

Perspectives of Research Stakeholders on Fostering Research Integrity at the Kenya Medical Research Institute.

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Background

A retrospective study was conducted during one-year period, from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 at Chemolingot Sub County hospital, in Baringo County. Data from patient's records treated with VL at the hospital during the one-year period was analysed for variables such as age, sex, method of diagnosis and treatment received. We also analysed the total VL cases treated every month to check whether there was any seasonal variation of the disease in the area

Objective

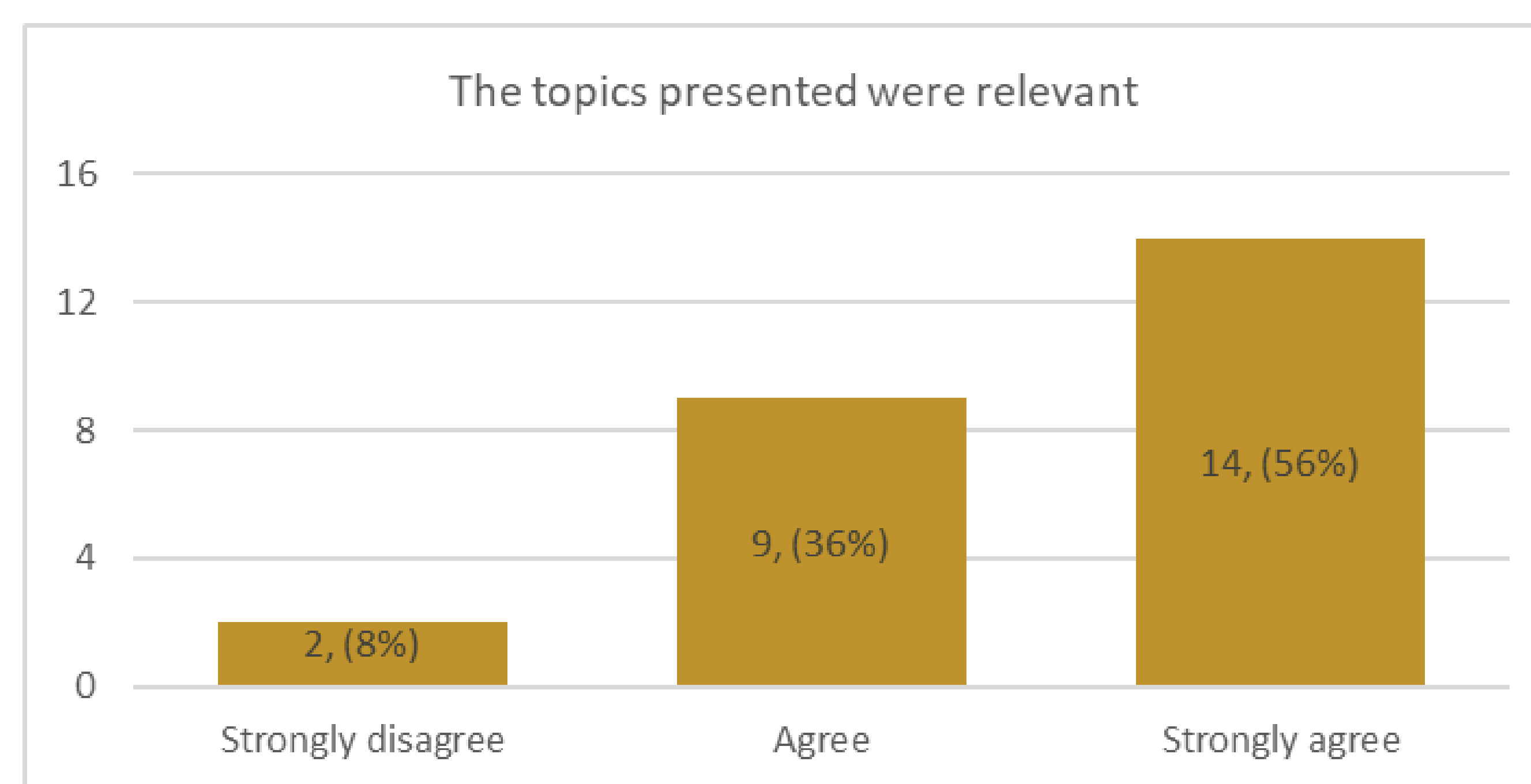
This paper describes the perspectives of institutional research stakeholders on fostering research integrity at KEMRI

Methods

KEMRI organized a two-day Research Integrity Workshop on 30th and 31st January 2023 targeting institutional research stakeholders. This includes scientific and technical staff. An online survey was rolled out to gather views of participants about fostering RI. Data was analyzed using Microsoft Office 365 Excel.

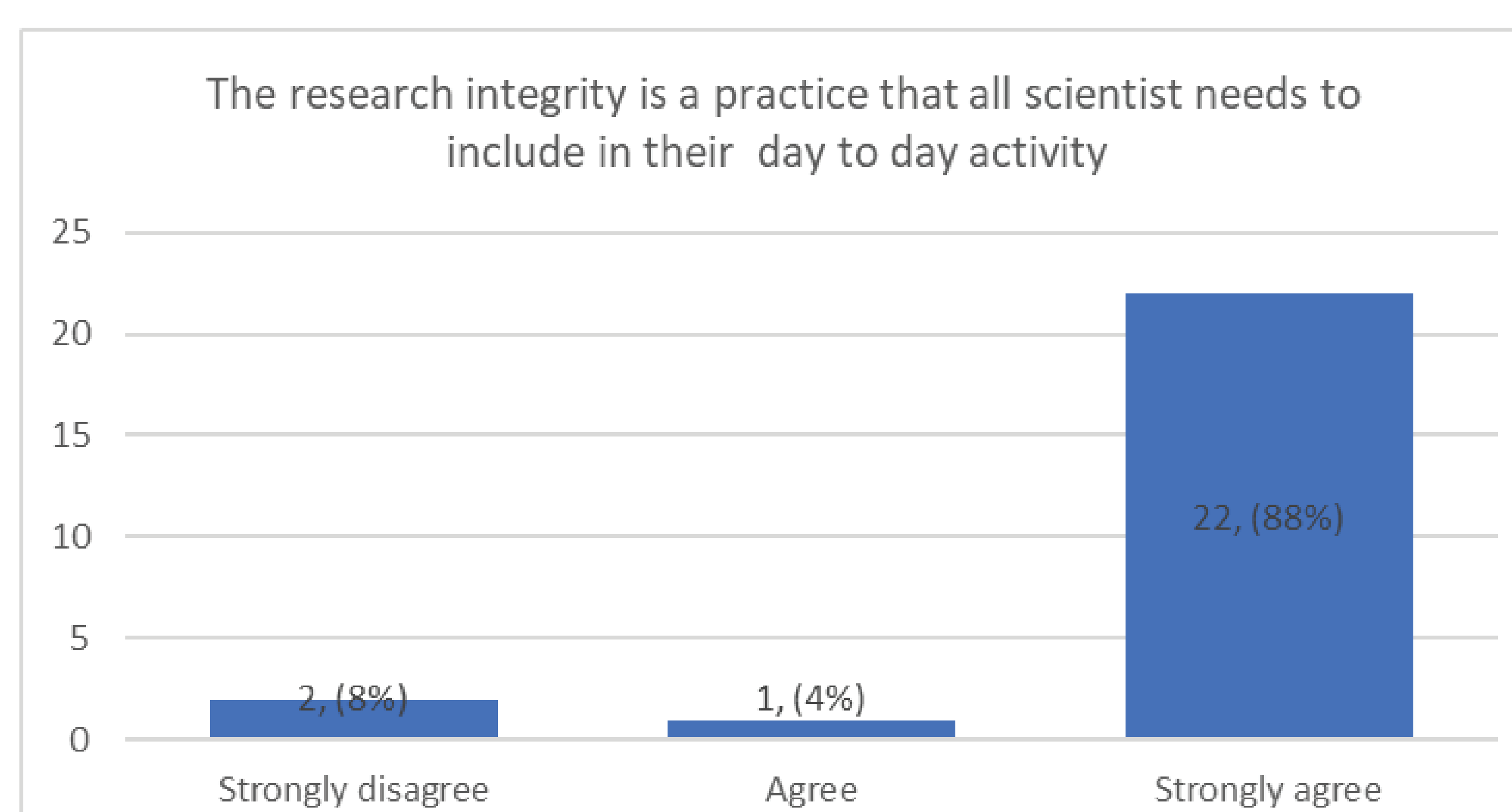
Results

Figure 1: The topics presented were relevant



A total of 25 participants responded to the online survey. Out of this, 17 (68%) were research scientists, 4 (16%) were students on internship, 3 (12%) were non-scientists and 1 (4%) clinical research coordinator. A majority 15 (60%) indicated that continuous sensitization of researchers would promote responsible conduct of research. A minority 1 (4%) suggested mentoring young researchers promotes research integrity. Some participants 2 (8%) proposed strengthening the existing Scientific and Ethics Review Unit, the body responsible for research regulation at KEMRI.

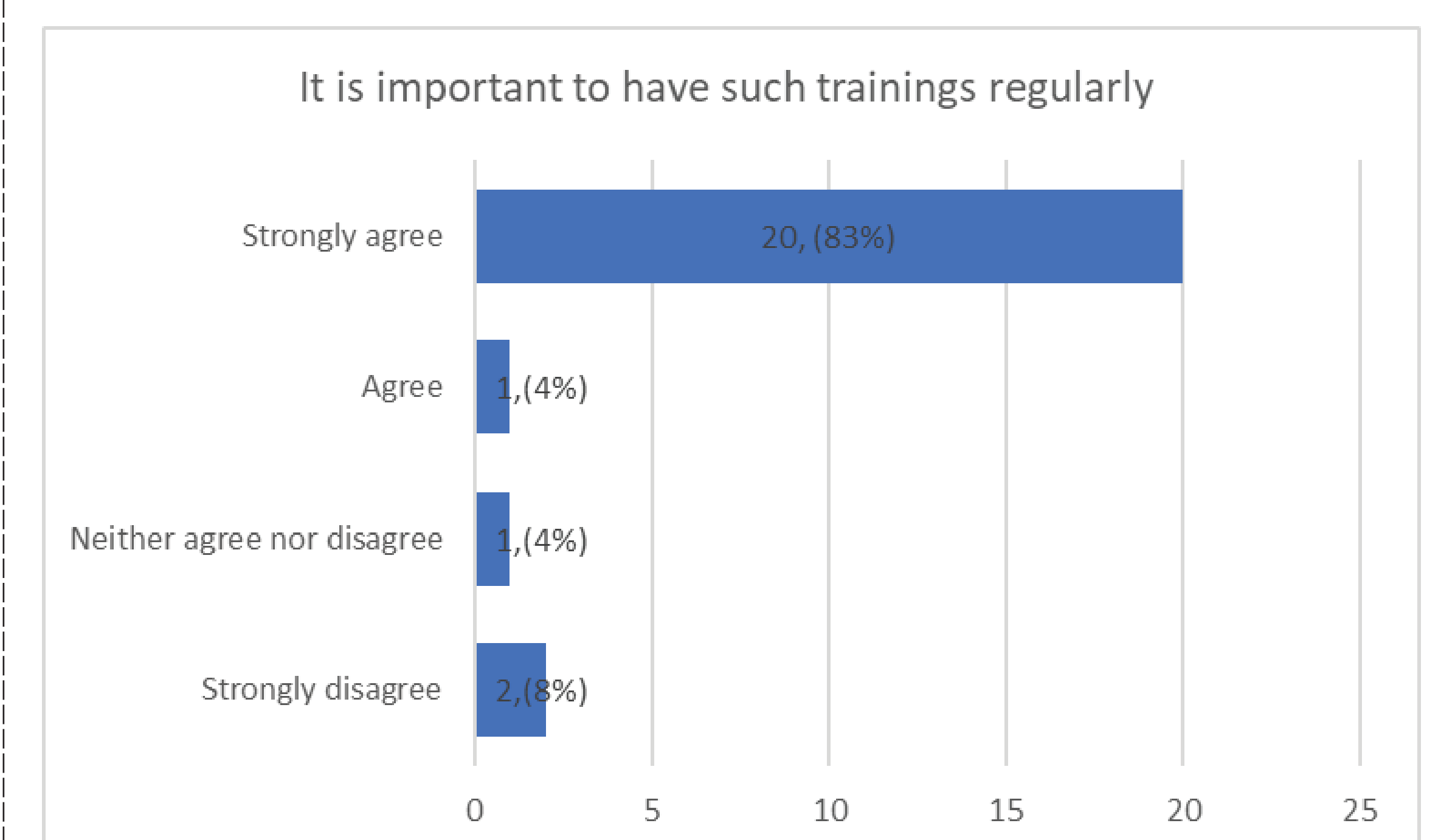
Figure 2: The research integrity is a practice that all scientist needs to include in their day-to-day activity



Results

Another 2 (8%) suggested monitoring research projects and introducing rewards and sanction mechanisms. A total of 2 (8%) respondents stated that there is a need for a research integrity office that oversees the conduct of research in the institution. Others, 1 (4%) each suggested a need to inculcate the culture of research integrity in the institution, include research integrity component in research activities, and formulate guidelines for research integrity.

Figure 3: It is important to have such trainings regularly



Conclusion

Continuous sensitization of the wider research community on scientific integrity promotes good conduct of research. These findings from a training evaluation imply that the culture of research integrity can be inculcated by adopting preventive approaches like awareness creation.