

A Five-Year Review of the Department of Psychiatry Fellowship Program Registration in 2016-2021

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BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

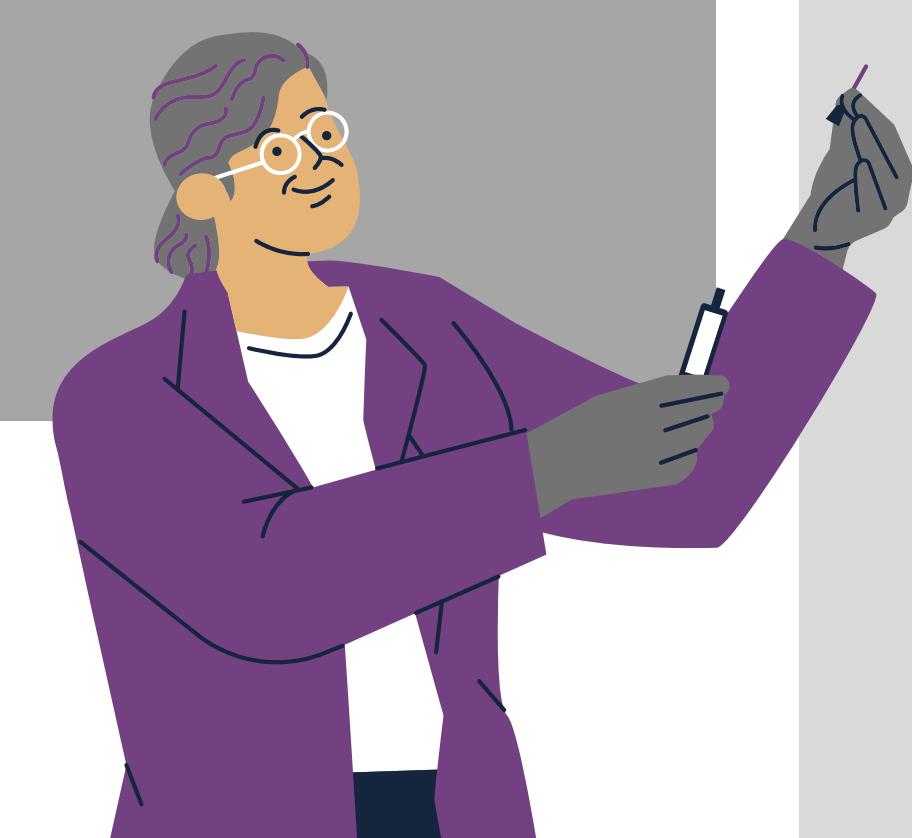
- The Fellowship Program at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto, provides opportunities for domestic and international physicians and specialists to advance their academic training in specific clinical and/or research areas of psychiatry.
- Eligible fellows register for clinical or research fellowships and are usually undertaken for one to two years; a minimum of \$61,000 CAD/annum of funding must be secured.
- Clinical fellows must have a medical degree from a recognized medical school with a specialist designation and must meet the licensure requirements with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO).
- Research fellows do not have patient contact and do not require a CPSO license.

OBJECTIVES

- To conduct a five-year review of the Fellowship Program registration data to better understand trainee interests and identify potential opportunities for program growth and quality improvement.

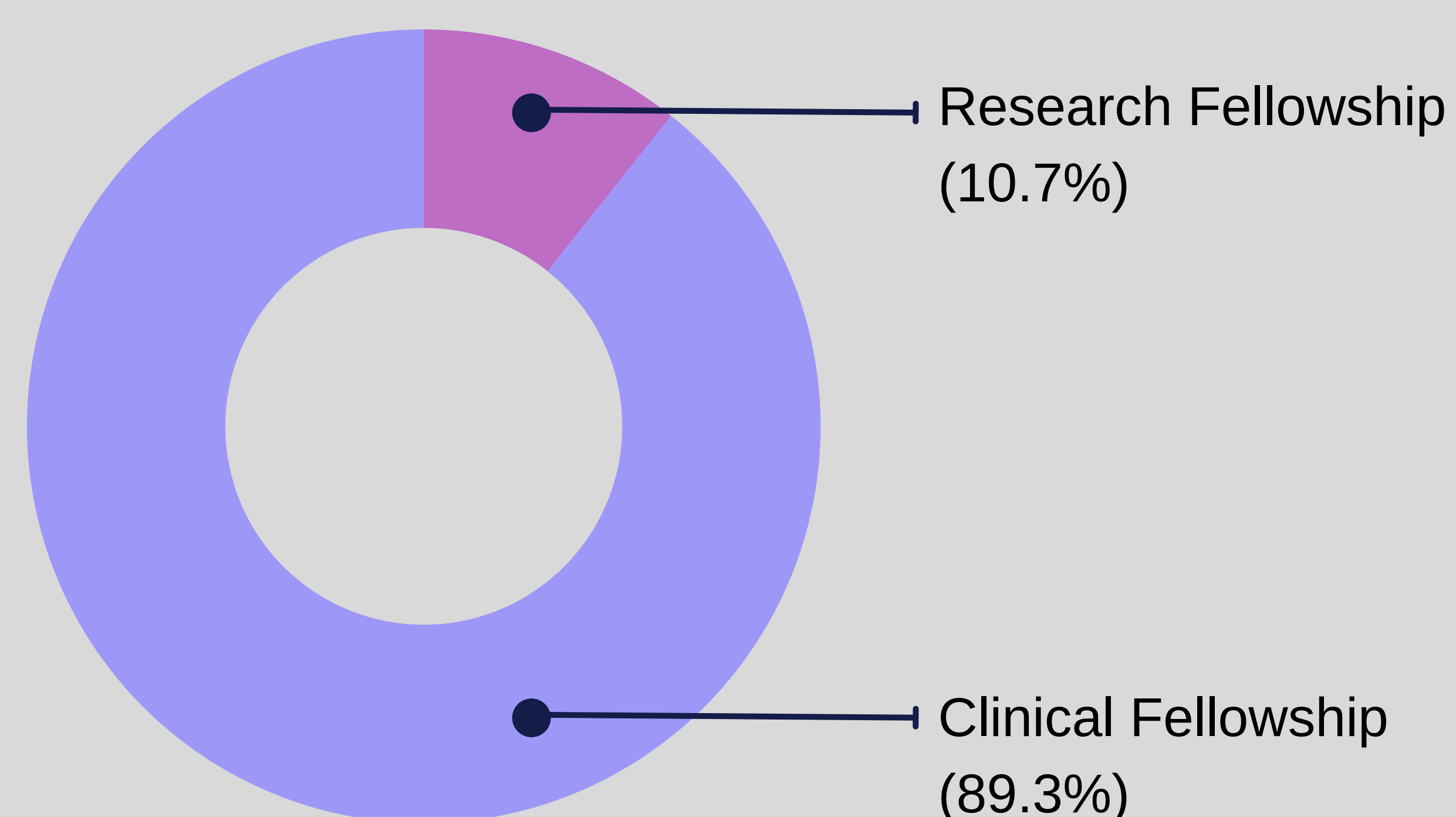
METHODS

- We retrieved registration data from the Fellowship Program in 2016-2021 and analyzed the **type of fellowship** (clinical vs. research fellows) and **trainee status** (domestic vs. international fellows) according to the respective fellowship registration documents.
- The **funding source** was determined through the associated training site offer letter and classified as:
 - Hospital-based:** This refers to divisional/clinical program funds, practice plan-based stipends and endowments administered through the hospital.
 - Supervisor funding:** This funding comes directly from the fellow supervisor's research grants.
 - Fellow-sourced:** This refers to OHIP-billings, fellow-acquired research grants, sponsorships, or home institution/country grants/scholarships.
- The **fellowship focus** was determined according to the educational objectives form for clinical fellows and the departmental application form for research fellows, respectively. Fellowship focus areas were grouped by the corresponding departmental divisions.



RESULTS

TYPE OF FELLOWSHIP



CITIZENSHIP

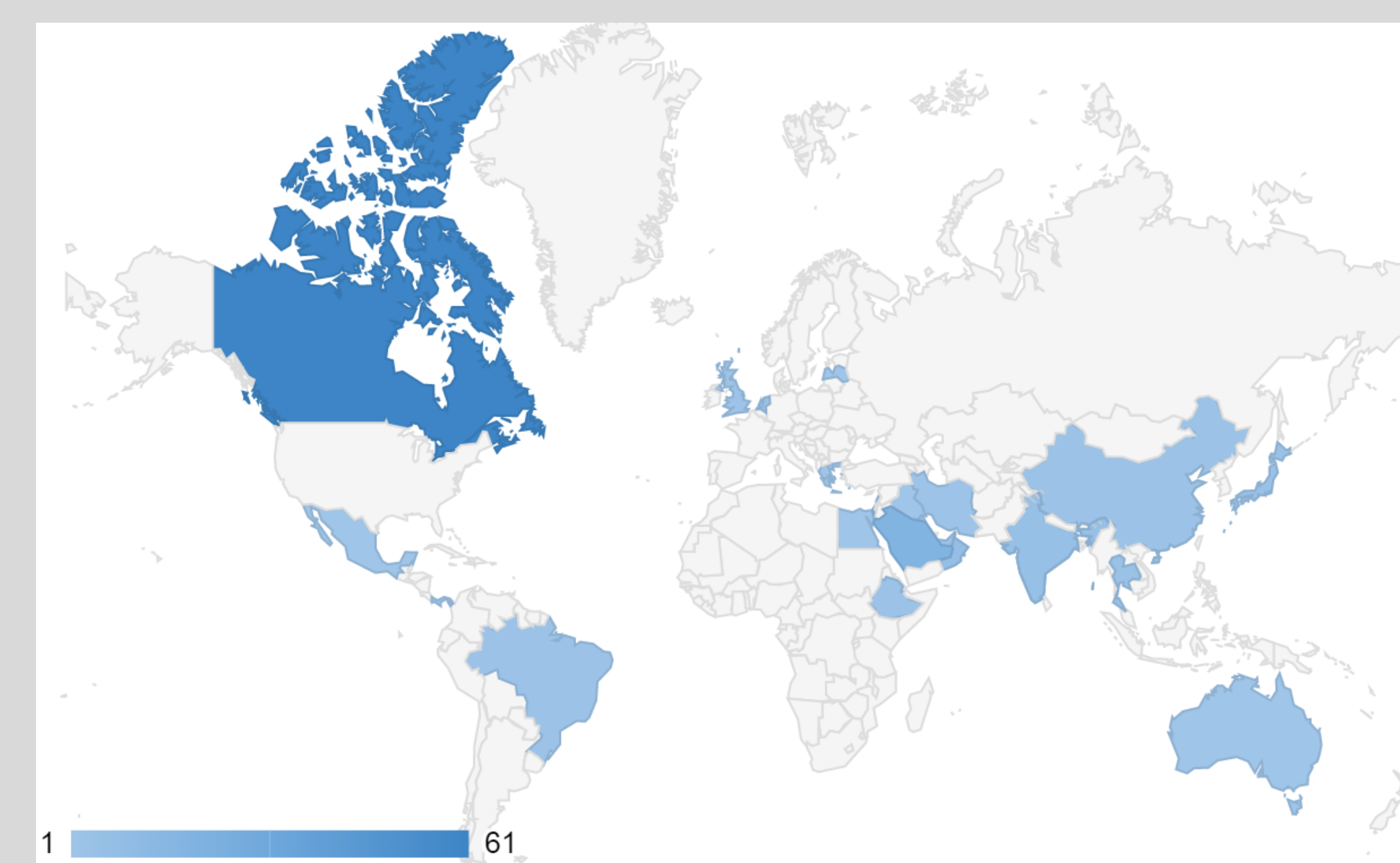


Figure 1 & 2: In 2016-2021, a total of 149 fellows were registered with the Fellowship Program; 10.7% pursued research-only fellowships; and most clinical fellowships also have a research component. Approximately 60% were international fellows. Majority of international fellows were from Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Oman.

FUNDING SOURCE

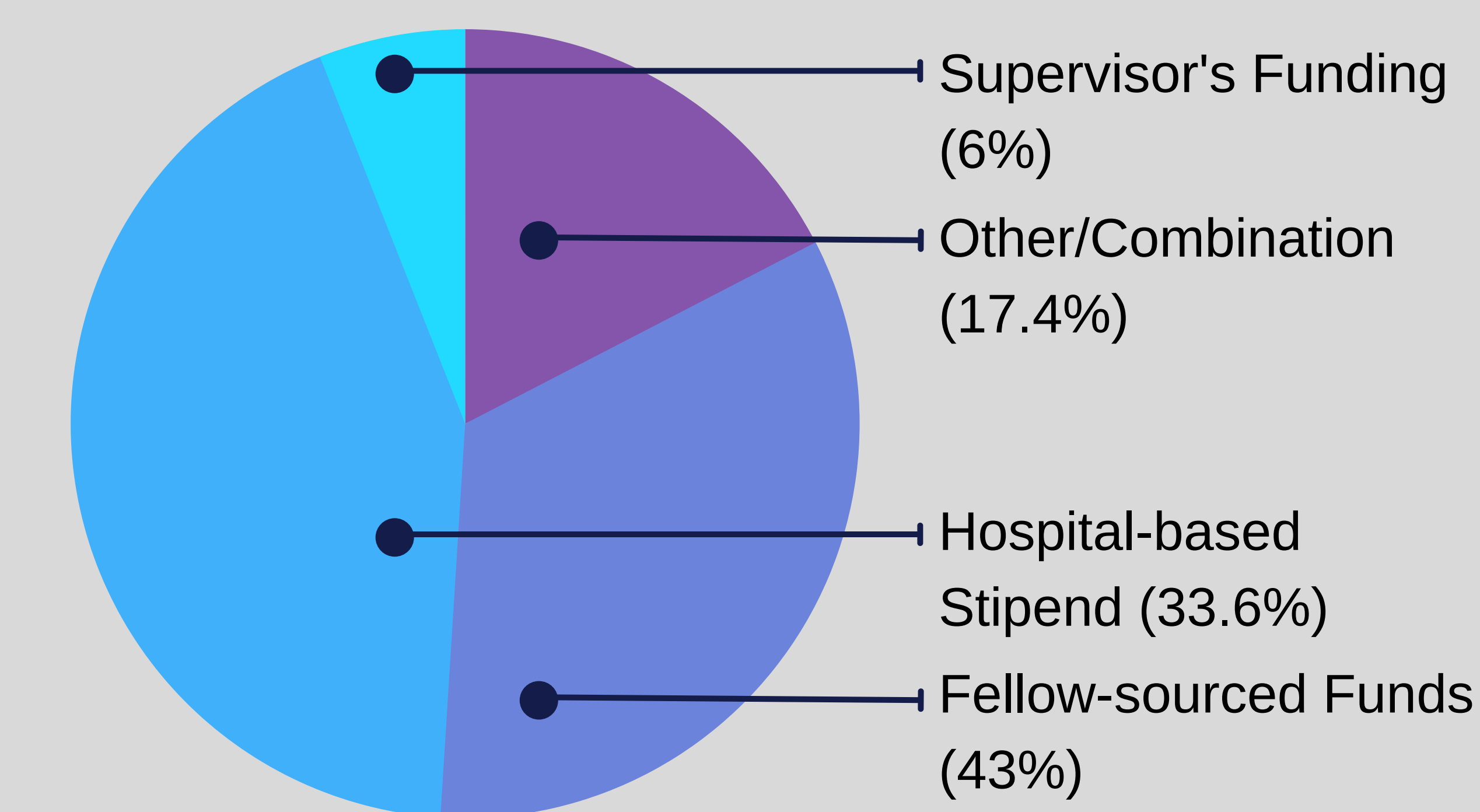


Figure 3: Approximately 34% fellowships were funded by "hospital-based" stipends. "Supervisor funding" and "fellow-sourced funding" accounted for 6% and 43% fellowship remuneration, respectively; and 17% fellowships were funded by a combination of sources.

FELLOWSHIP FOCUS BY DIVISION

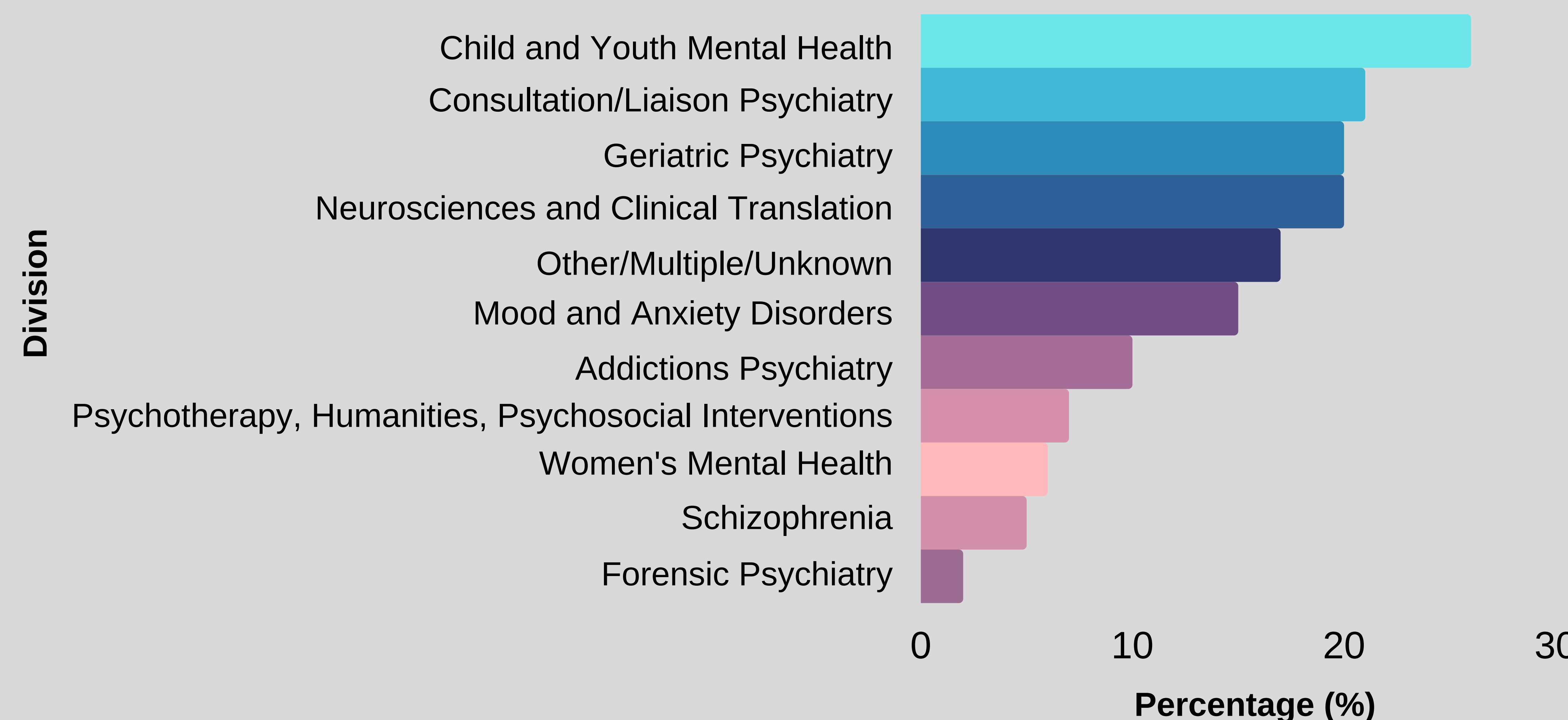


Figure 4: Areas in psychiatry where fellows were most engaged, according to the corresponding departmental divisions, were Child & Youth Mental Health, Consultation/Liaison Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry and Neurosciences & Clinical Translation. (Note: Mood and Anxiety Disorders, Addictions Psychiatry, and Schizophrenia fall under 'Adult Psychiatry and Health Systems'.)



CONCLUSION

- There is a potential need for the Fellowship Program to provide more research-oriented opportunities/incentives for research-only fellowships. Clarifying the registration requirements for clinical vs. research fellows may also encourage research fellow enrolment/engagement. The high proportion of international fellows may warrant a closer look at specific trainee needs, such as, orientation and onboarding. (Figures 1 & 2)
- Seeking more "hospital-based" funding opportunities may facilitate access to fellowship training for international fellows who may not have sponsorship opportunities through their home countries. (Figure 3)
- Expanding more training opportunities in highly sought fellowship focus areas (e.g., Child & Youth Mental Health, Consultation/Liaison Psychiatry) may be needed. Identifying the rationale behind the high- and low-engaged fellowship focus areas, according to the corresponding departmental divisions, may also be helpful for future program growth and quality improvement. (Figure 4)