Sieving through the Sands: Which Grant is for Me?

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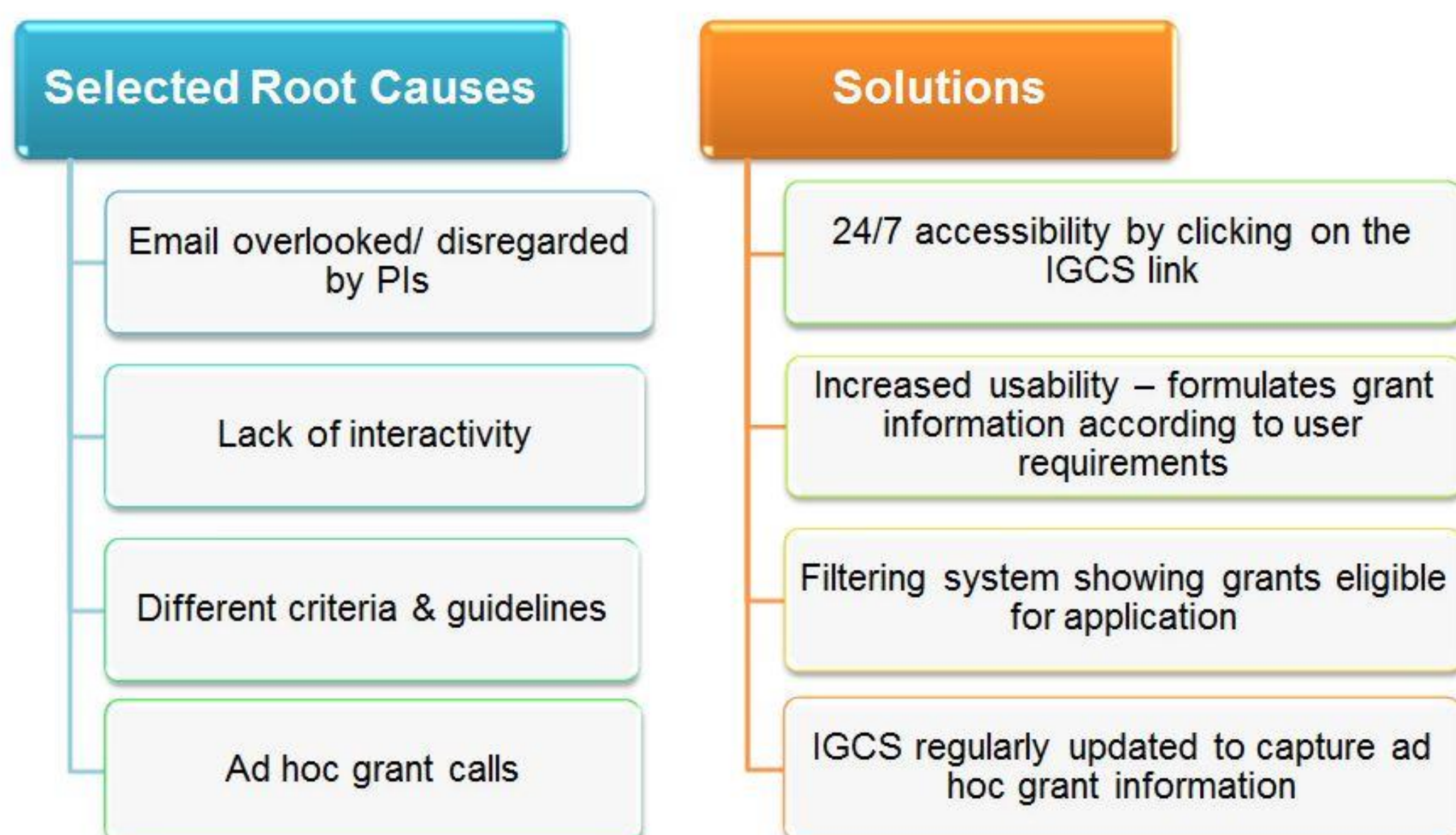KK Women's and Children's Hospital
SingHealth

Aims

To provide a highly interactive platform (Interactive Grant Calendar System- IGCS) that effectively and efficiently provides all necessary grant information available and at the same time sieves out grants and its related information that the user is eligible for.

Methodology

Surveys were done pre- and post-implementation of the IGCS, specifically focusing on the time spent to find grant information. The surveys provided assessments 'on time spent to find necessary information', 'difficulty levels', 'user friendliness' and 'likelihood of future use'.

Root cause analysis was also performed using the Ishikawa diagram, where the major causes contributing to the problem was identified.

Based on the prior, the team have then come up with the IGCS that provides grant information as well as does eligibility criteria checks.

Selected Root Causes	Solutions
Email overlooked/ disregarded by PIs	24/7 accessibility by clicking on the IGCS link
Lack of interactivity	Increased usability – formulates grant information according to user requirements
Different criteria & guidelines	Filtering system showing grants eligible for application
Ad hoc grant calls	IGCS regularly updated to capture ad hoc grant information

Introducing the ...

Interactive Grant Calendar System (IGCS)

Resize font:

To show all grants, please tick (✓) all criteria.

Citizenship:
* must provide value
☐ Singaporean
☐ Permanent Resident
☐ Foreigner

Research Focus:
* must provide value
☐ Individual
☐ Cross-institution Collaboration
☐ Industry Collaboration

Degree:
* must provide value
☐ MD, MBBS, BDS (SMC-registered)
☐ PhD (Scientists, Healthcare Professionals, Bio-statisticians and others)
☐ Non-PhD (Healthcare Professionals, Bio-statisticians and others)

Grant Name	Deadline	Funding Years	Grant Amount
	TALENT DEVELOPMENT GRANTS		
	RESEARCH GRANTS		

Question? Please submit your query below. We will get back to you.

Name:
* must provide value

Email:
* must provide value
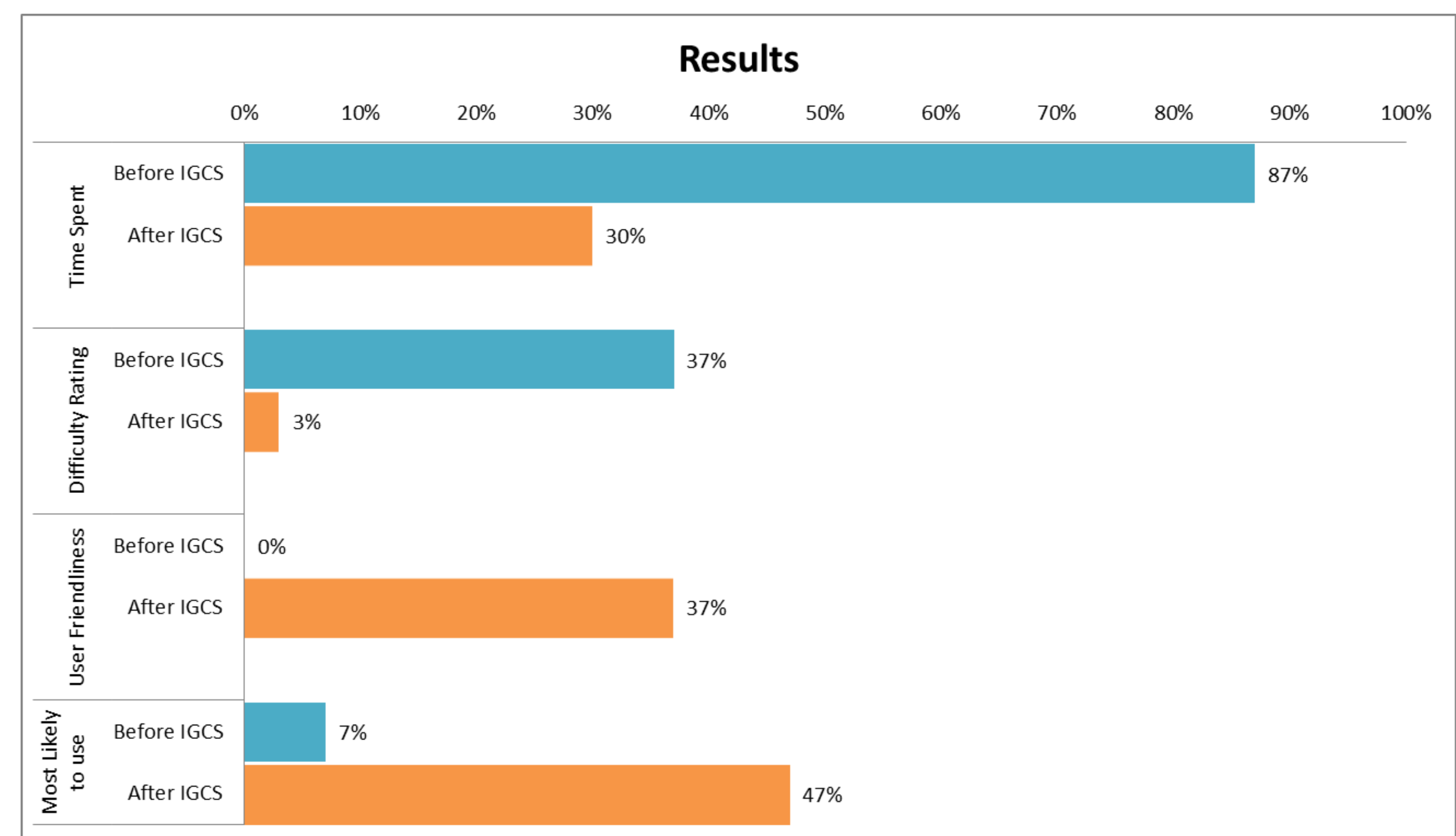
Enquiry:
* must provide value

Results

With the IGCS, the percentage of researchers and principal investigators who took more than 5 minutes to find grant information to determine which grant to apply for has statistically significantly reduced from 87% to 30%.

In addition, with the introduction of the IGCS, the difficulty rating decreased from 37% to 3%, user friendliness of the system increase from 0% to 37% and the 'most likely to use' rating increased from 7% to 47%.

Positive feedback were also received from the research community on the implementation on the IGCS.

Results

Time Spent	Before IGCS	87%
	After IGCS	30%
Difficulty Rating	Before IGCS	37%
	After IGCS	3%
User Friendliness	Before IGCS	0%
	After IGCS	37%
Most Likely to use	Before IGCS	7%
	After IGCS	47%

Testimonials

"A real leap forward. I used to save the archive the grant related emails that KKRC sends out and then, read the attachments when I am free. Usually turns out that I am not eligible for. Sigh ... With the IGCS, I do not need to archive and go back to the emails which will be out-dated if I am not careful how long ago it was written. I think the IGCS will help novices like myself very much. Thank you."
— Deputy Director, Division of Nursing

"IGCS is a very good idea."
— Manager, Division of O&G

"Nice system. easy to find and it include the closing date which can be seen at a glance. Usually can't find the email after while."
— Assistant Director, Division of Nursing

"Interactive Grant Calendar System (IGCS) is more user friendly."
— Research Officer , Division of Clinical Support Services

Conclusion

The IGCS served as a widely popular and well-received solution for the research community by providing efficient and relevant grant information on a single, highly interactive platform. With this, more researchers would be able to access grant information readily and thus be eventually successful in the application.