

**Forum:**  
**Concepts Related to Liver  
Allocation and Distribution**

# Forum Preparation: Liver Request for Information (RFI)

- Issued on 12/18/2009
- Background, Broad Concepts
- Survey Questions
  - Closed out 2/1/2010
- 87 Responses

# Forum

- Concepts Related to Liver Allocation and Distribution
- “Start a new conversation with the community”
- April 12, 2010, Atlanta GA
- ~160 in attendance plus 70 via LiveMeeting
- 12 topical presentations
- Audience polling and Q&A

# Forum: Intended Outcomes

Greater understanding:

- among all stakeholders about hopes/concerns associated with liver allocation and distribution policies
- of allocation/distribution concepts that do and don't resonate with the community at the current time
- of desired directions for further work

# Forum Presentations: Background

- Historical perspectives of liver allocation/distribution – Russ Wiesner, MD
- Current state of Allocation and Distribution – Jack Lake, MD
- OPTN Policy Development and Feedback from RFI / Highlights of concepts being explored - John Roberts, MD

# Forum Presentations: Perspectives from the Community

- Liver Allocation: A Patient-Centric Approach in Regions 1 and 9 – Trish Sheiner, MD
- Maximizing the Yield of the Donor Pool – Joseph Tector, MD
- Region 8 and “Share 29” – Larry Hunsicker, MD
- Liver discards and utilization, a national perspective – Jean Emond, MD

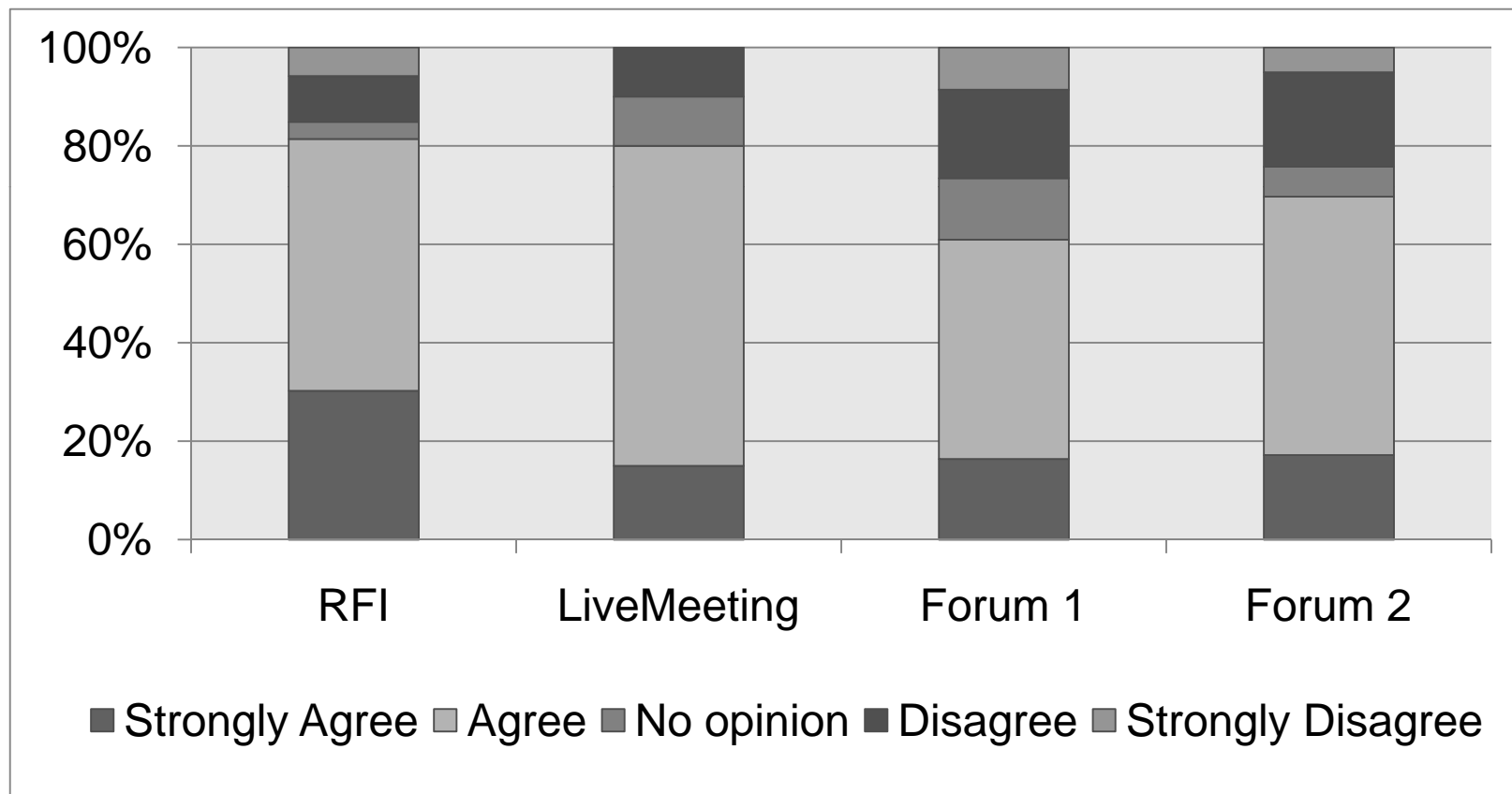
# Forum Presentations: Concepts in Allocation & Distribution

- Enhancements to the MELD score – Ray Kim, MD
- Presentation of Transplant Survival Benefit – Robert Merion, MD
- DSA as a distribution unit – James Eason, MD
- Concentric Circles for distribution – Julie Heimbach, MD
- Tiered Sharing distribution Goran Klintmalm, MD

# POLLING RESPONSES

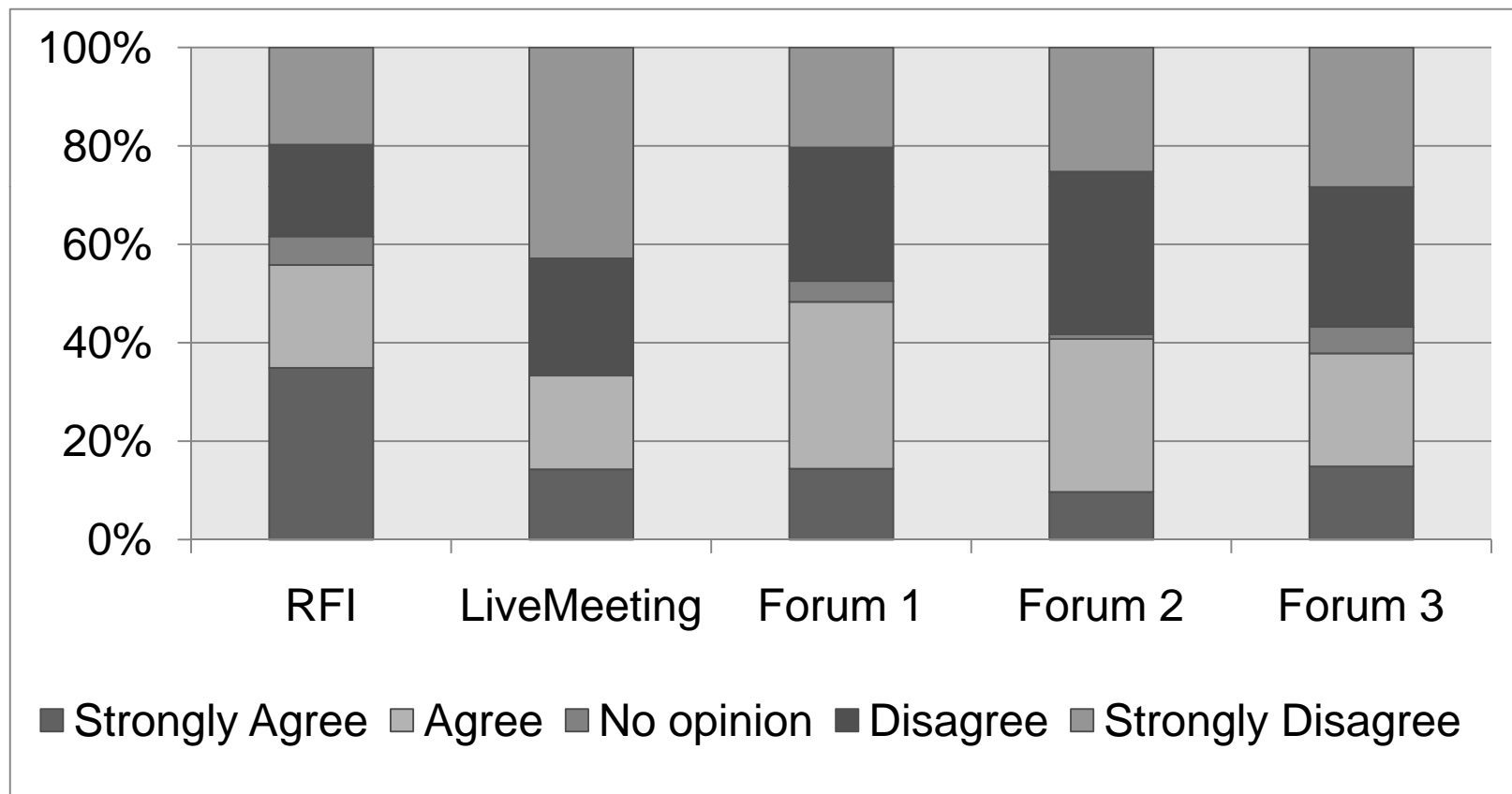


# The current allocation system (MELD/PELD) is appropriate to rank candidates for liver transplantation



Legends read from the bottom of the bar (Strongly agree) to top (Strongly disagree).  
In the first bar (RFI), 80% responded with "Strongly Agree" or "Agree"

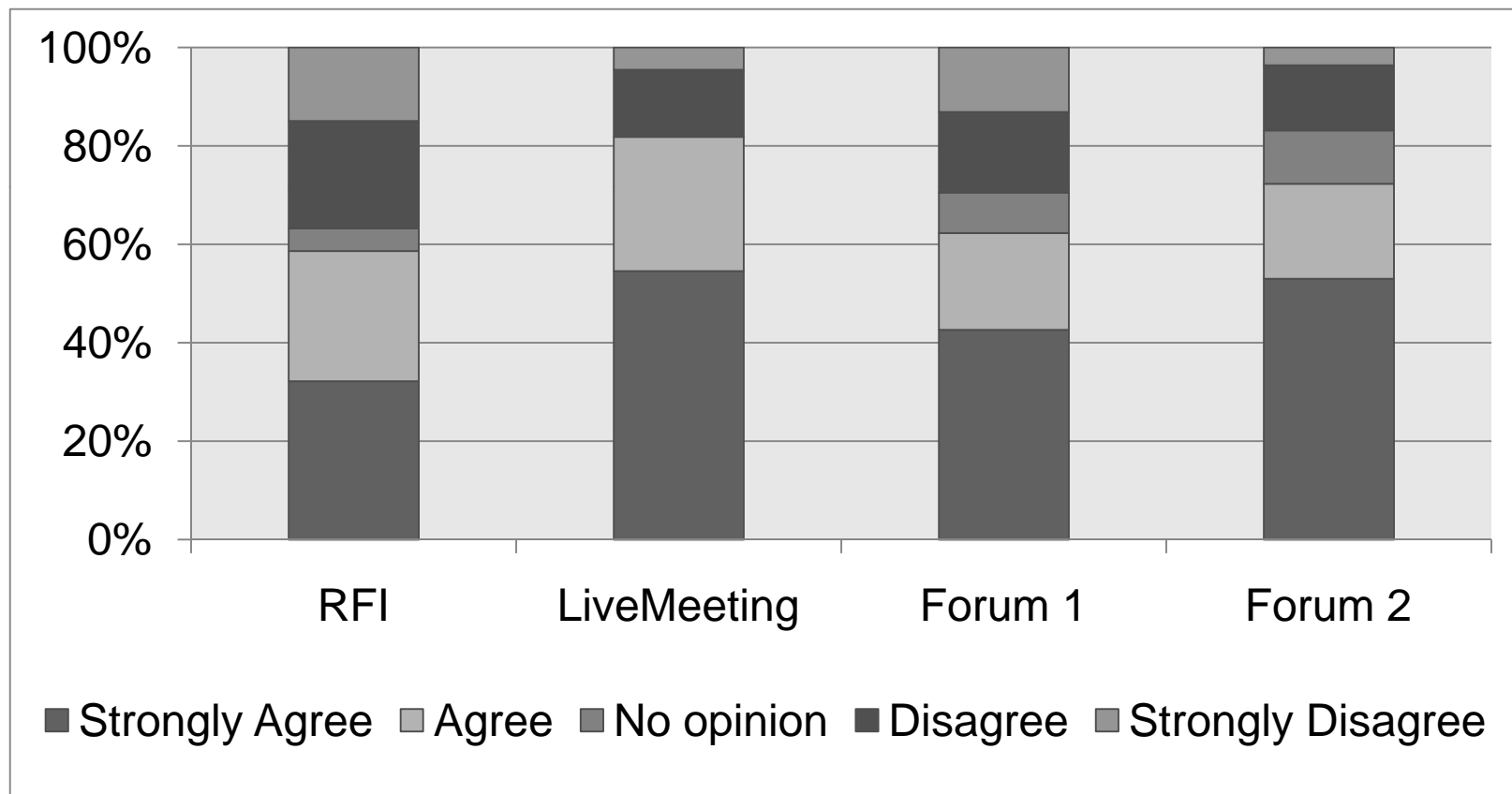
# The current system (DSA as local, Regional, National) is appropriate for distributing livers to candidates



Legends read from the bottom of the bar (Strongly agree) to top (Strongly disagree)

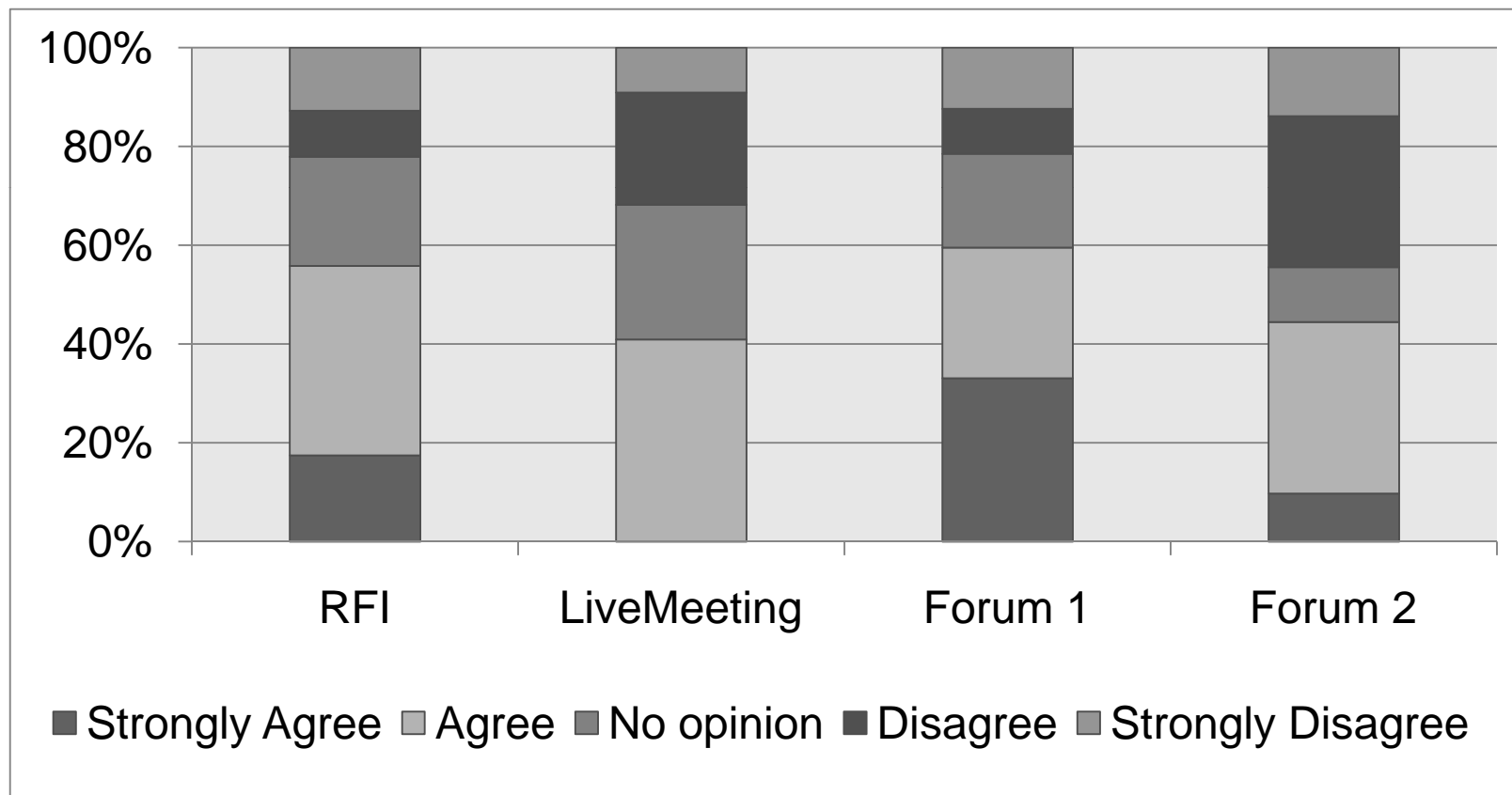


# Reducing the geographic disparity in access to liver transplantation should be a high priority for the OPTN



Legends read from the bottom of the bar (Strongly agree) to top (Strongly disagree)

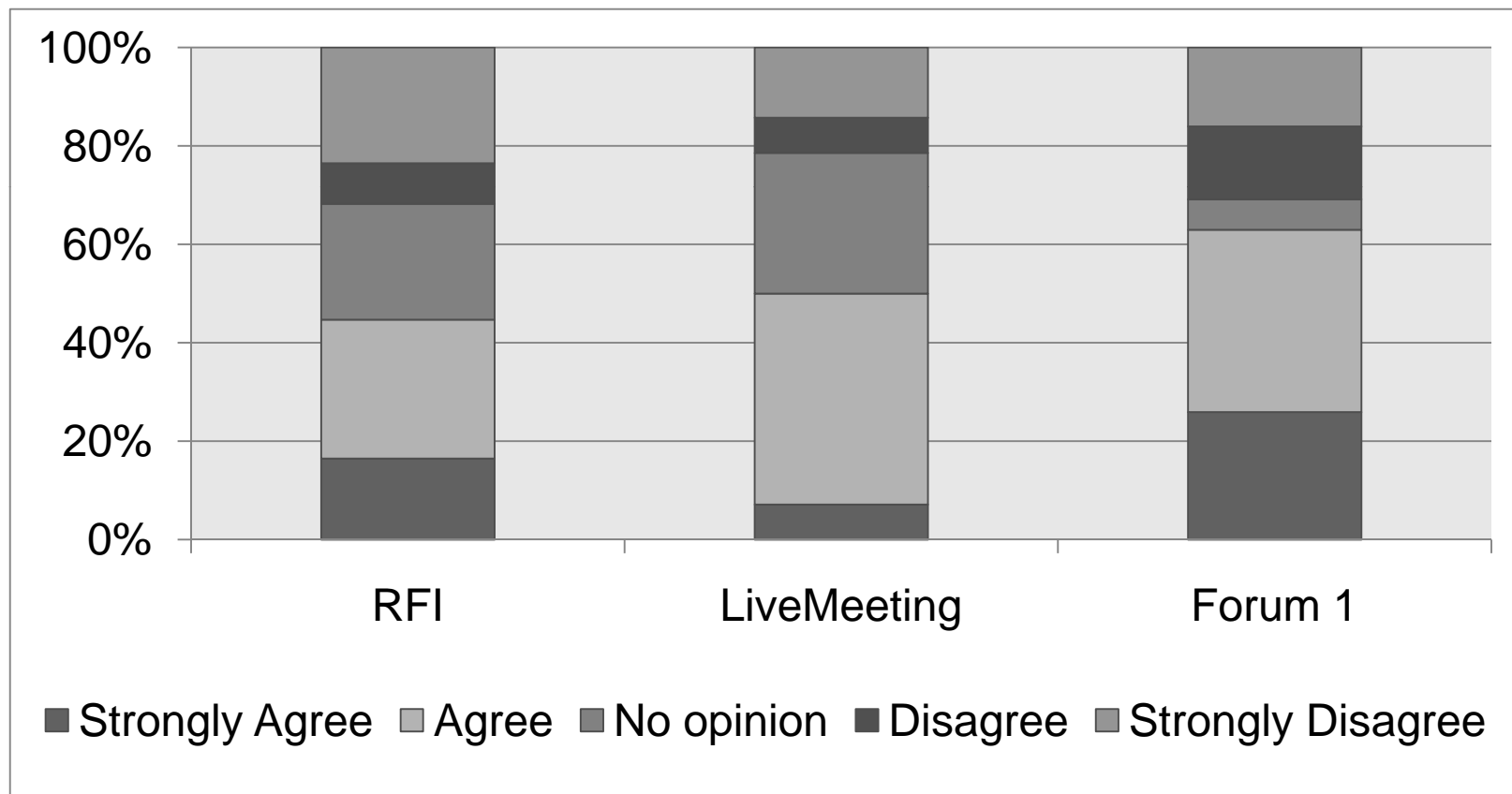
# Tiered sharing, such as the Region 8 “Share 29” should be considered for national policy



Legends read from the bottom of the bar (Strongly agree) to top (Strongly disagree)



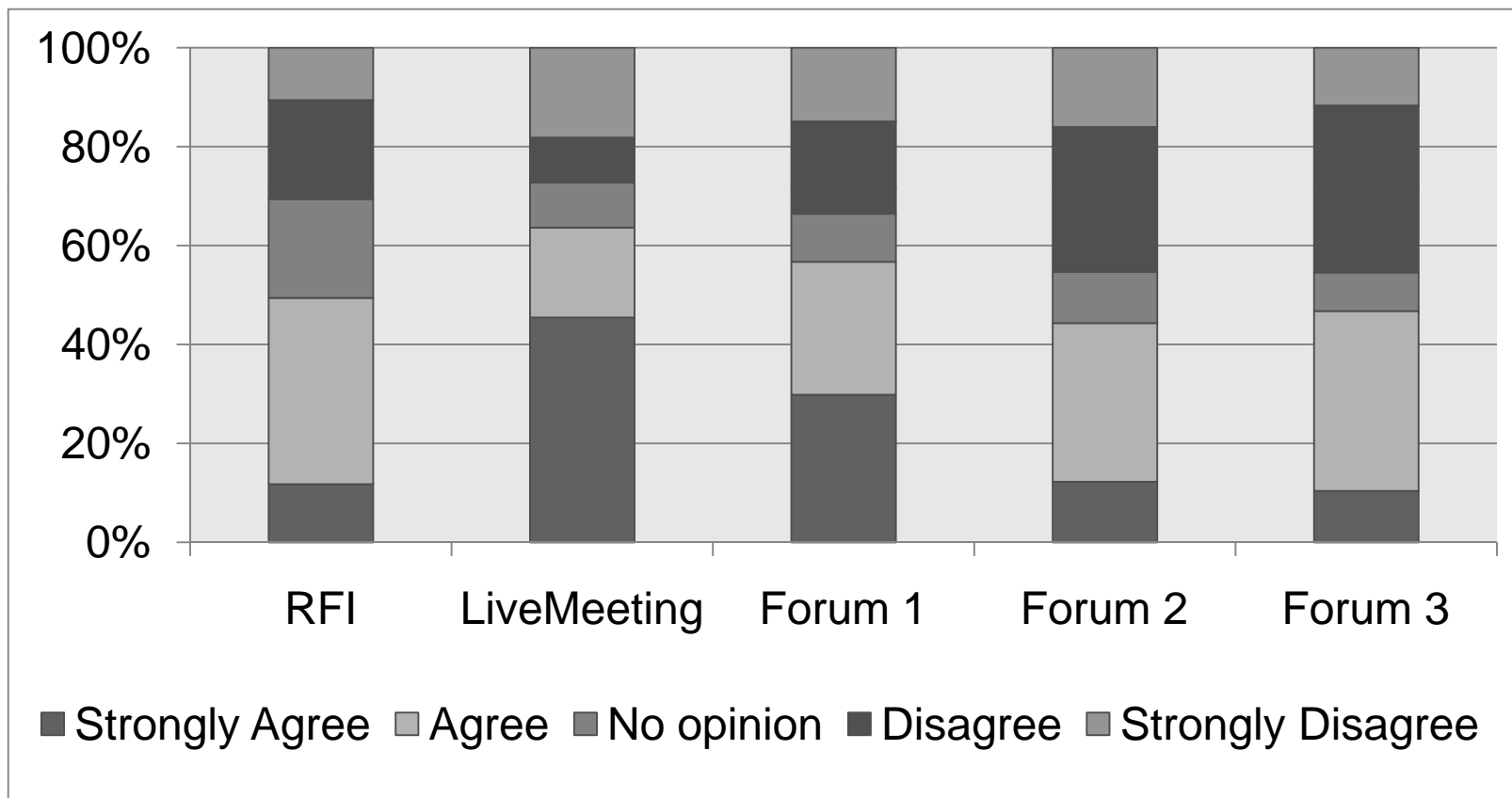
# Share 15 National should be considered for national policy



Legends read from the bottom of the bar (Strongly agree) to top (Strongly disagree)

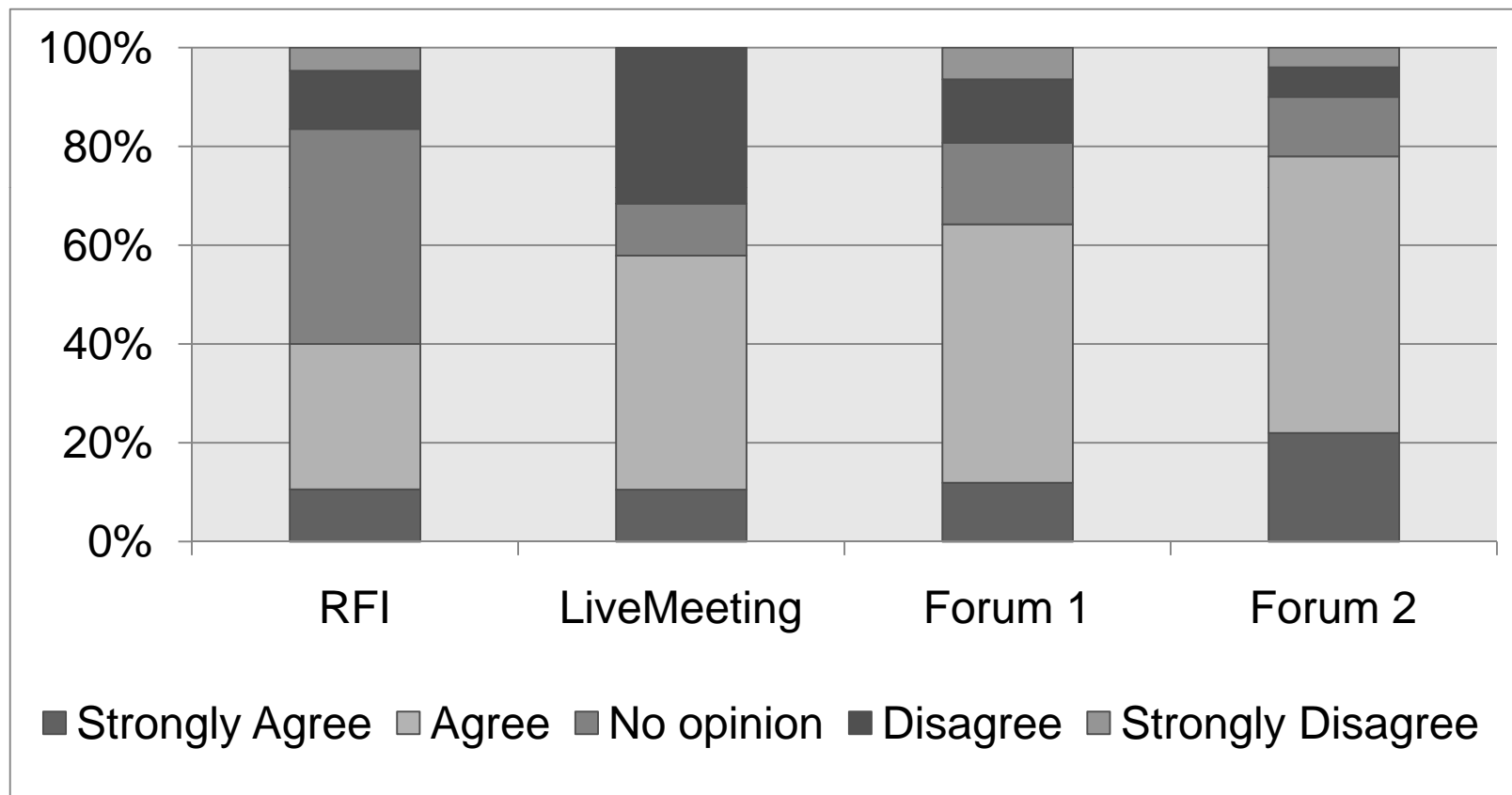


# Concentric circles should be considered as a basis for national policy



Legends read from the bottom of the bar (Strongly agree) to top (Strongly disagree)

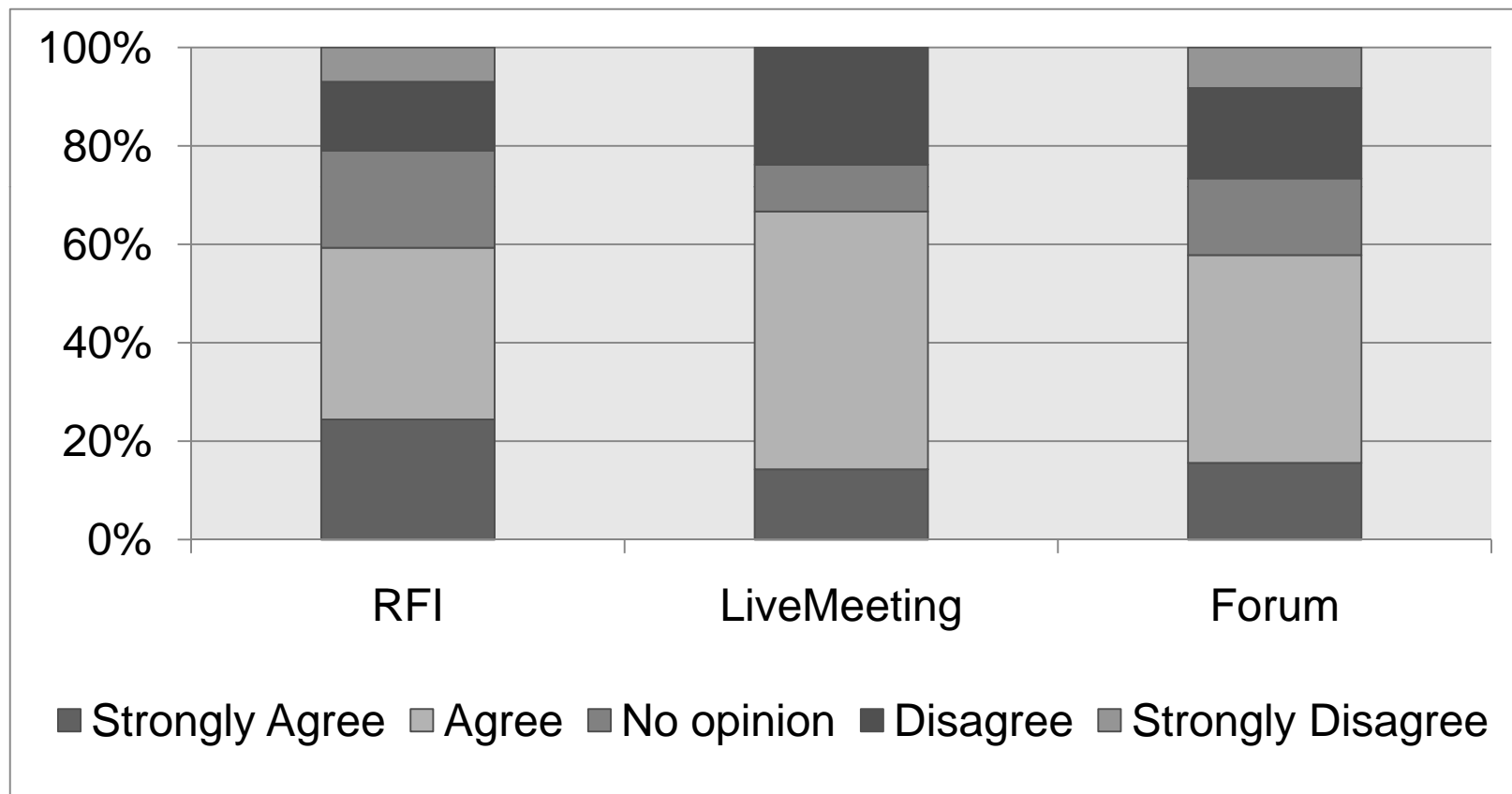
# A “risk-equivalent threshold” should be considered for national policy



Legends read from the bottom of the bar (Strongly agree) to top (Strongly disagree)



# Use of transplant benefit would improve the allocation system

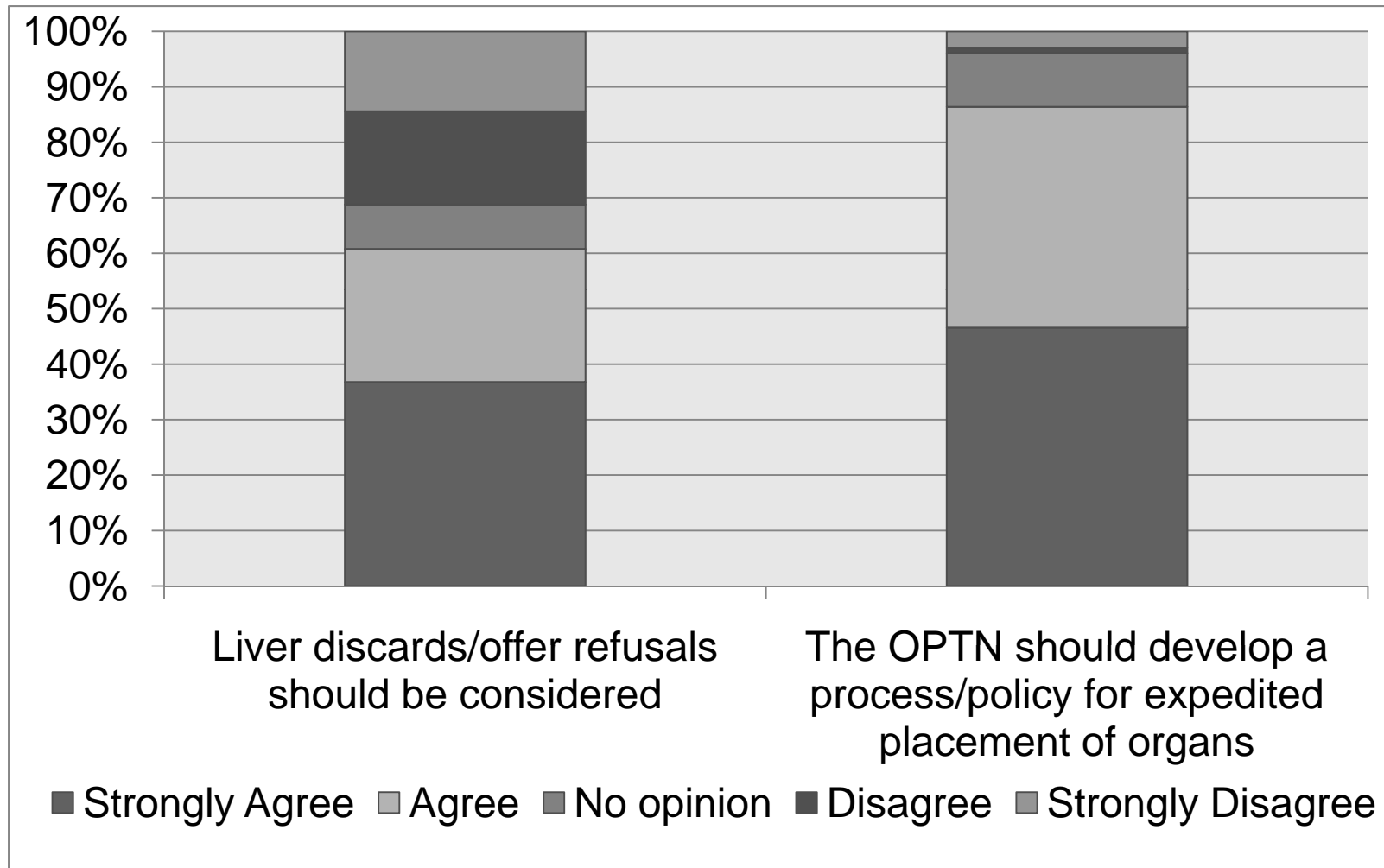


Legends read from the bottom of the bar (Strongly agree) to top (Strongly disagree)





# Other Questions



Legends read from the bottom of the bar (Strongly agree) to top (Strongly disagree)



# Forum Feedback - 1

- MELD score not “broken”
- Changes to distribution should be made in small incremental steps
- Community is split on many issues
- Strong feelings about geographic inequities caused by using the DSA and Regions for distribution
- Many comments about OPO effectiveness and single-center OPOs

# Forum Feedback - 2

- Support for some tiered sharing, Share 15 National, and the “risk equivalent threshold” (RET) concepts
- Not much support for concentric circles
- Strong support for increase utilization, decreased discards, and/or expedited placement of livers
- The Committee must collaborate with OPO Committee and community
- The Committee

# Forum Evaluation

## (51 responses)

- was given the opportunity to ask questions and voice my opinion during the conference.

**Average: 4.08 out of 5.0**

- I was given the opportunity to ask questions and voice my opinion during the conference.

**Average: 4.22 out of 5.0**

- The conference provided a venue for a diverse group of participants to be heard.

**Average: 3.98**

# Forum Evaluation

- Did you find the conference format appropriate for presenting the type of information provided?

**44 Yes, 2 No**

- Did the forum meet your expectations? If so, what was the most constructive portion of the Forum? If not, please explain.

**20 Yes, many text responses**

# Path Forward

- Allocation & Distribution Subcommittee
  - Evaluate proposals/concepts discussed at the forum
- New subcommittee on Liver Utilization
  - Process for Expedited Placement
  - Increased Utilization/ Reduce Discards
- Concept Document – Winter 2010/2011