



Danish Cardiovascular Academy 2025 Community Analysis

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Preface

This Danish Cardiovascular Academy (DCA) community analysis presents the major findings of the 2025-community survey and the 2021-2024 self-evaluation report. The objective is to promote development of the DCA, by systematically examining the key stakeholders' perceptions and experiences as well as the feedback from international experts.

The community survey was set up by the DCA secretariat, in collaboration with representatives from the research community and includes a sub-survey among DCAcademy Grantees on the impact of being a DCAcademy Grantee. The self-evaluation report was conducted according to guidelines, provided by the Novo Nordisk Foundation, and evaluated by three external international reviewers through written feedback.

By combining quantitative survey data with feedback from international reviewers, we here provide a thorough and representative analysis of DCA's previous merits and areas intended for future support to ensure DCA's scope and core activities.

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Executive Summary

The present community analysis investigates key stakeholders' perception, awareness, and experience with the Danish Cardiovascular Academy (DCA). We combine quantitative data from a recent community survey (spring 2025, 359 respondents), a sub-survey among DCAcademy Grantees (38 respondents) and qualitative, written feedback from three anonymous, international reviewers as part of the DCA self-evaluation report (2024), thereby giving a valid depiction of DCA's role in the Danish cardiovascular research community.

The analysis shows that the cardiovascular research community has in general a very positive perception of DCA. The community highlights DCA to be a successful initiative that constitutes important support for the entire community, from early-career researchers to senior scientists. Also, the community pinpoints a high value of DCA with regards to facilitating research interdisciplinarity and providing high-quality education and opportunities for research internationalisation. Both the survey respondents and the international reviewers emphasises DCA's structure to be unique in delivering a high-impact initiative to researchers.

The key take-aways are

- ***The DCA is a unique organisation in Denmark and operates at the highest international standards.***
 - *99% of respondents are positive towards the work of DCA.*
 - *85% find that DCA funding possibilities are highly relevant to the community.*
- ***The DCA provides effective training, valuable network, and internationalisation activities.***
 - *84% report having gained valuable knowledge through DCA activities.*
 - *82% recommend DCA activities to others.*
- ***The DCA plays a major role in creation of interdisciplinary- and international networks.***
 - *99% reports DCA to cause a benefit for the cardiovascular research community.*
 - *48% reports DCA activities as a catalyst for interdisciplinarity in their research.*
- ***The DCA has a successful interdisciplinary and cross-sectorial approach that:***
 - *bridges basic and clinical science.*
 - *is crucial for long-term impact of science.*
- ***The DCA is a high-performing organisational foundation with clear and ambitious goals.***
- ***DCAcademy Grantees find the DCAcademy programme to have added substantial value to their research and personal development***

In conclusion, the 2025-DCA community analysis underpins the DCA to have a major, positive impact in excelling the Danish cardiovascular research community to the highest international level.

Introduction

The DCA community analysis presents the key findings of the 2025 community survey, a sub-survey among DCAcademy Grantees and the international review of the 2021-2024 self-evaluation report. The objective is to promote a beneficial development of the DCA by examining the key stakeholders' current perception and experience with the DCA and the feedback from international experts on the achievements during the first four years of DCA's existence. We combine quantitative measures of the community survey with narrative and qualitative results from the international review, to outline DCA's past achievements.

The survey questionnaire was set up by the DCA secretariat in collaboration with representatives from the research community. We received 359 unique responses from DCA members and 38 responses from DCAcademy Grantees. The self-evaluation provides insight into the performance of the DCA from its inauguration in January 2021 until October 2024. The report was conducted in November 2024 according to guidelines provided by the Novo Nordisk Foundation. The report was evaluated by three external international reviewers who provided written feedback.

About the Danish Cardiovascular Academy

In the following, we will briefly introduce the DCA and its major accomplishments.

DCA is a strategic initiative, aimed at boosting the Danish cardiovascular research community. The academy is based on a collaborative grant (180M DKK) from the Novo Nordisk Foundation and the Danish Heart Foundation.

DCA's mission is to be an elite academy for excellent interdisciplinary education, training, funding and networks, across the entire field of cardiovascular research in Denmark.

Strategic Objectives

To accomplish the mission, four strategic objectives have been pursued:

- To provide grants to the best PhD students and postdoctoral fellows
- To provide international level research training and education
- To create and nurture national, international, interdisciplinary, and inter-sectoral networks
- To establish a national cohort mentality.

Major accomplishments 2021-2025

The following briefly summarises the major accomplishments within each strategic objective. For a more detailed description of accomplishments, we refer to the annual reports and the self-evaluation report¹.

Grants

Five open calls for PhD scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships have been completed, and a total of 121 stipends granted. Furthermore, DCA has granted 331 travel grants, 4 visiting faculties, 6 visiting professorships, and 3 international exchange grants, while also supporting hundreds of local scientific and networking events. For more information on the DCA granting programme, please refer to ref. ².

Training and education

DCA has arranged and hosted +100 activities, providing high-level scientific training and education for early-career researchers. More than 3.000 persons have participated in a DCA event or activity. For a timeline of DCA educative milestones, please consult the self-evaluation report.

Networks and internationalisation

DCA has successfully launched four major internationalisation initiatives: The Visiting Professors, the Visiting Faculty, the International Exchange, and the Summit Programmes. All four initiatives aim at exchanging knowledge and facilitating international networks. The programmes are described in detail in ref.²

A national cohort

The DCA filled a void in the community. The truly interdisciplinarity, high-quality and focus on creating domain specific professional national and international networks has made DCA a unique unifying organisation important for the growth and quality of current and future Danish cardiovascular research.

Community survey

The community survey draws on a brand analysis framework to assess stakeholders' awareness, perception, preferences, and valuation. The survey objective is to support DCA in conducting a comprehensive community analysis, mapping both the recognition and perception of DCA and its activities among its stakeholders. The survey aims to further enhance stakeholders' engagement and contribution to DCA's broader goals of developing talent, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and strengthening international competitiveness in cardiovascular research in Denmark.

We will highlight key points from the survey within the following topics:

- A. Perception of DCA
- B. Awareness of DCA
- C. Activities of DCA
- D. Flagship events of DCA
- E. Granting opportunities
- F. Internationalisation/collaboration/networks
- G. Outreach and communication
- H. Community necessities and the role of DCA

Survey validity

The survey was conducted using the survey programme Survey-Xact, and the acquired data consist of responses to 42 questions from a total for 359 respondents. The survey was conducted by distributing personalised emails to all 1791 members of DCA, who had previously signed up for the quarterly DCA newsletter. Data collection took place from 27th of May 2025 to 26th of June 2025. To ensure transparency, numerical references are included in parentheses throughout the report to indicate the percentage of respondents, who have expressed a specific view or association.

The response rate was 20%, of which 17% completed the entire survey. The majority of respondents was from Capital Region of Denmark (54%), where 22% came from Central Region of Denmark, 10% from Region of Southern Denmark, and 5% from North Region Denmark. These values mirror the distribution of all DCA members (46%, 21%, 10% and 5%, respectively). An equal gender distribution was observed among respondent (47% men, 52% women). The vast majority of respondents (94%) came from one of DCA's three main target groups: early-career (36%), mid-career (28%), and late-career researchers (30%). Survey respondents were similarly embedded in the various research areas as the entire DCA community: Basic research (37% vs. 30%), clinical research (39% vs. 45%), epidemiology (16% vs. 17%), and public health (5% vs. 6%; respondents vs. all DCA members).

Based on these observations, we conclude the survey to validly represent the key stakeholders' current perception awareness, preferences, valuation, and experiences with the DCA. For full survey and respondents' comments se appendices.

A. Key Findings – Perception of DCA

1. **Key Finding: More than 9 out of 10 respondents have a positive overall impression of DCA, suggesting that the DCA initiative is very appreciated by the national cardiovascular community.**

The majority (78%) of positive respondents have a very positive impression, while the remaining (22%) have a somewhat positive impression. This highlights that the community views the DCA very positively.

2. **Key Finding: Less than 1% of respondents have a somewhat or very negative impression of DCA, while 5% have a neutral impression and 2% are uncertain of their impression.**

This underscores the community's positive perception of DCA, but also marks out potential room for improvement, to enhance the satisfaction of more community members, according to their professional needs.

Quote from a community survey respondent:

“Extremely inspiring, cutting edge and innovative interactions on multiple levels, different facets and interests brought together at meetings. An excellent initiative”

B. Key Findings – Awareness of DCA

3. **Key Finding: More than 9 out of 10 respondents are familiar with the work and activities of the DCA. 49% of respondents state they are familiar with most of the DCA work activities, while 42% have a general idea.**

Within the community, members are aware of the activities and work of DCA, thereby emphasising adequate visibility of DCA in the community landscape.

4. **Key Finding: 95% of survey respondents associate DCA with funding programs.**

The notion that DCA provides funding and support for PhD students and Postdoctoral fellows in cardiovascular science is to a very large extent known by the community. This suggests that DCA succeeds in communicating its research funding programs, but also there is a large interest from the community in such funding possibilities.

5. **Key Finding: The large majority of the community is highly aware of DCA organises events and workshops (89% of respondents) as well as offering education and training within the cardiovascular area (84%).**

DCA's core role as organiser and facilitator of scientific events and educational training is known by the community, indicating adequate communication strategies related to these activities.

6. **Key Finding: About half of respondents associate DCA with facilitating network and collaborations within the cardiovascular community (73%), progressing knowledge and skills within cardiovascular research (60%), as well as advancing personal development (51%).**

Again, the community seems aware of DCA's aim to provide multitargeted support for the researchers' careers, incl. networking and empowerment of personal and scientific skills.

- 7. Key Finding: 35% of respondents associate DCA with supporting internationalisation, while 18% of respondents with promoting collaborations between industry and academia, thereby indicating lower awareness for these DCA activities.**

The community associates to a lesser extent DCA with supporting internationalisation and promoting collaborations between industry and academia. Therefore, a future focus would lie in improving the communication and potentially the support for internationalisation and inter-sector collaborations.

C. Key Findings – DCA activities

Annually, DCA organises and hosts a multitude of diverse PhD courses, symposia, and conferences, incl. the DCA Summer Meeting, DCA Winter Meeting, DCAcademy International Summits, Cardiometabolic Network Summit, and DCA Visiting Faculty Lectures.

- 8. Key Finding: The number of attended activities for each respondent follows a normal distribution. In the median spectrum, one-third has attended 1 or 2 activities, while another third has attended 3 to 5 activities. A smaller group (one-sixth) has attended 6 to 10 activities, while another sixth of the respondents report not having participated in any DCA activities.**

This distribution of the number of attended DCA activities both indicates that DCA engages a diverse group of researchers, at various career levels, but also reaches researchers with disparate degrees of interest and engagement in DCA activities.

- 9. Key Finding: 84% of DCA community members have to some or high degree gained knowledge through the DCA activities.**

The DCA activities have positively contributed to enhancing the knowledge level within the scientific field in the majority of community members.

- 10. Key Finding: 82% of respondents reports a very high or high likelihood of recommending DCA activities to others in their network.**

This highlights that most community members are satisfied with or inspired by the DCA activities.

- 11. Key Finding: 58% of respondents considered the DCA training and educational activities to be very aligned with the present needs in the cardiovascular research community, while 21% reported the alignment to be moderate. 1% believe the DCA training and educational activities are not aligned with the present needs.**

The cardiovascular research community views the DCA training and educational activities as fulfilling its present needs.

D. Key Findings – DCA flagship events

12. Key Finding - DCA Summer Meeting: 93% of the community is aware of the DCA Summer Meeting, while 48% have attended. Of members having attended the meeting, 66% of respondents found the DCA Summer Meeting highly valuable, while 30% considered the meeting valuable.

The survey data point out the DCA Summer Meeting to be a major, appreciated event in the community, underpinning the broad engagement from the community in this recurrent, annual event.

13. Key Finding - DCA Winter Meeting: 90% of respondents have heard of DCA Winter Meeting. The majority of members, having attended the Winter Meeting, considered it highly valuable (55% of respondents) or valuable (37%).

Attending members attribute DCA Winter Meeting to have been valuable for them.

14. Key Finding - Cardiometabolic Network Summit: Almost 3 out of 4 respondents are familiar with the Cardiometabolic Network Summit. A highly valuable outcome of the Cardiometabolic Network Summit was reported in 58% of participants, and a valuable outcome in 30%.

Awareness of the Cardiometabolic Network Summit exists in the community, and the events are valued by event participants.

15. Key Finding International Summits: One-in-two respondents have heard of the DCA International Summits. 91% of attendees appreciated the event, stating that it was either highly valuable to them (57%) or valuable (34%).

Again, the community is aware of the DCA International Summits, and the events are valued by participants.

16. Key Finding PhD courses: DCA PhD courses are known to 89% of respondents. 64% of the PhD courses participants found the course(s) highly valuable, while 31% state a valuable outcome and 5% a somewhat valuable outcome.

The PhD courses are one of DCA's core activities, aiming to enhance knowledge and training in the cardiovascular field for early career scientists. The survey demonstrates that a broad awareness exists across the community, and members at career stages, who per se do not participate in PhD courses, are familiar with the available courses for PhD students.

17. Key Finding Visiting Faculty: Approximately half of respondents are aware of the DCA Visiting Faculty. 56% of participants at a DCA Visiting Faculty event considered the event to be highly valuable to them, while 31% found it valuable and 13% somewhat valuable.

Awareness of the Visiting Faculty exists in the community, and the events are valued by event participants.

E. Key Findings – DCA granting opportunities

DCA allocates every year grants to PhD students, basic and clinical postdoctoral fellows, and international university faculty members. Moreover, DCA provides travel grants for PhD and postdoctoral fellows. The survey inquired the community on the awareness of the granting possibilities, provided by DCA, and on the extent of previous application to such funding schemes.

18. Key Finding PhD Programme: 94% of respondents are aware of the DCA PhD Programme, providing funding for PhD students.

The DCA community is highly aware of DCA providing salary funding for PhD students in cardiovascular science in Denmark.

19. Key Finding DCA Postdoc Programme: 90% and 82% of respondents stated that they have heard of the Postdoc and Clinical Postdoc Programme, respectively.

A high awareness of the two postdoc programmes exists in the community, emphasising an interest and need for funding possibilities for postdoctoral researchers.

20. Key Finding Travel Grant: 85% of respondents have heard of the DCA travel grants.

The high community awareness of travel grants for early-career scientists demonstrates both a need and interest to participate in international events and research stays.

21. Key Finding DCA Programmes (Visiting Professorships, Visiting Faculty and Internationalisation): The Visiting Professorships are known to 62% of the research community, while 54% are familiar with DCA Visiting Faculty. Half of the cardiovascular research community have heard of the DCA Internationalisation Programme.

The relatively low awareness rates in the community are most probably a result of the funding opportunities only are accessible for established associate and full professors, while the community is a diverse group of scientists spanning early to mid and late career. Nevertheless, there is room for improving the communication of the DCA programmes.

22. Key Finding: Half of survey respondents consider DCA funding programmes to be very aligned with the needs within the cardiovascular research community, while 1 in 4 believe the funding programmes are moderately aligned.

The DCA funding opportunities reflect to a large extent the needs within cardiovascular research community, spanning all career steps from early to senior scientist.

Quote from respondent of community survey:

“Feedback on applications for PhD or postdoc fellowships would greatly help these early career investigators”

F. Key Findings – Network, collaborations, and internationalisation

A major aim of DCA is to nourish and foster a network within the cardiovascular sciences, facilitating interdisciplinary collaborations, which also cross the national borders through internationalisation. The community survey, therefore, evaluated how community members' have experienced DCA to influence professional network, collaborations, and internationalisation.

- 23. Key Finding: More than 9 out of 10 DCA members, attributing relevance to a professional network, consider that the DCA activities have helped them create a network within the cardiovascular community: 43% to a high degree, while 49% to some or little degree. 8% refute the DCA activities to influence their network positively.**

These data underpin DCA's role in the founding and expanding each member's professional network within the field of cardiovascular sciences.

- 24. Key Finding: 48% of community members qualifies the DCA activities to have supported to a high or some degree to the interdisciplinarity of their research.**

DCA contributes to interdisciplinary science in the Danish cardiovascular research community.

- 25. Key Finding: 21 % of respondents state that participating in DCA activities have supported the internationalisation of their research to a high extent, whereas 20% and 15% consider the participation to have supported to some or little degree, respectively.**

The aim of the DCA to enhance internationalisation of each community member's research is met to some degree.

Quote from respondent of community survey:

"It has given me a unique opportunity to promote my research and provide me with amazing network opportunities for my future career"

G. Key Findings – Outreach and communication of DCA

- 26. Key Finding: 6 out of 10 respondents first learned about the DCA's work and activities by communication from a colleague or peer, while research institution newsletter initiated 22% of respondents to the DCA. 11% were introduced by social media, incl. LinkedIn, Instagram, X/Twitter.**

DCA benefits from traditional network organisations, where communication of first-hand contact highly impacts its visibility in the community. Moreover, online communication strategies of the DCA's work and activities, especially by the local universities and research institutions, are of importance to reach new community members. Direct collaborations with communication departments are relevant to ensure nationwide awareness.

27. Key Finding: Respondents were introduced to the DCA activities either by colleagues or peers (47%), DCA Newsletter (50%), and DCA's website (28%), suggesting effectful communication strategies employed by DCA.

Quote from respondent of community survey:

"I am impressed by the reach. SoMe is always up to date and makes the courses look interesting. I prefer DCA courses because the standard is high. They are good at presenting DCA funded researchers, especially early career researcher"

H. Key Findings – Community necessities and the role of DCA

Community members were questioned on how DCA best can support the cardiovascular research community.

28. Key Finding: 93% of respondents pinpoints that DCA to a high or some degree can support the research community by providing training and education. Only 1% state that training and education will not support the research community.

9 out of 10 community members believe that training and educational activities support the cardiovascular research environment.

29. Key Finding: Funding opportunities are considered by 85% of community members to provide a high degree of support to the research community. 11% consider the funding giving some degree of support.

Funding opportunities are considered by the respondents to be a major support for the cardiovascular research community.

30. Key Finding: Formation of professional networks is considered by 93% of respondents to provide high or some degree of support for the cardiovascular research community.

The majority of the community identify professional network formation to be an important aspect of supporting and sustaining a cardiovascular research environment. This emphasises the interest in DCA activities that facilitate networking.

31. Key Finding: 4 out of 5 respondents state that promoting internationalisation will support the cardiovascular research community to a high or some degree.

According to the majority, the cardiovascular research community can be supported by promotion of internationalisation of research and career trajectories.

Quotes from respondent of community survey:

"The DCA has been extremely valuable for my research career within cardiovascular research."

“DCA is important for Danish cardiovascular research”

“The DCA is a great initiative that promotes Denmark's strengths in Cardiovascular research and has quickly established itself as an integral part of the Danish research environment. I believe it's first funding cycle has been a great success. Now that the DCA has discovered what works and does not work in terms of their engagement with the community it would be a shame if this academy was not granted a second funding cycle.”

DCAcademy Grantees sub-survey

To also elucidate the value of the DCAcademy Grantees program, we conducted a sub-survey among the 121 PhD and postdoctoral DCAcademy Grantees. The Grantees was asked to reflect on what it have meant to them, personally, to be part of the DCAcademy Grantee cohort.

38 respondents answered the question “*What has being a DCAcademy Grantee meant to you?*”

The overall theme of their responses are a sense of being part of a network and that DCA has proven valuable for true interdisciplinarity of their research.

Selected quotes:

Being a DCAcademy Grantee has given me the opportunity to be part of an engaged and inspiring community of professionals, fostering valuable connections, knowledge exchange, and personal growth

Being a DCAcademy Grantee has provided me with crucial support to advance my independent research in acute heart failure. It has opened doors to new collaborations, strengthened my methodological skills, and given me a valuable professional network across disciplines.

I am part of a unique research community allowing me to meet clinicians and researchers from different career stages and various disciplines. By attending a magnitude of events from topic specific courses, introduction for grant recipients, and ambassador dinners to symposia and the annual Summer Meeting I have expanded my network substantially and received insightful, meaningful, and high-level education.

It means a lot to be part of a network, where a large group of people work toward a common important goal. That is very motivating. It has also meant that I have gotten a deeper understanding of clinical research

All responses are presented as appendices below.

Self-evaluation report 2021- 2024

The DCA self-evaluation report provides insight into the performance of the DCA from its inauguration in January 2021 to October 2024. It was conducted according to guidelines provided by the Novo Nordisk Foundation and was delivered to the foundation on the 30th of November 2024. The report was evaluated by three anonymous international reviewers. The DCA received their written feedback on the 12th of March 2025. For full self-evaluation report refers to ref. ¹.

Summary of international reviewers' evaluation of DCA

DCA is widely recognised by all three reviewers as an ambitious and promising, national initiative that has made strong progress in a short time. The DCA is praised for its organisational structure, interdisciplinary focus, and training support systems, incl. the peer mentoring programme for grantees. Reviewers agree that while DCA has had an excellent start, it is still too early to fully assess DCA's long-term impact on the Danish cardiovascular research community. The reviewers highlight key areas of success as well as several areas where strategic improvements could enhance DCA's reach and effectiveness.

Key successes

All three reviewers positively highlight:

- DCA to have a strong organisational foundation and vision.

Individual quote: *"DCA has built a solid structure and direction since 2021, with clear governance and ambitious goals"*

- To provide a interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach.

Individual quote: *"The academy successfully bridges basic and clinical cardiovascular research, which is seen as crucial for long-term impact of science"*

- DCA's peer-mentor programme and clinical researcher support.

Individual quote: *"This structure is seen as unique and highly valuable in supporting the development of early-career researchers."*

- DCA's effective training, networking, and internationalisation activities.

Individual quote: *"DCA has united key national and international stakeholders and created high standard training and opportunities for national as well as international collaboration and interaction."*

- DCA's multi-channel communication and visibility.

Individual quote: *"The combination of classic scientific outlets and modern platforms (e.g., social media, newsletters, website) strengthens DCA's branding and outreach."*

Areas for Improvement

The three reviewers agree on the following as areas where DCA has an unrealised potential:

- Need for greater industry engagement.

Individual quote: *“Very low participation from industry (1–2%) is seen as a missed opportunity. A more strategic and targeted approach to industry collaboration is encouraged.”*

- A larger focus on the entire spectrum of the cardiovascular research community.

Individual quote: *“The engagement in areas of public health, nursing and care is perceived as overly broad or fragmented. A more focused, high-quality curriculum within these areas could increase impact and efficiency.”*

- Broader inclusion of career stages.

Individual quote: *“Expanding the scope to include more activities targeting postdoc researchers and assistant professors, in order to support them in the career defining years after their PhD and before reaching a permanent position. “*

Consensus points: community survey and expert evaluation

The overall positive community survey, grantees sub-survey and the highly commending international review clearly conclude the DCA to be a successful initiative that within a short time has grown to be a solidly founded and important organisation, supporting the entire Danish cardiovascular research community, from early- to mid- and late career scientists.

Both survey respondents, grantees and international reviewers mention the uniqueness of the DCA's organisational structure and the high value of a professional academy which progress research interdisciplinarity, scientific training, and internationalisation within the cardiovascular research landscape. The ability of DCA to engage and bridge researchers across seniority is praised, facilitating sustainable research careers.

In conclusion, DCA is a high-gain initiative with a marked impact on the current cardiovascular community. DCA constitutes a large potential to make the field prosper further in the future, thereby excelling Danish cardiovascular science to highest international level.

List of supplementary material

1 <https://dcacademy.dk/about-dcacademy/annual-reports>

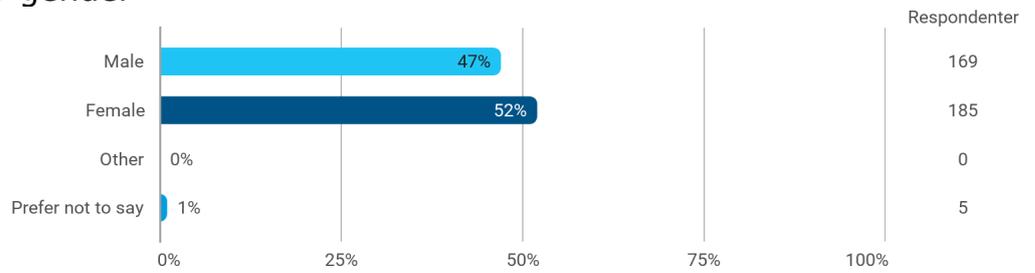
2 <https://dcacademy.dk/grants>

3 Full survey (below)

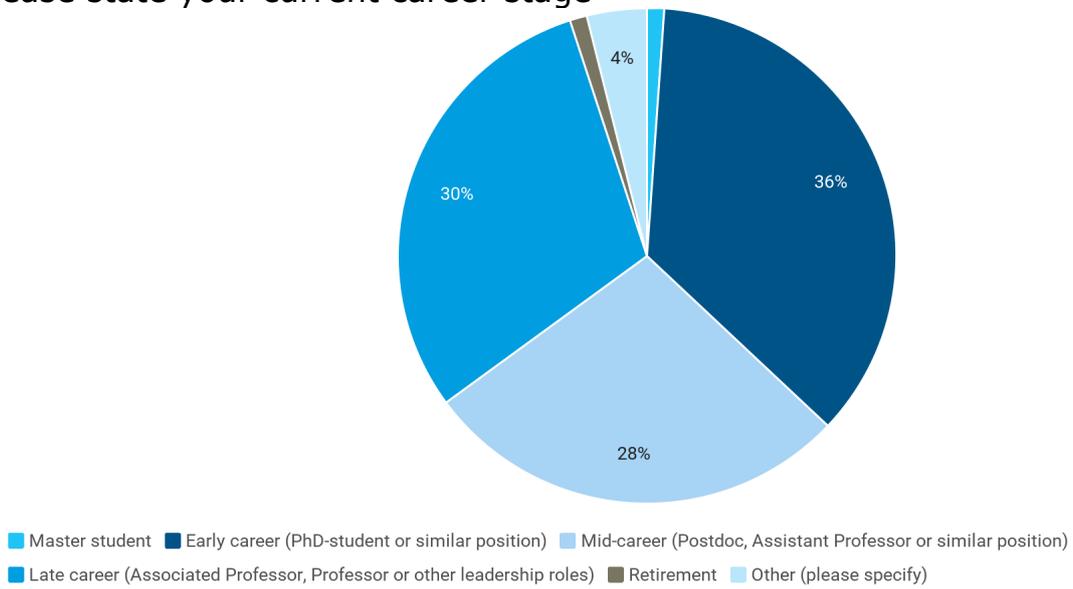
4 Sub survey among DCAcademy Grantees (below)

Danish Cardiovascular Academy
Community Survey 2025

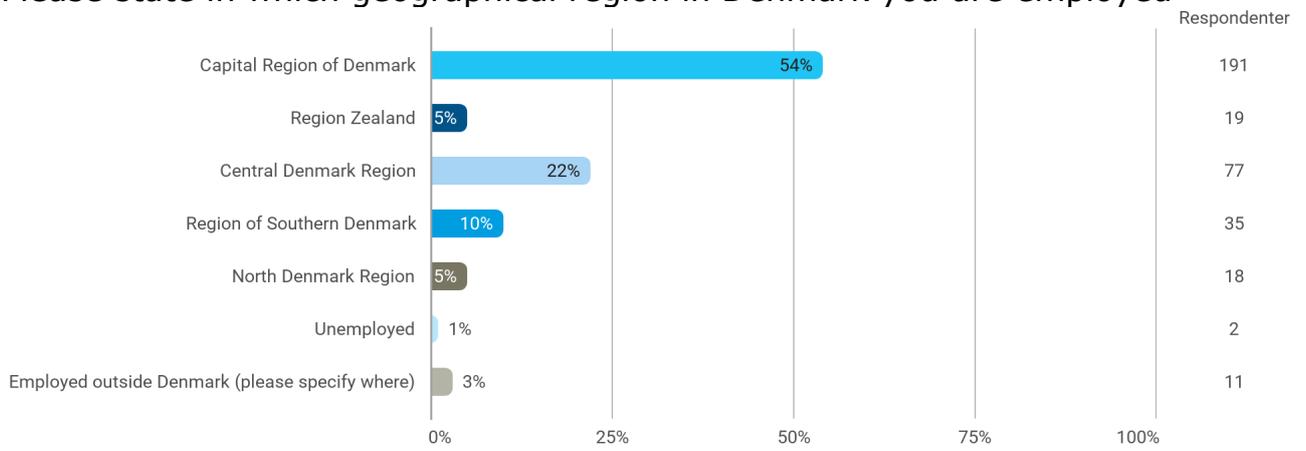
Please state your gender



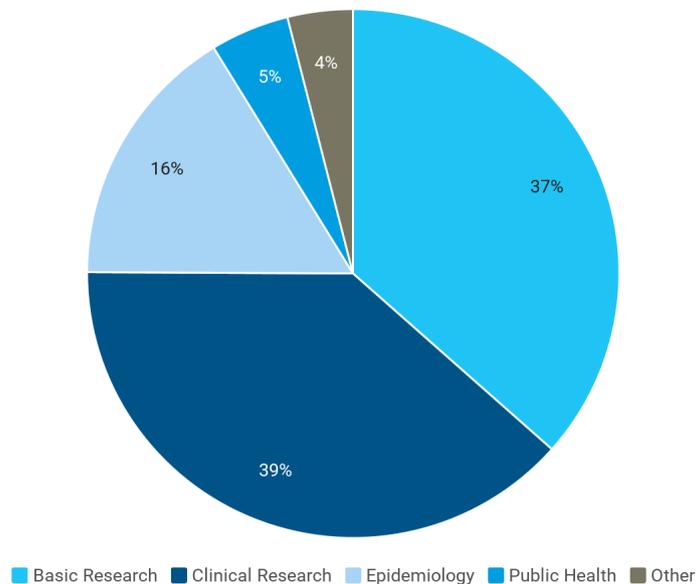
Please state your current career stage



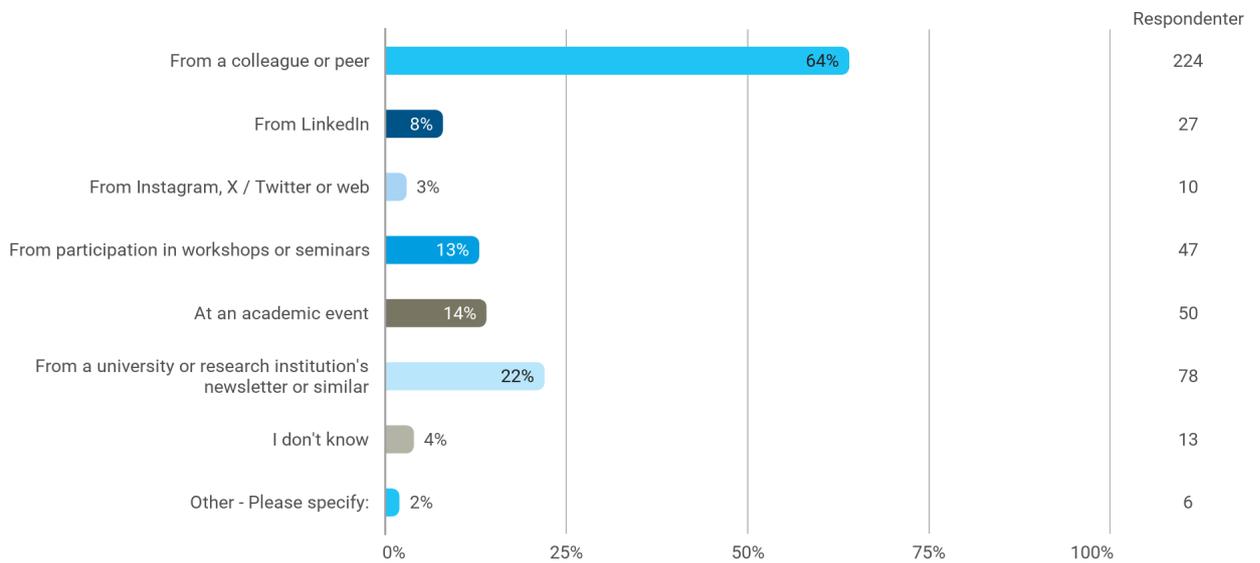
Please state in which geographical region in Denmark you are employed



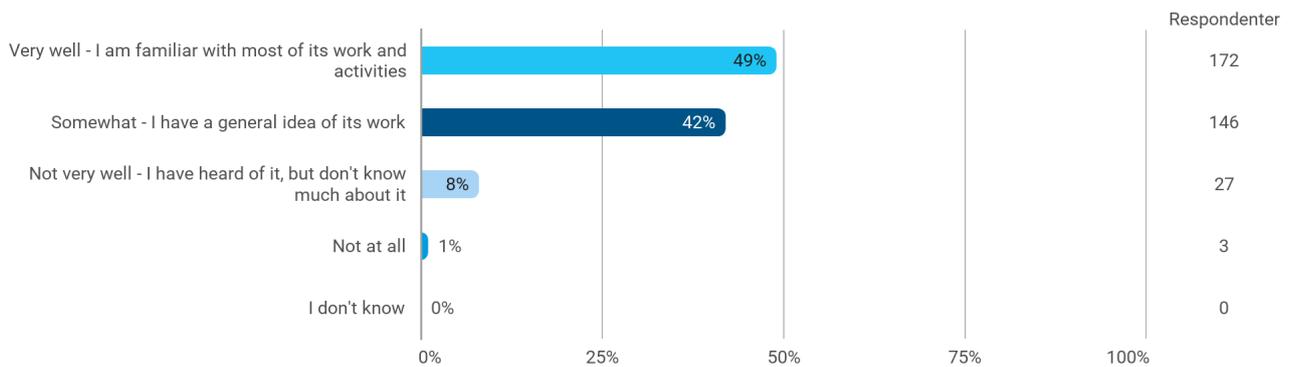
Please state your main area of research



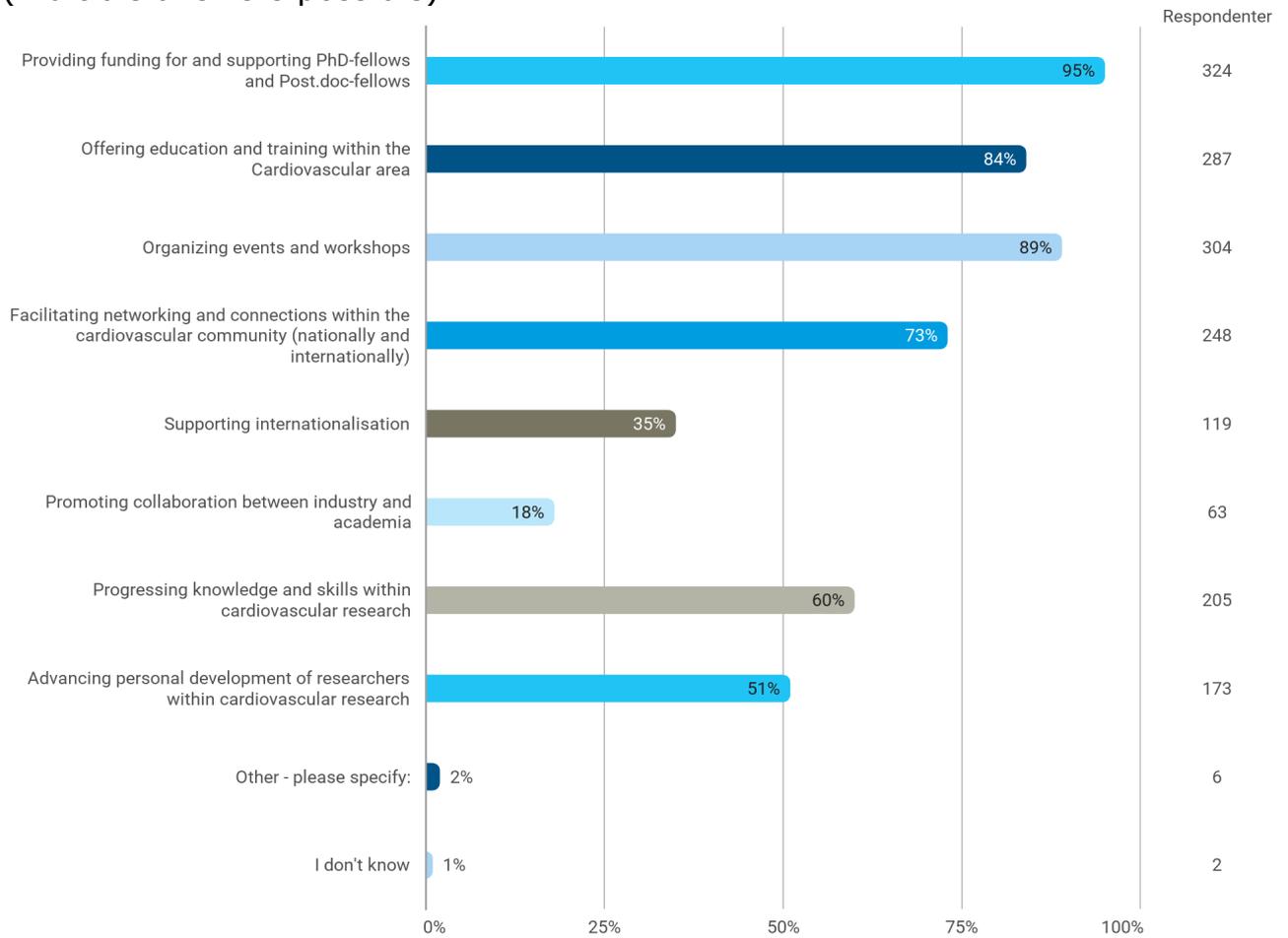
How did you first learn about DCAcademy?



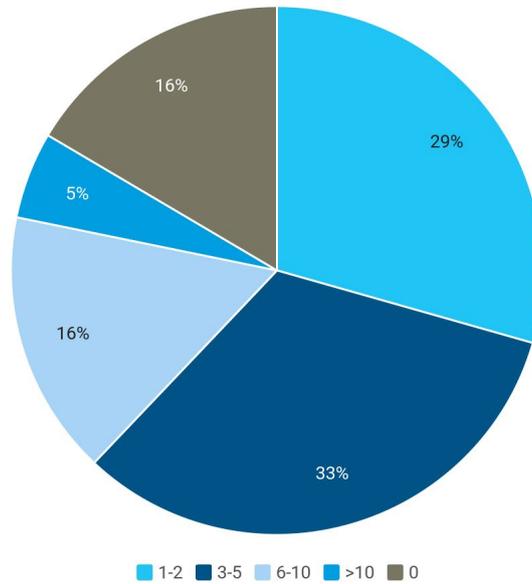
How familiar are you with the work of DCAcademy?



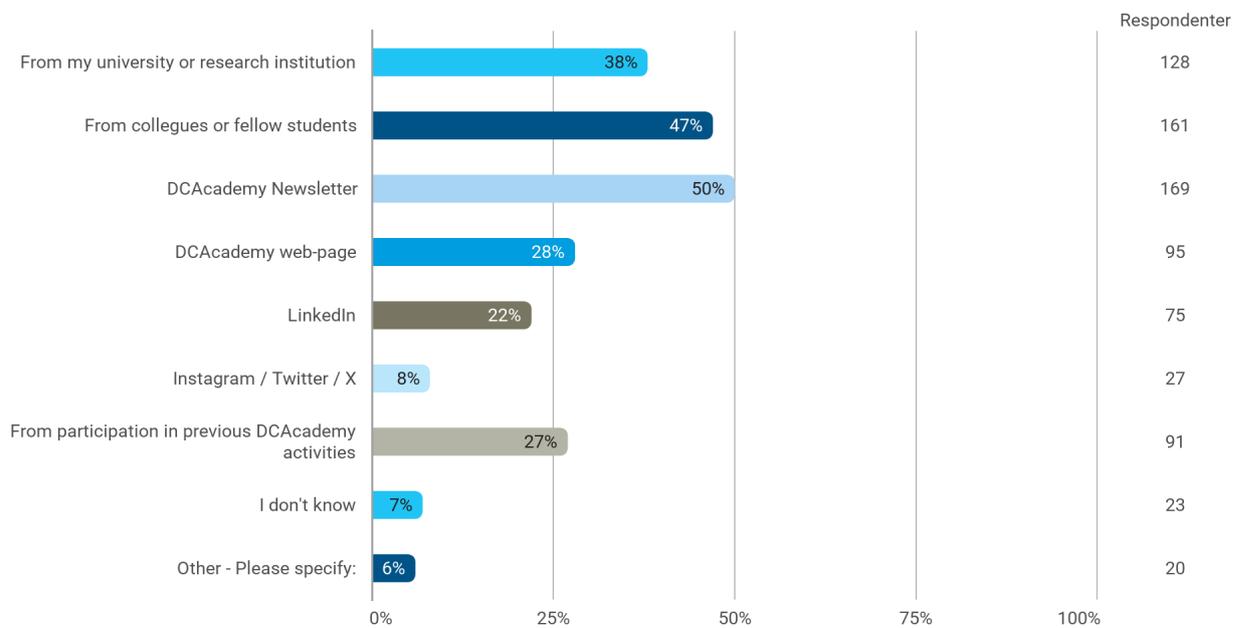
Which of the following statements do you associate with DCAcademy and its work?
(multiple answers possible)



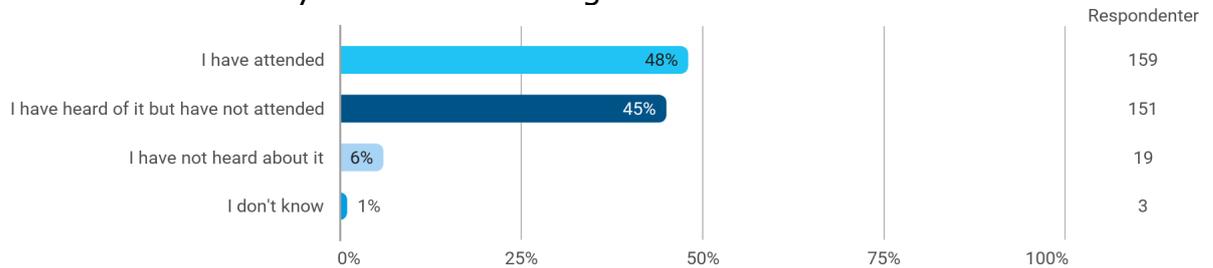
How many DCAcademy activities have you attended?
 (incl. Summer / Winter Meetings, PhD-courses, symposia and networking events)



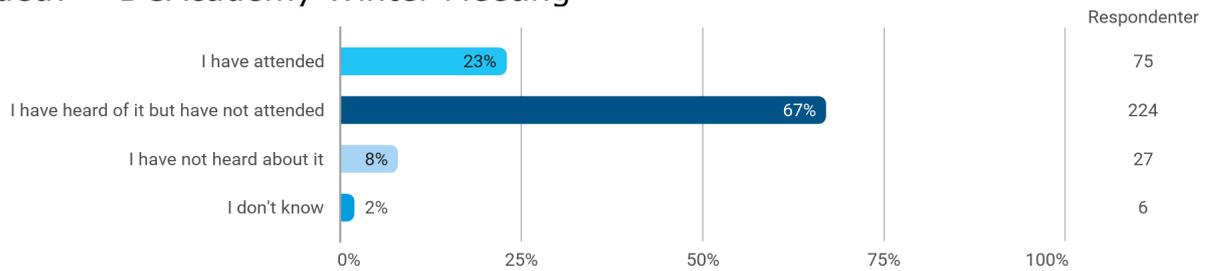
How did you hear about the DCAcademy activities, which you have attended?



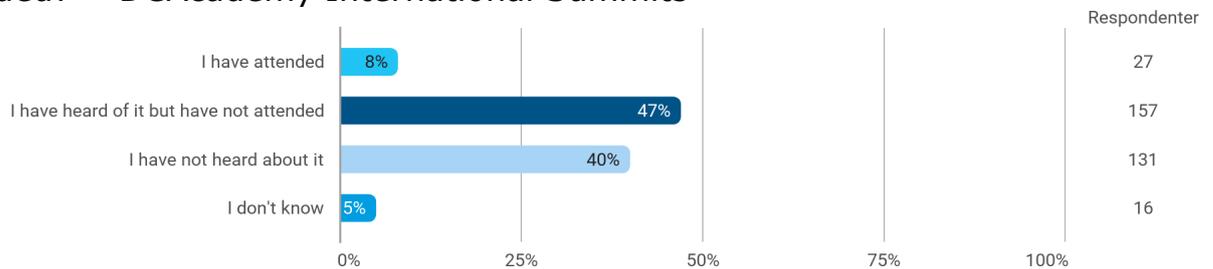
Which of the following activities offered by DCAcademy have you heard of or attended? - DCAcademy Summer Meeting



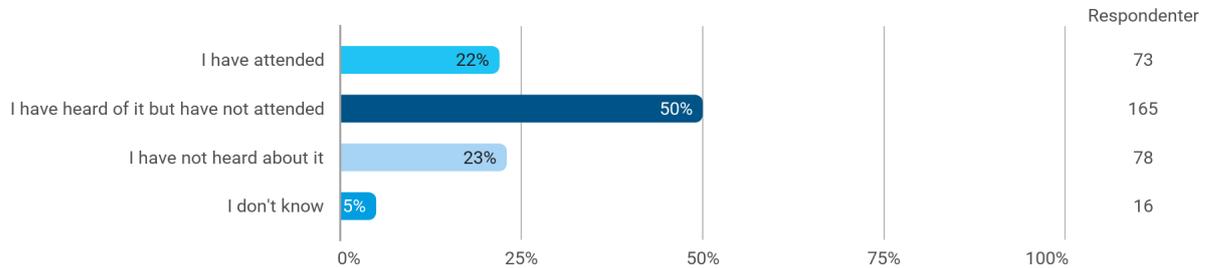
Which of the following activities offered by DCAcademy have you heard of or attended? - DCAcademy Winter Meeting



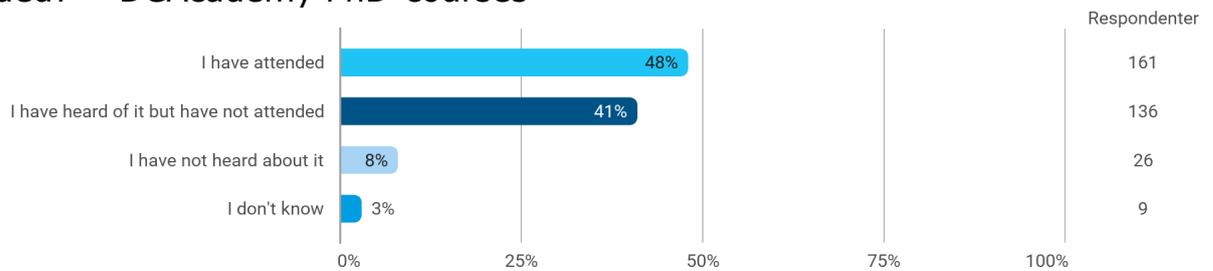
Which of the following activities offered by DCAcademy have you heard of or attended? - DCAcademy International Summits



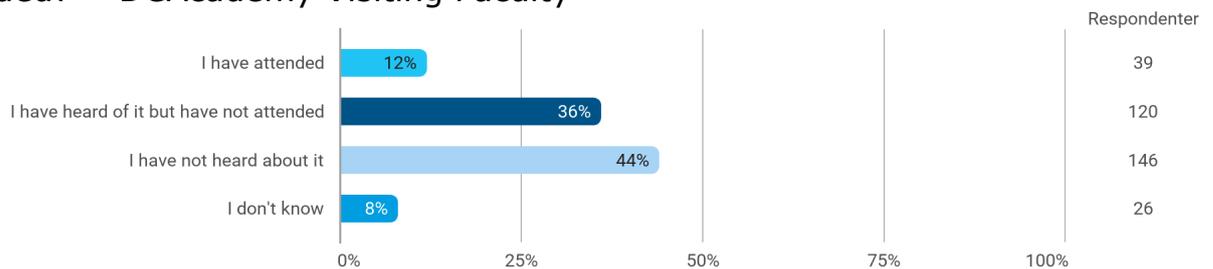
Which of the following activities offered by DCAcademy have you heard of or attended? - Cardiometabolic Network Summit



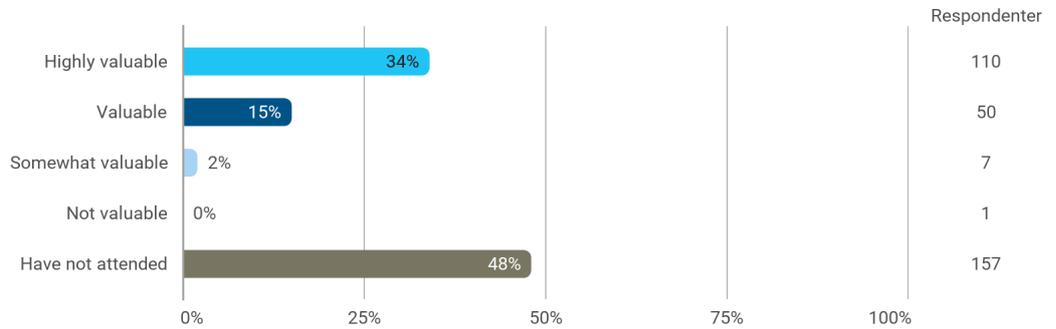
Which of the following activities offered by DCAcademy have you heard of or attended? - DCAcademy PhD-courses



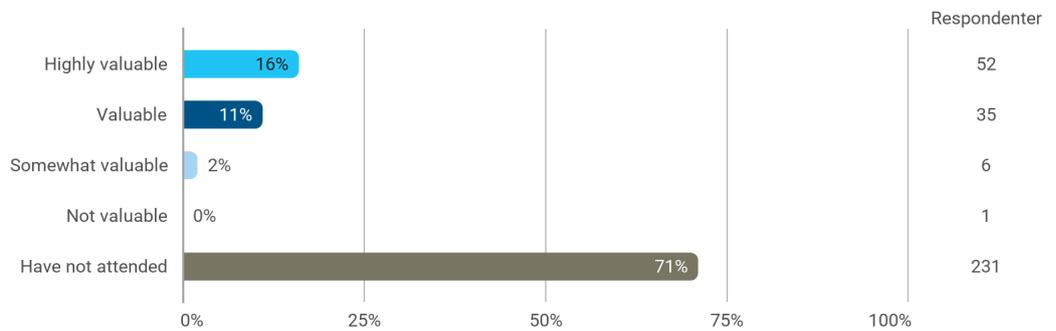
Which of the following activities offered by DCAcademy have you heard of or attended? - DCAcademy Visiting Faculty



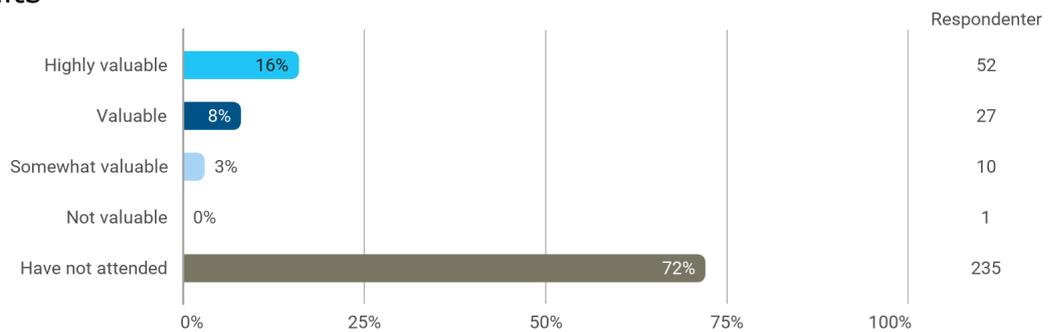
Which of the activities have you found most valuable? - DCAcademy Summer Meetings



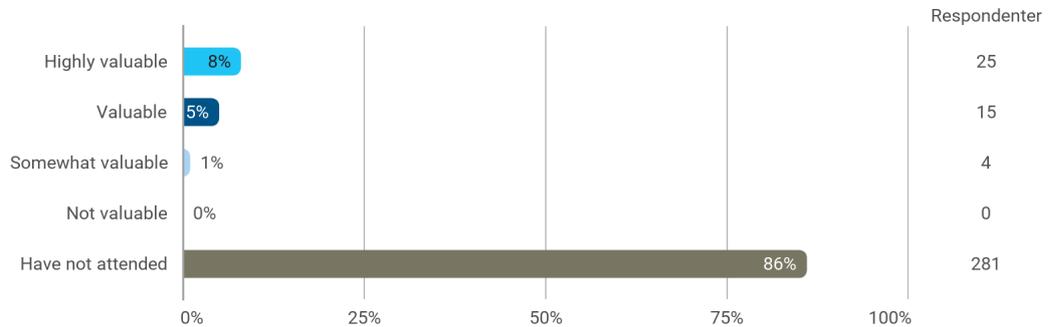
Which of the activities have you found most valuable? - DCAcademy Winter Meetings



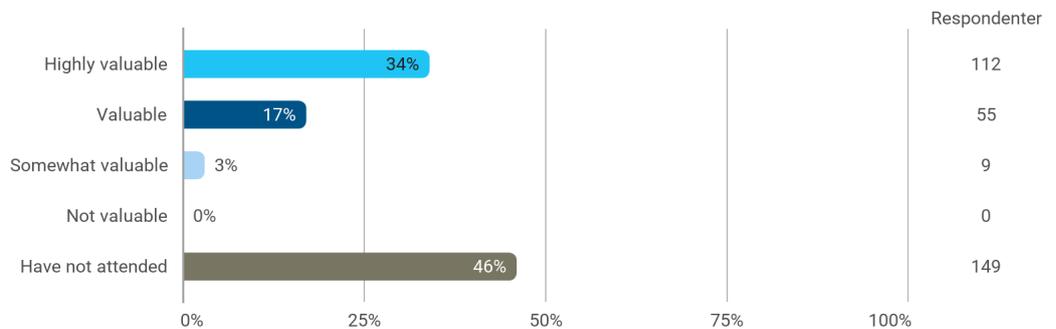
Which of the activities have you found most valuable? - Cardiometabolic Network Summits



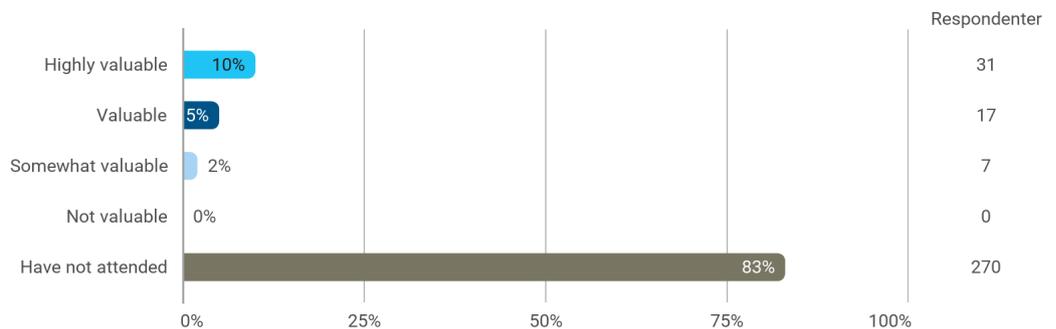
Which of the activities have you found most valuable? - DCAcademy International Summits



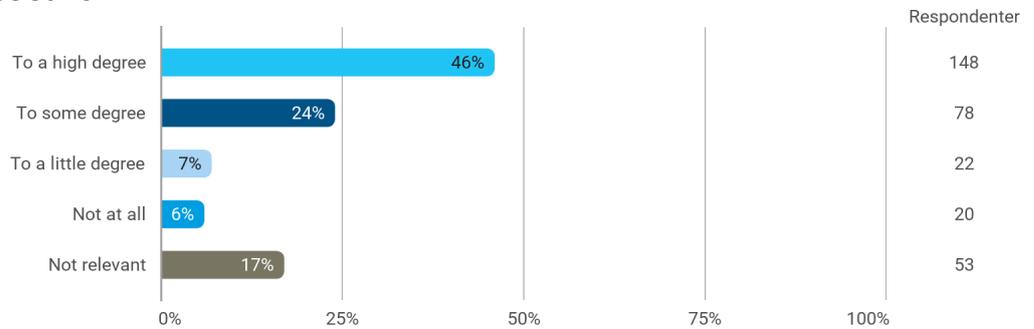
Which of the activities have you found most valuable? - DCAcademy PhD courses



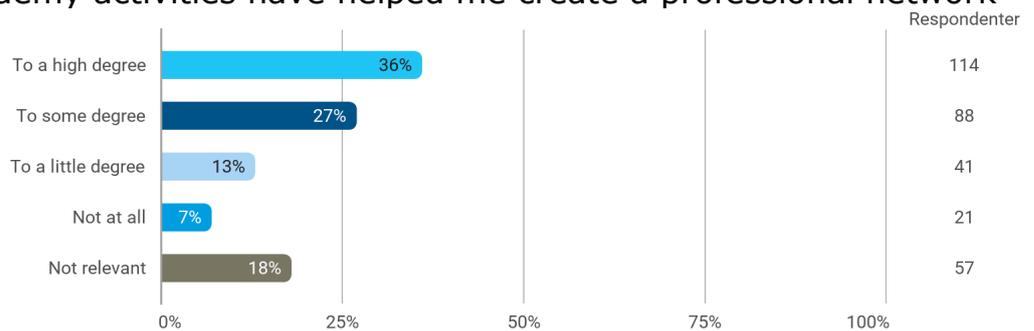
Which of the activities have you found most valuable? - DCAcademy Visting Faculty



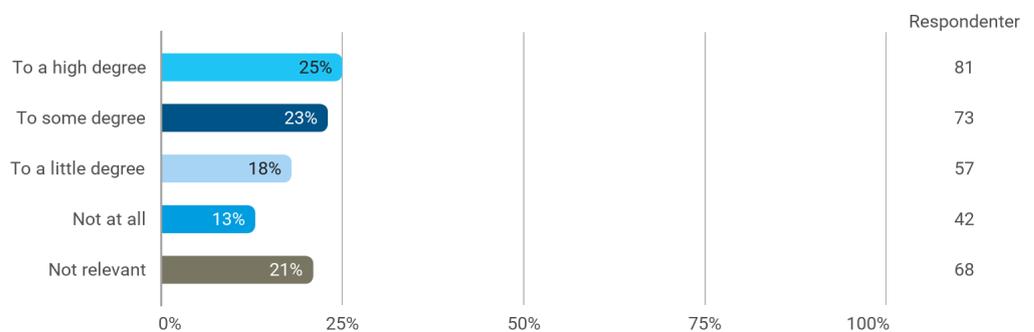
To what extent has participation in DCAcademy activities supported your career? - DCAcademy activities have increased my knowledge about cardiovascular research



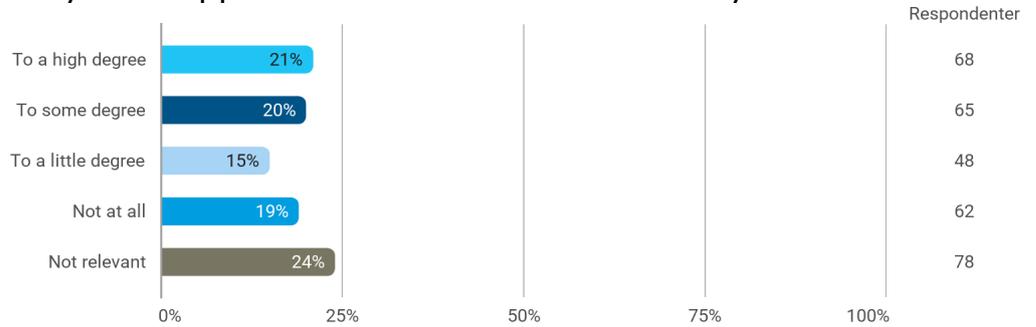
To what extent has participation in DCAcademy activities supported your career? - DCAcademy activities have helped me create a professional network



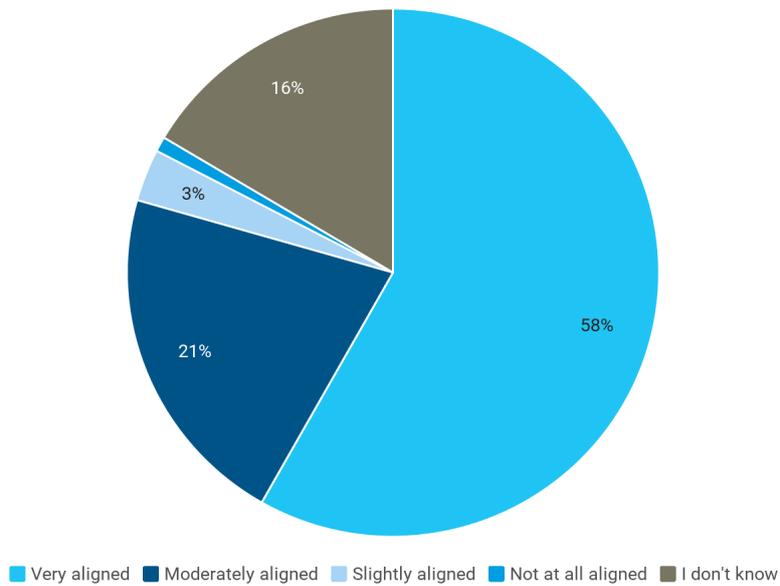
To what extent has participation in DCAcademy activities supported your career? - DCAcademy activities have contributed to interdisciplinarity in my research



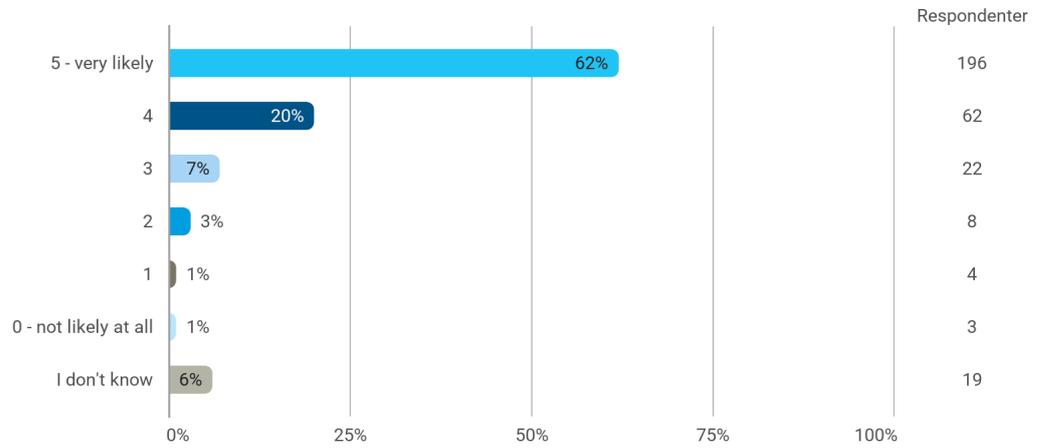
To what extent has participation in DCAcademy activities supported your career? - DCAcademy has supported internationalisation in my research



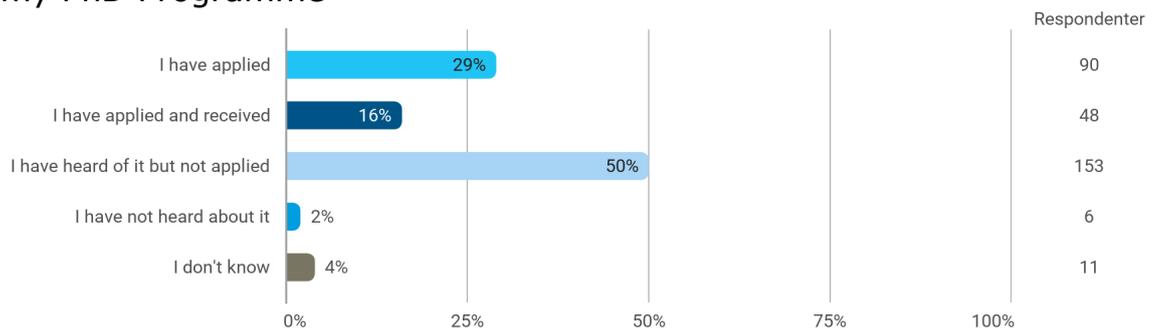
Do the DCAcademy's training and education activities align with the present needs in the cardiovascular research community?



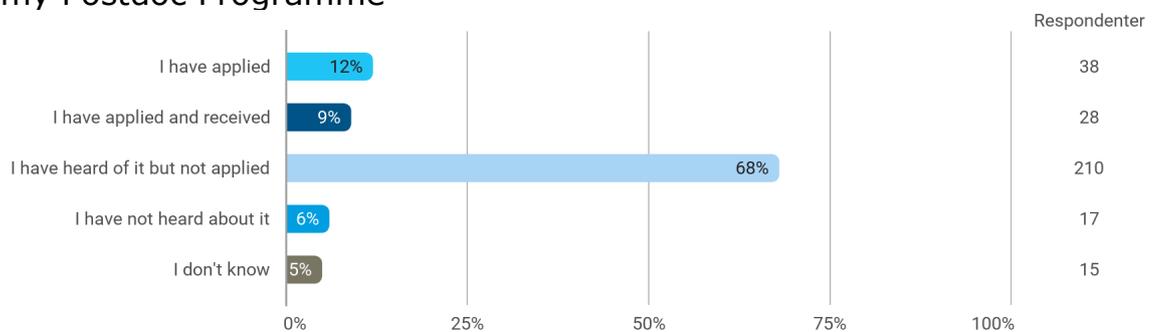
On a scale from 0 to 5, how likely are you to recommend DCAcademy activities to others in your network?



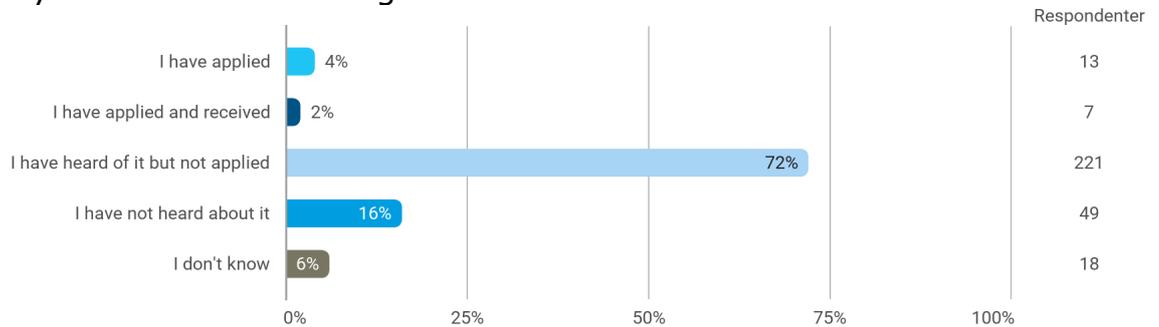
Which of the following funding opportunities have you applied for? - DCAcademy PhD Programme



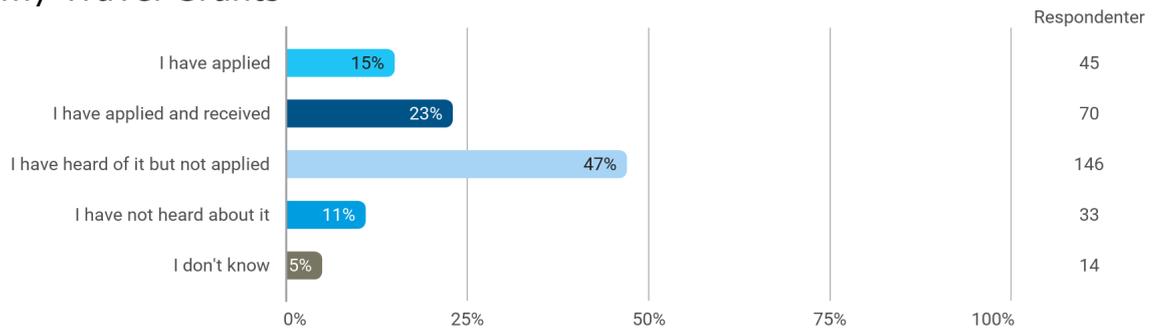
Which of the following funding opportunities have you applied for? - DCAcademy Postdoc Programme



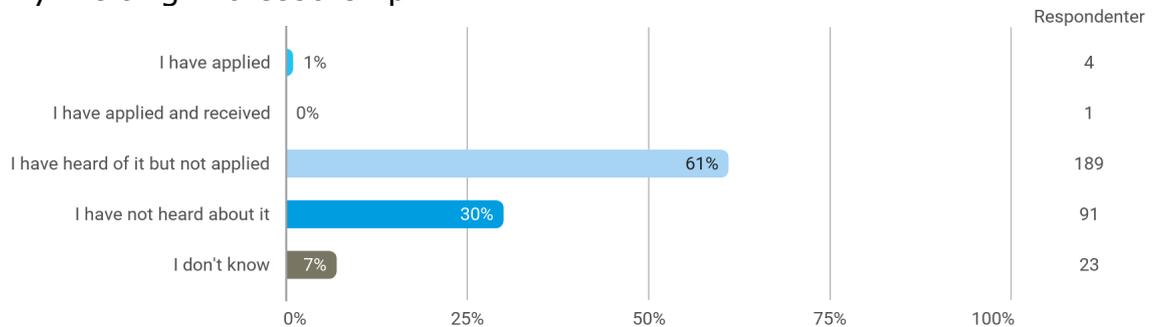
Which of the following funding opportunities have you applied for? -
DCAcademy Clinical Postdoc Programme



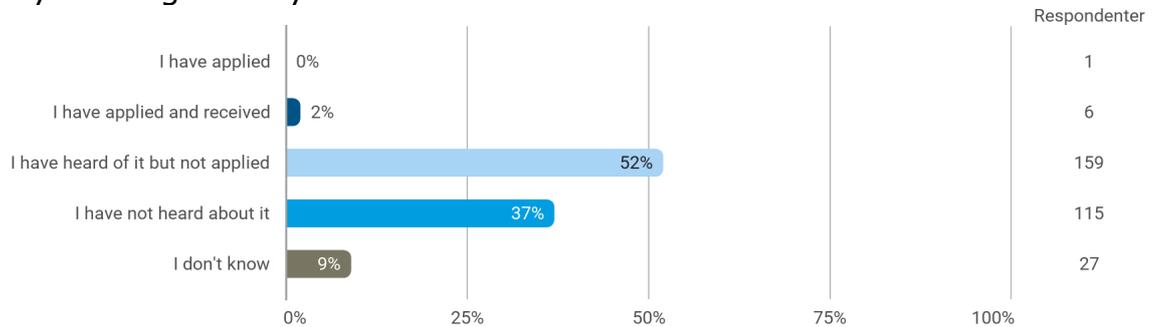
Which of the following funding opportunities have you applied for? -
DCAcademy Travel Grants



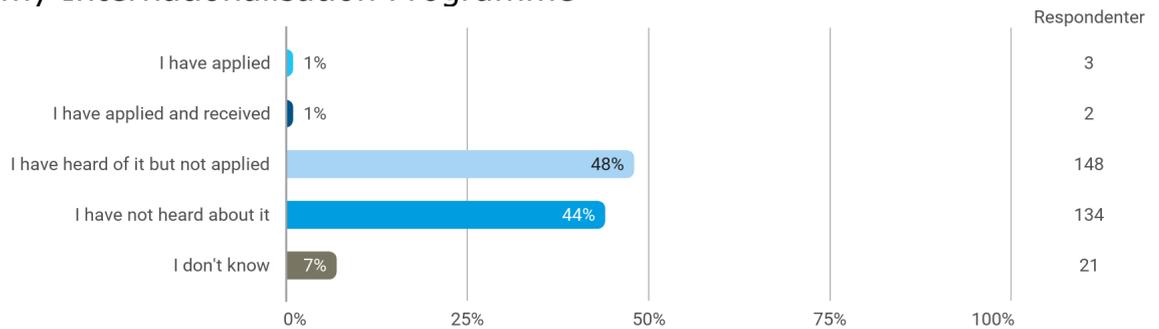
Which of the following funding opportunities have you applied for? -
DCAcademy Visiting Professorship



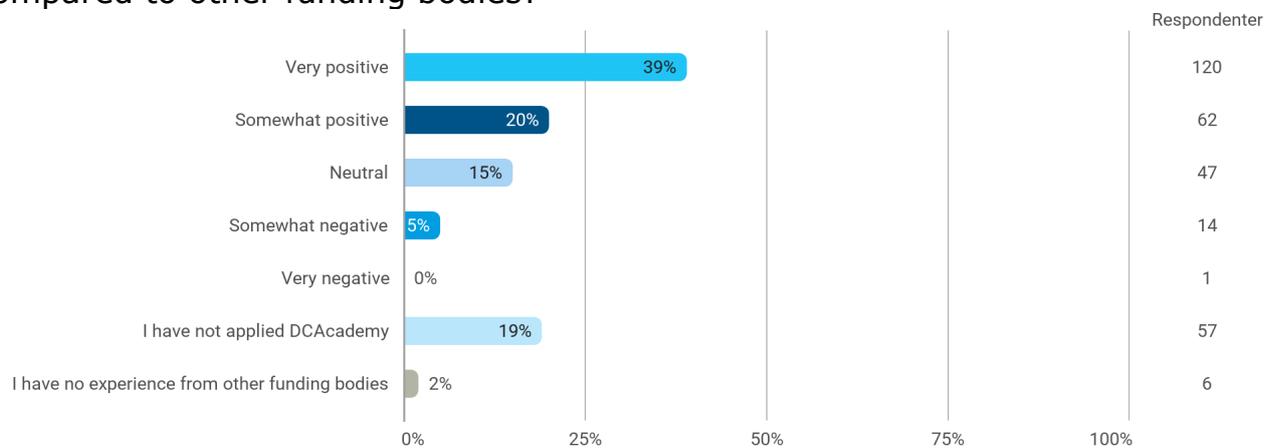
Which of the following funding opportunities have you applied for? - DCAcademy Visiting Faculty



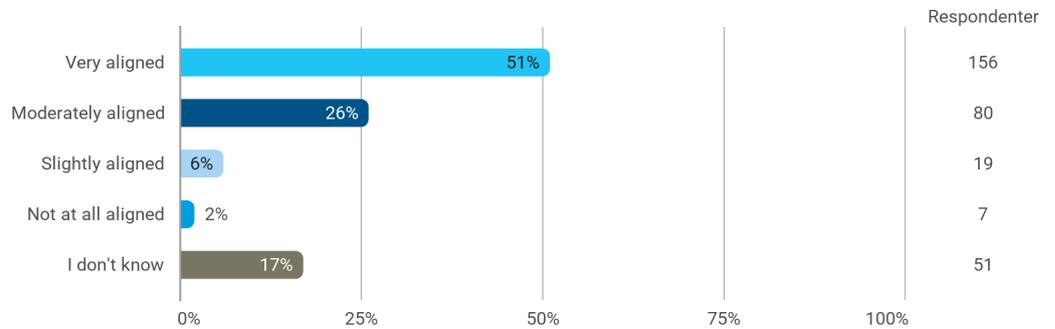
Which of the following funding opportunities have you applied for? - DCAcademy Internationalisation Programme



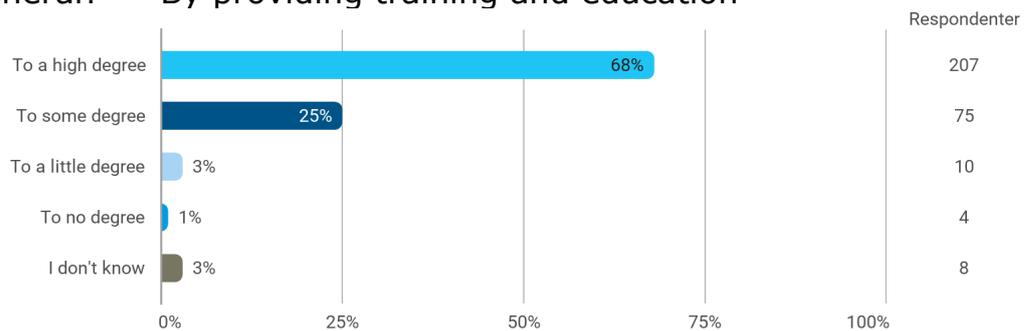
How have you experienced the application process to DCAcademy funding compared to other funding bodies?



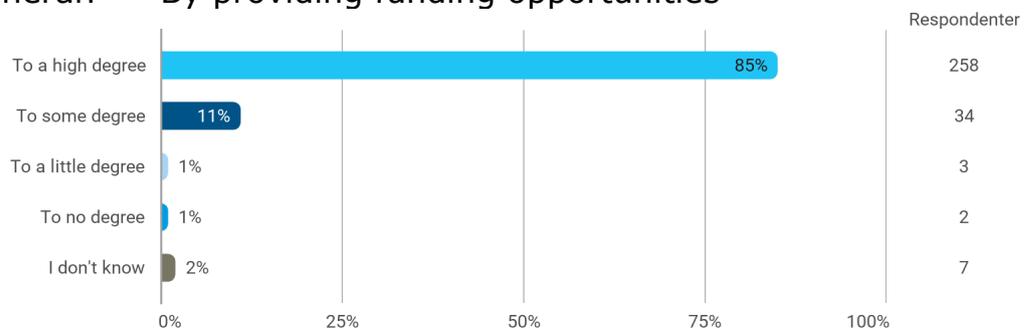
Are the DCAcademys funding programs aligned with the needs within the cardiovascular research community?



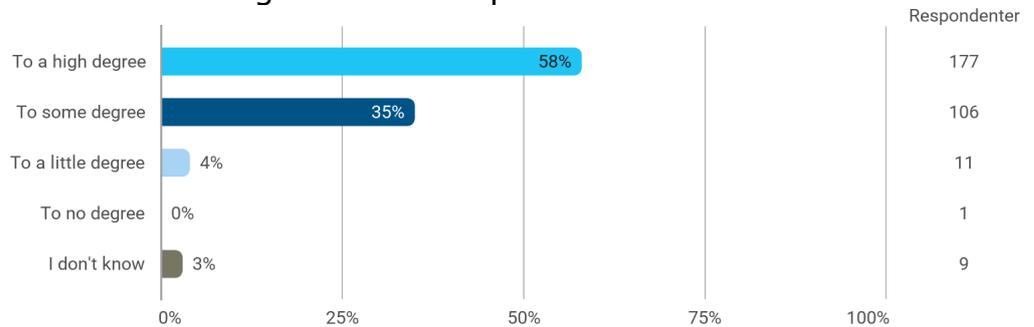
How can DCAcademy best support you and the cardiovascular research community in general? - By providing training and education



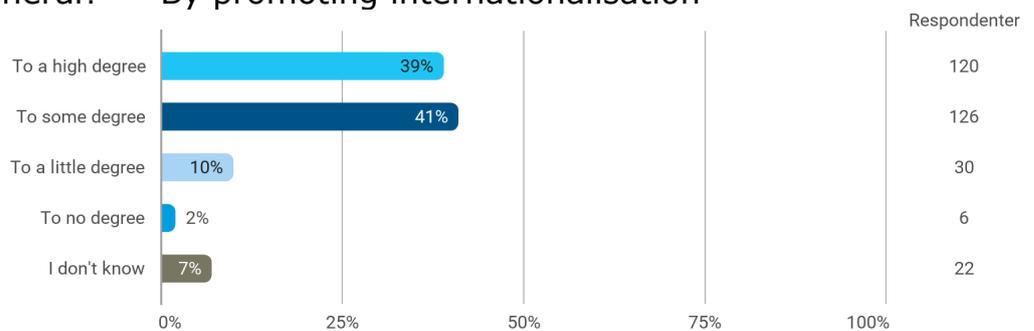
How can DCAcademy best support you and the cardiovascular research community in general? - By providing funding opportunities



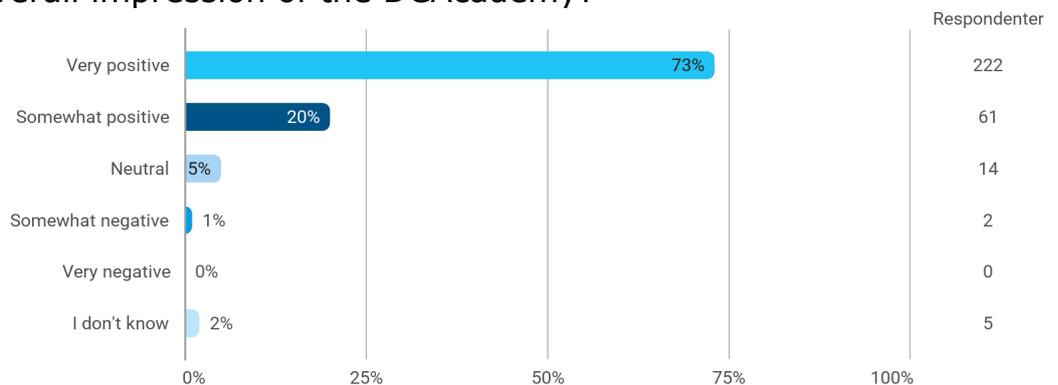
How can DCAcademy best support you and the cardiovascular research community in general? - Through creation of professional networks



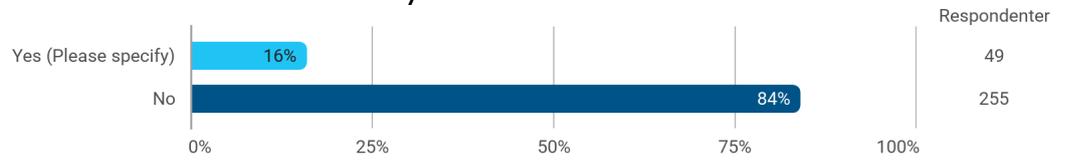
How can DCAcademy best support you and the cardiovascular research community in general? - By promoting internationalisation



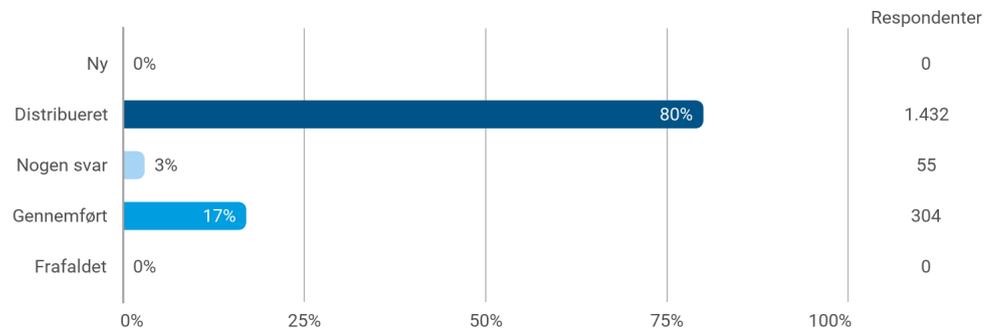
What is your overall impression of the DCAcademy?



Do you have anything to add about your overall experience of or interaction with the Danish Cardiovascular Academy?



Summary



Do you have anything to add about your overall experience of or interaction with the Danish Cardiovascular Academy?

- I think that would strengthen the crossdisciplinary impact
- It has given me a unique opportunity to promote my research and provide me with amazing network opportunities for my future career
- Extremely inspiring, cutting edge and innovative interactions on multiple levels, different facets and interests brought together at meetings. An excellent initiative
- Funding should be given to clinical research instead of to basic research
- I don't have anything to add. I think DCA is a great institution and I hope that it will continue with new funding
- The DCAcademy has been extremely valuable for my research career within cardiovascular research.
- DCA appears very regionally biased with an emphasis on the Capital Region of Denmark and Region Zealand
- It is great for providing opportunities and supporting students and postdocs
- We have a couple of times submitted well structured epidemiological PhD and post-doc grant applications with high relevance to cardiovascular and cardiometabolic health and strong candidates. Unfortunately we have only had rejections. It feels like epidemiology is not a strong priority of the DCA and it makes me hesitant to suggest to future candidates to spend a lot of energy in applying to the DCA.
- Af det jeg har kendskab til er mit indtryk at det meste af aktiviteter foregår i KBH. Evt. overvej mere spredning nationalt.
- DCA is currently maybe the most professional organization promoting cardiovascular research in Denmark with very engaged and creative staff
- Man kan overveje at give grants til at man kan tage master uddannelser på udenlandske universiteter. Fx master i clinical trials på Oxford
- please continue!

- Incredibly lucky to have DCA support my PhD and help me become a better researcher through events, networking, and courses. Very grateful!
- Feedback on applications for PhD or postdoc fellowships would greatly help these early career investigators
- Would be great if feedback was provided on funding applications
- I hope you will continue the work since it is very important especially for post. doc and travel activities which is so important but hard to find funding for
- I am impressed by the reach. SoMe is always up to date and makes the courses look interesting. I prefer DCA courses because the standard is high. They are good at presenting Dca funded researchers, especially early career researchers.
- A very good and positive academy. It is a very good environment to share ideas and methods with other researchers and heighten the research in your own department but also collaborations with others
- Excellent work
- I'm an Ob/gyn. Unfortunately, this appears to leave me without possibilities to obtain funding from the Danish Cardiovasc. Academy. This is a bit depressing, as I see a large range of pregnant women with heart disease. These women face severe problems, yet I have no possibilities to obtain funding from one of the most relevant organs to seek support, training, and career development for Ph.D.-students from. I hope, statues will change as to make the research topic the pivotal criteria for funding and not personal criteria such as specialty education.
- Great academy that keeps its finger on the pulse and are involved in all of the necessary and relevant topics within cardiovascular research!
- Very professional in all kinds of engagements
- If you're having your funding severely cut or reduced, I think it would be preferable to focus remaining funding on congresses, meetings and educational opportunities over research funding to help the larger CVD community.
- My experience as a DCA PhD fellow has been highly positive. The fellowship has provided valuable visibility for my research and facilitated outreach

opportunities through initiatives such as the midterm symposium, the profiling of grant recipients, and invitations to speak at international meetings. I have also appreciated the sense of community fostered by DCA (which has been further strengthened by the establishment of the CVD PhD programme at AU). I hope that DCA will continue its activities in a way that allows this community to thrive beyond the PhD level. In my direct interactions with DCA staff and members, I have found them to be highly responsive, efficient, and supportive.

- keep up the good work :-)
- DCA is important for Danish cardiovascular research
- Remember to add Roskilde University in your grant application portal
- please provide feedback to rejected grant applications
- Unique among funders in its training and networking support for young / new researchers
- DCAcademy is likely the single initiative that has improved Danish cardiovascular research the most in the last century.
- I find it very positive that DCA through what seems to be a no fee-policy, manage to bring a variety of researchers to the table. Also the ones that don't have an obvious interest in the events.
- Incredible team running the DCAcademy!!! Outstanding!!!
- Please share all your experiences with the PhD schools in Denmark for them to get inspiration for other scientific areas. Your program is Gold standard, which many could learn from. Thanks!!!
- Thankful for the opportunities that the academy has provided. Also attended the Project management course in Århus - great course. Winter meeting was also excellent. Thanks
- The DCA is a great initiative that promotes Denmark's strengths in Cardiovascular research and has quickly established itself as an integral part of the Danish research environment. I believe its first funding cycle has been a great success. Now that the DCA has discovered what works and does not work in terms of their engagement with the community it would be

- a shame if this academy was not granted a second funding cycle.
- Keep up the good work!
- A major flaw in the funding schemes was the lack of fully funded scholarships for basic science. This meant that only those with substantial funding could apply. It was also a limitation that a candidate had to be in place, ie that you could not apply and then find the candidate afterwards.
- Good people.
- For grants, transparent evaluations of the project would be appreciable
- Yes, the current version of DCA will expire in a couple of years.
- fantastic
- I've greatly appreciated DCAcademy's support and the opportunity to be part of a cardiovascular research network with strong interdisciplinary links. I especially value its focus on education—offering courses, networking events, and other activities that foster development within the field.
- Increased funding would be great to match the need in the DK environment
- I think is fantastic that you don't just hand out money, but you try to give the grant receivers a lot of tools and help through the courses, summer and winter school etc. I have already gained a lot of networking through DCA and the training in communication and handling work loads have helped me a lot already. Very happy to have been a part of the DCA-programme.
- Should be continued in DARA
- I've only known about DCA for a few months and that is the reason i still din not attend many of the meetings and gatherings
- DCA has been a fantastic opportunity for creating a real network of cardiovascular researchers in Denmark. As someone, who did not grow up in the Sanish system, it was the first time ever that I felt "part of it". I also value the opportunity of meeting and interacting with so many young researchers. Many thanks to the initiators of DCA and all the best if luck for finding a way to continue. It would be most valuable for the students, researchers and the country
- It appears to me that clinical projects are much favoured

Danish Cardiovascular Academy
Sub-survey among DCAcademy Grantees 2025

Call	Title	Sector	Comment
Call I	Postdoc	University	Being a DCAcademy Grantee has been a great privilege. Starting as a new PhD-student it meant a lot to be part of a community of peers and mentors. DCAcademy has provided unique educational opportunities via courses and workshops, as well as networking opportunities that would never have been available to me otherwise.
Call I	Klinisk assistent	Hospital	Being a DCAcademy Grantee has been transformative for me. Without this support, I would not have been able to pursue my PhD, attend international conferences, or travel for research collaborations. The grant enabled me to present my work, engage with leading researchers in my field, and build a professional network that has been invaluable for my career development.
Call I	PhD student	Hospital	First and foremost, DCAcademy has provided me with the financial means to commence a research career as a PhD student. However, it has been far more than simply a funding body. It is a scientific community offering exceptional networking opportunities within the cardiovascular field. Through DCAcademy, I have expanded both my interdisciplinary network and my international connections within my subspecialty. In addition, it has offered high-quality PhD courses, as well as midterm symposiums, summer schools, and winter schools, all of which have contributed to my academic development.
Call I	Postdoc	University	Idea generation + community, Kæmpe boost til CV'et
Call I	post.doc.	Hospital/ University	The DCA has not only funded my phd and post.doc but has also provided a unique framework for national and international collaborations. Networking with fellow DCA grant recipients has directly resulted in new project ideas and easy access to collaborators at all levels. It has deepened my understanding of research and cardiovascular disease in general and in my own specific field. In my opinion, DCA has successfully completed its mission beyond what could be expected and I am proud to say what my early research education and carreer took place with DCA.

Call II	KBU læge (80%) + klinisk assistent (20%)	Hospital	As a DCAcademy Grantee I felt like being a part of a big research family with great networking opportunities with researchers doing so many other kinds of research than yourself and your own research group.
Call II	PhD Student (from 01/09/2025 on Assistant Professor)	University	Being a DCAcademy Grantee has been a truly meaningful experience for me, both professionally and personally. As a foreign researcher in Denmark, the program has given me the opportunity to establish a strong network within the national (and international) cardiology research community, connections that would have been much harder to build otherwise. The fellowship has not only provided a sense of belonging and community, but also important educational opportunities. Through the courses, such as writing retreats, project management course, presentation skills course and the summer meeting, I have gained valuable skills that have shaped my development as a researcher. These experiences have strengthened both my scientific competencies and my confidence, and they continue to influence the way I approach my work.
Call II	PhD Fellow	University	Being a DCAcademy grantee has given me valuable opportunities to present my work, expand my professional network, and gain new perspectives on my research through interactions with peers and senior scientists. The support has not only helped me advance my PhD project but also strengthened my confidence and motivation as an early-career researcher in Denmark.
Call II	PhD Student	University	Being a DCAcademy grantee has provided access to high-quality courses that have strengthened my methodological and scientific skills. It has also connected me to a collaborative community within cardiovascular research, fostering both professional growth and opportunities to increase the impact of my work. The programme has given me a sense of belonging in the field, as well as valuable channels to share my research and research journey, enhancing the visibility and reach of my work.
Call II	Læge, PhD, Seniorforsker	Hospital	Being a DCAcademy Grantee has provided me with crucial support to advance my independent research in acute heart failure. It has opened doors to new collaborations,

			strengthened my methodological skills, and given me a valuable professional network across disciplines. Most importantly, it has enabled me to pursue clinically relevant projects that may directly benefit patients.
Call II	PhD student	University	Being a DCAcademy grantee has provided me with essential resources and a strong cross-sector network during my PhD. The DCA's support has accelerated my development toward research independence in cardiac biomechanics and enabled valuable collaborations, training, and dissemination of my work.
Call II	PhD student	University	I have benefited greatly from DCAcademy's assistance throughout my PhD in several ways. Peer mentorship networks have enabled me to exchange ideas and advice with other PhDs and postdocs throughout Denmark. My PhD project has benefited from many excellent PhD courses and meetings, not only in terms of education and project management abilities, but also in terms of networking throughout Denmark, Europe, and beyond through participation in organizing committees and international events. Throughout my time as a PhD student, DCAcademy has given me opportunities, and it is still doing so now that I received a fourth-year scholarship. This has given me the chance to refine and add a higher impact to my projects. DCAcademy has significantly contributed to my scientific career and my journey to becoming a senior researcher.
Call II	Post doc	University	Providing me with possibility to be a PhD student and continue as a Post doc.. Provided me with a new and much larger network. Great courses/Symposias.
Call II	Scientific Researcher	Hospital	The DCAcademy has open many doors for me. Through its events and network, I have gained valuable collaborations, insights, and inspiration that would have been difficult to access otherwise. For international researchers like myself, these connections have not only strengthened my research but also fostered a sense of belonging within Denmark's scientific community. As a result, after finishing my postdoctoral DCA fellowship, I am now employed as a Scientific Researcher at the Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus.

Call II	Cardiologist and postdoctoral researcher	Hospital	The DCAcademy post doc grant enabled me to continue my research activities alongside my clinical duties, and further expanded my network. It brought me to where I am today - very close to becoming an associate / full professor.
Call III	PhD Student	University	A new network and support from great professors in the field and peers.
Call III	PhD student	University	Being a DCA Academy Grantee has been transformative for my research career. It funded my PhD and enabled me to carry out an exciting research project. The research project I am currently conducting with DCA Academy funding is highly interesting and holds the potential to make a significant impact in the field of cardiovascular research, particularly in relation to ischemic stroke. Beyond financial support, the Academy has provided valuable opportunities for courses, networking, and professional development. This experience has enriched me both personally and professionally, equipping me with soft skills that will strengthen my future research career.
Call III	Senior Researcher and Teamleader	Hospital	Being a DCAcademy Grantee has been essential to my development as a researcher. The grant has provided me with the resources and freedom to continue within clinical research while doing my clinical training as a doctor. It has opened doors to collaborations and expanded my academic network. Most importantly, it has provided the foundation upon which I am now building the next stages of my academic career.
Call III	MD, PhD-student	Hospital	Being a DCAcademy grantee has helped broaden my network of both young and senior researchers within the field of cardiovascular research in Denmark. Furthermore, it has introduced me to all types of research that expand our understanding of cardiovascular disease, from basic science to clinical trials.
Call III	Postdoc	University	Being a DCAcademy Grantee has supported me through both my PhD and postdoc, helping me stay in research at key points in my career. The support went far beyond funding as it gave me access to scientific meetups, training courses, and countless opportunities to learn and grow. Just as importantly, it connected me with a community of researchers who share

			knowledge and make you feel part of something bigger.
Call III	MD, PhD- student	University	<p>First, being a DCAcademy Grantee has been a substantial financial contribution in my research career. With that also comes an acknowledgement of my research area, PhD project, and merits which are invaluable. Further, I am part of a unique research community allowing me to meet clinicians and researchers from different career stages and various disciplines. By attending a magnitude of events from topic specific courses, introduction for grant recipients, and ambassador dinners to symposia and the annual Summer Meeting I have expanded my network substantially and received insightful, meaningful, and high-level education; a contribution which I wouldn't have found elsewhere. I have also had the opportunity to host a midterm symposium with 100 signed participants. Having the DCAcademy platform and staff and financial support available was a crucial part of making the symposium a great success. It was a great opportunity to learn how to create an interesting program, to plan, and host a scientific event bridging basic and clinical science. DCAcademy has also funded my external research stay in the US, which was such a great educational experience that induced a lot of personal growth and opportunity for a transatlantic collaboration. Lastly, I would like to highlight our role as science ambassadors for The Danish Heart Foundation. Being able to share our research findings and passion with patients and their families is extraordinary and adds a unique layer this special community.</p>
Call III	postdoc	University	<p>Network expansion (both early, mid- and advanced career scientists, industry), up-to-date research dissemination, travel grant funding opportunity.</p>
Call III	Postdoc	University	<p>Receiving a DCAcademy Postdoc grant has secured my position for more than the two years that the grant runs because attracting money yourself makes it easier to be selected for other sources of funding. The DCAcademy network has played an important part in my career, I have hosted and participated in events organized together with DCAcademy. Receiving a DCAcademy grant compared to another grant has secured me a larger peer network.</p>

Call III	MD, PhD-student	Hospital	<p>The DCAcademy enabled me to start my research career in the cardiovascular field. This has been very exciting and has provided many valuable experiences within the research community, including attending the European Society of Cardiology Congress in London, where I had the opportunity to present my work and receive insightful feedback from colleagues. Additionally, I have attended the Scandinavian Society of Atherosclerosis Research annual meetings twice, where I also presented my work and engaged with colleagues, gaining new perspectives. Besides this, I have participated in numerous courses offered by the PhD school at Aarhus University, which have further expanded my knowledge. Moreover, DCA has organized annual meetings featuring top researchers who speak on highly relevant topics and provide opportunities to collaborate with other researchers. These events are very inspiring and lay the foundation for future collaborations. Lastly, I have just published my first article in the European Heart Journal, and my second article is currently under review in JACC. None of this would have been possible without DCA. I am very grateful for being a DCAcademy Grantee. Thank you.</p>
Call IIII	MD, PhD student	Hospital	<p>Being a DCAcademy Grantee has been transformative for my career and personal development. It has given me the opportunity to fully dedicate myself to my PhD project, an important investigation into the role of a novel cholesterol target, remnant cholesterol, in individuals with type 2 diabetes, those with the metabolic syndrome, and in the general population. This support has not only enabled me to pursue research that I believe can have significant clinical impact, it has also provided me with the resources and academic environment to grow as an independent researcher. Having the possibility to conduct research at this stage of my career is invaluable as it allows me to contribute new knowledge to the field, develop advanced analytical skills, and build collaborations that will shape my future scientific work. So far, I have published one paper in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology (https://doi.org/10.1093/eurjpc/zwaf203), have one paper under review at the European Heart Journal, and are preparing another for submission to Diabetes Care. These achievements would not have been possible without the support of the DCAcademy.</p>

Call IIII	PhD Student	University	Being a DCAcademy Grantee has given me the opportunity to be part of an engaged and inspiring community of professionals, fostering valuable connections, knowledge exchange, and personal growth
Call IIII	Postdoctoral Researcher	University	Being a DCAcademy Grantee has provided me with the opportunity to pursue my chosen research question. It enabled me to develop a project that fostered collaboration between research groups at two different Danish universities (UCH and SDU). It has also been a valuable source of knowledge through courses, summits, and conferences, and a way to become more familiar with the cardiovascular research network in Denmark.
Call IIII	M.D. and Ph.d. student	Hospital	DCAcademy has not only provided me with a scholarship that made it possible for me to start my ph.d.-project. They have also invested time in me through additional courses, peer-mentoring groups, summer and winter schools etc. The first year of a ph.d.-project is often extremely hard, and I truly think that DCAcademy provided me with knowledge, skills and a much-improved network that has helped me greatly in tackling my first year as a ph.d.-student. I often use the skills and the network that DCAcademy has introduced me to, and I am 100% sure that my project would not be as far as it is without the time that DCAcademy has invested in me. And these lessons and the network will definitely also help me in my research career after my ph.d. Lastly, I feel proud to be a part of the DCAcademy. I look forward to contribute to the coming vast amounts of research and results that will stem from the DCAcademy. The first article is coming soon.
Call IIII	PhD student	Hospital	I am very grateful for the opportunity as a DCA grantee to partake in the research community created by the DCA, as well as the learning opportunities I have had and enjoyed created by DCA. I have also met many researchers within and outside my field, which has enhanced my academic understanding and sparked inspiration.
Call IIII	MD, Phd-student	Hospital	In addition to providing the necessary financial support for my PhD salary, DCA has opened the door to a unique community for both early-career and senior researchers who share an interest in cardiovascular research. For me, DCA has been and continues to be a valuable opportunity to establish essential

			<p>contacts for learning, guidance, and future collaborations. Furthermore, DCA succeeds in creating a community for early-career researchers, both professionally and socially, which I find especially valuable in a daily routine where PhD work can sometimes feel isolating. I have also taken advantage of several of DCA's courses and conferences, which are always educational and enriching</p>
Call IIII	Medical doctor and PhD student	Hospital	<p>It has provided a strong network of individuals enthusiastic about cardiovascular research, with the added insights of different methodologies and strategies in the field. Furthermore, through several courses and meetings they have provided a firm and up-to-date understanding of basic, epidemiologic, and clinical cardiovascular research, that have already inspired new ideas for my own work. Finally, another benefit that DCAcademy has provided are guidance on the practical aspects of running a PhD project and a real overview of the different practical challenges that arise for myself and my colleagues when trying to get things done 3-year project. All in all, it has meant better quality for my learning and research.</p>
Call IIII	Postdoc	University	<p>It means a lot to be part of a network, where a large group of people work toward a common important goal. That is very motivating. It has also meant that I have gotten a deeper understanding of clinical research</p>
Call IIII	Postdoctoral researcher	University	<p>Lastly, I would like to emphasise that DCA fills an important gap, with its academic and educational structure designed for a cardiology PhD student (at least in Copenhagen). I sincerely hope DCA can continue to support and inspire the academic journey of future PhD students.</p>
Call IIII	PhD Student	University	<p>My grant has given me the opportunity to start my PhD and a network with other PhD students in the field of cardiology. In addition, the academy offers events and courses that I have found very relevant.</p>
Call IIII	PhD-student / Research assistant	Hospital	<p>Receiving the DCA-grant has been crucial in allowing me to conduct my research independently and to continue, particularly with the randomized controlled trial I am currently conducting. In addition, it has provided valuable opportunities</p>

			to network across professions and to learn from one another. The courses offered have not only been highly useful for my PhD journey, but may also prove valuable in my future career as a researcher.
Call IIII	Cardiologist and postdoctoral researcher	Hospital	The DCAcademy Clinical Postdoc Grant has given me a unique opportunity to continue my research alongside my clinical career. This means that I am now in a position where I can begin the process of establishing my own research team and apply for startup grants.
Call IIII	Post.doc.	University	The DCAcademy is one of the few funders that support Danish postdoctoral researchers staying in Denmark rather than going abroad. By receiving a DCA postdoctoral grant, I have been given a unique opportunity to conduct my research in an internationally recognised environment while still being able to settle in Denmark together with my family. Furthermore, as a grant recipient, I have extended my network within different disciplines of cardiovascular research.