

University Delegates WebEx Meeting
April 4, 2019 - 12:30-1:30pm EDT
CIHR Room 10-219, Ottawa, Ontario
Minutes

Participants

Chair: Pierre Côté, Director General, Operations Support

<p>Members:</p>	<p>Ali Jenabian, Université du Québec à Montréal; Andrea Lawrance, Carleton University; Brenda Bruner, Nipissing University; Brian Christie, University of Victoria; Brittney Roughan, Mount Saint Vincent University; Daniel Lajeunesse, Université de Montréal; David Litchfield, Western University; François Boudreau, Université de Sherbrooke; Gerald W. Zamponi, University of Calgary; Jennifer McGrath, Concordia University; Kristen Baetz, University of Ottawa; Christian Beaulieu, University of Alberta; Christian Patenaude, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières; David Rose, University of Waterloo; Josie Reed for Wendy Ward, Brock University; Keeley Rose, The Hospital for Sick Children; Asaf Gilboa, University of Toronto;</p>	<p>Lesley MacNeil for Lori Burrows, McMaster University; Marilyn Hodgins, University of New-Brunswick; Rebecca R. Pillai Riddell, York University; Robert Bertolo, Memorial University of Newfoundland; Roger McLeod, Dalhousie University Sylvain Baillet, McGill University; Stephen Perry, Wilfrid Laurier University; Steven Smith, Queen's University; Tania Watts, University of Toronto; Tanya Brann-Barrett, Cape Breton University; Vicki Kristman, Lakehead University; Yvonne Myal, University of Manitoba; Cindy Faber, University of Toronto; Paul Wiebe, Health Sciences Centre; Angela McCormick, University of Alberta; Pat Jones, University of Alberta; Saad Salim, University of Alberta.</p>
<p>CARA members:</p>	<p>Virginie Portes, Université de Montréal (CARA member); Christy McTait, University of British Columbia (CARA member);</p>	<p>Kate Keetch, Department of Evaluation & Research Services in Fraser Health (CARA member); Lorraine Deydey, University of Alberta (CARA member).</p>

Institution staff:	Deanna Pong, University of Toronto; Leslie Copp, University of Waterloo; Manisha Jalla, University of Saskatchewan; Samar Saneinejad, St. Michael's Hospital;	Nicole Balliet, University of Northern British Columbia; Nicole Kitson, University of Victoria; Penny D'Agnone, University of Lethbridge.
Regrets:	Brenda Smith-Chant, Trent University Darcy Marciniuk, University of Saskatchewan; Estelle Chamoux, Bishop's University; Frédéric Lesage, École Polytechnique Montréal; Geoff Payne, University of Northern British Columbia; Jeff Ollerhead, Mount Allison University; Jennifer Walker, Laurentian University; Lisa Porter, University of Windsor; Lori Livingston, University of Ontario Institute of Technology; Marc Pouliot, Université Laval; Peter L. Twohig, Saint Mary's University; Richard Isnor, St. Francis Xavier University; Rod McCormick, Thompson Rivers University; Said Mekary, Acadia University; Sandra Turcotte, Université de Moncton; Chris Whitfield, University of Guelph; Claudia Malacrida, University of Lethbridge; Daniel Cyr, Institut Armand-Frappier; Cecilia Kalaw, Simon Fraser University; Katrina Salvante, Simon Fraser University; Joanne Simala-Grant, University of Alberta (CARA member);	Sébastien Normand, Université de Québec en Outaouais; Stephen Waldman, Ryerson University; Sunny Hartwig, University of Prince Edward Island; Timothy Takaro, Simon Fraser University; Jeremy Knight, University of Toronto (CARA member); Maria Margarita Heras, University of British Columbia (CARA member); François l'Heureux, Université de Montréal; Sean Parsons, Laurentian University; Deborah Zornes, Royal Roads University (CARA member); Jim Woodgett, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute; Jennifer Thurlow, Capital District Health Authority (CARA member); Stephane Dragon for Lara Boyd, University of British Columbia; Kristina Arseneau, Queen's University; Sanja Obradovic, Ryerson University; Judith Chadwick, University of Toronto (CARA member).
Staff:	Kelly Taylor, Director General, Program Design and Delivery; Martine Lafrance, Manager Program Design and Delivery; Jean-Michel Lévesque, Senior Policy Advisor; Mélanie Tremblay, Project Officer; Marina Dubois, Student; Adèle Blanchard, Lead, Strategic Communications;	Linda McKenzie, Manager, Program Design and Delivery; Annik Poirier, Manager, Business Solutions, Competition Management and Support; Corinne Guindon, Change Management Lead; Gilles Leblanc, Change Management Advisor; Kathryn Barker, Advisor Research Area

1. CIHR Update

University Delegate Executive Committee (UDEC) In-person meeting

- The UDEC met in Ottawa on March 20-21.
- Discussions focused on how the UD's could support CIHR with its future initiatives, notably through its communication and engagement activities.
- The two day session was very productive and covered a variety of subjects.
- A session with Dr. Strong also took place. This was a great opportunity for the UDEC to share their ideas and inputs with the CIHR executive team.
- We value the discussions that took place and look forward to continuing this type of engagement in the future.

University Delegates Annual meeting

- The UD annual meeting will take place in Ottawa sometime during the last two weeks of June.
- We are in the process of validating dates internally. A Doodle poll will soon be circulated to all UD members to identify preferred options and finalize the meeting date.

Questions from Members

Q: It would be nice to plan these meetings a bit further in advance, as I am already away most of the last 2 weeks of June.

A: Thank you for your feedback. We will be as proactive as possible with our planning in the future to allow for timely coordination.

New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) Update

The adjudication process for the inaugural competition was completed and applicants were notified last week.

The results of the competition that was just completed will be made public over the coming weeks.

More details about future competitions, including information about the application process, will be shared as they become available. We invite you to visit the NFRF website for updates: <http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/index-eng.aspx>

Volunteer week – April 7-13

Next week is National Volunteer Week, and we want to take a moment today to extend our thanks to this group for its contributions to CIHR. Your volunteerism is key to CIHR's ability to serve its community.

Programs Updates

See slides for additional information.

Foundation Grant:

2018-2019 competition

Beginning with the 2016 Foundation Grant competition, CIHR committed that, regardless of career stage, the number of female applicants moving forward to Stage 2 would be proportionate to the application pressure at Stage 1. As you can see in this table, females represented 29% of the applicants at Stage 1, and an equal proportion of female applicants were invited to Stage 2 (29%).

Questions from Members

Q: When will the 2019 Collaborative Health Research Projects (CHRP) funding opportunity be announced/posted?

A: It is anticipated that the FO will be published in early May.

Q: What was the across-the-board cuts for the CHRP?

A: The across-the-board budget cuts that take place in the “open” programs do not apply/take place in a Priority-Driven Research competition, such as CHRP.

Q: Has the idea of instituting a cap on grants, to increase grant funding success, been discussed at Science Council? Is there any traction for this idea?

A: While we are unable to provide any information at this time, we recognize that this is a topic of interest for the research community. We will discuss this further internally and explore the option of adding this item to the annual UD meeting agenda in June.

Q: Discussions with various institutions regarding the April 2nd CHRP results identified massive budget cuts (~40%). Why was this done if Priority-Driven fund did not have across-the-board cuts and peer review approved budgets?

A: There are no across-the-board cuts for this program. Any budget reductions for a given project would have come from the peer review committee recommendations, as the members did review and discuss the requested budgets. It should be noted that the amounts provided in the funding decision only reflects CIHR's contribution to the grants.

2. Federal Budget

See slides for additional information.

Questions from Members

Q: When does the leave coverage come into effect?

A: We can expect something in the next fiscal year but we do not have any dates yet.

Q: The increase in CIHR budget since 2010 is roughly 2% per year. I don't think that this covers the increased costs of operating research programs over this period. Is there discussion of this at the highest levels?

A: In the end, this is a political decision on which we have little input. It is important to note that Budget 2018 provided a historical investment in investigator-initiated research.

Q: A major issue is that the Canadian dollar (\$) is much lower than it was a few years ago- which lowers the buying power for reagents many of which come from US.

A: Yes, that is correct.

Q: The increase in 2018 is about 4% so this is good yet not really enough to cover increases in research costs.

A: Yes. While these matters are out of our control, we are aware of and sensitive to the impacts on the research community.

Q: Will CIHR Graduate funding be expanded to include international students going to school in Canada in the future? Or will the new funds be constrained to Canadian/domestic students only?

A: Budget 2019 announced an International education strategy that is intended to support international collaborations and students. More details to come.

Q: Any updates on the development of a common submission portal for grant applications?

A: An update on the grants management solution initiative will be provided to this table as soon as possible.

3. Collaborator PIN Requirement

For the Spring 2019 Project Grant Competition, CIHR updated its application instructions to encourage Project Grant applicants to provide a CIHR PIN for their Collaborators. This allows peer reviewers to view the names of those Collaborators on the participant list within the application. Providing reviewers with this information at the onset reduces the number of instances where a Conflict of Interest (COI) is declared and brought forward to CIHR later on in the peer review process.

As CIHR is considering making the PIN a mandatory requirement for the Fall 2019 Competition, we would appreciate your input to ensure that any potential impacts related to this change are well-known and understood by the agency. Feedback can be sent to the University Delegates (University.Delegates@cihr-irsc.gc.ca) mailbox.

Questions from Members

Q: Does the PIN have to be required for Knowledge Users (KU), or just academic Collaborators? For example, patients and indigenous participants may experience this as a barrier.

A: KUs identified as a Collaborator are encouraged to obtain and provide a PIN.

Q: While the PIN is only a requirement to access Research-Net, the registration process remains a deterrent for US collaborators.

A: Thank you for raising this point. It will be considered in future discussions on the topic.

Q: There is concern that given the growing investment by alcohol and tobacco companies in cannabis-licensed producers, it is becoming increasingly problematic to collaborate with industry on cannabis related studies, including provision of product for clinical trials, point-of-sale recruitment at retail

outlets, etc. Could CIHR clarify if such partnerships – which are common with pharmaceutical companies – are going to be censored and will negatively impact future funding decisions?

A: Discussions on the topic are ongoing and such issues are currently under consideration by CIHR.

4. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 1:15pm EST. The next meeting of the University Delegates will be on May 2, 2019.