

CIHR UD Meeting (Webcast) December 5, 2019

Hello everyone,

The November CIHR-UD meeting was held by webcast on December 5, 2019. Here are the highlights.

CIHR Updates (Pierre Cote/Kelly Taylor/Adrian Mota)

UDEEC members met in November and a summary of that meeting is being prepared by the group but is not yet available. That document should be ready shortly and will be shared with the full UD group at that time. The content will be discussed in January. Government ministerial updates will also be discussed at that time, following the distribution of the priorities to the new ministers, likely to happen this week. New minister Patty Hajdu is responsible for Health. Speech from throne is this afternoon.

CCV Open Letter – Sent on December 3. Tri-council are reviewing and there will be a response posted on the website by the end of December.

Contact Center Service Level Agreements – Service level agreement has been [updated](#) and contains expectations for responses to your questions. There will be reports that will be examined against the agreement, and the results will be published, reviewed and improved.

Corporate / Data Updates

Success rates are a continuing concern for researchers. CIHR is continuing discussions between the president and the research community. Factors reflecting success rates are being examined by staff, and there is particular attention on the influence of closing the Foundation Scheme on the success rates in the Project Scheme. Documents showing some of this analysis will be distributed through the UD group.

Program Updates

Project Grants

Fall 2019 competition – This is week 4 of 5 for peer review committee meetings. The anticipated Notice of Decision date remains as January 22, 2020. The Spring 2020 competition is on track for Registration (February 5, 2020) and Application (March 4, 2020).

Chairs and Scientific Officers are important in the selection of peer review committee members. Some members of the UD have felt that the College of Reviewers may not be used as effectively as possible. Staff report that the Chairs and SOs have full access to members of the college in their selection of committee membership. There is an [online document](#) on roles of committee members.

Staff reported back on some concerns by UDs about the decisions on funding cutoffs in a competition and in a committee. There is a [link](#) for decisions on funding cut-offs for ties. In such a situation, either both or neither of the tied grants are funded. UDs have expressed concerns

when ECR criteria are applied for equalization in the final decision. An ECR could displace higher ranked applications when this is done.

UDs also asked for clarification about the possibility of anonymous feedback on peer review committees. Concerns can be expressed to the Chair, the SO, or via CIHR staff with a request for anonymity. At the present time there is no specific process, this can best be done through CIHR staff.

Priority Funding Decisions

Team Grant: Transnational Cardiovascular Research Projects (201904TCR) –
3/8 projects funded for \$895k investment over 4 years

Priority Funding Opportunities

Current opportunities are [available here](#).

Transnational Funding Opportunities (Presentation)(Nathalie Gendron)

ECRI – [European Commission Research and Innovation](#).

Canadian researchers are eligible. CIHR has limited funds for only some of the opportunities. An applicant needs to identify a European partner, and must also send an administrative application to CIHR as well as the funder if CIHR funding is to be requested. Usually launch in December/January. Several programs in Rare Diseases, Microbiol resistance, Healthy Ageing, Dementia have been announced recently. Webinars for the programs are available in December/January. Check the website for specifics of individual programs.

Next CIHR-UD meeting is on January 9, 2020. Happy holidays!!

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