

## CIHR University Delegates Meeting – July 8th, 2021

Hello everyone,

The July CIHR-UD meeting was held by webcast on July 8, 2021. It was chaired by Adrian Mota Associate Vice-President, Research Programs (Operations) CIHR

Here are the highlights:

1. CIHR has completed a survey of the University Delegates regarding the challenge of communicating effectively with the members of their institution. As a group, we will be receiving information on how information is being shared to assist individual university delegates increase outreach.
2. CIHR encourages applicants to submit proposals in either official language. Page limits for French Language Applications have been increased by 20% in sections involving text to reflect the fact that languages differ with respect to the number of characters required to state the same information. Excess pages on any section will be removed if the text exceeds the allowable limits in English or French.
3. CIHR has extended the Authority to Use Funds Date to reflect the delays caused by the pandemic. If you would like to request an extension in time to use funds, please contact the MRDO and we will assist you with this request.
4. Spring 2021 Peer Review Committee meetings- 61 peer review committees met between June 1 and 30, 2021. A total of 2381 project grant applications were reviewed. There were 1523 committee members participating as committee members. 122 Early Career Researchers (ECR) were part of the new Reviewer in Training Program (RiT).
5. The Notice of Recommendation (NOR) will be released July 15, 2021. It is expected that the Notice of Decision (NOD) will be issued on July 22, 2021. The funding start date on successful applications will be October 1, 2021.
6. CIHR will return to the normal pre pandemic schedule for the fall 2021 competition. Peer review meetings will be held virtually in November and December of 2021. CIHR will extend the period for investigators to be considered ECRs from 0-72 months to 0-84 months unless an individual submits a request to opt out at the time of application. For the fall 2021 project grant competition, the competition will launch on July 20, 2021. The registration date will be **August 18, 2021**. The application deadline will be **September 15, 2021**.
7. Further information on the details of the spring 2021 competition can be found the following message from Dr. Adrian Mota. <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52564.html>. Many of the issues included in this communication were discussed in the university delegates

meeting, including the effects of the pandemic on women and other equity-deserving groups, the differential effect of the pandemic on different groups of researchers including ECRs, and the ongoing work to understand the pros and cons of virtual and face-to-face peer review. Importantly, across the board budget cuts will continue in the short term as CIHR evaluates the need to update reviewer practices with respect to budget before eliminating across the board budget cuts in future competitions.

Sincerely,

Eileen Denovan-Wright  
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