

CIHR UD Meeting (Webcast) February 6, 2020

Hello everyone,

The February CIHR-UD meeting was held by webcast on February 6, 2020. Here are the highlights as captured by CIHR staff.

CIHR Updates (Adrian Mota)

UD Annual Meeting - Members were reminded to complete the survey to establish a date for the 2020 UD Annual meeting in Ottawa. The selected meeting date will be communicated shortly.

UDEC Meeting in Ottawa - The next UDEC meeting will be taking place from March 24-25 in Ottawa. Members were invited to submit any topics of interest for this meeting to the University Delegates mailbox: muniversity.delegates@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

New process for the Authorization for Funding (AFF) documents - CIHR will be switching to an electronic process to manage the distribution of new and revised Authorization for Funding documents (AFFs). The change will take effect on March 9th. The impact on CIHR grant and award recipients will be minimal. Members will receive an e-mail with additional information shortly. There will also be a notice about the new process in the CARA listerv, as well as the CIHR Access newsletter at the end of the month. One exception to the new process is the Project Grant competition, which will continue with paper/mailed AFFs.

One member asked whether the electronic process would be executed in ResearchNet or by email. These details are still being determined. While CIHR would prefer to use ResearchNet and is aiming to do so, there will be an interim e-mail process.

Launch of the Spring 2020 Observer Program - The Spring 2020 Observer Program for the Project Grant competition has been launched. The program is designed as an opportunity for Early Career Researchers (ECR) to observe face-to-face peer review committee meetings and gain valuable insights on the review process. The deadline to apply is February 13, 2020. Further information can be found on the [CIHR website](#).

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak - CIHR is closely following the 2019 Novel Coronavirus outbreak and is coordinating with other federal agencies including the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). CIHR is also consulting with international partners including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R) to determine how Canadian researchers can help in the [global research efforts](#). On January 31, 2020, CIHR signed a [joint statement](#) from Wellcome Trust and 65 other signatories to share research data and findings relevant to the Novel Coronavirus outbreak. On February 5, 2020, the Government of Canada informed the research community of a pending launch of a rapid research response to contribute to global efforts to contain the 2019 Novel Coronavirus outbreak. This research response is aligned with the efforts of international partners, including the WHO and the GLoPID-R. This is a collaboration between CIHR, the

International Development Research Centre (IDRC), NSERC, and SSHRC. While researchers will be required to focus on two proposed topic areas (medical countermeasures research and social and policy research), the focus of this call may be further refined based on international needs, discussions with expert groups, and emerging priorities. The funding opportunity has been [launched on ResearchNet](#). Applications are due on February 18, 2020. Given the urgency of this funding competition, CIHR is seeking volunteers to participate in the process as peer reviewers. Recruitment for peer reviewers has already begun. We encourage those interested and available to volunteer as a peer reviewer to reach out to the Contact Centre immediately: support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Members asked about the platform and CV attachment that will be used to support the application process to the rapid response funding opportunity. CIHR explained the likelihood of ResearchNet being used to submit applications for both research streams. Two CV attachments will be available to simplify the application process: CIHR Project Biosketch (Canadian Common CV); Structured document to be attached to the application. One member asked about the funding envelope for this funding opportunity (where the funds will be coming from). There is an emergency health fund that allows CIHR to respond to urgent emerging situations such as the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak. Another member asked if Principal Investigators can claim expenses incurred before the funding start date. CIHR confirmed that this is possible for successful applicants (as the funding start date will be Feb 2020). One member enquired whether applications involving low and middle income countries (LMICs) will be given priority over others. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is a partner on the funding opportunity, so there may be guidelines regarding the involvement of LMICs in terms of where or how IDRC's funds can be spent. The funding from CIHR, SSHRC and NSERC has no such restrictions. Please see the funding opportunity for specific details.

Update on the Tri-Agency Financial Administration Initiative (Scott Woodruff, Manager, Financial Operations and Procurement)

The Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration (TAGFA) - will take effect on April 1, 2020 and is currently available on the [NSERC website](#). This February, the three agencies will be hosting another series of 1-hour information webinars on the new TAGFA intended for research administrators and finance staff at all administering institutions. All details, including links to register, are available on the [CIHR Webinars page](#).

CIHR reminded members that additional online resources and learning materials are currently being developed to support the transition to the new Guide, in collaboration with representatives from the pilot institutions:

- TAGFA course "Train-The-Trainer" (TTT) package for relevant staff at the administering institutions (February/March 2020);
- Readiness Checklist and Policy Gap Analysis Tool (February/March 2020).

Financial Monitoring Framework - The Financial Monitoring Framework is still under revision by the agencies and appropriate next steps are being discussed internally. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available. Members were encouraged to contact CIHR,

NSERC and SSHRC directly for any questions related to the Tri-Agency financial administration renewal initiative.

One member enquired whether pilot institutions should attend the webinars. While the upcoming sessions will not cover new information from those held in November 2019, CIHR encouraged anyone who is interested to participate.

Programs Updates (Kelly Taylor)

The registration deadline for the Spring 2020 Project Grant competition was on February 5, 2020. CIHR is seeing stabilization in the number of registrations received. The Project Grant Fall 2019 results are available on the [CIHR website](#).

One member enquired about the number of Foundation grant holders who returned to the Project grant pool. CIHR clarified that while mid- and senior career Foundation grant holders are not eligible to apply until the Spring 2021 competition, the Spring 2020 competition is the third competition that allows Foundation Grant ECRs to apply.

Summary of the UDEC Meeting in Ottawa (November 2019; Jennifer McGrath)

Jennifer McGrath, University Delegate from Concordia University, on behalf of University Delegate Executive Committee (UDEC) members provided the summary. UDEC encouraged CIHR to remind peer review committee chairs to avoid bias in peer review of Foundation Scheme recipients returning to the Project Scheme. They also encouraged CIHR to adopt a Summary of Progress section to the applications. Proposal attachments were discussed with the recommendation that these be identified as supplementary materials and that CIHR establish policy that they are either optional or mandatory, with limitations on number of pages allowed in this section. Mandatory or optional use in peer review also needs clarification. Other topics of discussion included:

- The need to structure criteria for ranking applications;
- Success rates among institutions (size and region, which currently appear to be balanced);
- Improved peer review for French language applications;
- The need to monitor ECRs receiving Project Grant funding;
- The iterative peer review process for Indigenous research;
- The transfer of applications and the unlikelihood of such applications being funded;
- The plus/minus 0.5 for review rating;
- The 50% streamlining (modeling suggests this could go to 60%);
- CIHR's ongoing efforts related to Sex and Gender-Based Analysis, with champions identified across committees to ensure that SGBA instructions are understood and followed at peer review.

Priority Funding Decisions

Operating Grant: CIHR Summer Institute on Equitable AI for Public Health (201908EAI) – 1/3 applications funded (\$525k invested over 6 years)

Team Grant: ERA-Net PerMed (201906ENP) – 2/9 applications funded (\$488k invested over 4 years)

Team Grant: NEURON (201906NDD) – 4/17 applications funded (\$787k invested over 4 years)
Planning and Dissemination Grant-Institute Community Support (201909PCS) – 153/196 applications funded (\$2.6M invested over 1 year)

Training Grant: SPOR National Training Entity-LOI (201912SNL) – 9/9 applications funded (\$28k invested over 1 year)

Team Grant: E-Rare-3 Joint Transnational Call (201906ERT) – 5/15 applications funded (\$1.16M invested over 4 years)

Prize-IHDCYH Talks (201910IHT) – 15/25 applications funded (\$14k invested over 1 year)

Operating Grant: ECI grants in Maternal, Reproductive, Child, & Youth Health (201905MRC) – 11/46 applications funded (\$1.15M invested over 4 years)

Operating Grant: Joint Programme on Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) (201906ENG) – 2/4 applications funded (\$693k invested over 4 years)

Team Grant: Sepsis Research Network (201909SRN) – 1/2 applications funded (\$5.7M invested over 6 years)

Operating Grant: Secretariat for the responsible conduct of Research (201904PRE) – 20/20 applications funded (\$188k invested over 1 year)

Canada Research Chairs-CIHR Funded (201810CRC) – 42/42 applications funded (\$23.4M invested over 6 years)

Canada Research Chairs: CIHR Funded (201810T1C) - 26/28 applications funded (\$36.4M invested over 8 years)

Master's Award: Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships (201812GSM) – 546/548 applications funded (\$9.56M invested over 1 year)

Priority Funding Opportunities

[Current opportunities are available here.](#)

Next CIHR-UD meeting is on March 5, 2020. Bye for now!

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