University Delegates Meeting
April 7th, 2022 – 12:30-1:30pm (EDT)
Meeting Minutes

Chair: Adrian Mota - Associate Vice-President, Research Programs (Operations)
Moderator: Annik Poirier – Manager, BSCMS

1. CIHR Updates

Anti-racism engagement sessions
The Chair shared with the Network information about the work CIHR is doing with its External Advisory Committee on Anti-Racism to co-develop an action plan to address systemic racism across all aspects of the CIHR funding system. CIHR is using a variety of information sources to co-develop the anti-racism action plan. A summary of the findings from an environmental scan on systemic racism, and an update on virtual engagement sessions to refine the draft anti-racism action plan can be found on CIHR's website. A summary of lessons learned from the virtual engagement sessions will be made available in the coming months. CIHR looks forward to sharing its progress towards fulfilling its commitment to removing systemic barriers from CIHR's research funding system.

Reminder: Institute of Gender and Health Scientific Director recruitment
The Chair reminded UD Network members about the application deadline for a new Scientific Director for CIHR's Institute of Gender and Health, closing on April 11, 2022. CIHR is seeking a Scientific Director for a 4-year mandate, beginning January 1, 2023, with the possibility of a second-term appointment. The Scientific Director of CIHR-IGH will provide overall executive direction and scientific leadership for CIHR-IGH, and will champion and support health research, knowledge mobilization, and capacity development at the highest level of scientific excellence.

Reminder: Institute Advisory Boards and Standing Committees of Governing Council
The Network was reminded and encouraged to apply and share information about CIHR's recruitment for members for several bodies, including:

- The Standing Committee on Science: applications due by April 15
- The Standing Committee on Institutes: applications due by May 1
- CIHR Institute Advisory Boards: applications due by May 2

2. Canada Biomedical Research Fund (CBRF)

An update about the Canada Biomedical Research Fund was presented by Roxanne Dompierre, Acting Director, Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat. The CBRF is part of Canada's Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy along with the Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund (BRIF) and both programs will be delivered through an integrated competition in collaboration with the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). CBRF will invest $250M and the BRIF will invest $500M in research infrastructure.

The fund will support three to five research hubs. Research hubs are coalitions of research and research-training actors. A hub's configuration must include:

- organizations from all appropriate sectors (institutional, not-for-profit, private and/or public organizations);
- a multidisciplinary approach to meeting the objectives and responding to the priorities of the Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy (the Strategy);
- demonstrated biomanufacturing research and training capacity, in line with the priorities of the Strategy;

- regional and/or national assets;
- complementarity of strengths and capabilities between hub partners;
- an environment with demonstrated capacity to administer and deliver large-scale initiatives for the hub partners and lead institution;
- a diverse and inclusive governance structure, with sound administrative capacity; and
- a diverse and inclusive scientific team that reflects the strategic vision of the hub.

An open, national call for proposed research projects and related infrastructure associated with the selected research hubs is anticipated for summer 2022.

More information about the evaluation criteria and competition timelines can be found on SSHRC's website. For more information about the CBRF, please contact CBRF-FRBC@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca and for more information about the BRIF, please contact BRIF-FIRSB@innovation.ca

Note: In response to the following question raised during the UD meeting: "Would a university plus affiliated hospitals be considered a hub or one entity?", the Secretariat confirmed following the call that a university plus its affiliated hospital(s) wouldn't be sufficient as this wouldn't meet the requirement for a multi-sectoral approach. Similarly, for the purposes of the BRIF, a university plus an affiliated hospital or other organization would count as two institutions and would not meet the requirement for a hub.

3. Research Data Management

Jeremy Geelen, Senior Advisor, Science Policy Branch, presented information on the Tri-agency Policy Guide regarding Research Data Management. Data Management Plan (DMPs) are living documents that can be modified to accommodate changes throughout the course of a research project. Details about the data management requirements, including for Indigenous research, was provided. The content and length of DMPs depend on the research project, but all DMPs should describe:

- how data will be collected, documented, formatted, protected and preserved;
- how existing datasets will be used and what new data will be created;
- where data will be deposited, and whether and how data will be shared;
- responsibilities and succession plans;
- ethical, legal and commercial constraints.

CIHR will be implementing DMPs through a phased approach and is committed to communicating with all stakeholders regarding DMP assessment and resource development. Members can contact ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@cihr-irsc.gc.ca with questions or for more information.

Note: As follow-up from unanswered questions raised during the UD meeting, the respective responses are presented below.

Q: Rather than PI by PI, would it make more sense to have institutional processes approved and filed? Individual applicants are being asked to add more and more appendages that are not related to the research proposal itself.

A: DMPs assist researchers in proactively establishing how they will manage their data through all stages of a research project and beyond. As such, DMPs are an excellent way for researchers to anticipate and identify opportunities and challenges in managing their data (whether ethical, methodological, financial, or other), before those opportunities and challenges emerge. DMPs, therefore, enable researchers to better adapt their

projects to unanticipated obstacles, and to integrate necessary adaptations and improvements. They can also be an excellent way to engage partners and collaborators in ongoing conversations about how to best manage research data. Thus, DMPs improve the design and efficiency of the research project and belong with the research proposal.

Q: Seems like lots of PIs will be off developing their DMPs, when the objectives and strategies are shared by many others. Is there no way to offer models for best practice to save the effort?
A: The Digital Research Alliance of Canada has developed various resources to support researchers in developing data management plans, including DMP Assistant, DMP Exemplars and DMP Templates. CIHR is exploring using these resources to support our grant applicants and is considering what other resources should be developed.

4. CIHR Policy Guide (WHO Joint Statement on Public Disclosure of Results from Clinical Trials)

The Network received information on CIHR's Policy Guide on Public Disclosure of Results from Clinical Trials, presented by Sharon Cobb, Senior Advisor, Science Policy. CIHR published a Policy Guide outlining existing and new policy requirements for CIHR-funded clinical trials to meet and exceed our commitments under the WHO Joint Statement. These requirements are an important step towards CIHR's commitment to make the results of Canadian health research more accessible, including increased rigor in monitoring open science policy compliance. The release of this Policy Guide signals CIHR's intent, starting with clinical trials, to move towards requiring immediate open access.

As per the new requirements, Nominated Principal Investigators receiving CIHR grant funds for clinical trial research on or after January 1, 2022, must comply with the following practices to remain eligible for new CIHR funding:

Clinical trials must be registered in a publicly available, free-to-access, searchable clinical trial registry complying with the WHO's international agreed standards before the researcher meets with the first study participant.	☑ CIHR-funded researchers are already doing this!
Public disclosure of results must be done within a mandated time frame: • Publications describing clinical trial results must be open access from the date of publication. • Summary results must be publicly available within 12 months from the last visit of the last participant (for collection of data on the primary outcome).	❗ This is new and will be required for trials funded on or after Jan. 1, 2022.
All study publications must include the registration number/Trial ID (to be specified in the article summary/abstract).	❗ This is new and will be required for trials funded on or after Jan. 1, 2022.

CIHR will begin to monitor policy compliance this year, with a review of this process planned for fall 2023. CIHR is available to assist with interpretation of the new Policy Guide, and questions can be directed to the Contact Centre. You can find more detail on CIHR's Policy Guide (Requirements for Registration and Disclosure of Results from Clinical Trials) on CIHR's website.

Note: As follow-up from unanswered questions raised during the UD meeting, the respective responses are presented below.

Q: Wouldn't that also include preprint servers which are free?

A: CIHR requires all clinical trial publications, including pre-prints and peer-reviewed publications, to be made immediately open access (i.e., made freely available online from the date of publication). Preprints can be posted to an online preprint server that offers free and immediate open access on its website. If a preprint progresses to a peer-reviewed journal publication, to be compliant with the policy requirements, CIHR requires grant recipients to:

- Option 1: publish their clinical trial results in an open access journal or in a journal that offers free and immediate open access on its website; and/or
- Option 2: deposit the final, peer-reviewed, full-text manuscript in online repositories (e.g., institutional, discipline or adoptive), in Canada or elsewhere, that are open access.

Please note that these two routes are not mutually exclusive.

For more information, you are encouraged to read about Preprints at CIHR. Sources of additional information include:

- ASAPbio's Frequently Asked Questions;
- This list of preprint servers relevant to life sciences, biomedical, and clinical research with searchable information about their policies and practices; and
- This one-page infographic (2018) entitled, "How open is your preprint?" that explains the range of openness and licensing choices for preprints.

Q: Can open access include "accepted" manuscripts in institutional open repository?

A: Under the "Online Repository" option, the author(s) must archive the final full-text peer-reviewed manuscript (the *post-print*), or the published version where allowable, from the date of publication. The manuscript must include all tables, figures, images and appendices, and generally does not include the formatting or pagination that is included in the journal-published version (the *version of record*). Grant recipients should refer to the journal's copyright and self-archiving policies and/or speak directly with the journal's editorial staff to verify whether they have permission to immediately archive the post-print in order to abide with a funder's policy. To be compliant with the policy requirement regarding publications (i.e., to ensure publications describing clinical trial results are open access from the date of publication), grant recipients can:

- Option 1: publish their clinical trial results in an open access journal or in a journal that offers free and immediate open access on its website; and/or
- Option 2: deposit the final, peer-reviewed, full-text manuscript in online repositories (e.g., institutional, discipline or adoptive), in Canada or elsewhere, that are open access.

Please note that these two routes are not mutually exclusive.

5. Project Grant Competition Update

Spring 2022 Project Grant Competition - Important Dates

Ability to Review opens for reviewers	March 28 to April 14, 2022
Peer review meetings	May 16 to June 10, 2022

Notice of Recommendation	June 30, 2022
Anticipated Notice of Decision	July 14, 2022
Funding Start Date	October 1, 2022

The Chair provided information on application pressure for the Spring competition categorized by committee and on returning Foundation Grant holders. Demographic data was also presented, analyzed by age, pillar by gender, career stage by gender and self-ID groups such as Indigenous identity, visible minority and persons with disabilities.

6. Funding Opportunities

A list of funding opportunities released in March 2022 can be found in Appendix A of the presentation.

7. Adjournment

UD Network members expressed concerns over the amount of information shared during this month's agenda. The UD Support team will work with colleagues across CIHR to bring forward agendas with fewer topics that allow for greater discussion and more time to answer members' questions.

The University Delegates meeting concluded at 1:31 pm EDT. The Chair thanked Network members for their participation. The next meeting of the University Delegates is scheduled to take place on May 5, 2022.

Please reach out to the UD Support team by email, or to a member of the UDAC, with questions or topics for future UD meetings.