

University Delegates Meeting May 6, 2021

Chair: Adrian Mota - Associate-Vice President, Research Programs (Operations)

1. CIHR Updates

Tri-Agency Grants Management Solution (TGMS) proof of concept demo session - Proof of Concepts (POC) of both software solutions that TGMS is currently evaluating are taking place in May for University Delegate Network (UD) members. For information about the TGMS initiative, please visit the [TGMS website](#).

Tri-Agency EDI Action Plan - The three federal research-funding agencies have released the [Tri-Agency Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan](#). The Action Plan was developed under the leadership of the Canada Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) and includes measures to embed EDI within the agencies' policies, programs, and practices. The two overarching objectives of the EDI Action Plan are to increase the equitable and inclusive access for all members of the research community to granting agency funding opportunities; and to influence the achievement of an inclusive post-secondary research system and culture in Canada. Numerous initiatives mentioned in the EDI Action Plan are already being implemented.

The Agencies are also in the process of expanding mechanisms for collecting self-identification data from individuals. Analysis of the data will help identify inequities and inform future operational decisions to address them. Agencies are implementing EDI training with staff members and enhancing EDI training for peer reviewers.

The [recent statement](#) from the Tri-Agency presidents affirms their commitment to EDI and calls on the research community to help drive systemic change. If you have any feedback or questions, we invite you send them by email to edi@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee - On May 5, 2021, the tri-agencies announced a new pilot project: the creation of a tri-agency interdisciplinary peer review committee. The committee provides an option for researchers working in interdisciplinary research to direct their applications to a committee with expertise from across the social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, engineering, and health sciences. Individuals applying to the Project Grant competition (and the other tri-agency investigator-initiated competitions) are eligible to have their grant applications reviewed by this new interdisciplinary peer review committee. For CIHR, the use of this new peer review committee will begin for the CIHR Fall 2021 Project Grant competition. More information can be found on the [CIHR website](#).

Application Profile CV - In recent years, the research community has expressed frustration with the current process to capture CV data via the Canadian Common CV (CCV). Concerns raised include the focus on academic outputs and the usability of the application, which is often considered a barrier to applying for funding, especially for knowledge users, non-academics, Indigenous organizations, and international applicants. The Applicant Profile CV was piloted during the COVID-19 competitions and more recently, implemented for the Spring 2021 Project Grant competition. CIHR is now working towards implementing the CV template more broadly

across CIHR funding competitions. The Applicant Profile CV is a PDF CV template aimed at capturing CV information from knowledge users, non-academics, Indigenous organizations, and international applicants. Unless otherwise noted in the funding opportunity (FO), these applicants may choose to submit the CIHR Biosketch CV or the Applicant Profile CV, regardless of their role within the application. Canadian academic (independent) researchers must continue using the CIHR Biosketch CCV template.

A set of Frequently Asked Questions to help support knowledge users, non-academics, Indigenous organizations and international applicants who are completing the Applicant Profile CV will soon be made available on CIHR's website.

Requesting ResearchNet Test Registration and Application - The Chair provided a reminder to the UD members that Research Granting Offices can request a test registration for funding opportunities with more than one stage (i.e. registration and application stage). Please note that this option applies only to funding opportunities with a registration *and* application stage. A request must be submitted with each new FO launch (i.e. the test account does not carry over from one competition to the next competition).

2. 2021 Federal Budget

The 2021 Federal budget is a 724-page document, outlining the plan to get Canadians back to work and ultimately improve Canada's growth potential. A presentation on certain proposed measures and investments relevant to CIHR and its partners was provided.

The Treasury Board Submission Process - CIHR staff outlined that the process to obtain the funds following the release of a federal budget takes time and requires the development of a Treasury Board Submission. A Treasury Board Submission transforms policy objectives previously approved by a Cabinet committee into an initiative that will achieve the proposed objectives. CIHR collaborates with the Treasury Board Secretariat through an iterative review process to ensure that TBS is comfortable with the justification and implementation of the initiative. This process usually requires between 4-5 months.

3. CRCEF Results

The Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund (CRCEF) brought forward data from the recently closed program. The program was part of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan and had a budget of \$450 million. At the close of the program, 93% of the budget was used to fund 65 universities and 61 health research institutions.

In terms of wage support, CRCEF was meant to cover 75% of salaries from non-governmental sources with eligibility parameters similar to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program. The data stated that out of the \$323 million dollars received for wage support by institutions, students received 29%, 10% was received by postdoctoral fellows and 61% was received by other research personnel. The research maintenance and ramp-up of research was supported with \$93 million. Moreover, close to 22,000 research projects were supported. Info graphics are on the [CRCEF website](#).

4. Spring Project Grant Competition Update

Application-specific data was discussed, and historical application-specific data from past competitions was analyzed in comparison to data from the Spring 2021 Project Grant Competition. UD members had a particular interest in CIHR's mitigation plan concerning COVID-19 and the impacts of the pandemic on researchers, particularly on women and ECRs. CIHR reiterated that reviewers have been advised to consider these circumstances, and further stated the importance of applicants reaching out to CIHR asking for flexibility in specific conditions when submitting applications.

The next meeting of the University Delegates will take place on June 3, 2021.