NSERC Presentation to Dalhousie University
May 6, 2015, Halifax

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Presentation Overview

• NSERC News

• Competition results – 2015

• Questions
• $1.1 billion dollars
• 30,500 post-secondary students and post-doctoral fellows
• 3,000 Canadian companies
• 11,300 professors

“Making Canada a country of discoverers and innovators for the benefit of all Canadians”
NSERC 2020

• Fostering a science culture in Canada

• Building a diversified and competitive research base through discovery research

• Strengthening the discovery-innovation continuum

• Going global
Open Access

Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications
• Researchers must make articles freely available online within 12 months of publication
• Applies to all grants awarded May 1, 2015 and onward
• How to comply:
  – Deposit peer-reviewed manuscript in a repository; and/or
  – Submit manuscript to journal that offers open access within 12 months
• For more information: Tri-Agency Policy FAQs and Toolbox
  or contact: openaccess@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
Paid Parental Leave

• Increased from 4 months to 6 months
• Starting April 1, 2015
• For graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
• Applies to scholarships and fellowships as well as those paid from supervisor grant
NSERC’s Mandate

• ...to promote and assist research in the natural sciences and engineering, other than the health sciences... (NSERC Act 1978)

• Clarification of NSERC guidelines
  – Updates to tri-agency document: “Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency”
  – Creation of NSERC-specific guidelines document
  – Staff validation of updated Subject Matter Eligibility tools
Interdisciplinary research

• Several programs fund interdisciplinary research - some cross into tri-agency mandates
• Guidelines in place for interdisciplinary applications
• Common platforms for research funding requests
• Interagency Working Group on interdisciplinary research
Discovery Frontiers

Current theme: “New Materials for Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency”

• Initiatives capitalize on emerging opportunities in key areas

• One-time funding for a defined period

• Supports teams doing interdisciplinary, discovery research

• Next competition planned for 2017
Discovery Grants Program Evaluation

- Discovery Accelerator Supplement:
  - definition refined

- Support for Early Stage:
  - evaluation-related improvements started

- HQP/Training:
  - evaluation-related improvements started, further analysis underway;

- Peer-review-related efficiencies:
  - high priority next step.
Discovery Grants Budget Allocation

• Preparing to launch a review of the budget allocation methodology

• **Goal**: ensure the program remains effective, accountable and that funds are used optimally

• Opportunity to introduce new factors to allocate funds among the 12 Evaluation Groups

• Discipline comparisons and allocations to be informed by quantitative indicators and expert judgment
NSERC Discovery Grants Funding
(millions of dollars)

$19 million or 6% increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Individual, Teams and Projects</th>
<th>Discovery Accelerator Supplements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2015-16**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Expected expenditures.
Research Tools and Instruments

• **New:** RTI applications to use the Research Portal and CCV for the 2016 competition

• Quota is now 700. Minimum of 2 per institution

• Funding level for 2015 increased
## Research Tools and Instruments

- Smaller national competition with quota of applications per university

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budget</strong></td>
<td>$25M</td>
<td>$19.5M</td>
<td>$25M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong># Appl.</strong></td>
<td>666</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>1,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong># Funded</strong></td>
<td>218</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Success Rate</strong></td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding Rate</strong></td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discovery Grants Program
2015 Results
2015 Competition Statistics
Discovery Grants (DG) are now available through a link on the Discovery Grants Information Centre
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
<th>Average Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Career Researchers (ECR)</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>$26,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established Researchers (ER)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewing their grant (ER-R)</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>$35,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG)</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>$26,756</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Includes Discovery and Subatomic Physics (Individual and Team) Grants, but excludes the Subatomic Physics Projects.
2. Includes returning established unfunded applicants and experienced researchers submitting a first application.
Success Rate\(^1\) by Category of Individual Applicants – 2009-2015 Competitions

\[\text{Success Rates (\%)}\]

\[\begin{align*}
\text{ECR} & : 80-90 \\
\text{ER-R} & : 60-70 \\
\text{ER-NHG} & : 40-50
\end{align*}\]
## Statistics by University Size – 2015 Competition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Applicants</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>University Size</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Career Researchers</td>
<td>Number of Applications</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of grants</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success Rate</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Amount</td>
<td>$6,192,880</td>
<td>$1,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average Grant</td>
<td>$26,465</td>
<td>$26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established Researchers - Renewing</td>
<td>Number of Applications</td>
<td>1,210</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of grants</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success Rate</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Amount</td>
<td>$37,493,312</td>
<td>$6,776,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average Grant</td>
<td>$36,051</td>
<td>$32,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established Researchers - Not Holding a Grant</td>
<td>Number of Applications</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of grants</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success Rate</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Amount</td>
<td>$8,545,486</td>
<td>$1,158,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average Grant</td>
<td>$27,655</td>
<td>$24,125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discovery Accelerator Supplements

- $120,000 - typically over three years
- Up to 125 Supplements per year
- Each EG will receive a quota of DAS nominations to recommend
- EG members nominate candidates. Executive Committee makes the final recommendation to NSERC
- Objectives of the DAS program
  - Highly original and innovative research programs,
  - Show strong potential to become international leaders within their field
## Discovery Accelerator Supplements
### 2015 Competition Quotas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Group (EG)</th>
<th>Quota per EG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1501 - Genes, Cells and Molecules</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1502 - Biological Systems and Functions</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1503 - Evolution and Ecology</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1504 - Chemistry</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1505 - Physics</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1506 - Geosciences</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1507 - Computer Science</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1508 - Mathematics and Statistics</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1509 - Civil, Industrial and Systems Engineering</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1510 - Electrical and Computer Engineering</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1511 - Materials and Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1512 - Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 - Subatomic Physics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Allocation</strong></td>
<td><strong>125</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions?