



# Assessing the information needs of early-career biomedical researchers

Emily Mazure, Pat Thibodeau, Leila Ledbetter, Brandi Tuttle, Karen Grigg, Megan von Isenburg  
Duke University Medical Center Library & Archives, Durham, NC

## Background

- Duke biomedical research community is an under-served and less-understood population
- Early-career researchers could benefit most from increased understanding and support

## Study Population

Early-career researchers

- Graduate students in the basic sciences; post-docs; junior faculty; house-staff; and fellows

## Methods

What is Grounded Theory?

**Start with No Hypothesis → Build Theories**

A systematic methodology in which the discovery of theory occurs through the analysis of data. Analysis is iterative throughout the study to allow the researcher to explore emerging themes.

Applying Grounded Theory:

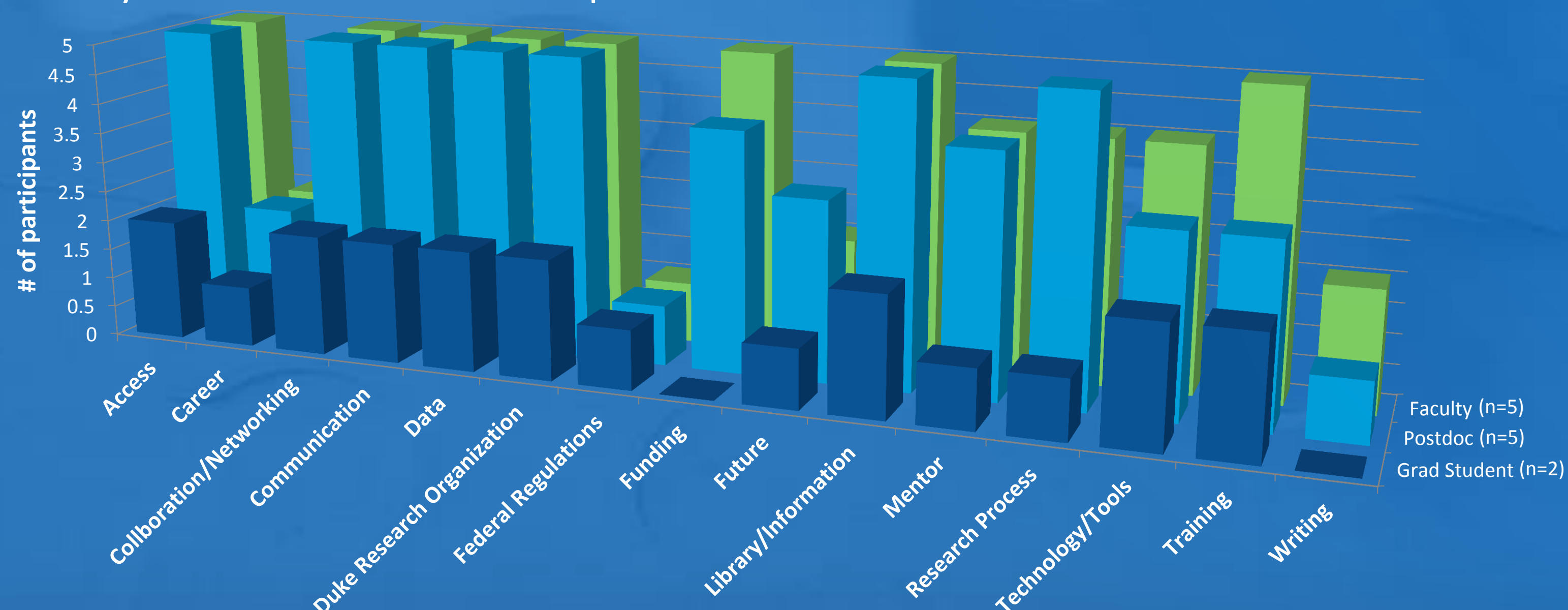
- Conduct focus groups & interviews with study population
- Interview individuals who understand the study population
- Conduct survey based on theories developed from focus groups and interviews
- Notes coded and analyzed in NVivo

Focus Group Questions:

- Intentionally use a broad focus
  - Avoid limiting findings to preconceived beliefs
  - Allow collaboration with the Duke Office of Clinical Research
  - Explore needs beyond library topics
  - Use semi-structured interview guide to facilitate discussion

## Preliminary Findings

Key Themes from Focus Groups



Overall

**Participants are unaware or don't understand many tools, services, and resources. They also feel that identifying good mentors is crucial to navigating Duke and their career.**

More specifically

- Finding collaborators is difficult
- Navigating the research process and structure is confusing
- Grant lifecycle is complex to navigate
- Finding and obtaining help at Duke is challenging
- Interested in training, especially statistical
- Rely on close colleagues for guidance and answers
- Don't want (have time) to find contact info, articles, forms, etc.