University Delegates WebEx Meeting
December 5, 2019 - 12:30-1:30 pm EDT
CIHR Room 10-219, Ottawa, Ontario
Minutes

Participants

Chair: Pierre Côté, Director General, Operations Support

Members:	Chris Whitfield, University of Guelph; Christian Beaulieu, University of Alberta; Costin Anotnescu, Ryerson University; Daniel Lajeunesse, Université de Montréal; Darcy Marciniuk, University of Saskatchewan; David Litchfield, Western University; Gerald W. Zamponi, University of Calgary; Jennifer Copeland, University of Lethbridge; Jennifer McGrath, Concordia University; Kristin Baetz, University of Ottawa; Lisa Porter, University of Windsor;	Marc Pouliot, Université Laval; Marilyn Hodgins, University of New-Brunswick; Roger McLeod, Dalhousie University; Stephen Perry, Wilfrid Laurier University; Steven Smith, Queen's University; Sylvain Baillet, McGill University; Tania Watts, University of Toronto; Tim Takaro, Simon Fraser University; Veronica Bacher, Mount Saint Vincent University; Vicki Kristman, Lakehead University; Yvonne Myal, University of Manitoba.
CARA members:	Deborah Zornes, Royal Roads University (CARA member); Julie Stephens, University of Alberta (CARA member);	Kate Keetch, Fraser Health (CARA member).
Institution staff:	Christy McTait, University of British Colombia (CARA member); Deanna Pong, University of Toronto; Jackie Cooney-Birch; University of Manitoba; Jim Woodgett, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute;	Keeley Rose, Sick Kids Hospital; Leslie Copp, University of Waterloo; Penny D'Agnone, University of Lethbridge; Samar Saneinejad, St. Michael's Hospital.

Regrets:	Ali Jenabian, Université du Québec à Montréal; Allison Sekuler, Research Bay Crest; Andrea Lawrance, Carleton University; Asaf Gilboa, University of Toronto; Brenda Bruner, Nipissing University; Brenda Smith-Chant, Trent University; Brenda Meyer-Burt, University of Saskatchewan; Brian Christie, University of Victoria; Daniel Cyr, Institut Armand-Frappier; David Rose, University of Waterloo; Dawn Whitworth, University of British Columbia (CARA member); Estelle Chamoux, Bishop's Univeristy; François Boudreau, Université de Sherbrooke; Frédéric Lesage, École Polytechnique Montréal; Geoff Payne, University of Northern British Columbia; Heather Duncan, Brandon University; Jeff Ollerhead, Mount Allison University; Jean-François Millaire, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivière; Jennifer Thurlow, Capital District Health Authority (CARA member); Jennifer Walker, Laurentian University; Jeremy Knight, University of Toronto (CARA member); Judith Chadwick, University of Toronto (CARA member); Lara Boyd, University of British Columbia; Lori Burrows, McMaster University; Les Jacobs, University of Ontario Institute of Technology;	Nicole Balliet, University of Northern British Columbia; Pat Jones, University of Alberta; Paul Wiebe, Health Sciences Centre; Peter L. Twohig, Saint Mary's University; Lorraine Deydey, University of Alberta (CARA member); Oksana Moshynska, University of Saskatchewan; PhebeAnn Wolfram-Smith, Lake Head University; Rebecca Pillai Ridell, York University; Richard Isnor, St. Francis University; Robert Bertolo, Memorial University of Newfoundland; Rod McCormick, Thompson Rivers University; Sandra Turcotte, Université de Moncton; Said Mekary, Acadia University; Sébastien Normand, Univeristé du Québec en Outaouais; Sunny Hartwig, University of Prince Edward Island Stephen Waldman, Ryerson University; Stephanie Baello, Ontario Institutes for Cancer Research; Tanya Brann-Barrett, Cape Breton University; Tarun Katapally, University of Regina; Tom Chau, university of Toronto; Tova Dybvig, University of Saskatchewan; Virginie Portes, Université de Montréal (CARA member); Wendy Ward, Brock University.
Staff:	Allison Forsythe, Communications Strategist, Communications; Corinne Guindon, Change Management Lead, Operations Support; Namory Koné, Change Management Advisor, Operations Support;	Jason Reid, Chief Information & Security Officer/Director General, Digital and Security Services; Patrick St-Pierre, Manager, Contact Centre, Operations Support; Jean-Michel Levesque, Manager, Policy and Government Relations;

Adrian Mota, Associate Vice President, Research Programs Tiffany Richards, Lead, Program Design and Delivery; Gilles Leblanc, Change Management Advisor, Operations Support; Joanne Simala- Grant, Subject Matter Expert, Operations Support; Kelly Taylor, Director General, Program Design and Delivery; Marina Dubois, Project Officer, Operations Support;	Paula Kirton, Manager, Program Design and Delivery; Allison Jackson, Manager, College of Reviewers; Nathalie Gendron, Manager, Program Design and Delivery; Nadia Martino, Manager of Contact Centre, Operations Support; George Collier, Senior Partnership Lead, Strategic Partnerships and International Relations; Sandra Shimizu-Herr, Deputy CIO / Manager, Digital and Security Services.

1. **CIHR Update**

University Delegates meeting in January 2020

- The next UD monthly meeting has been moved from Thursday, January 2 to Thursday, January 9th.
- An email reminder will be sent to members in the coming days.

Incoming: Summary of Highlights from UDEC Meeting in Ottawa

- UDEC members are preparing a summary of highlights from their meeting with CIHR in Ottawa, to share their perspectives on the various topics discussed.
- The document is being finalized and will be shared with UD members in advance of the January meeting, where it will be discussed in greater detail.

Incoming: Impacts of the Federal Election on CIHR and the CIHR Budget

- The honourable Patty Hajdu was appointed as new Minister of Health on November 20th. Minister Hajdu has a lot of experience in the field of problematic substance use and we can expect that this will be a priority for her moving forward.
- The House of Commons resumed on December 5. The speech from the throne was delivered by the Governor General that afternoon to provide an overview of the minority Government's priorities.
- CIHR is committed to providing UD members with an update on the potential impacts of the Federal election on CIHR at the January 9 meeting.

Canadian Common CV (CCV) Open Letter
- The CCV open letter, which has collected over 2600 signatures, was sent to the Canadian Research Funding Agencies on Tuesday, December 3.
- CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, and the CCV Board are reviewing it carefully and will post a public response on their respective websites in late December 2019.
- Questions should be sent to CCV Support: support@ccv-cvc.ca.

Contact Center Service Level Agreements

- CIHR's Contact Centre has developed service standards that publicly state when requestors can reasonably expect a response on questions related to CIHR programs and funding under normal circumstances.
- These service standards were updated to clarify response times for various types of inquiries based on a data analysis of past requests, and CIHR is committed to continuously enhancing its commitment to the community by developing, monitoring, reporting, and improving on them.
- More information is available on the new Contact Centre Service Standards web page: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50281.html (en français)
- Questions should be sent directly to the CIHR Contact Centre: support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Programs Updates

See slides for additional information.

- Information regarding the role of Chairs and Scientific Officers (SO) in selecting peer review committee members and reviewers for individual applications, as well as the anonymous review of Chairs and SOs in the Project Grant competition, was provided.
- CIHR clarified the central role that Chairs play in recruiting SOs and reviewers alongside CIHR. Chairs are increasingly interested in standardizing related processes to support this role.
- Details on the peer review process and the roles for the Project Grant competition are available on the CIHR website: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/49807.html (en français).
- CIHR provided publicly available links and clarified the process for funding decisions within the Project Grant competition, including but not limited to the use of percentile ranks, how ties are handled, along with the impact of large grants, bridge grants, and ECR equalization.
  - The specific details available online are from the Fall 2017 Project competition, but the concepts are relevant to more recent competitions, as well: http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50856.html (en français)
- CIHR explained that the review quality assurance (RQA) process for the Project Grant program does not currently include systematic anonymous review of the Chairs and SOs, which would allow peer review committee members to flag any concerns with CIHR staff at the end of each meeting. This occurs more informally between CIHR and committee members, as needed. It was further clarified that this request has been flagged for consideration by the College of Reviewers as the RQA process continues to evolve.

Questions from members

- One member wondered whether peer review committee members are selected from the College of Reviewers.
  - Assuming that expertise is available, appropriate, and reflecting the demand of a given competition, CIHR prioritizes the use of the College membership as a starting point; however, these recommendations are first validated with the Chair. In addition to the current College membership, the agency continues to rely on Chair and SO expertise, recommendations from CIHR's Scientific Directors, and former reviewer lists established by CIHR as part of historical peer-review engagement.
- One member requested an update on the review of the Project Grant peer review committee mandates.
  - CIHR continues to work on the immediate, intermediate, and long-term actions associated with the Committee Mandate work plan and has recently been working even more closely with UDEC members to ensure that UD members are meaningfully involved in options for examining the mandates.
  - In addition to the above noted work plan, CIHR is also examining other Funding Agencies (e.g., NIH) in order to scan for best practices and possible gaps in the current Committee Mandates.
- Another member enquired about CIHR funding decisions and more specifically, about how funding cut offs and early career researcher equalization are managed across committees.
  - During the past two competitions, CIHR has noted that there is some confusion from applicants whose applications were at the funding cut off for a given committee. Given this ongoing challenge, materials

are being drafted and will be sent to impacted applicants for the Fall 2019 competition, with the goal of clarifying the process.

- o In the meantime, a breakdown of the funding decisions from the Fall 2017 competition is available online. The process outlined on the web page will be the same for the current (Fall 2019) competition: http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50857.html (en français)

Data Update

- CIHR announced its plan to publish data on success rates in the open competitions, specifically highlighting how they have evolved over time, and influencing factors.
- Additionally, CIHR will be sharing a modelling application ("Shiny App"), which was developed to support the sunsetting of the Foundation Grant program. This will allow the research community to simulate the expected effect(s) of Foundation grantees returning to the Project Grant program, including potential impacts on success rates in future competitions. Users will be able to adjust a variety of parameters as part of the simulation.
- This information will be released prior to the holiday season. Advance notice will be sent the UD network.

2. European Commission Joint Transnational Calls in 2020 with Canadian Dedicated Funds

See slides for additional information.

- This topic provided an overview of the European Commission's (EC) 2020 transnational calls, which strengthen international collaborations to enable Canadian researchers and decision-makers to participate in international research collaborations.
- Currently supported by *Horizon 2020* – the EUs Framework Program for Research and Innovation – a new program beyond this one titled *Horizon Europe* will be launched in 2021.
- Canadian researchers can apply to the calls (each defined by specific research areas) by following the relevant application and submission processes for each.
- CIHR posts funding opportunities on ResearchNet. Interested applicants should review the site regularly to view the most current list of programs available.
- A total of four (4) webinars will be held between December 12, 2019 and January 15, 2020 to provide further details on the current funding opportunities – including how to apply to joint transnational calls with the European Commission.
- Questions about these calls can also be sent to the UD mailbox (university.delegates@cihr-irsc.gc.ca) or directly to Danièle St-Jean, Advisor with the CIHR International Relations team: Daniele.St-Jean@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Questions from members

- One member enquired about the amount of lead time that will be given to the Canadian research community for a new call posted on ResearchNet.
  - o Given that CIHR must wait for the EC to launch their call prior to releasing theirs, so researchers and institutions are encouraged familiarize themselves with the European calls as a first step.

3. Adjournment
- The meeting ended at 13:15. The next meeting of the University Delegates will be on January 9th, 2020.