

Developing a research program for the North: the CIHR Team Grant Proposal

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Background

- First competition, to be on-going; replaces previous team/group programs [IHRT, CAHR, NET, Group, etc]
- 5 year funding, up to \$2M per team per year
- Global health research initiative development grant [2003-04] → creation of International Network for Circumpolar Health Research

Process

- Two-staged: 212 LOIs received, 50 invited to submit full proposals; 6-16 teams to be funded
- Deadline Oct 3, 2005; notification Jan/Feb 2006; funding starts April 2006?
- Criteria:
 - ◆ Address important health issue
 - ◆ Original, innovative, feasible research plan
 - ◆ Added value of team
 - ◆ Track record of team members
 - ◆ Superior training opportunities
 - ◆ Partnerships

Proposal

Averting Emerging Chronic Diseases in Northern Populations: A Circumpolar Collaborative Research Program

- Primarily north of 60 [includes Nunavik]
- International dimension – but CIHR \$\$ goes to Canadian investigators only
- Chronic disease [CVD, diabetes, cancer, etc] and risk factors [environmental, biological, behavioral]

- Rationale, Background, Objectives – see LOI handout
- Extensive previous collaboration among team members; experience with community-based research in North; existing linkages with northern agencies/organizations
- Timing for international initiatives – CIHR/NIH agreement; NHLBI workshop, International Polar Year (2007)

Research Program

- Theme I: Identifying and Assessing Health Risks
- Theme II: Monitoring Changing Disease Burden
- Theme III: Designing, Implementing and Evaluating Interventions

Theme I:

Identifying and Assessing Health Risks

- Project 1: Inuit Health in Transition Study
 - ◆ Baseline regional health interview and examination surveys
 - ◆ Cohort follow-up infrastructure development
- Project 2: Core Laboratory: Genetic Polymorphism and Cardiovascular Risks
- Project 3: Risk Assessment and Communication of Environmental Contaminants in Traditional Foods

Theme II:

Monitoring Changing Disease Burden

- Project 4: Circumpolar Chronic Diseases Observatory
 - ◆ Tracking disease burden using administrative databases
 - ◆ Developing diabetes and cancer registries for quality assurance and public health surveillance
 - ◆ Monitoring health behaviours and socioeconomic determinants through national surveys
- Project 5: Tri-territorial Congenital Anomalies Surveillance System

Theme III: Designing, Implementing, Evaluating Interventions

- Project 6: Circumpolar Clearinghouse of Lifestyle Interventions
- Project 7: Cochrane Collaboration Northern Site: Northern Adaptation of Best Practices
- Project 8: Community Based Health Promotion Demonstration Projects

Training Plan

- Graduate and postdoctoral fellowships [supplement existing ACADRE programs – missing groups, eg. northern non-Inuit]
- Summer internships/practica in northern health agencies
- International exchanges of scientists, trainees and policy-makers

Organization & Management

- Central coordination – U of Toronto
- Northern regional research units –
Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Iqaluit
- Collective decision making – AGMs of PIs,
Co-Inv, Collaborators and Supporters –
executive committee quarterly meetings
- Internal communication
- Institutional support

Dissemination and Knowledge Translation

- Bibliographic database – ASTIS [AINA]
- Information service outreach –Aboriginal Health Collection, U of Manitoba – support northern researchers and practitioners [based on Kivalliq region model]
- International Journal of Circumpolar Health – special issues and monographs
- Symposia and workshop
- Regional, national, international interactions with policy makers and service providers

Community Participation

- Indigenous peoples' organizations and regional health authorities
- Involvement at both planning and implementation stages
- Consultation activities to-date:
 - ◆ Yellowknife: 3/05 - meeting with local research group – funded PT research assoc; 5/05 – regional “think tank”
 - ◆ Whitehorse – funded PT research assoc – 7/05 presentation to FN Health Commission; regional meeting planned for 9/05
 - ◆ Iqaluit – CMO meeting – 7/05; regional meeting planned for 9/05 [with QIA reps]
 - ◆ Ottawa – 7/05 meeting with ITK, NAHO
- Research capacity development in North – Team Grant will provide substantial support to kickstart and sustain process

What I need from you:

- Individuals as “collaborators” [letters]
- Institutions as “supporters” [letters]
- Contribute to intellectual development of proposal or specific components
- Assist in community consultation process