MENTOR PROGRAM

DEVELOPING & STRENGTHENING EMERGING SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH TALENT INTERNATIONALLY

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INTRODUCTION

Structured mentoring over an extended period of time provides significant benefits to those who participate and equips individuals with skills that might not be available within their own organisation or institution. The SRI's Mentor Program is now in its fourth year. The program aims to progress the research careers of talented spinal cord injury (SCI) early career researchers (ECR's) and clinician researchers, particularly those from developing countries, and with limited access to experienced researchers.

METHODS

Eligibility for mentee participation is assessed through a competitive application process. Once a mentee is accepted into the program, significant consideration is given to finding a mentor who aligns with the mentee's research area and objectives. A baseline survey and follow-up surveys every six months are conducted to gain feedback to help improve the program, and determine whether or not the program is achieving its objectives.

RESULTS

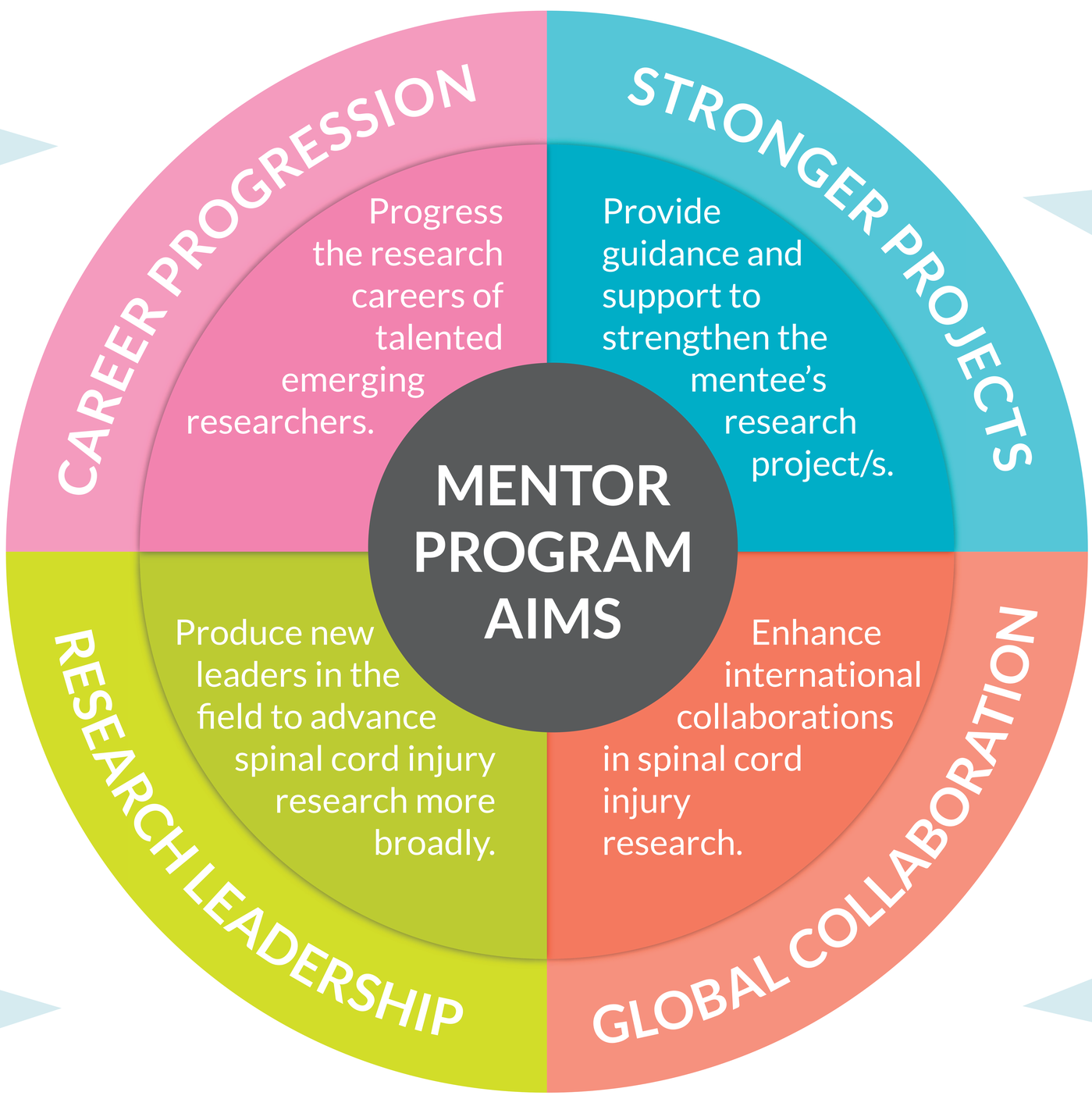
Mentees from eight countries have been paired with mentors across the world. 100% of mentees reported feeling strongly connected with the SCI research field and were confident to progress their research after the mentor program. This is a 40% increase from baseline reporting. 100% of mentees reported that the mentor program had improved their SCI research skills.

CONCLUSION

Applications for the Mentor Program doubled in 2023, indicating that this program is fulfilling a need within the SCI research community. Our Mentor Program equips researchers with skills that might not be available within their own organisation or institution.

"SRI Mentor Program is excellent. It has encouraged interested researchers from around the world to mentor low middle income country researcher."
(Mentee, 27 Aug 2022)

100% of mentees in our mentoring program rated their experience as excellent.
(SRI survey, 2022)



"The mentor program has been very positive."
(Mentee, 10 Nov 2022)

"Very impressive. The mentor match has guided the opportunity for me to receive a grant to visit my mentor's institute and further our connection and my research experience."
(Mentee, 30 Aug 2022)

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