

citizens of science

Learning Together,
Growing Together.

WHAT IS COS?

The Citizens of Science (COS) Program was created in 2022 by students with the goal of bridging the gap between researchers, the scientific knowledge they generate, and the public, who ultimately benefit from these discoveries.

COS address the limited opportunities for medical research students to engage meaningfully with the lay individuals and provides an opportunity for members of the public to gain new insights into the field of medical research.



2026

OUR VISION



To break down the
barriers between medical
research and the general
public

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



FOR RESEARCH STUDENTS

To become public-conscious
scientists, skilled communicators
and future leaders



FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

To be equipped with medical research
literacy to be able to actively
contribute to the discussion and
progress of science



Mentees are taught on basics
of biology. This lays a
foundation for mentees to
understand the project that
they are mentored on.



Mentees are invited to attend an in-person lab session
in GTAC, where they learn basic laboratory techniques
and receive hand-on experiences of scientific
experiments.

COS 2026 Timeline

Mentors

Mentees

May-Jul

Mentors recruited from **biomedical research students** across the Parkville biomedical precinct

Mentees recruited from **consumers, institute professional staff, and the general public**

Sep

Training for mentors:

1. Preparing their mentoring material
2. Scientific communication
3. Science visualisation

Biology education for mentees:

1. DNA and the central dogma
2. Protein structure and function
3. Disease mechanisms and treatments

Oct

Welcome event - mentors & mentees meeting each other

3 weekly mentoring sessions

1. Introduction to the research topic - "literature" with lay language
2. Methods - how data is generated in this project, in simplified way
3. Curated results - simplified presentation that gives a "yes/no"

Nov

Final in-person event

Mentees will give a presentation about the project that they are mentored on in an in-person event

GROWTH TRAJECTORY

Started in the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in 2022, COS has expanded to numerous institute across the Parkville precinct by 2026, including PeterMac, The Florey, Peter Doherty, Bio21, MCRI, MIPS, and MDHS faculty of University of Melbourne.

Mentor participation increased from 4 to 21, while mentee participation grew from 7 to 18. The organising team also expanded from 5 members in 2023 to 14 in 2025.

In 2026, we expect a continued growth in program size, with an exciting future to look forward to.

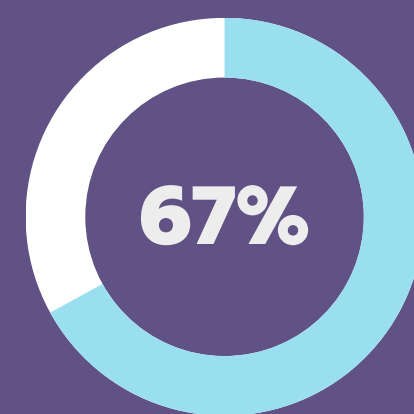
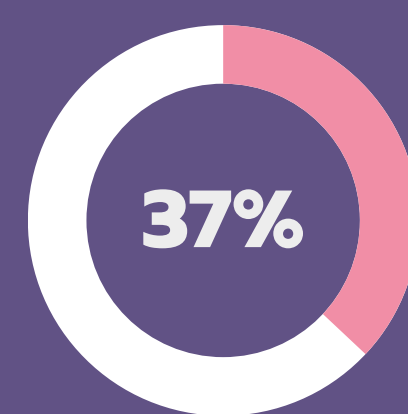
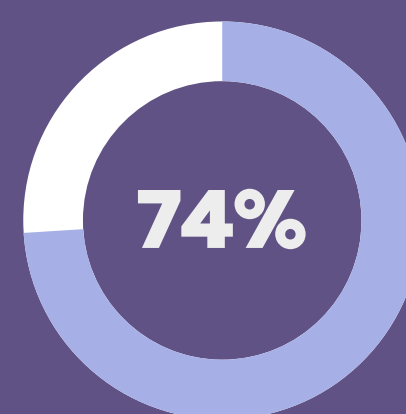
CONTACT US

 Citizens of Science  citizensofscience

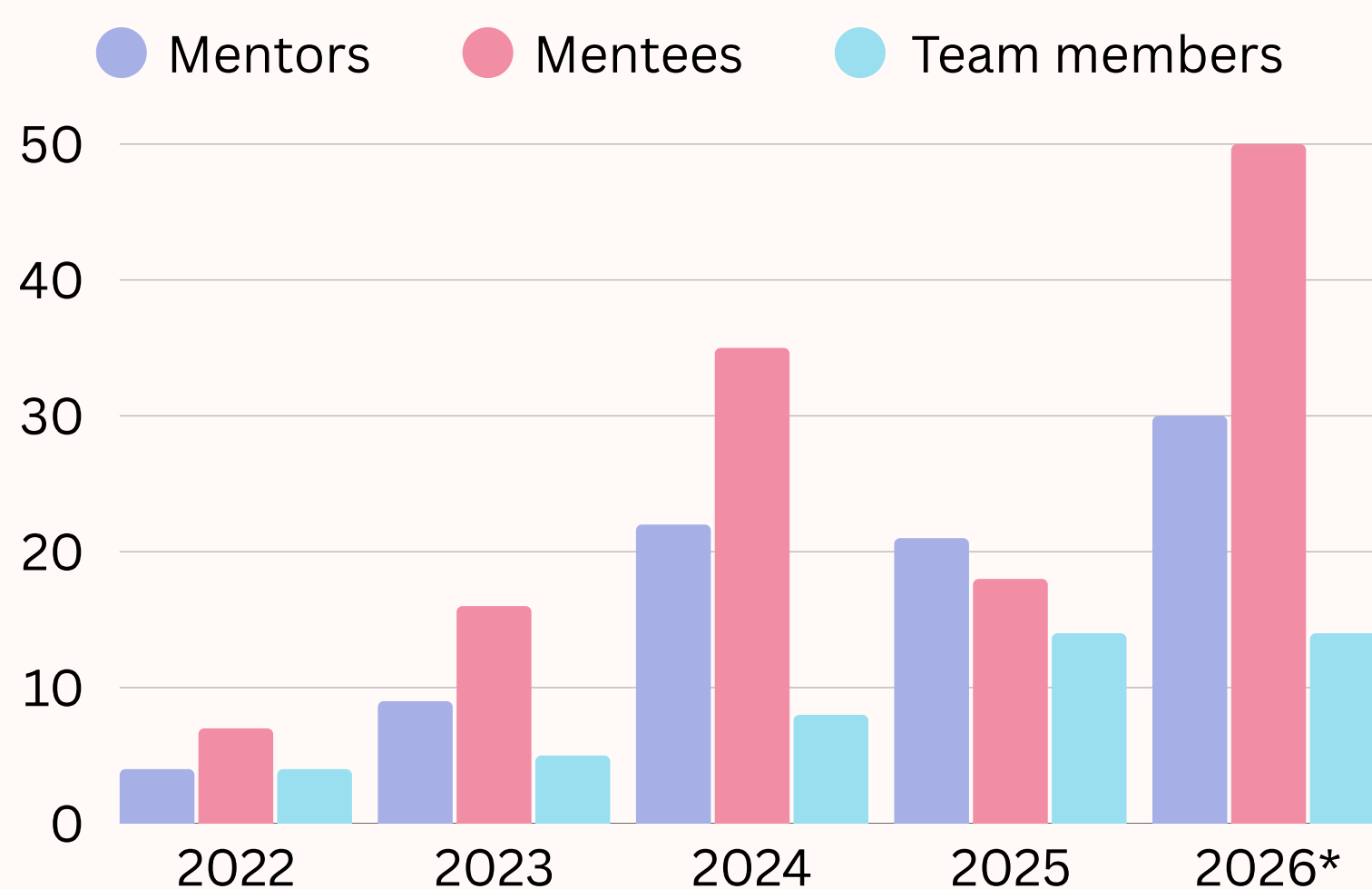
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 Citizens of Science

GROWING CAPACITY TO CONNECT RESEARCHERS WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY



Growth in **mentors**, **mentees**, and **team members** from 2022 to 2025.



*2026 numbers are estimated based on EOIs received.