

This newsletter presents findings from Quarter 3, 2013 evaluations of the Science Seminar Series, baseline survey of mid-year 2012-13 new participants, and the spring

Science Seminar Series

Thank you to the seven science seminar presenters! Between 16 and 24 people have attended the monthly science seminars. More postdocs and graduate students have attended recently.

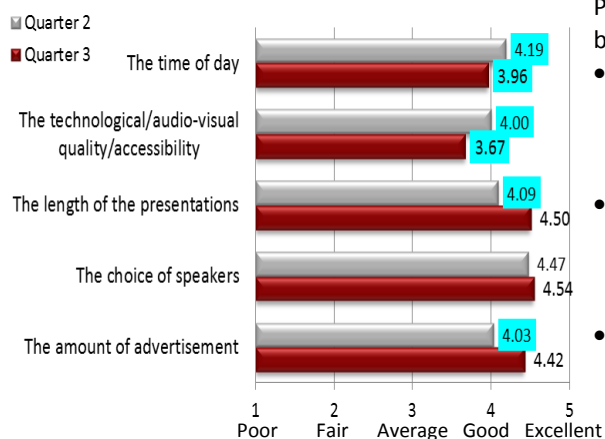
Date	Presenter	Number of attendees					
		Total	SR/F	PD	GS	U	?
August 6	Weiwei Zhu, Justin Ellis	19	11	2	4	3	0
September 10	Joanna Rankin	18	11	5	2	0	0
October 1	Michele Vallisneri	17	7	6	2	1	0
November 5	Andy Fruchter	19	9	6	4	0	0
December 3	Robert Owen	16	6	7	3	0	0
January	---	--	--	--	--	--	--
February 4	Kirk McKenzie	16	6	7	3	0	0
March 4	Ue-Li Pen	24	9	8	6	0	1
Total		129	59	41	24	4	1



PROJECT GOALS

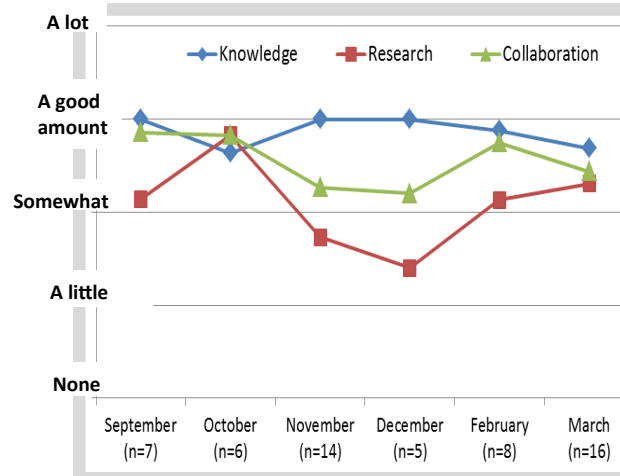
- Goal 1: Knowledge
- Goal 2: Education
- Goal 3: Partnerships
- Goal 4: Institutional Capacity
- Goal 5: Workforce Development

Higher impacts on *knowledge* and *increased sense of collaboration with other scientists*.
Lower impacts on *increasing ability to conduct research in their scientific field*.



Participants rated all logistics between *good* and *excellent*.

- High satisfaction with presentation length, choice of speakers and amount of advertisement.
- Technological/audio-visual quality/accessibility could be improved by working out WebEx issues.
- Encourage attendees to have access to video to increase understanding.

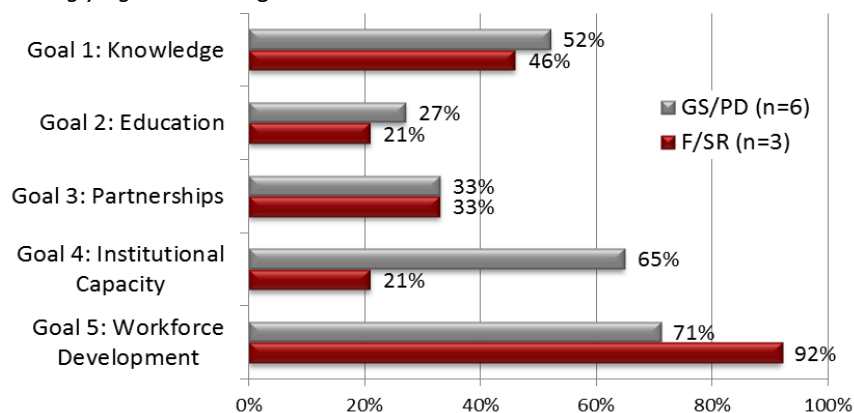


Baseline Survey

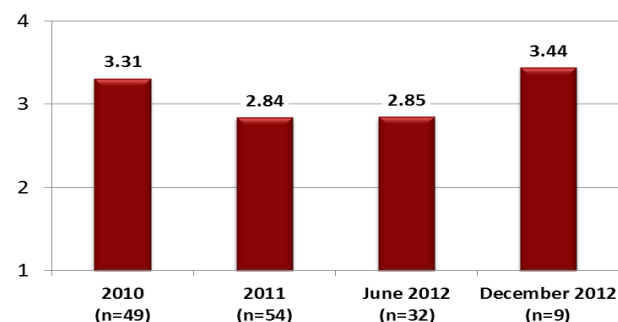
The baseline ratings of participants who joined the project in winter 2012 were very high, as they were coming from other gravitational wave projects that recently concluded.

They are strongest in knowledge of astrophysics and gravitational wave detection and their commitment to pursuing careers in astrophysics.

This figure presents the percent of statements with which new participants *strongly agree* in each goal area.



Baseline ratings of Goal 1: Knowledge - Advance new knowledge and discoveries at the frontiers of science while achieving 3 sigma sensitivity to gravitational waves



The December 2012 baseline participants commented on impediments to conducting international research. The main impediments towards international research and education focused on financial issues:

- Travel funding
- Funding for research and graduate students

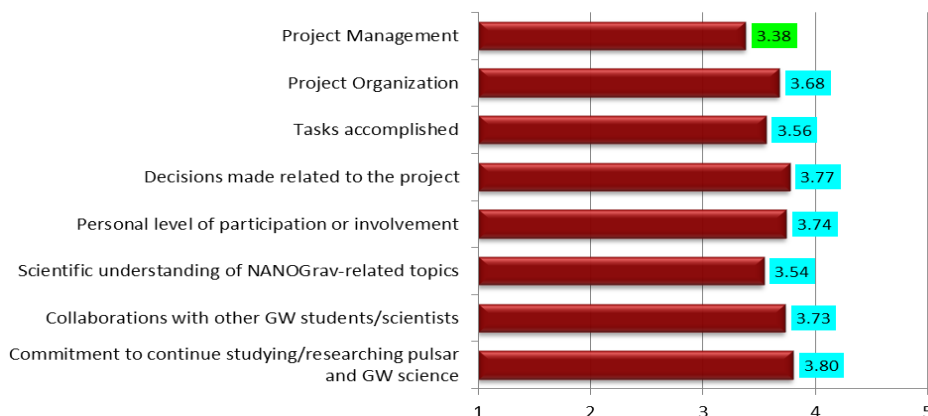
Spring NANOGrav-PIRE Meeting

Forty-five senior researchers, faculty, postdoctoral researchers, graduate students, and undergraduate students from 16 institutions in the US and Canada attended the May 22-24, 2013 meeting held at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) in Green Bank, WV. Large percentages of participants rated that the meeting produced *a good deal of improvement* to seven out of eight areas of the project. The graph below presents participants' ratings of meeting's improvement to and impact on the project.



Rating scale

A great deal of improvement	4.21 – 5.00
A good deal of improvement	3.41 – 4.20
Some improvement	2.61 – 3.40
A little improvement	1.81 – 2.60
No improvement	1.00 – 1.80



Suggestions for Future Meetings

- Set aside explicit working time so people are not doing work while others are presenting
- Don't run working group sessions in parallel so more people can attend
- More senior personnel should attend

Recommendations

- ♦ **Science Seminar** - Advertise the seminar more widely both nationally and internationally. Invite members of the EPTA and PPTA to present research being conducted in their consortiums. Continue to encourage attendees to complete the evaluation form.
- ♦ **Baseline survey** - Strongly encourage participants to complete the annual project post-survey which will be deployed in May/June, prior to the International Science Meeting. Having such a high completion rate for baseline surveys is excellent, however these ratings become most useful when compared with annual post-survey ratings which enable the evaluators to measure growth over the course of the project.
- ♦ **Science Meeting** - Consider implementing participants' suggestions to increase senior personnel attendance, improve organization of working groups, and not allow laptops work during meetings.



Future Topics Request

Participants noted specific knowledge, topics, or skills they would like to learn in future workshops that would help advance their understanding of gravitational wave detection and their research. *GW detection methodologies*

- ♦ *More about the improvements GUPPI/PUPPI add and how generating the TOAs/residuals will change as a result*
- ♦ *Tutorial session on generating TOAs from raw data.*
- ♦ *It would be great to have a PSRCHIVE or PRESTO workshop. Really great.*
- ♦ *I'd like to also be trained on how to remotely observe with Arecibo.*



Upcoming Evaluation Activities

- Continued evaluation of Science Seminar Series
- Baseline survey of new 2013 participants
- Evaluation of Student Week and Science Week International Science meeting
- Annual post-survey of all participants