

**University Delegates Meeting**  
**September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – 12:30-1:30pm (EDT)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Chair:** Adrian Mota - Associate-Vice President, Research Programs (Operations)

## **1. CIHR Updates**

### ***Latest update regarding the UD membership***

The departure of two of our UD members, Dr. Robert McLeod from Dalhousie University and Dr. Lori Burrows from McMaster University, was announced. The Chair thanked Robert and Lori for their term on the UD Network. Dalhousie University has appointed Dr. Eileen Denovan-Wright, and McMaster University has appointed Dr. Marla Beauchamp, as their new UD representatives.

### ***Caretaker Convention***

During the federal election, CIHR and its Institutes adhere to what is known as the “[Caretaker Convention](#),” which dictates that we act with restraint, limiting activities—including communications activities—to routine or urgent business only. For that reason, you may find that our newsletters are a little shorter, and our Twitter feeds a little quieter, these days. CIHR will resume our regular programming in the weeks following Election Day.

### ***External Advisory Committee on Accessibility & Systemic Ableism***

CIHR is establishing an External Advisory Committee on Accessibility & Systemic Ableism. This group will provide CIHR with guidance on identifying barriers to accessibility within the health research funding system. The call for expressions of interest is scheduled to go out September 13, and the deadline to apply is October 28, 2021. CIHR encourages those with a disability, accessibility advocates, and experienced allies, to submit an application. Further information will be sent through the University Delegates Network mailbox shortly.

## **2. Spring 2021 Project Grant Competition Results**

Spring 2021 Project Grant competition results were discussed, and results from past competitions were analyzed in comparison to data from the Spring 2021 Project Grant competition. An analysis of Foundation Grant holders’ return to the Project Grant competition was provided.

Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation for additional information on the Return of Foundation Grant holders.

### ***Equalization***

The Chair reiterated that no one was overlooked in terms of equalization. For the Spring 2021 Project Grant competition, CIHR equalized for ECRs and French language applications. It was not necessary to equalize for female applicants in this competition due to their high success rate. Recognizing it can be challenging to understand how CIHR performs the equalization process, CIHR has committed to providing more information at a future UD meeting.

### ***Across-The-Board Cut***

While CIHR remains committed to removing the across-the-board cut, we recognize that removing the cut has important implications for our competitions and the community will require time to adapt. As mentioned previously, the decision was made to delay implementing this change, to ensure that peer review committee members have the information they need to properly assess budget requests, and that applicants become comfortable using the Summary of Progress to clearly contextualize their budget requests. This remains a priority for CIHR and additional information will be provided to the UD Network, as it becomes available.

## **3. Fall 2021 Project Grant Competition**

### ***Fall 2021 Project Grant Competition - Important Dates***

The application deadline is September 15, 2021.

<b>Application Deadline /</b> Date limite de présentation des demandes	September 15, 2021 // 15 septembre 2021
<b>Peer review committee meetings /</b> Réunions du comité d'évaluation par les pairs	November 16– December 16, 2021 // 16 novembre au 16 décembre 2021
<b>Notice of Recommendation (NOR) /</b> Avis de recommandation	January 19, 2022 // 19 janvier 2022
<b>Anticipated Notice of Decision (NOD) /</b> Date prévue de l'avis de décision	February 2, 2022 // 2 février 2022
<b>Funding Start Date /</b> Date de début du financement	April 1, 2022 // 1er avril 2022

### ***Fall 2021 Project Grant Competition Webinars***

Applicant Q&A sessions were held in August and reviewer webinars will be held in October. Coordinators will be providing the information to the reviewers in the coming weeks.

### ***Fall 2021 Project Grant Competition Timeline***

The network showed particular interest in adjusting the Fall 2021 Project Grant competition timeline, noting the timing creates challenges and barriers to participation, particularly for ECRs and female applicants. CIHR is listening carefully to the feedback received regarding the timelines for the Fall 2021 Project Grant competition, and while we will not be extending the deadline for this competition, our current policy is to provide an extension to the deadline under some circumstances with sufficient justification. If you wish to request an extension, please contact us at [support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca).

CIHR commits to examining an alternative schedule for future Project Grant competitions that takes into consideration barriers to participation, including holidays, busy academic periods, etc. CIHR will continue to consider these adjustments while also taking into account how a different timeline model would affect review timelines, and understanding the challenges that doing so could cause. CIHR commit to providing more information to the Network as work advances.

### ***Peer Review***

Peer review meetings for the Fall 2021 Project Grant competition will occur virtually in November and December 2021. Decisions on the future of peer review will be informed through engagement with the community and analysis of feedback received. This includes feedback collected from applicants, peer review committee members and data analyzed from the community survey. CIHR commits to reviewing peer review approaches regularly.

### ***Appendix A: Strategic Funding Opportunities***

A list of recently released strategic funding opportunities can be found at the end of the slide deck.

### ***Appendix B: Funding Opportunities***

A list of recently released funding opportunity decisions can be found at the end of the slide deck.

## **4. Adjournment**

The meeting concluded at 1:25pm. The Chair thanked the Network for their participation. The next meeting of the University Delegates will be deferred by one week. The next meeting will take place on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021.