

## INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Nephrology Trials Network (CNTN) was established in 2014 to improve the quantity and quality of clinical trials in nephrology in Canada. With inception of the Canadians Seeking Solutions and Innovations to Overcome Chronic Kidney Disease (Can-SOLVE CKD) Network in 2016, CNTN received additional funding to expand its mandate.

## AIM

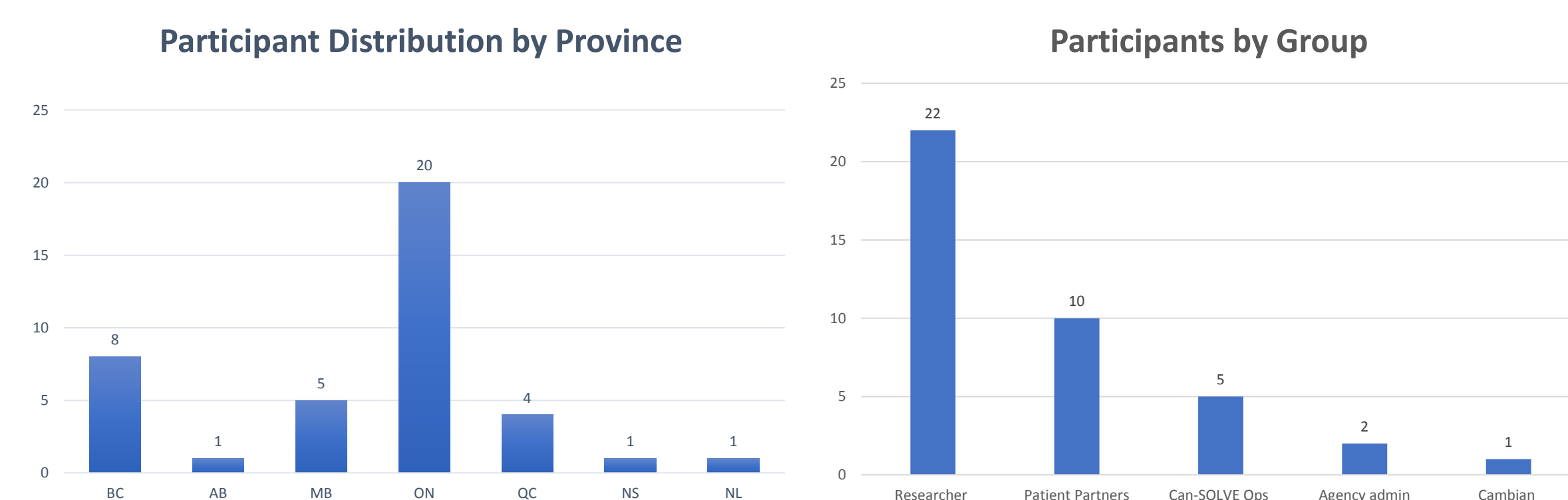
We surveyed and assembled a broad cross-section of Canadian kidney patients, nephrology researchers, and other relevant stakeholders in order to establish an expanded new vision for CNTN.

## METHOD

In July-August 2018, we administered two separate surveys – one to patient members of Can-SOLVE CKD and the second to members of CNTN and other Canadian nephrology investigators. The survey was sent to 59 CNTN members with a response rate of 46% (27 responses), 175 Canadian Society of Nephrology members with response rate of 8% (14 responses). The responses from these 2 groups were pooled and reported as researcher responses.

The results of these surveys were used to inform the agenda of two-day visioning workshop in September 2018. This workshop was held to discuss how CNTN could best support nephrology research in Canada. Over 40 stakeholders, representing 7 provinces, participated in the workshop, including 10 patient partners, 22 researchers, and members of the Can-SOLVE CKD Operations Team.

The workshop agenda included presentations on the survey results, a Successes, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis and small group discussions with guided questions that were brought to the larger group for discussion.



## RESULTS

### Surveys

Two surveys were administered from July 9 to August 7, 2018 to evaluate current services and assess areas of highest need for the purpose of planning CNTN's future work. One survey was conducted among Can-SOLVE CKD patient partners, the second among researchers associated with CNTN and the Canadian nephrology community.

The researcher survey was sent to 59 CNTN members with a response rate of 46% (27 responses), 175 Canadian Society of Nephrology members with response rate of 8% (14 responses). The responses from these two groups were pooled and reported as researcher responses.

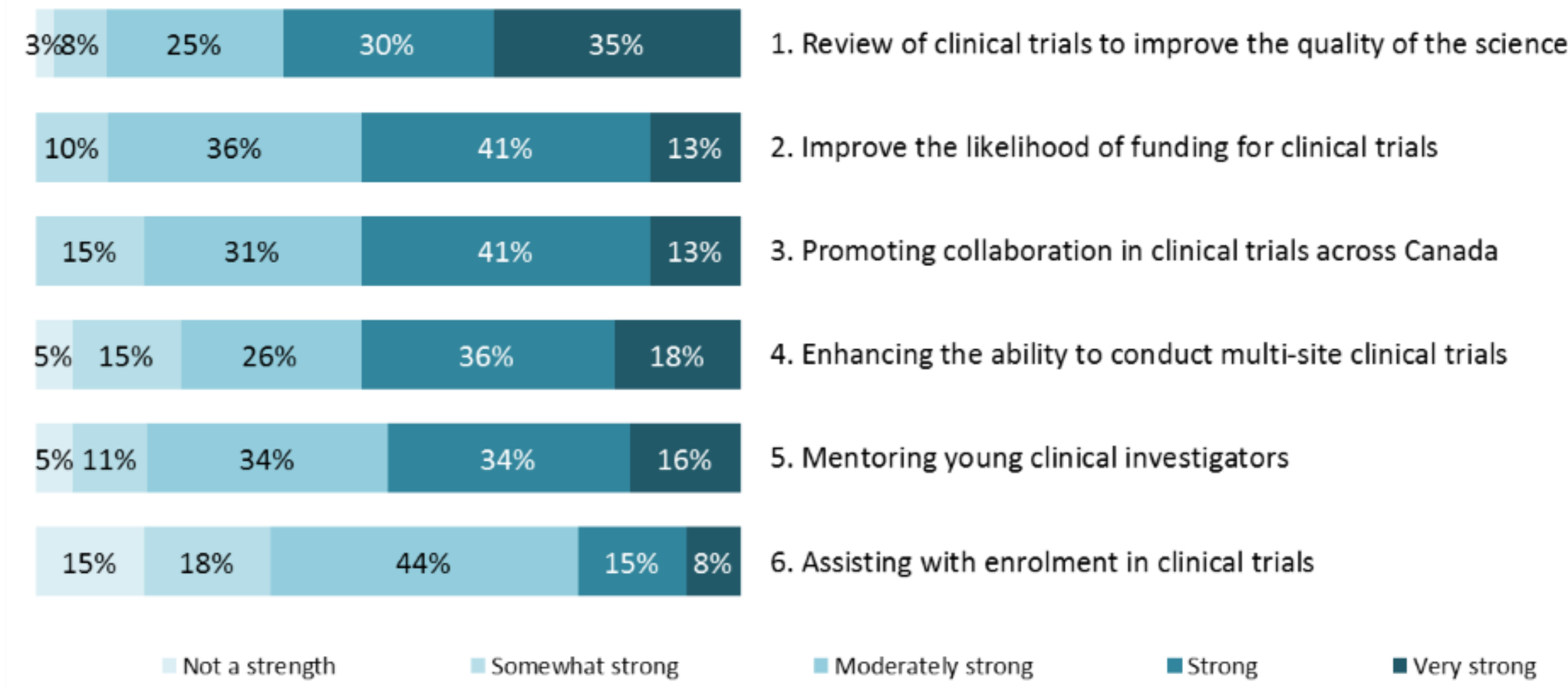
The patient survey was sent to 12 Can-SOLVE CKD patient partners with 6 respondents (50% response rate).

### Patient survey results

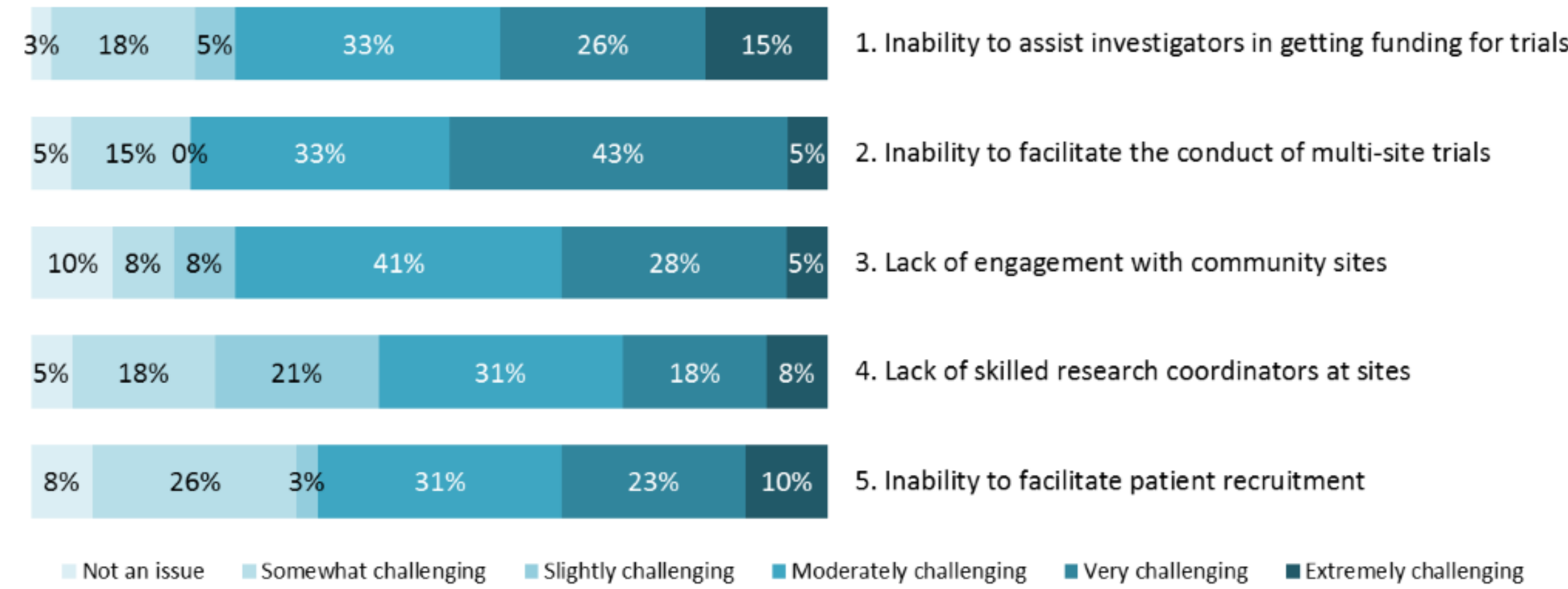
Role	How patient partners could contribute?
Managing network activities	17% (1)
Reviewing protocols	17% (1)
Designing and developing studies	17% (1)
Committee or working groups	17% (1)
All of the above	83% (5)

### Researcher survey results

Core strengths of CNTN ranked from most to least



Challenges for CNTN to overcome ranked from most to least



## CONCLUSIONS

With its new vision and committee structure, CNTN aims to promote a culture of collaboration within the Canadian kidney community and integrate patients into research. The network offers resources to enhance nephrology researchers' ability to conduct clinical trials, directly involve patients in designing studies, and motivate change in patient care based on patient priorities through increased peer review, engagement, and training.

## REFERENCES

CNTN Vision Workshop Report (unpublished) 18 Nov 2018

### Visioning workshop results

Three key themes emerged from the visioning exercise: peer review, training, and engagement. There were strengths identified in each of these themes, as well as opportunities for growth and development.

Three new working committees were created: Capacity Building, Communication and Engagement, and Scientific Operations. These committees and their respective missions are described in Figure 1. The Executive committee provides leadership and governance to the entire network.

In January 2019, a call was put out asking interested CNTN members to join one or more of these committees. Each committee has 6-9 members and is co-chaired by a researcher and patient partner.

Each working committee meets monthly to discuss how to move initiatives forward and what services CNTN can offer to the nephrology research community. The Executive committee, that meets quarterly, has 14 members, as described in Figure 2.



Figure 1 – Working committee missions



Figure 2 – Executive committee structure

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CNTN Executive Committee for their input on the abstract, CNTN members and Can-SOLVE CKD patient partners for participating in the Visioning Workshop

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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