

CIHR UD Meeting (Webcast) August 1, 2019

Hello everyone,

The August CIHR-UD meeting was held by webcast on August 1, 2019. Here are the highlights.

CIHR Update

CIHR staff announced the launch of the CIHR Application Administration Guide (AAG) is imminent. The CIHR Grants and Awards Guide is being redesigned along with a new Application Administration Guide (AAG) based on comments received through consultations with the research community. Webinars will be planned to support researchers and administrative offices. Further details will be provided in the coming months, once the official launch date has been confirmed, anticipated for this fall. The New Guide does not impose any new requirements or restrictions. The content includes the general requirements and guidelines that pertain to applying to CIHR funding opportunities. Post-award management of CIHR grants and awards are not found in the new Guide. CIHR is anticipating a smooth transition to the new Guide in the coming months – with no disruptions or negative impact on the research community.

New Frontiers Research Fund (NFRF)

The 2019 Exploration Competition of the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) was launched on July 3rd. Researchers at all career stages are invited to apply to the program.

(<http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/exploration/exploration-eng.aspx>)

The competition has three stages: Notification of Intent to Apply (NOI) stage with a deadline of August 7th, 2019 (at 8:00 PM EDT); Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI) stage with a deadline of September 4th, 2019 (at 8:00 PM EDT); An application stage with a deadline of December 10th, 2019 (at 8:00 PM EDT). Applications at each stage must be submitted by the Research Grants Offices (RGO) and RGOs are free to set their own internal deadlines.

Peer Review Observer Program

CIHR continues to offer the Observer program for Early Career Researchers (ECR) to participate in the peer review process for the Project Grant competition. It is designed as an opportunity for Early Career Researchers to observe face-to-face peer review committee meetings and gain valuable insights on the review process. Early career investigators are invited to apply by August 21, 2019 (<http://www.cihrrisc.gc.ca/e/50206.html>). There will be two ECRs per committee. An Early Career Researcher is a researcher who, at the time of application, has held a full time, independent research appointment, for a period of 0-5 years (60 months).

Strategic Plan Update

CIHR is working with the health research community to develop its new strategic plan. CIHR has engaged extensively with the health research community, and will continue to engage with stakeholders over the coming months. Currently analyzing all community input, including the feedback provided at the Annual UD meeting in June. CIHR staff have been supported by the an expert analysis validation panel (independent researchers whose names we have posted on the CIHR website). There were approximately 800 individuals who participated, which resulted in

approximately 2400 individual survey responses, as participants could choose to respond to any of the six available surveys. The analysis work is to be completed by the end of August. A consensus workshop will be held on Sept. 10 and 11 in Ottawa, where CIHR will work with the health research community to develop a shared sense of challenges and collectively identify potential ideas for CIHR's upcoming strategic plan. CIHR will publish the names of those in attendance at this workshop, and a report will be published on their website. (<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51508.html>)

Project Grant Program Update

The Project Grant Program is now accepting applications for the Fall 2019 competition. Applications submitted in French will now be able to add an additional two pages within the Project Grant proposal, as evidence has indicated that documents written in French require 20% more space than English documents. CIHR anticipates that this decision will result in more French application submissions. College of Reviewers will ensure appropriate representation of Francophone reviewers. This change will contribute to equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts while ensuring equitable space for applications written in either official language. This currently applies to Project Grants only but may also apply to other programs in the future.

Fall 2019 Competition –

Registration deadline: August 14, 2019

Application deadline: September 11, 2019

Anticipated Notice of Decision: January 22, 2020

Funding Start Date: April 1, 2020

Spring 2020 Competition –

Registration deadline: February 5, 2020

Application deadline: March 4, 2020

Anticipated Notice of Decision: July 8, 2020

Funding Start Date: October 1, 2020

Foundation Grant Program Update

The final Foundation competition has been completed and applicants received their NODs on July 16, 2019. There were 28 grants approved for a total investment of \$81,416,036. The competition results are available on the CIHR website and the full list of Foundation Grant recipients is now posted. CIHR is now working with the Foundation Grant holders to prepare for their transitions back into the Project Grant program. The details regarding their transition planning options are now available on our website (<http://www.cihr.ca/e/51600.html>). All Foundation grantees wishing to discuss their transition plan are encouraged to contact CIHR's Contact Centre.

Awards & Scholarships Update

As part of Budget 2019, new funding was awarded through the federal research granting agencies to help more students access graduate studies and further improve equity, diversity and inclusion in the research ecosystem. This investment includes \$114 million over five years, starting in 2019-20. Of the \$114 million, CIHR received \$32 million (\$48M for SSHRC, \$34M for NSERC). The three agencies have also harmonized their timelines and program descriptions.

The first competition of the harmonized CGS-D Program has now launched and applicants may begin preparing their applications (http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSD-BESCD_eng.asp). As a result of harmonization, institutions will be invited to submit their health research applications to CIHR in a process similar to that of NSERC and SSHRC. The number of applications that institutions are allowed to send to CIHR is based on the number of successful doctoral applicants in the past three years. This number will be calculated every year to ensure accessibility. There is a minimum quota of 3 per institution, per agency. Institutions are asked to submit their allotted quota of applications by November 21, 2019. CIHR Doctoral awards continue to include a research allowance.

Review Quality Assurance (RQA)

The vision of the College is to establish a Performance Management Strategy, using the RQA process, to ensure the highest standards of review quality as well as to recognize Reviewer contributions. CIHR is now using a tool that allows us to identify reviewer quality issues, allows recognition of individuals for their outstanding contributions and allows CIHR to move away from a growing “do not invite” list. Reviewers should be given a chance to improve and sharpen reviewer skills through supportive interventions. CIHR will only intervene with those that are extreme cases. The RQA tool will be made public in late August 2019. UDs will all receive notice once it is available.

CIHR is adding a CIHR Standards of Practice for Peer Review agreement to the conflict of interest and confidentiality steps that all reviewers are asked to complete prior to reviewing for CIHR. This agreement will make the individual aware of expectations in terms of peer review responsibilities and reviewer performance. Any individual who does not agree will not be able to participate in peer review for that CIHR competition. CIHR will be tracking and monitoring poor reviews on an individual basis and will respond, while continuing to support a positive peer review atmosphere. Inappropriate or poor quality reviews will be flagged by committee chairs, and can also be reported to the contact center by applicants.

Research Data Management Policy (RDM)

The policy is around the collection, storage, preservation and, where appropriate, access to data produced from a given investigation. CIHR has identified data, and data-intensive research as one of our strategic priorities. To support this commitment, CIHR has developed and implemented a number of policies and frameworks both individually as well as in collaboration with the other Tri-Agencies. The Tri-Agencies have engaged with stakeholders since 2017. CIHR has been participating in various activities, such as discussion sessions, Canadian Associate of Research Administrators (CARA) and Research Data Alliance Plenaries. In the summer of 2018, CIHR launched a consultation period for Online Public Engagement. CIHR is now working on the revision and validation of the policy, and on the development of an implementation strategy. The launch is expected in late 2019 or early 2020, with a phased-in implementation beginning in 2021. As part of a broader strategy for Indigenous research and research training, the agencies will continue to engage Indigenous communities and leaders as we seek to support the development of Indigenous RDM protocols.

In response to questions, CIHR acknowledged that data annotation and the burden of this on researchers and trainees could be significant.

Next CIHR-UD meeting is on September 5, 2019. Bye for now!!

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