

**University Delegates Meeting
March 3rd, 2022 – 12:30-1:30pm (EDT)
Meeting Minutes**

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

Co- Chair: Allison Jackson – Director General, Operations Support

1. CIHR Updates

Introduction of Vice President, Research Programs

The Vice President of Research Programs, Christian Baron, introduced himself to the University Delegates Network. Christian joined CIHR on February 21st, 2022. He had previously acted as a UD member for several years. Christian recognizes and values the importance of the research community and its contributions to improving health across Canada. Christian looks forward to working with the UD network again and participating in future UD network meetings.

Collaborative Health Research Projects (CHRP)

The Chair informed the network that CIHR and NSERC are discontinuing the [Collaborative Health Research Program \(CHRP\)](#) and [will not be launching another CHRP competition](#). Existing CHRP grants will continue with no change in funding levels or duration. Over the last few years, the interdisciplinary and translational research funding landscape in Canada has evolved, and there are now options for supporting this type of research that did not exist when the CHRP program was created.

CIHR has recently evaluated the CHRP program and will take the lessons learned from that evaluation to strengthen our tri-agency funding programs and peer review processes regarding interdisciplinary research. CIHR and NSERC remain committed to supporting interdisciplinary, collaborative health research projects with strong knowledge-user involvement.

2. New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) Special Call: Research for Post-pandemic Recovery

The New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) is a tri-agency program, administered by the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS), which is housed within the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Emma Fieldhouse, Manager, NFRF, presented details of the Special Call to the UD network. The goal is to mobilize Canadian-led research efforts in support of a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient post-pandemic reality. The maximum budget for the direct costs of the research projects is \$200,000 per year, for up to two years with an automatic 1-year extension.

Proposals must be submitted by research teams composed of at least two individuals: a nominated principal investigator (NPI) and either a co-principal investigator (co-PI) or a co-applicant. The evaluation criteria for the program are:

- Interdisciplinarity / Fit to Program
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
- High Risk
- High Reward
- Feasibility

Important dates for the NFRF Special Call:

Notice of Intent deadline	April 26, 2022
Full application deadline	August 9, 2022
Results announced	January 2023
Awards begin	February 2023

More information about the fund, including eligibility, external review and application process, can be found on the [SSHRC website](#).

3. Project Grant Competition Update

Spring 2022 Project Grant Competition - Important Dates

Application Deadline	March 16, 2022*
Anticipated Notice of Recommendation	June 30, 2022
Anticipated Notice of Decision	July 14, 2022
Funding Start Date	October 1, 2022

The Chair provided information on registration data for the Spring competition categorized by sex and primary pillar.

Fall 2021 Project Grant competition funding decision analysis

Demographic data for the Fall 2021 Project Grant competition was presented focusing on the proportion of applications from women, racialized groups, Indigenous Peoples, early career researchers and persons with disabilities, as well as the combination of these groups (e.g., women and racialized group) and comparison across categories (e.g., women by pillar).

4. Future of peer review survey data analysis

The Chair presented data from the future of peer review survey conducted in Fall 2021 about meeting preferences (virtual, hybrid and face-to-face) for peer review meetings. The data were broken down across respondent type (applicants, reviewers, and community) by gender identity, indigenous identity, racialized group, disability status and career stage.

The Chair confirmed that the peer review meetings for the Spring 2022 Project Grant competition will be conducted virtually. CIHR remains committed to coordinating with the research community as work continues to explore what peer review meetings will look like for future competitions.

5. Funding Opportunities

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

6. Adjournment

The University Delegates meeting concluded at 1:29 pm EDT. The Chair thanked network members for their participation. The next meeting of the University Delegates is scheduled to take place on April 7, 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.