

BRAG: BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES GROUP

To train the best postdocs – that was the motivation behind this PESLA 3.0 project and the formation of the Biomedical Research Associates Group (BRAG). This new initiative in the Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering (BME) has strengthened the communication between faculty and the sizeable group of postdocs, visiting scholars, and research scientists.



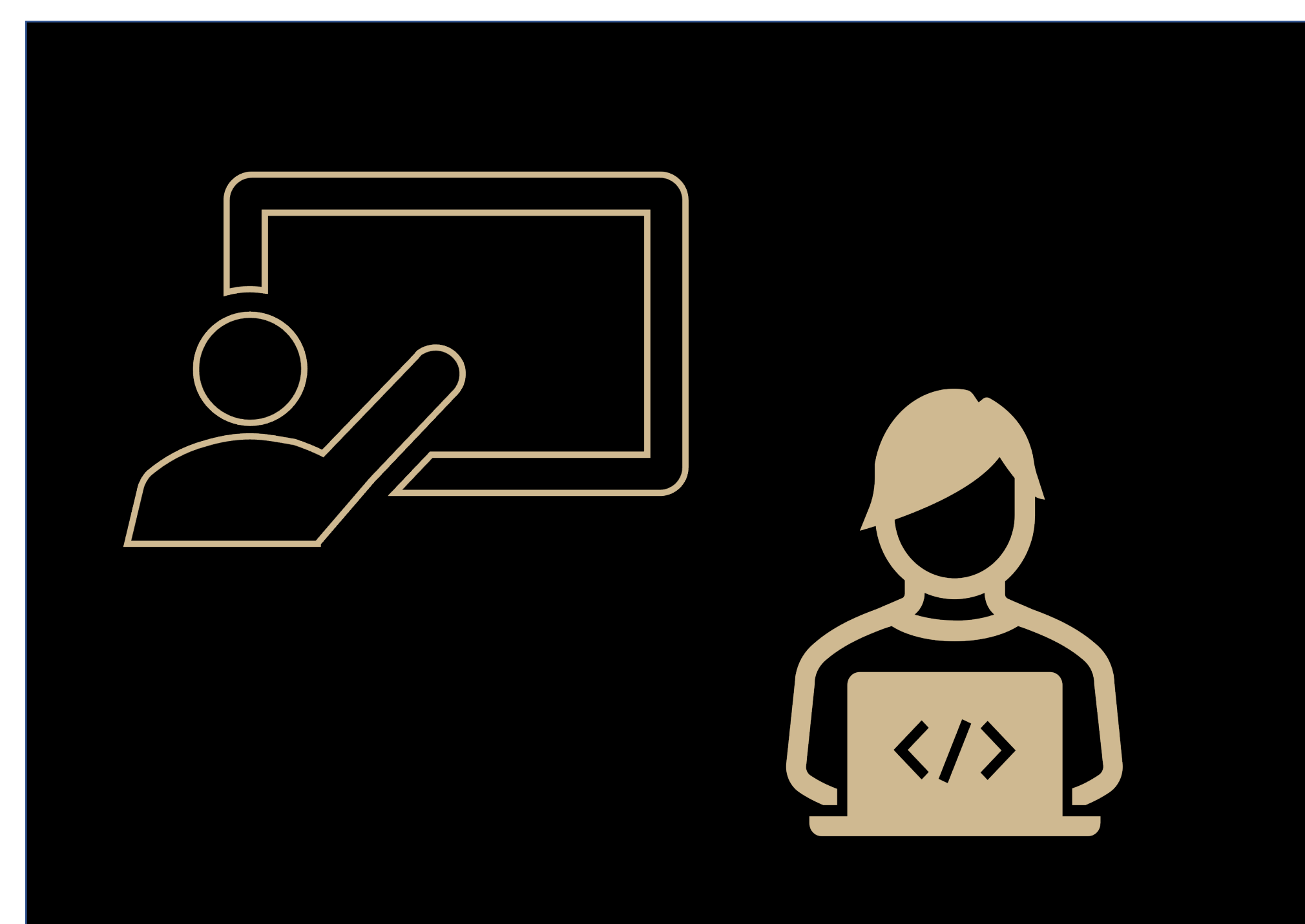
College of Engineering

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BACKGROUND

- The postdoc career stage is the training period between a doctoral degree and a faculty, national lab position or industry job.
- The postdoc time is typically less structured than the ~5 years in graduate school and the ~5 years as an assistant professor.
- In 2021: BME head proposed a postdoc career support working group to advise on best practices to support the growing postdoc and research scientist community.
- The Biomedical Research Associates Group (BRAG) was formed to facilitate professional development and networking via monthly workshops, seminars, and Q&As, led primarily by BME faculty.
- BRAG is included in relevant departmental activities traditionally aimed at faculty only, such as grant writing workshops.



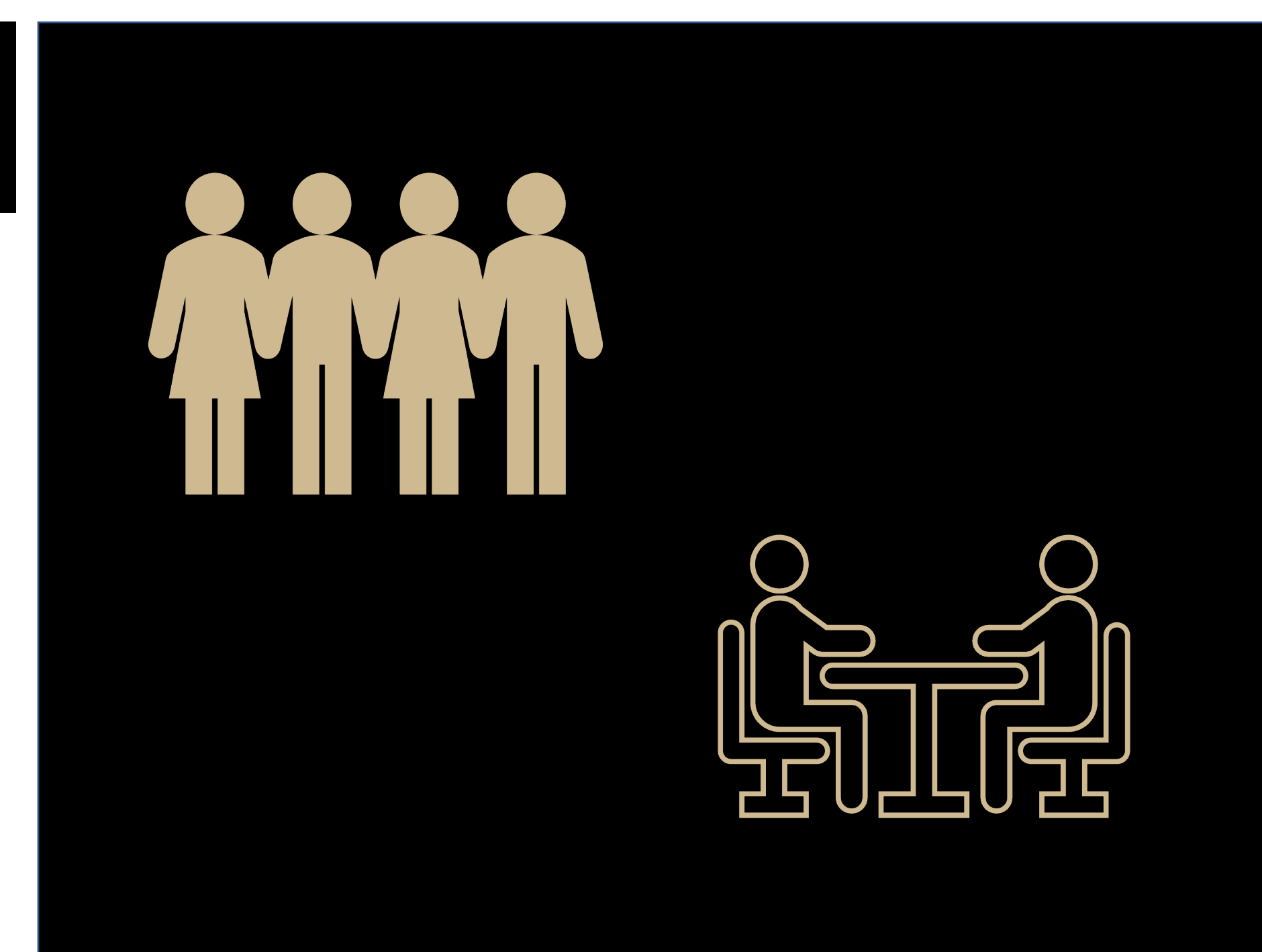
CAREER DEVELOPMENT TOPICS

- Career development sessions - titles provided by invited speakers:
- “The needle in the haystack: How to identify, apply for and get the the tenure track job of your dreams”
 - “Writing a successful NIH postdoctoral (K99/R25) grant: Advice and insights from previous awardees and reviewers”
 - “Resume development for advanced degree candidates”
 - “Time management in the unstructured world of research”
 - “Breaking into Industry R&D: Tips from a former postdoc”

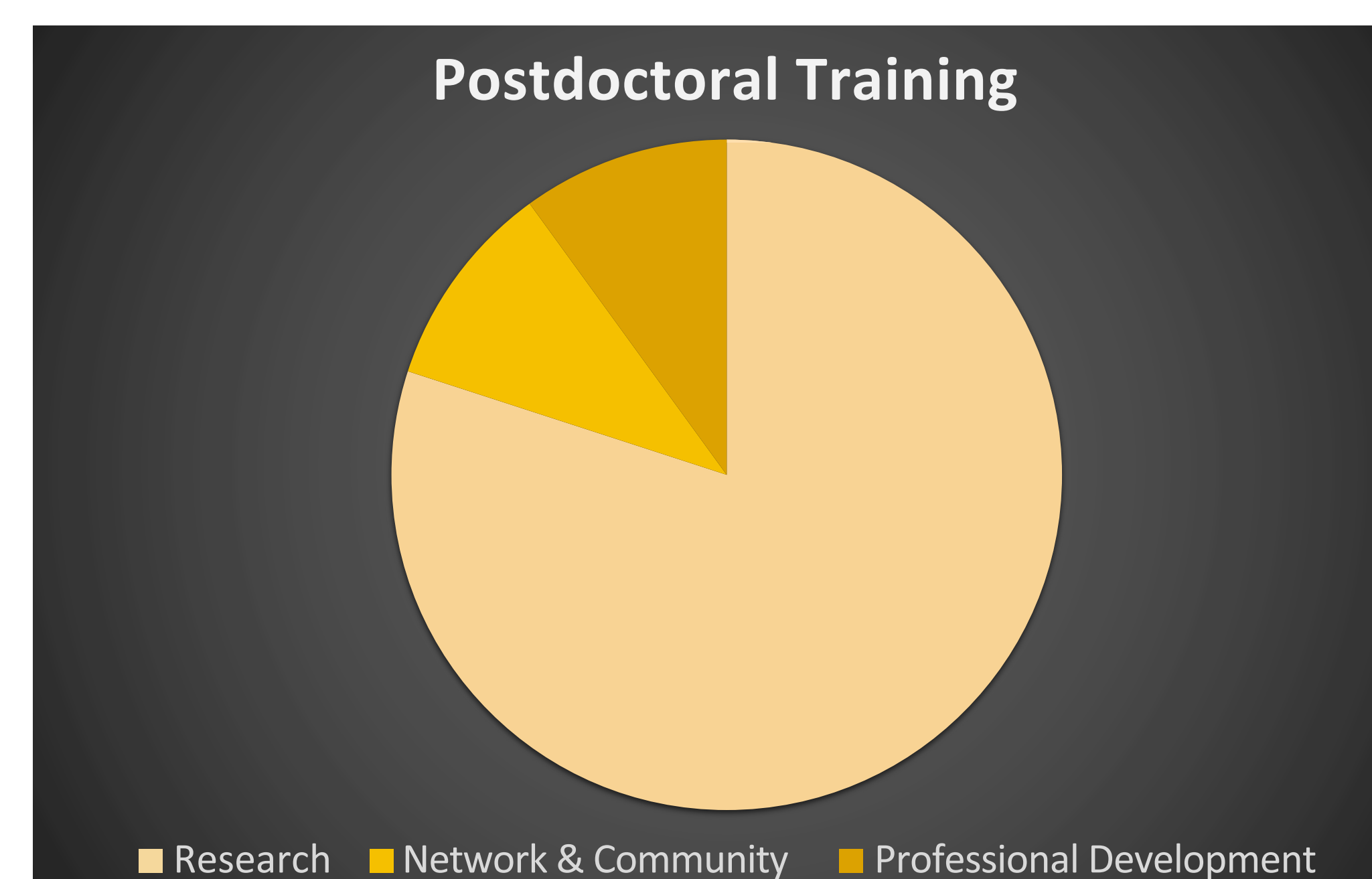
DISCUSSION & NETWORKING TOPICS

Networking and discussion sessions – titles provided by invited speakers:

- “What I wish I knew as a senior postdoc”
- “Passions and priorities: Academic and industry careers in biomedical sciences”
- “The good, the bad, and the ugly of clinical research as a biomedical engineer”
- “Ethics in biomedical research”
- “Strategies and challenges in learning about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)”



OUTCOMES & BRAG 2.0



- ✓ BRAG was established
- ✓ BRAG sessions provided career development advice and networking opportunities
- ✓ BRAG will continue with a shared leadership, BRAG → BRAG 2.0

BME IN NUMBERS

- 37 core + 80 affiliated faculty members
- 26 postdoctoral researchers
- 13 visiting scientists
- 5 research scientists
- 192 graduate students (132 Ph.D., 60 M.S.)
- 482 undergraduate students