

**University Delegates WebEx Meeting
January 9, 2020 - 12:30-1:30 pm EDT
CIHR Room 10-219, Ottawa, Ontario
Minutes**

Participants

Chair: Adrian Mota, Associate Vice President, Research Programs

Members:	Adam Dubrowski, University of Ontario Institute of Technology; Andrea Lawrance, Carleton University; Brenda Bruner, Nipissing University; Brian Christie, University of Victoria; Chris Whitfield, University of Guelph; Christian Beaulieu, University of Alberta; Darcy Marciniuk, University of Saskatchewan; David Litchfield, Western University; David Rose, University of Waterloo; Frédéric Lesage, École Polytechnique Montréal; Gerald W. Zamponi, University of Calgary; Jean-François Millaire, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivière; Jennifer Copeland, University of Lethbridge; Jennifer McGrath, Concordia University;	Jonathan Choy, Simon Fraser University; Lara Boyd, University of British Columbia; Lori Burrows, McMaster University; Marc Pouliot, Université Laval; Rebecca Pillai Ridell, York University; Richard Isnor, St. Francis University; Robert Bertolo, Memorial University of Newfoundland; Roger McLeod, Dalhousie University; Sandra Turcotte, Université de Moncton; Sylvain Baillet, McGill University; Tania Watts, University of Toronto; Veronica Bacher, Mount Saint Vincent University; Vicki Kristman, Lakehead University; Yvonne Myal, University of Manitoba.
CARA-CIHR working group members:	Christy McTait, University of British Columbia (CARA member); Deborah Zornes, Royal Roads University; Jennifer Thurlow, Capital District Health Authority;	Jeremy Knight, University of Toronto; Julie Stephens, University of Alberta; Kate Keetch, Fraser Health; Virginie Portes, Université de Montréal.
Institution staff:	Cindy Faber, University of Toronto; Deanna Pong, University of Toronto; Jackie Cooney-Birch; University of Manitoba; Jennifer Robinson, Queens University; Jim Woodgett, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute; Keeley Rose, Sick Kids Hospital;	Leslie Copp, University of Waterloo; Monique Sullivan, Université de Sherbrooke Rachel Syme, University of Calgary; Ryan Perry, University of Toronto; Sanja Obradovic, Ryerson University; Sean Parsons, Laurentian University; Penny D’Agnone, University of Lethbridge; Samar Saneinejad, St. Michael's Hospital.

<p>Regrets:</p>	<p>Ali Jenabian, Université du Québec à Montréal; Brenda Smith-Chant, Trent University; Costin Anotnescu, Ryerson University; Daniel Cyr, Institut Armand-Frappier; Daniel Lajeunesse, Université de Montréal; Dawn Whitworth, University of British Columbia (CARA member); Estelle Chamoux, Bishop’s Univeristy; François Boudreau, Université de Sherbrooke; Geoff Payne, University of Northern British Columbia; Heather Duncan, Brandon University; Jeff Ollerhead, Mount Allison University; Jennifer Walker, Laurentian University; Judith Chadwick, University of Toronto (CARA-CIHR working group member); Kristin Baetz, University of Ottawa; Lisa Porter, University of Windsor;</p>	<p>Lorraine Deydey, University of Alberta (CARA member); Marilyn Hodgins, University of New-Brunswick; Peter L. Twohig, Saint Mary's University; Rod McCormick, Thompson Rivers University; Said Mekary, Acadia University; Sébastien Normand, Univeristé du Québec en Outaouais; Sunny Hartwig, University of Prince Edward Island Stephen Waldman, Ryerson University; Stephen Perry, Wilfrid Laurier University; Steven Smith, Queen’s University; Tanya Brann-Barrett, Cape Breton University; Tarun Katapally, University of Regina; Tova Dybvig, University of Saskatchewan; Wendy Ward, Brock University.</p>
<p>Staff:</p>	<p>Allison Forsythe, Communications Strategist, Communications; Allison Jackson, Manager, College of Reviewers; Amanda Crupi, Manager, Knowledge Translation Strategies; Annik Poirier, Manager, Operations Support Brooke Bryce, Communication Strategist, Communications Chaidwick Leneis, Manager, Program Design and Delivery; Corinne Guindon, Change Management Lead, Operations Support; George Collier, Senior Partnership Lead, Strategic Partnerships and International Relations; Gilles Leblanc, Change Management Advisor, Operations Support; Jason Reid, Chief Information & Security Officer/Director General, Digital and Security Services;</p>	<p>Jean-Michel Levesque, Manager, Policy and Government Relations; Jennifer Robson, Strategic Coordination Officer, Program Design and Delivery; Joanne Simala- Grant, Subject Matter Expert, Operations Support; Kelly Taylor, Director General, Program Design and Delivery; Kim Douglas, Director, New Frontiers in Research Fund; Marina Dubois, Project Officer, Operations Support; Patrick St-Pierre, Manager, Contact Centre, Operations Support; Paula Kirton, Manager, Program Design and Delivery; Sandra Shimizu-Herr, Deputy CIO / Manager, Digital and Security Services.</p>

1. CIHR Update

Verbal updates provided by Adrian Mota, Associate Vice-President, Research Programs (unless indicated otherwise).

New University Delegates members:

- Two new University Delegates members were welcomed: Dr. Adam Dubrowski (Ontario Tech University) and Dr. Jonathan Choy (Simon Fraser University).

New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF)

Verbal update provided by Kim Douglas, Director, New Frontiers in Research Fund.

2020 Transformation Stream

- Launched in December 2019, the objective of the Transformation competition is to support large-scale, Canadian-led interdisciplinary research projects that address a major challenge with the potential to realize real and lasting change.
- Transformation stream grants will support projects that:
 - tackle a well-defined problem or challenge;
 - propose a novel world-leading approach that is different from the current state-of-the-art approaches to the issue;
 - are interdisciplinary, bringing different perspectives to the defined problem;
 - have the potential to be transformative, defined as the potential to create a significant and real change or impact—a noticeable leap or tangible breakthrough rather than an incremental advance.
- It is a requirement that projects submitted to this competition cross the mandate of at least two of the three agencies.
- The notice of intent (NOI) to apply deadline is February 18, 2020. At this stage, there is a minimum requirement of five confirmed participants, including nominated principal investigators, co-principal investigators and co-applicants.
- The value of the grant is a maximum of \$4,000,000 per year (including indirect costs), and there is a minimum of \$2,000,000 per year (including indirect costs). It is important to note that the grants are not renewable after six years.
- Two webinars will be held on January 21, 2020. Institutions are strongly encouraged to arrange group Webinar sessions for their researcher. Links will be available approximately 1-hour prior before the start of the session.
- More information on the 2020 Transformation competition, including timelines, grant value, competition budget and webinar links, is available on the NFRF website at: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2020/competition-concours-eng.aspx> (en français).

International Stream

- Will enhance opportunities for Canadian researchers to participate in research with international partners.
- More information on this stream is expected to be available on the NFRF website by early February 2020.

Questions from members:

- One member enquired about whether early career researchers (ECR) have to be included as part of the first five applicants at the NOI stage.

- Not a requirement at the NOI stage (deadline: February 18), but applicants are strongly encouraged to include at least one ECR at the Letter of Intent stage (deadline: April 15) where equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) will be assessed.
- One member asked if international co-investigators not affiliated with a university are eligible to apply.
 - Same as co-principal investigators and co-applicants, International and Canadian co-investigators are eligible to apply, as long they are not affiliated with the government or a for-profit organization.
- One member enquired about how the interdisciplinary nature of the research will be enforced as part of the competition.
 - Canada Research and Development Classification (CRDC) codes entered in the system by the applicant must represent at least two different disciplines at the group level. The interdisciplinary factor will also be evaluated by the multi-disciplinary panel at the NOI stage.

Update on the Canadian Common CV

- CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC received the CCV Open Letter on December 2, 2019 requesting the abandonment of the CCV.
- The agencies prepared a response that was posted on the CIHR website on December 18: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51795.html> (en français).
- The Tri-Agencies recognize that the CCV, as currently structured, does not represent a viable long-term solution for the grants management needs of applicants and funders, and are committed to replacing the CCV through the recently launched Tri-Agency Grants Management Solution (TGMS) initiative that will see the implementation of a new and harmonized grants management system.
- The response also confirmed the commitment to make short-term improvements to the CCV user interface through the modernized CCV user interface project.
- Input on this project and other possible short-term solutions (including the Knowledge CV template) was provided by the University Delegates Executive Committee (UDEEC).
- Email CCV Support at support@ccv-cvc.ca with any questions and/or for more information on the CCV modernized user interface project.

Update on the Knowledge User CV

- CIHR has engaged with knowledge users and other stakeholders, including the College Chairs and the UDEC, on the development of a new CV template for knowledge users.
- As many members have raised, it is difficult for non-academic researchers to fill out the CCV.
- CIHR is currently changing its systems to best support the use of the knowledge user CV template, which we are aiming to implement in the Fall 2020.

EDI in Action Webpage

- CIHR's Equity Strategy was released in 2016 to help identify and address potential inequities in CIHR's funding system.
- Since then, CIHR has implemented a range of actions to foster EDI such as efforts to reduce unconscious bias in peer review, extending the Tri-agency paid parental leave policy from 6 months to 12 months for students and postdocs, and promoting EDI in the broader research community.
- CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC, released a Tri-Agency Statement on EDI in July of this year.
- You can read more about these and other achievements on the CIHR new "EDI in Action" webpage at: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51693.html> (en français).
- Moving forward and acknowledging that more work remains to be done, CIHR will continue to work with the other federal granting agencies to foster a more equitable, diverse and inclusive Canadian research enterprise.
- Should you have any ideas and/or recommendations to help CIHR meet this goal, please do not hesitate to contact the University Delegates mailbox (university.delegates@cihr-irsc.gc.ca) or the CIHR Contact Centre (support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca).

Research Data Management Update

- From June to September 2018, CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC held an online consultation on the draft Tri-Agency Research Data Management (RDM) Policy.
- In December 2019, the agencies released the Public Consultation Summary to highlight general feedback on the policy, and where warranted, to clarify the framing, scope and aims of the policy. The agencies recognize that each strategy will reflect the institution's particular circumstances – for example, institution size, research intensity, and existing RDM capacity – but in all cases, the agencies expect high quality strategies that outline how the institution will provide its researchers with an environment that enables and supports RDM.
- The agencies are making final revisions to the policy based on this consultation and other feedback, and are currently seeking approval from their respective governance bodies. With an anticipated release in early 2020, the new policy will include a phased-in implementation aligned with the state of readiness of the Canadian research community.
- More information on the RDM policy can be found on the science.gc.ca website at: http://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97905.htm ([en français](#)).
- Should you have any ideas on how CIHR can facilitate or support the implementation of this new policy, we would love to hear from you. Contact the University Delegates mailbox (university.delegates@cihr-irsc.gc.ca) or the CIHR Contact Centre (support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca).

CIHR Health Research Summit

- On December 13, CIHR hosted a Health Research Summit in Ottawa that brought together approximately 200 participants from across the health research ecosystem (including some University Delegates like David Rose from the University of Waterloo) who provided their advice and perspectives.
- This productive one-day meeting focused on identifying critical success factors for achieving CIHR's proposed strategic priorities and unpacking how CIHR's proposed priorities will enable the agency to achieve its mandate and long-term vision to reduce inequities in health outcomes among Canadians.
- While CIHR cannot share the strategic priorities just yet, we forward to sharing them with you and the community in June 2020 when we launch our new strategic plan.
- A progress update will be provided in the coming months.

Programs Updates

Verbal update provided by Kelly Taylor, Director General, Program Design and Delivery

See slides for additional information.

- CIHR confirmed that we are on track for releasing the Project Grant: Fall 2019 notice of decisions in January, and thanked the research community and all the reviewers who participated in the Project Grant peer review meetings held in November and December 2019.
- We received great feedback on the evolution of the Project Grant competition and are currently working on a project plan to implement the consistent feedback on how the program needs to evolve.
- Updates on this work will be provided at upcoming UD meetings.

Questions from members

- One member enquired about success rates for the Project Grant: Fall 2019 competition.
 - CIHR confirmed that details are being finalized and that information will be released with the results of the competition in the coming weeks.
- Another member asked whether Project Grant application timelines have been standardized across competitions.

- CIHR confirmed that competition timelines for the program will remain consistent around its current timeframe (i.e., application deadlines in the spring and fall), and this predictability will likely help to stabilize application pressure.

2. Update on the Tri-Agency Grants Management Solution (TGMS)

Verbal update provided by Adrian Mota, Associate Vice-President, Research Programs

- CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC continue to work together on the Tri-Agency Grants Management Solution (TGMS) initiative to modernize their grants management systems to better support applicants, administrators and reviewers during the grants management lifecycle. Upon completion, a more harmonized and integrated approach should provide the research community and agency staff with a more efficient and user-friendly experience: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51795.html> ([en français](#)).
- The TGMS initiative is divided into two phases: Discovery and Implementation.
- As part of the initiative's current Discovery phase, TGMS has begun to engage with internal and external stakeholders and has had the pleasure of working with the UDEC, the Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities (ACCRU) and the Committee on Discovery Research (CDR) members. In November, the TGMS team worked with these groups to document journey maps and desired future state experiences for the new solution.
- Beginning in January 2020, the TGMS team will be facilitating cross-country journey map validation workshops at 15 different Canadian institutions with varying size and geographical location, to provide users with a unique opportunity to meaningfully engage with TGMS on their needs and to co-design the future experience.
- External stakeholders will be included in the TGMS governance structure through the involvement of:
 - An External Advisory Board: Will provide independent advice and, upon request, recommendations, to the TGMS Executive Board on specific subject areas. Members will be selected through a nomination process, with self-nominations considered. More information on this process will be sent to UD members once available.
 - The External Change Agents Network: Primary users will collaborate and engage across their institutions to exchange knowledge, experiences and lead the change within the research community. This governance body currently has members from the U15 and some ACCRU members.
- An overview and updates on TGMS is available on the science.gc.ca website at http://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97924.html ([en français](#)).
- For more information about this initiative, contact the team at tgms-sgsto@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Questions from members

- One member questioned the suitability of timelines for the initiative, noting that a Request for Proposals (RFP) has been launched.
 - CIHR clarified that the Tri-Agency has not initiated a binding procurement agreement in the form of an RFP. Rather, an opportunity was provided to industry in Summer 2019 to understand the Tri-Agency needs at hand and to propose solutions based on their understanding of a set of non-negotiable requirements.

3. The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)

Verbal update provided by Amanda Crupi, Manager, Knowledge Translation Strategies

See slides for additional information.

- CIHR is one of the five major Canadian research funding agencies who are signatories of DORA since November 2019: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51732.html> ([en français](#)).

- Recognizing the importance of supporting diverse research results and outcomes and the need to measure and assess them, signatories are committed to excellence in research funding, as part of the review process.
- CIHR presented the DORA recommendations targeted towards funders, researchers and institutions, as outlined in the declaration statement, and confirmed that several of its science policies and strategies already align with DORA's recommendations through several science policies and strategies.

There are no new and immediate implications for researchers and institutions as a result of CIHR signing onto DORA.

Questions from members

- One member asked if there should be explicit discussions about the ways in which peer review panels should be asked to assess research publication records.
 - Internal discussions on this matter are ongoing.

4. Impacts of the Federal Elections on CIHR and the CIHR Budget

Verbal update provided by Jean-Michel Levesque, Acting Manager, Policy and Government Relations

See slides for additional information.

- A minority Liberal government was formed in October 2019.
- CIHR presented the five broad themes from the Speech from the Throne, which provided an overview of the direction of the current government.
- CIHR also highlighted the release of the Minister of Health Mandate Letters, including four priorities relevant to CIHR. The ways in which these priorities will be delivered have not yet been identified.
- An update on the Federal 2020 budget will be provided once tabled in Winter 2020.

Questions from members

- One member asked whether the point on “making new investments in pediatric cancer research” in the Minister's Mandate Letter signifies new investments for CIHR or the redirection of existing funds.
 - As part of its commitments, the Liberal party has committed to a new \$30,000,000 investment in pediatric cancer research. More details will be included in an upcoming federal Budget on how this investment could be made.
- One member enquired about CIHR's influence on the delivery of the Mandate Letters.
 - The commitments outlined in the Mandate Letters are broad. CIHR's senior leadership does meet regularly with the Minister of Health and representatives from her office to discuss priorities and next steps.
 - With any new funding commitments, however, the federal government does not simply transfer funds to the administering department or agency immediately. There is a regular process involving Treasury Board submissions (documentation) to outline how/why/where the funds will be used. These submissions then need to be approved before the funds become available to the department or agency.
 - It is through this Treasury Board submission process that CIHR has the most influence in terms of determining how new funding will be disbursed (working within whatever parameters have been prescribed by the government). For new funding commitments, then, CIHR may consult the research community to discuss potential initiatives to support new investments.
- CIHR confirmed that the Chief Science Advisor, Dr. Mona Nemer, reports to the Prime Minister.

5. Varia

- An update on the last UDEC meeting in Ottawa will be provided at the next UD meeting.

Questions from members

- One member enquired about CIHR's plans to host another UD meeting in Ottawa.
 - The next annual meeting is expected to be held in June. A survey will be sent to members in the near future to assess availability.
- One member asked about CIHR's intent to allow the reimbursement of carbon credits as eligible grant expenses.
 - Discussions are ongoing at the Tri-Council level. Our Finance department is working with the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat and other relevant groups to see what terms and conditions would be required for Agency grants. Operational requirements must also be considered.
 - An update will be provided at an upcoming meeting.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting ended at 13:28. The next meeting of the University Delegates will be on February 6th, 2020.