

Gastroenterology Fellowship Virtual Interviews: Applicant and Faculty Perceptions on Virtual Interview Advantages and Barriers

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Background

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual interviews for resident and fellowship applicants became the standard, however studies evaluating the experience of virtual interviews format are lacking.
- We surveyed both gastroenterology fellowship applicants and interviewing faculty members about their experiences with the virtual interview process.

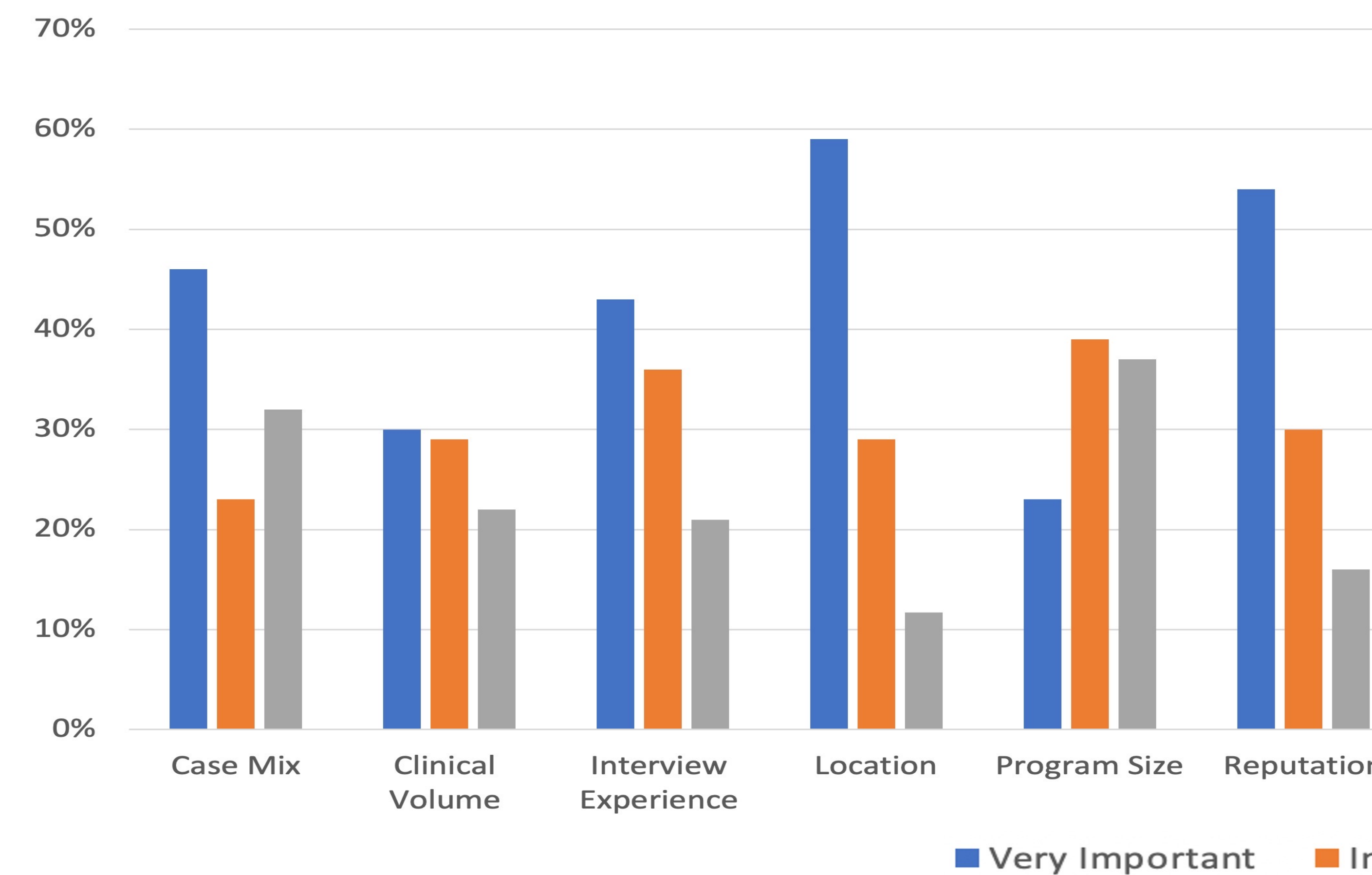
Methods

- During the 2020 ERAS fellowship interview season, interviewees and faculty at 13 different gastroenterology fellowship programs across the United States completed a post-interview survey via Google Forms.

Results

- A total of 177 applicants and 83 faculty members completed the electronic surveys.
- 91% and 84% of applicants and faculty respectively, reported a positive experience, scoring 4 points on a 5-point scale.
- Over 67% of applicants reported cost-savings of greater than \$1,000 per interview.
- 36% of applicants reported that they missed the personal interaction with the current fellows in the respective programs and the experience of physically touring the facility.
- 27% and 25% of applicants and faculty experienced technical difficulties during the interview process process, respectively.

Applicants Ranking Factors



Faculty Ranking Factors

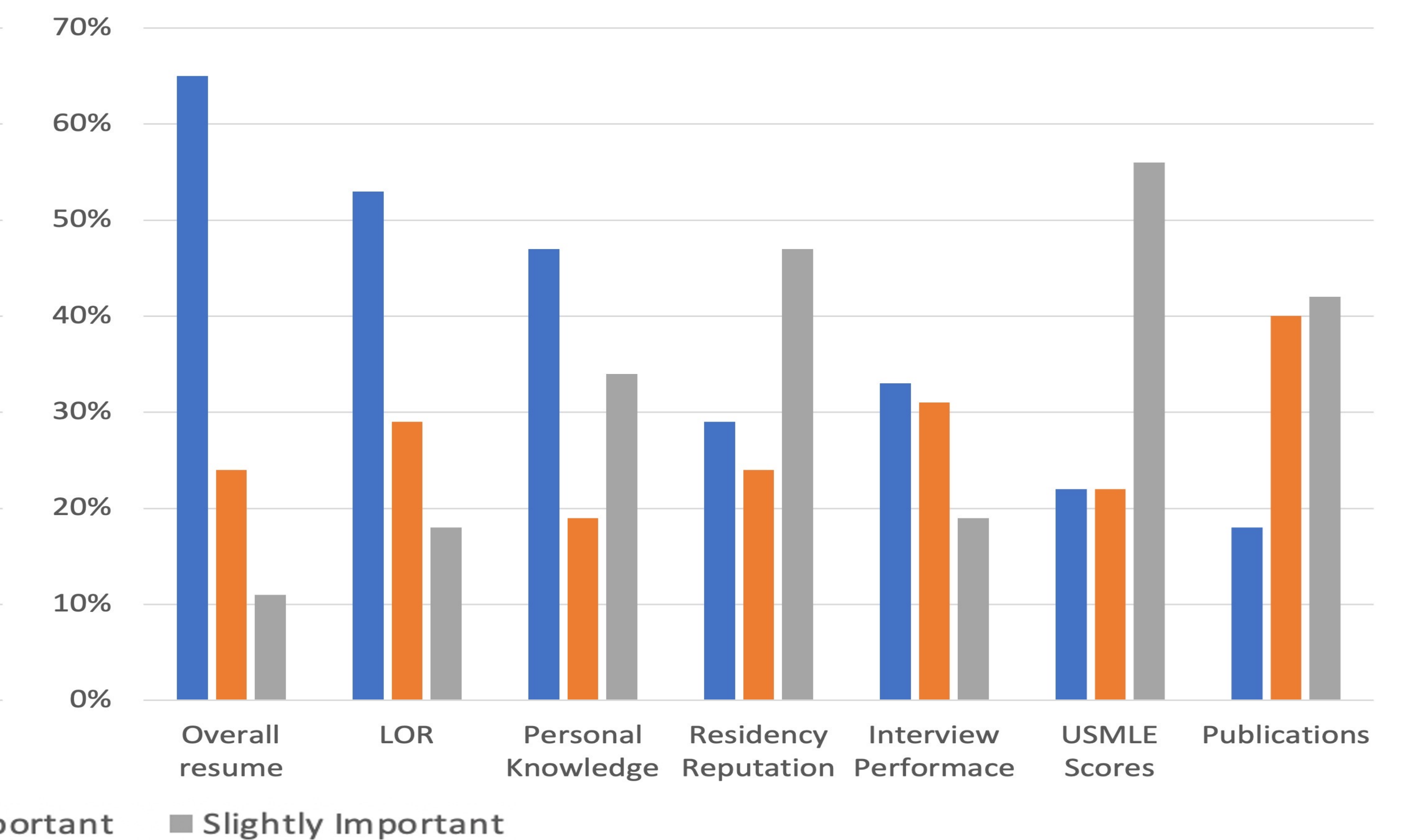


Figure 1: Applicants and faculty perspectives on the ranking process, LOR; letters of recommendation.

Conclusion

- Virtual interviews were perceived as effective and cost-saving by both applicants and faculty members.
- The virtual experience was widely accepted by most applicants and faculty, with high potential to become the standard of fellowship interview process in the future.
- Further improvements in technology are needed to optimize the process and increase the acceptance of the virtual interview experience.