What are your thoughts about how the Welcoming Lunch went? 21 responses

- I thought it was an excellent idea and enjoyed the chance to have brief conversations with people I might not otherwise have encountered. It did seem to me that some attendees were not there to meet new people, so
If the Welcoming Lunch were held again, how might it be made more effective (at making attendees, especially new ones, feel more welcome in the ASA)? 20 responses

- It might be better to hold it on Thursday? I expect there are very good reasons to hold it on Friday, though.
- Thought it was perfect. Would be great to have more of these!
- I'm not sure I have any ideas to make it better. It went really well from my point of view.
- I think it was a success. Maybe keep it as it was and don't make it too complicated.
- Maybe intentionally seating people near others who work on similar things, come from similar regions or philosophical backgrounds - sometimes I or others described research interests, etc. and then there were no follow-ups and some awkward flow of conversation.
- I think it was a success as is!
- I think this is a question for the new people; I count as established. But one obvious thing would be to have it on the first full day rather than the second, if at all possible within the constraints of the programme.
- By having it a day earlier. Otherwise, it's just about ideal
- More musical-chairs-ing! Perhaps encouragement of new people to go up to established people and introduce themselves, since the established people in attendance are obviously up for that? (The idea being that this couldn't possibly be MORE awkward than it usually is.)
- Perhaps ensuring that participants are distributed evenly across the tables - one of the tables I was sat at was quite empty, while most were full.
- I have not though much about how it could be improved. But I guess focusing on the new attendees seems sensible.
- I liked how this worked and wouldn't want to do anything much fussier or more engineered than this.
- Maybe have two of these events? Or one lunch and one reception? Maybe this is too much, and I am sure that established people want to meet their people, but I would be very open to have additionally to the one lunch in this form also a reception (or another lunch). Especially if it is early in the conference, as then there is a higher
probability to see the people one met again. As for the lunch itself, I don’t have any suggestions to make it more effective. I also liked the change of tables. Thanks again!

- Perhaps find a way to make sure each table has a mix of new & established folks. I think it is a great idea and thanks for making it happen,
- I don’t have any suggestions - I thought the table assignment & switch was effective and fun!
- Even more seating relocations?
- I would add one more table switch. Also maybe make the first sitting a little longer to factor in that people are trying to eat and chat at the same time.
- I think the model was a good one. If you’re going to have folks switch mid-way, maybe more time overall?
- Perhaps ensuring a certain quorum of new and returning members are at each table - the person I had the most extensive conversation with was another new member.
- I do think that there ought to be more encouragement for established members to attend the luncheon in the future. As is, there are a number of attendees who missed the luncheon who I think could have been encouraged more strongly to attend.

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ASA 2021 Welcoming Luncheon Questionnaire (Responses).xlsx
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