

**University Delegates WebEx Meeting
December 6, 2018 - 12:30-1:30pm EDT
CIHR Room 10-219, Ottawa, Ontario
Minutes**

Participants

Chair: Pierre Côté, Director General, Operations Support

Members:	Andrea Lawrance, Carleton University; Brenda Bruner, Nipissing University; Brian Christie, University of Victoria; Brittney Roughan, Mount Saint Vincent University; Christian Baron, Université de Montréal; Christian Beaulieu, University of Alberta; Christian Patenaude, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières; David Litchfield, Western University; David Rose, University of Waterloo; Gerald W. Zamponi, University of Calgary; Jennifer McGrath, Concordia University; Keely Rose, The Hospital for Sick Children Kristen Baetz, University of Ottawa; Stephane Dragon for Lara Boyd, University of British Columbia; Lisa Porter, University of Windsor;	Sara Andres for Lori Burrows, McMaster University; Marc Pouliot, Université Laval; Marilyn Hodgins, University of New-Brunswick; Rebecca R. Pillai Riddell, York University; Roger McLeod, Dalhousie University; Sébastien Normand, Université de Québec en Outaouais; Shari Baum, McGill University; Stephen Perry, Wilfrid Laurier University; Stephen Waldman, Ryerson University; Steven Smith, Queen's University; Vicki Kristman, Lakehead University; Wendy Ward, Brock University; Yvonne Myal, University of Manitoba
CARA members	Joanne Simala-Grant, University of Alberta (CARA member);	Kate Keetch, Department of Evaluation & Research Services in Fraser Health (CARA member)
Institution staff:	Angela McCormick, University of Alberta; Cecilia Kalaw, Simon Fraser University; Cindy Faber, University of Toronto; Leslie Copp, University of Waterloo;	Paul Wiebe, Health Sciences Centre; Penny D'Agnone, University of Lethbridge; Samar Saneinejad, St. Michael's Hospital; Tom Chau, University of Toronto
Regrets:	Ali Jenabian, Université du Québec à Montréal; Brenda Smith-Chant, Trent University Chris Whitfield, University of Guelph Claudia Malacrida, University of Lethbridge Daniel Cyr, Institut Armand-Frappier;	Rod McCormick, Thompson Rivers University; Said Mekary, Acadia University; Sandra Turcotte, Université de Moncton; Sunny Hartwig, University of Prince Edward Island;

	<p>Darcy Marciniuk, University of Saskatchewan;</p> <p>Dina Brooks, University of Toronto;</p> <p>Estelle Chamoux, Bishop’s University;</p> <p>François Boudreau, Université de Sherbrooke;</p> <p>Frédéric Lesage, École Polytechnique Montréal;</p> <p>Geoff Payne, University of Northern British Columbia;</p> <p>Jeff Ollerhead, Mount Allison University;</p> <p>Jennifer Walker, Laurentian University;</p> <p>Lori Livingston, University of Ontario Institute of Technology;</p> <p>Peter L. Twohig, Saint Mary's University;</p> <p>Richard Isnor, St. Francis Xavier University;</p> <p>Robert Bertolo, Memorial University of Newfoundland;</p>	<p>Tanya Brann-Barrett, Cape Breton University;</p> <p>Timothy Takaro, Simon Fraser University;</p> <p>Christy McTait, University of British Columbia (CARA member);</p> <p>Deborah Zornes, Royal Roads University (CARA member);</p> <p>Jennifer Thurlow, Capital District Health Authority (CARA member);</p> <p>Jeremy Knight, University of Toronto (CARA member);</p> <p>Judith Chaidwick, University of Toronto (CARA member);</p> <p>Lorraine Deydey, University of Alberta (CARA member);</p> <p>Maria Margarita Heras, University of British Columbia (CARA member);</p> <p>Virginie Portes, Université de Montréal (CARA member)</p>
<p>Staff:</p>	<p>Allison Jackson, Manager, College Recruitment, Learning and Mentoring;</p> <p>Annik Poirier, Manager, Business Solutions, Competition Management and Support;</p> <p>Kelly Taylor, Director General, Program Design and Delivery;</p>	<p>Adèle Blanchard, Lead, Strategic Communications;</p> <p>Allison Forsythe, Communications Strategist;</p> <p>Corinne Guindon, Change Management Lead;</p> <p>Richard Côté, Curriculum Development Advisor</p>

1. CIHR Update

Key Meetings

Governing Council (GC) and Science Council (SC)

- On November 20, Dr. Strong met for the first time with GC members to discuss priorities and the way forward.
- The following day, they held a joint meeting with SC members, during which they heard from panelists and reflected on what CIHR needs to deliver to meet its mandate.
 - Panelists:
 - *Dr. Alice Aiken, Vice-Chair of GC;*
 - *Dr. Anne Martin-Matthews, former Scientific Director and former VP, Research, Knowledge Translation and Ethics;*
 - *Dr. Rémi Quirion, Chief Scientist Quebec;*
 - *Dr. Chantelle A.M. Richmond, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health and the Environment, and Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Western University, and;*
 - *Dr. Steve Robbins, Scientific Director, Institute of Cancer Research.*

SPOR Summit (November 14-15)

- CIHR was delighted to host the SPOR Summit 2018 from November 13-15 in Ottawa.
- More than 300 people participated in the Summit, which provided an opportunity for SPOR stakeholders to share knowledge and experiences, highlight successes and share lessons learned, hear from experts, network, and join in panel discussions and plenary and poster sessions.
- You can visit the [SPOR Summit 2018 \(en français\)](#) web page for more information.

Regional Conferences with Research Administrators

- CIHR attended four regional conferences between mid-November and early-December:
 - 35e Colloque annuel de l'ADARUQ (French only)
 - CARA Ontario (en anglais seulement)
 - Research Atlantic (en anglais seulement)
 - CARA West (en anglais seulement)
- The CARA network is an important stakeholder to CIHR. As always, it has been a pleasure exchanging with and receiving input from this group on topics of interest for CIHR and the research community.

Program Design and Delivery Updates

See slides for additional information.

Foundation Program

- CIHR knows that the community is eager to hear more about the future of the Foundation program, including the continuation of the program, peer review design, budget allocation, and eligibility. Though there has been a lot of discussion internally – including with our Governing Council and Science Council – there are no news, decisions, or considerations to share yet.

Priority Driven Research

- The number of funded applications for the [Building the Foundation of the JPIAMR VRI \(en français\)](#) competitions might appear low. For this competition, CIHR only enters in its systems the funded applications. This explains while the number is low.

Questions from Members

Q: Are priority announcements expected for Project?

A: Priority announcements for the Project Grant: Spring 2019 competition will be launched on January 16, 2019.

Q: Can medical/psychiatry residents apply for the Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's Program?

A: Medical Psychiatry residents can apply to the program, so long as their program of study is eligible. An eligible Canadian host institution with an allocation would also need to be chosen. Given the specific requirements of certain disciplines, individuals are invited to contact the appropriate agency listed in the [funding opportunity \(en français\)](#) for further guidance.

Other General Updates

Consultation on draft ethics guidance – Research partnerships with patients

- Over the last year, a CIHR Working Group made up of patients, researchers and ethicists has co-developed draft [Ethics Guidance on Developing Research Partnerships with Patients \(en français\)](#).
- It is intended as an educational resource primarily for patients and health researchers, as well as research institutions and funders of research.
- CIHR is now inviting feedback on the draft document. We are looking to see if it addresses the important ethical concerns in establishing meaningful research partnerships between patients and researchers. Are ethical concerns missing from the document? Do you have suggestions for how this guidance could be customized for specific audiences?
- You have until January 28, 2019 to submit your comments.

Open Government

- The [Government of Canada Open Government Portal \(en français\)](#) is a centralized resource for government data and information. It includes links to CIHR data and information such as Proactive Disclosure and Annual ATIP Reports, and now also includes data on funded grants going back to 2000-2001.

- Citizens, governments, not-for-profit and private sector organizations have better access to data/information to leverage it in innovative and value-added ways – contributing to the generation of socio-economic benefits.

Extension - Job opportunity - Scientific Director - CIHR Institute of Aging (IA)

- The [Scientific Director, Institute of Aging \(IA\) \(en français\)](#) job posting has been extended to December 10, 2018. Thank you for sharing through your channels.

Next UD Teleconference call postponed

- The January 3rd UD call has been postponed to Thursday, January 10, 12:30-1:30.

Items/Questions Raised by UD Network Members

Functionality to save reviews in ResearchNet

- Currently, the “Conduct Reviews” ResearchNet screen used during peer review for the Project Grant Program has validation rules that require all fields to be complete before the content can be saved (even when the user clicks “Save draft”).
- Because of concerns raised, CIHR assessed the possibility of allowing reviewers to partially save their work using the “Save draft” button in ResearchNet. The assessment determined that this system update would be a considerable undertaking. It was also compared to other requests to determine priority and cost/benefit.
- A decision was made internally to put this request on hold. When deemed appropriate and in order to reduce the risk associated with this functionality, instructions are provided to reviewers by CIHR staff, recommending that copies of their reviews be saved outside of the system.
- We acknowledge that this functionality is problematic and will keep this enhancement on our radar for future development. In the meantime, please continue to share feedback you receive related to this system functionality and others with us.

Update on the CCV

- A CCV Board meeting will be held in December. An update will be provided at the January call.

Distribution of Funds

- We received many requests for information from UDs regarding the geographic distribution of CIHR funds.
- Our Data Analytics team will generate reports and analyze the data to determine trends, and begin documenting the impact of possible solutions. This information will inform discussions at the first Extended-UDEC meeting in 2019.

Support from the University Delegates Network

- Over the last few weeks, some messages were posted on social media indicating that the CIHR President wanted to prioritize specific types of research at the expense of basic research and that CIHR “funds too much” basic research already.
- From his [first message \(en français\)](#) to the community on his first day and at all his public appearances since (including when he came to speak to this table a couple of weeks ago), Dr. Strong has said loud and clear that he will be guided by the CIHR Act.
- The Act asks us to foster the creation of new knowledge and its translation into improved health for Canadians. This is only possible by supporting all four pillars of research, all the way from basic and biomedical research to population and public health research.
- As a University Delegate, you play a vital role keeping your colleagues informed about CIHR’s directions, initiatives and decisions. You are also our eyes and ears on the ground.
- When you see rumours circulating on social media and through the hallways of your institutions, we encourage you to clarify when you can – but you can also contact us if you need more information to help you respond to questions from colleagues.
- It is mainly through the UD network that we seek the views and concerns of the community. So, anytime you see or hear that a message might have been interpreted the wrong way (or might not have been well communicated by us), I encourage you to reach out to me (pierre.cote@cihr-irsc.gc.ca) directly, or via the UD mailbox (University.Delegates@cihr-irsc.gc.ca). Many of you already do and it is very much appreciated.
- Your active role as a UD is a vital one in the virtual environment we have built and we want to make sure you are well equipped with the information you need to inform your colleagues.

2. New Frontiers in Research Fund

- In Budget 2018, the Government of Canada made a historic investment of nearly \$4 billion in research and in the next generation of scientists. It also called for changes to streamline and modernize programs in support of research.
- This investment includes the creation of the [New Frontiers in Research Fund \(en français\)](#), which will be open to researchers and networks of researchers across all disciplines.
- The new Fund will use innovative program features to support research that is international, interdisciplinary, fast-breaking and higher-risk—research that will accelerate the pace of discovery in Canada to improve our economy and quality of life.
- It is comprised of three streams to support groundbreaking research:
 - **Exploration** will generate opportunities for Canada to build strength in high-risk, high-reward and interdisciplinary research;
 - **Transformation** will provide large-scale support for Canada to build strength and leadership in interdisciplinary and transformative research; and
 - **International** will enhance opportunities for Canadian researchers to participate in research with international partners.

- The new Fund will be using the new Canadian classification standard which is called the Canadian Research and Development Classification 2019 (CRDC).
- This [funding opportunity \(en français\)](#) is for the first stream and is geared toward Early Career Researchers.
- The Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply must be submitted before January 11, 2019 and the application deadline is on February 7, 2019. Grants may have a value of up to \$125,000 per year for two years. Applicants are invited to go on the [SSHRC Convergence Portal](#) to submit their application – available as of December 17, 2018.
- Funding for the [NCE program will be gradually transitioned to this new Fund](#) over the next five years. Additional information:
 - FAQ: <http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/faq-eng.aspx>
 - Instructions: <http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/instructions-eng.aspx>
 - CRDC: <http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/crdc-ccrd-eng.aspx>

Questions from Members

Q: Will stream one always be for ECRs or is this only the case for the current launch?

A: As far as we know, this particular point has not yet been discussed at the CRCC.

Q: Will these funds impact the percentage allotted to ECRs in the Project Grant?

A: No. They will not.

Q: How was the timeline elaborated? It is quite short.

A: Being a new fund, approvals from various levels of government was required and forced unwanted delays.

Q: The selection criteria outlined in the review process section of the funding opportunity include “High-risk” and “Feasibility”. These appear to be contradictory. How will they be weighted in the review?

A: In addition to validating the criteria “Interdisciplinarity” and “Equity, Diversity and Inclusion”, the panel will evaluate each applications based on the remaining selection criteria which will be weighted as follows:

- High risk (40%)
- High reward (40%)
- Feasibility (20%)

The panel will make recommendations to the Steering Committee on which applications should receive funding and at what level. A peer review manual will be made available at a later time.

Q: Did I hear correctly that NCE funds moving to NFRF is in addition to the \$65 million annually announced in budget 2018? If so, what is the anticipated amount at steady state (i.e., post 2023)?

A: Yes. Funding for the NCE program will be gradually transitioned to this new Fund, ultimately doubling the Fund’s budget over the next several years.

Q: When will the next two rounds of the Fund be launched (i.e., Transformation and International)?

A: This has not yet been determined.

Q: Will there be any assessment of NOIs for eligibility prior to full application?

A: According to the [Notice of Intent instructions \(en français\)](#), eligibility will only be assessed at the full application stage.

Q: Could there be a way in the future that high risk/reward proposals from the Project Grant could be forwarded to NFRF?

A: The new Fund is meant to catch multidisciplinary proposals that typically do not fit within the objectives of the Project Grant program therefore, this seems unlikely. A Tri-agency working group has been put in place to see how multidisciplinary applications could move forward to the Fund.

Q: Will applicants/co-applicants need to create an account for the NFRF Convergence Portal?

A: Only the nominated principal investigator is required to complete the NOI on behalf of the research team via the Portal. Please refer to the [funding opportunity \(en français\)](#) for more information.

Q: Do you have any information on the length of the proposals?

A: This information has not yet been released.

3. College of Reviewers Update

At the November 1st UD call, a UD member acting as a *Scientific Officer for the Fall 2018 Project Grant competition* commented on the fact that it would have been much easier to access the College database to fill in expertise gaps for the Peer Review Committee.

Allison Jackson, Manager, College Recruitment, Learning and Mentoring, presented information on how the College of Reviewers support CIHR peer review Committees

See slides for additional information.

- The [College of Reviewers \(en français\)](#) supports CIHR Program Design and Delivery teams with staffing peer review committees by ensuring the appropriate expertise are available for every competition.

- CIHR provides Chairs and Scientific Officers with data which includes information on individuals' College membership details (e.g., areas of science and membership status). While access to the database is not provided, the College endeavors to share as much information about its members as possible to support the process. [The name of our members are also published and searchable on our web site](#). This could be useful in cross checking for new panel members. Gap filling by using other tools occurs when all other options have been exhausted. CIHR welcomes your feedback on this matter.
- The College is working with an advisory group to assist with targeted recruitment efforts.

Questions from Members

Q: The USB review system for the current Project Grant competition was ineffective.

A: We appreciate your feedback. We are gathering all the information we can about this issue and will look into a solution for the Spring 2019 competition.

4. Adjournment

- The next University Delegates meeting will be held on January 10, 2019.
- The Chair thanked everyone for their participation, and adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m. ET.