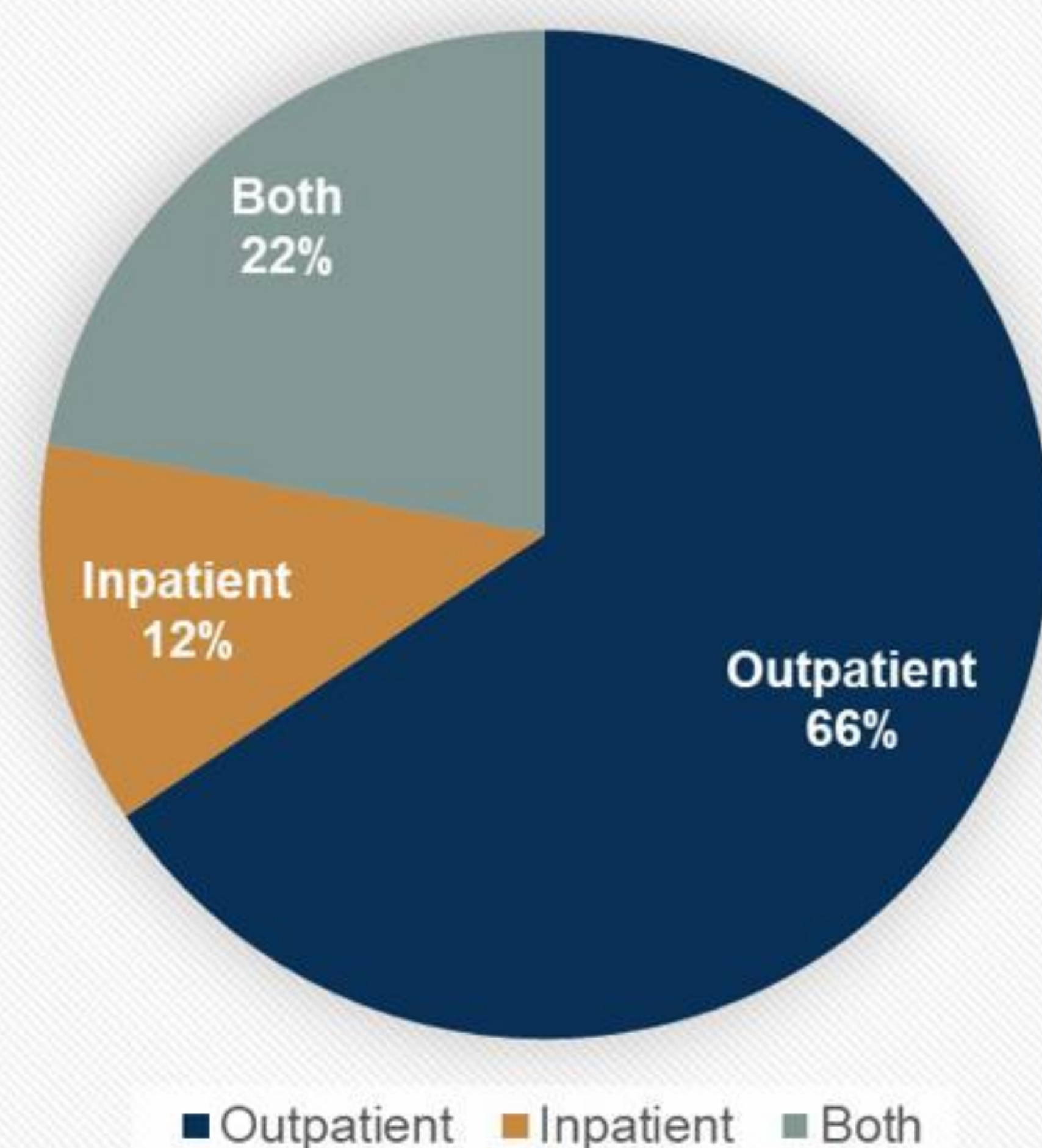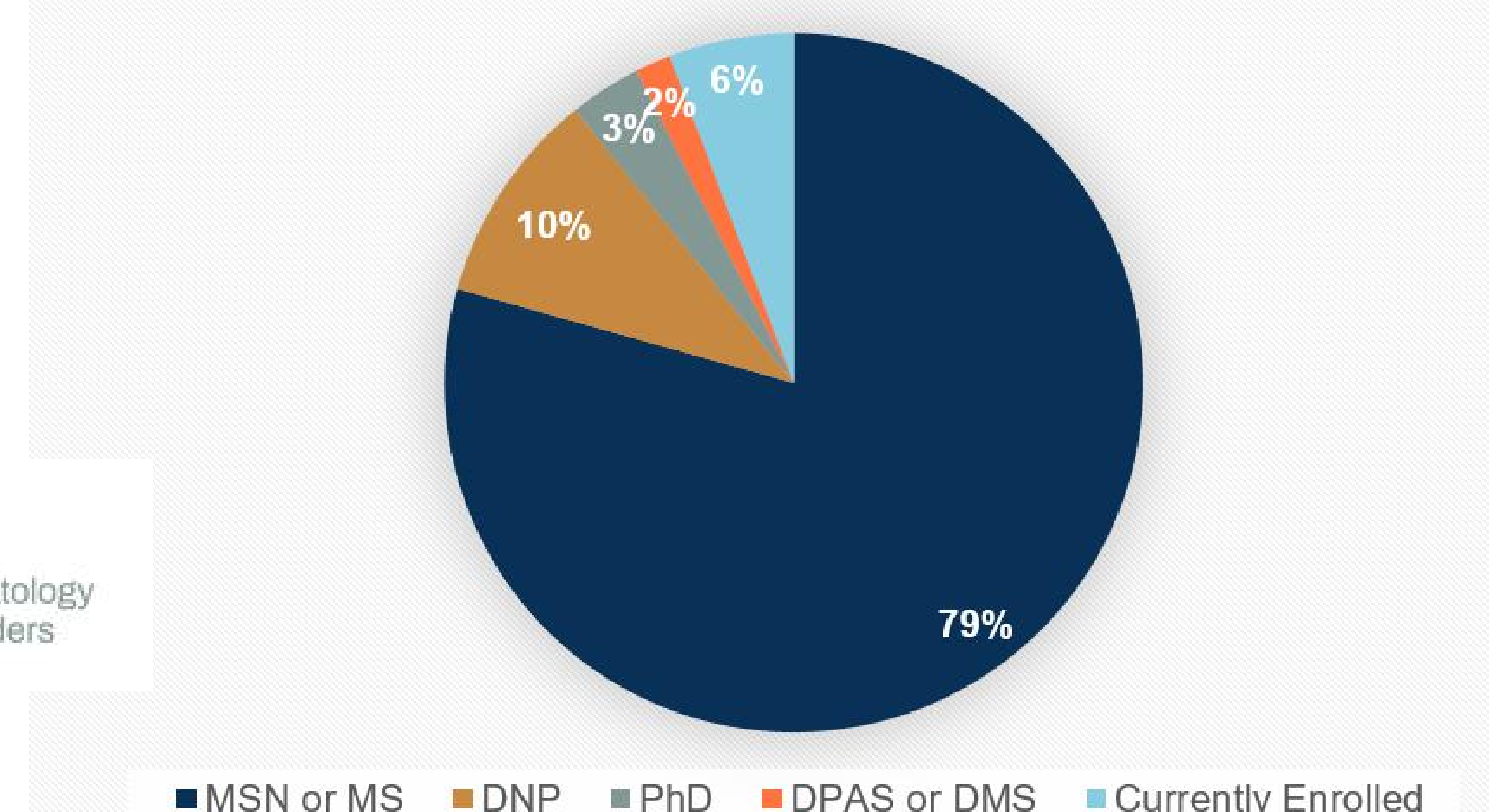
Methods and Materials

➤The EBPRC developed an electronic survey through SurveyMonkey. Participants were eligible to take the survey if they were GHAPP members.

➤Respondents were anonymous. Participation in the survey was voluntary and no compensation/incentive was provided.

➤The survey was sent via the GHAPP email database to all active members from March 2021 to April 2021.

➤The survey described specialty, professional designation, practice setting, educational attainment, and level of comfort with research and evidence-base related activities.

➤Respondents' self-reported level of comfort on a scale of 0-5 (0=lack of comfort to 5=extremely comfortable).

Specialty

Pie chart: Gastroenterology 61%, Hepatology 14%, Gastro & Hep 17%, Primary Care 2%, Other 6%

NP and PA Distribution

Pie chart: NP 70%, PA 30%

Practice Setting

Pie chart: Outpatient 66%, Inpatient 12%, Both 22%

Educational Attainment

Pie chart: MSN or MS 79%, DNP 10%, PhD 3%, DPAS or DMS 2%, Currently Enrolled 6%

Question	Avg
Q13: Initiating research/quality improvement projects in collaboration with physicians and other scientists (n=121)	Avg 3.4
Q14: Initiating research/quality improvement on my own (n=119)	Avg 3.1
Q15: Reading and Critiquing Research (n=121)	Avg 4.2
Q16: Scientific writing as principal or first author (n=120)	Avg 2.2
Q17: Scientific writing as supporting author (n=121)	Avg 3.0
Q18: Understanding how to target a particular journal for publication (n=121)	Avg 2.4
Q19: Creating a budget (n=120)	Avg 2.2
Q20: Protocol Development (Determining the type of project I would like to do (i.e. non-human subjects, quality improvement project, program evaluation, human subjects research) (n=119)	Avg 2.6
Q21: Completing Informed Consent with research participants (n=119)	Avg 4.6
Q22: Database generation (n=119)	Avg 2.9
Q23: Performing qualitative data analysis (n=119)	Avg 2.6
Q24: Performing quantitative/statistical data analysis (n=119)	Avg 2.7
Q25: Initiating IRB process (n=116)	Avg 2.5

Describes respondent level of comfort with research related activities, scale of 0-5 (0=lack of comfort to 5=extremely comfortable).

Results

➤ GHAPP membership at time of survey distribution was 1150 with 124 respondents.

➤ Specialties represented were GI (n=75, 60.48%), Hep (n=17, 13.71%), GI and Hep (n=21, 16.94%), primary care (n=3, 2.42%), and other (n=8, 6.45%).

➤ Professional designations (n=124) were nurse practitioner (n=87, 70.16%), and physician assistant (n=37, 29.84%). Practice settings (n=122) were outpatient (n=80, 65.57%), inpatient (n=15, 12.30%), or both (n=27, 22.13%).

➤ Educational attainment (n=121) revealed MSN or MS (n=96, 79.34%), DNP (n=12, 9.92%), PhD (n=4, 3.31%), DPAS or DMS (n=2, 1.65%) or currently enrolled (n=7, 5.79

Conclusion

The membership survey was a vital part of GHAPP needs assessment to better support professional advancement for APPs. The data were utilized by the EBPRC to improve educational programs for GHAPP members, including the development of a research and educational series completed during the national conference. The results support the need for development of an evidence-based and research mentorship program through GHAPP.

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