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# Creating a Research Footprint: Introducing an Institutional Repository to Scholars

Carrie B. Levinson

*Touro College*, [carrie.levinson2@touro.edu](mailto:carrie.levinson2@touro.edu)

Melissa Spangenberg

*New York Medical College*, [melissa\\_spangenberg@nymc.edu](mailto:melissa_spangenberg@nymc.edu)

Jovy O'Grady

*New York Medical College*, [jogrady@nymc.edu](mailto:jogrady@nymc.edu)

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# CREATING A RESEARCH FOOTPRINT: INTRODUCING AN INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY TO SCHOLARS

CARRIE LEVINSON, MSLIS<sup>1</sup>; MELISSA SPANGENBERG, MLIS<sup>2</sup>; JOVY-ANNE O'GRADY, MLIS<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>TOURO COLLEGE LIBRARIES; <sup>2</sup>HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY, NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE



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## BACKGROUND

*Touro Scholar*, the institutional repository (IR) of the Touro College and University System (TCUS) and New York Medical College (NYMC), officially launched in April 2016, utilizing bepress's Digital Commons repository platform. The IR is an online archive of scholarly output of an institution – in this case TCUS and NYMC. After assessing institutional knowledge of the scholarly benefits of depositing work in the repository, the libraries planned to create a concrete game plan to establish buy-in to Touro Scholar. Handouts, presentations, customized guides, liaison outreach, tutorials, and webinars were proposed methods of advertising the repository.

## PURPOSE

- Establishing the number of faculty and graduate students in both the TCUS system and NYMC with prior knowledge of institutional repositories, subject repositories, and academic social networks.
- Establishing the number of respondents who had heard about *Touro Scholar* before promotions began.
- Establishing what population would be interested in depositing their work in *Touro Scholar*.
- Discovering respondents' reasons for and against deposit.

## METHODOLOGY

- A survey assessing institutional knowledge of the IR was email blasted to all Touro faculty and graduate students (July 2016) and NYMC (March 2017) to assess the baseline institutional knowledge of the IR. Solicitation text was included in the email and in the survey. Random self-selection was utilized to ensure anonymity, and the survey was administered using Qualtrics software.
- Emails to many TCUS and NYMC populations were sent, inviting them to add their works to Touro Scholar.
- Promotional materials such as flyers, cards, and handouts (Fig. 1, 2) were created and used in promoting the repository.
- Workshops, both to general faculty and specific schools, have been offered at both TCUS and NYMC.
- The same survey will be sent in late 2017 and we will compare the results from the first survey with the second.

## MATERIALS



## Touro Scholar

Touro College & University System with New York Medical College

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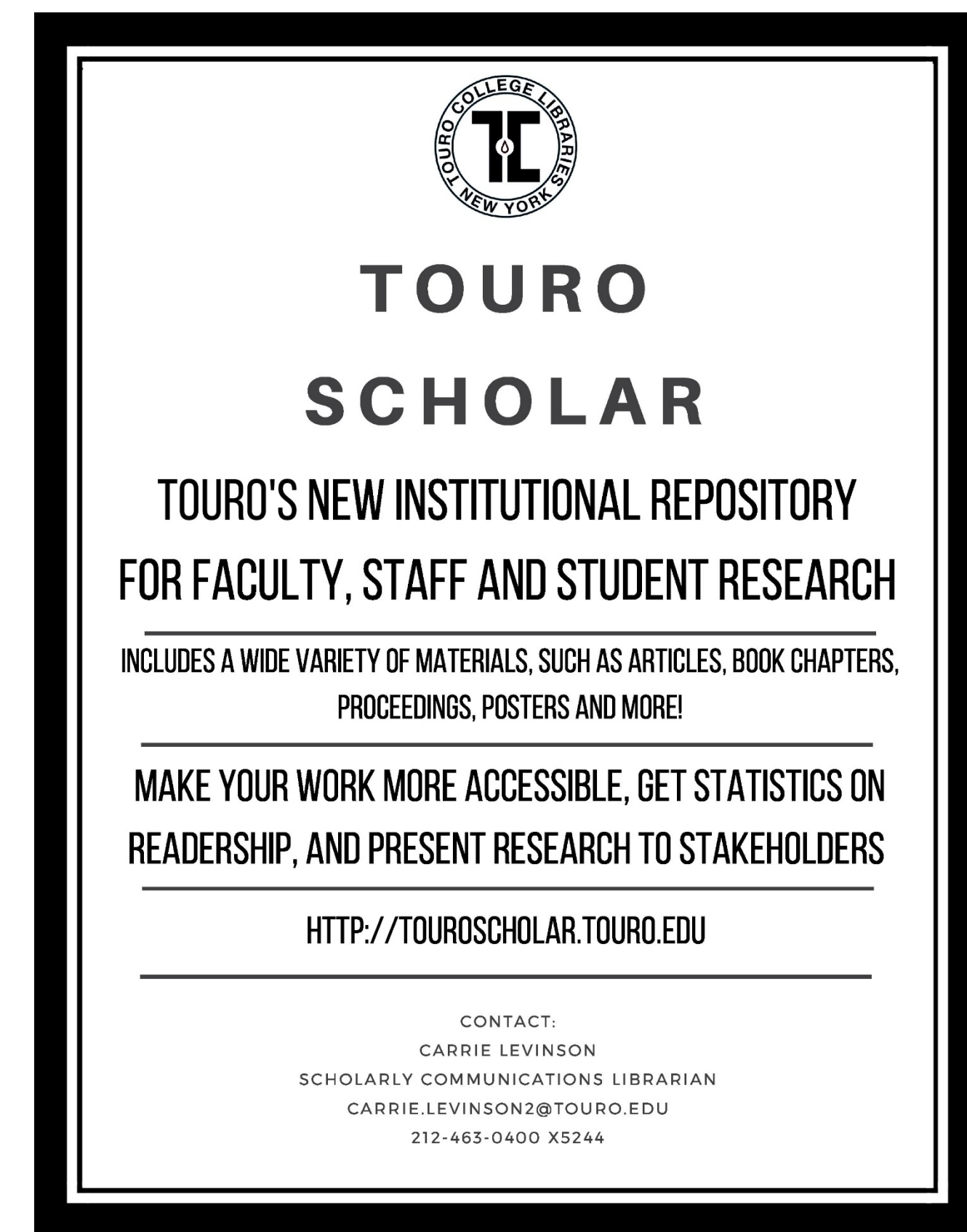


Figure 1

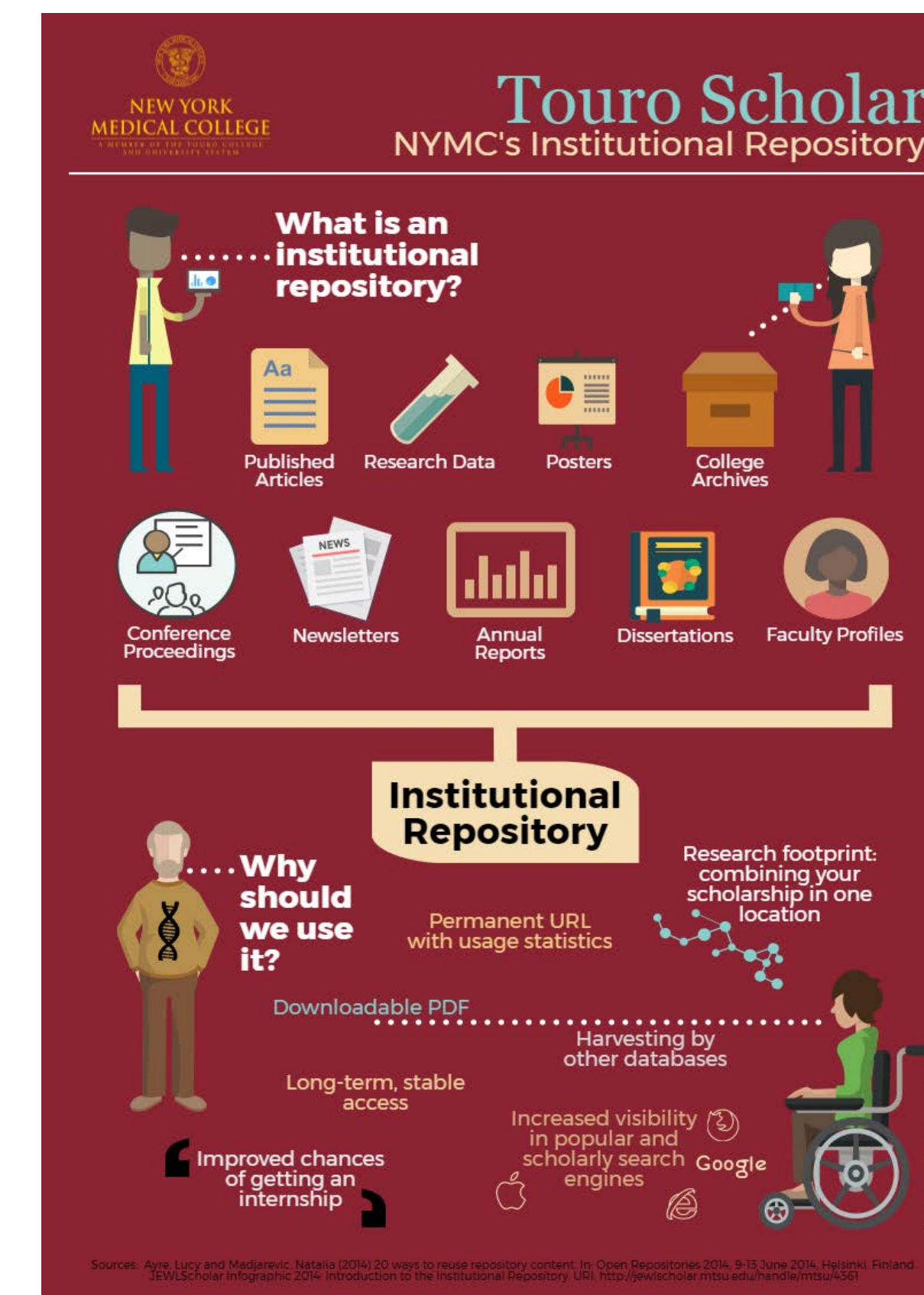
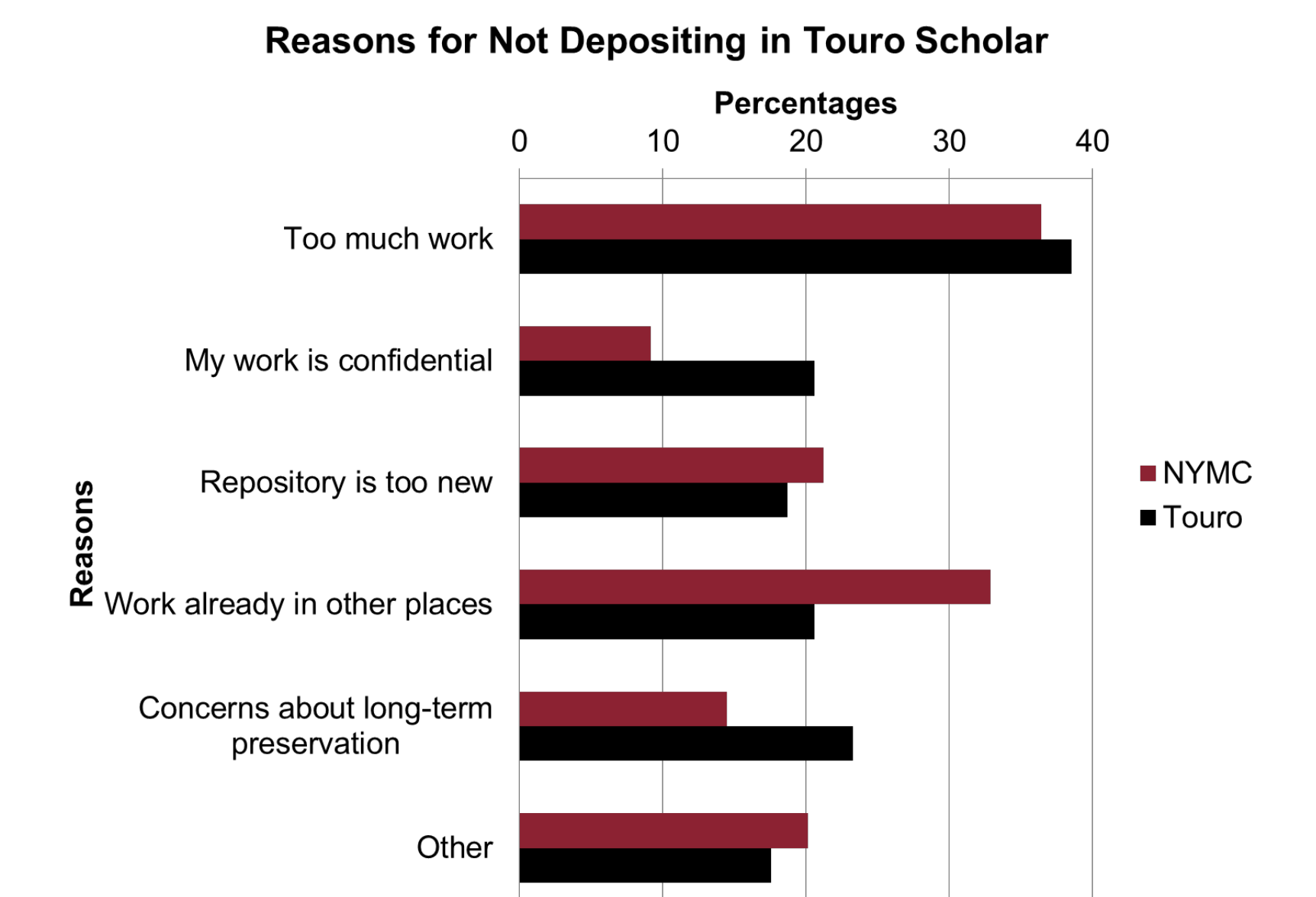


Figure 2

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Of 1231 responses (TCUS: 592; NYMC: 639):

- 41% (501) identified as graduate students, 30% (376) as faculty (full or part-time); TCUS receiving almost double (60%) graduate student responses than NYMC (32%).
- Less than half (47%) of respondents knew about subject repositories, such as *ArXiv* or *PubMed Central*, with NYMC respondents 15% more likely to answer positively. PubMed was often the repository used if respondents had previously deposited their work.
- 32% of respondents were familiar with academic social networks such as *ResearchGate* and *Academia.edu*.
- Only 14% of respondents had heard of *Touro Scholar*.
- 40% of respondents would be interested in depositing their work in *Touro Scholar*.
- There were multiple reasons for respondents to not deposit in *Touro Scholar*.

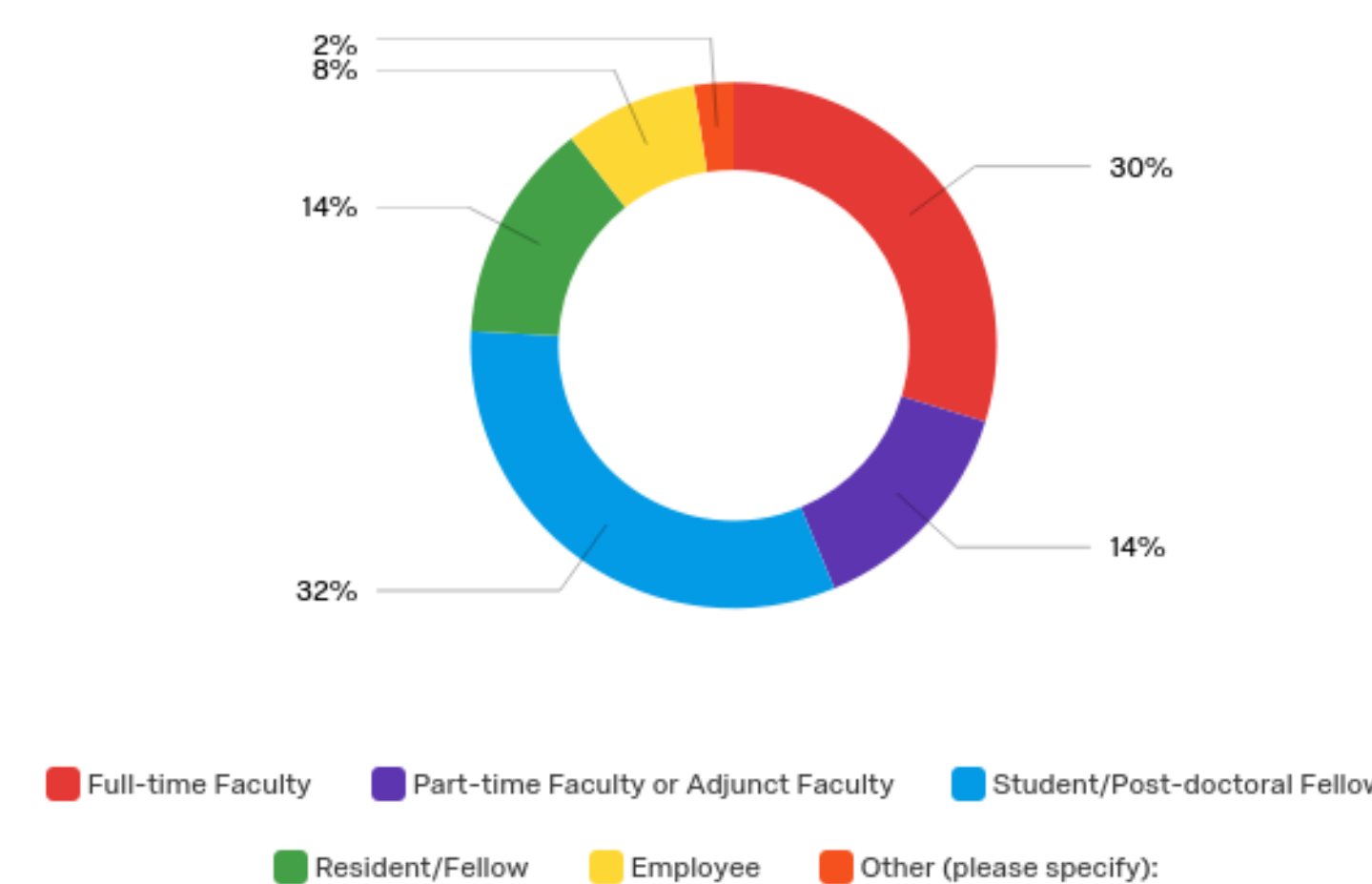


## PRELIMINARY RESULTS

New York Medical College is a private biomedical health sciences university based in Valhalla, New York.

NYMC offers advanced degrees through its three schools: the School of Medicine (SOM), the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences (GSBMS) and the School of Health Sciences and Practice (SHSP). Total enrollment is 1,660 students (including 774 medical students) in addition to 800 residents and clinical fellows. NYMC employs 1,350 full-time faculty members and 1,450 part-time and voluntary faculty.

NYMC Demographics



Touro College & University System is a private university system of higher and professional education with several campuses across the U.S. and around the world, including New York, California, Nevada, Russia, Germany, and Israel.

Touro offers many different types of degrees, including bachelor's, master's, doctorates, juris doctors, and medical degrees.

It has about 18000 students across all campuses, with a teaching staff of 1982, of which 44% are full-time. It has approximately 9100 graduate students.

TCUS Demographics

