

University Delegates WebEx Meeting
March 7, 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; Chris Whitfield, University of Guelph; Claudia Malacrida, University of Lethbridge Daniel Cyr, Institut Armand-Frappier; 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;</p>	<p>Stephane Dragon for Lara Boyd, University of British Columbia; 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 Shari Baum, 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; Wendy Ward, Brock University Yvonne Myal, University of Manitoba.</p>
<p>CARA members:</p>	<p>Joanne Simala-Grant, University of Alberta (CARA member); Judith Chadwick, University of Toronto (CARA member);</p>	<p>Kate Keetch, Department of Evaluation & Research Services in Fraser Health (CARA member); Lorraine Deydey, University of Alberta (CARA member).</p>

<p>Institution staff:</p>	<p>Cecilia Kalaw, Simon Fraser University; Deanna Pong, University of Toronto; Katrina Salvante, Simon Fraser University; Kristina Arseneau, Queen's University; Leslie Copp, University of Waterloo; Manisha Jalla, University of Saskatchewan;</p>	<p>Nicole Balliet, University of Northern British Columbia; Nicole Kitson, University of Victoria; Penny D'Agnone, University of Lethbridge; Samar Saneinejad, St. Michael's Hospital; Sanja Obradovic, Ryerson University.</p>
<p>Regrets:</p>	<p>Brenda Smith-Chant, Trent University Christian Beaulieu, University of Alberta; Christian Patenaude, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières; Darcy Marciniuk, University of Saskatchewan; David Rose, University of Waterloo; 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; Keeley Rose, The Hospital for Sick Children 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;</p>	<p>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); Virginie Portes, Université de Montréal (CARA member); Cindy Faber, University of Toronto; François l'Heureux, Université de Montréal; Paul Wiebe, Health Sciences Centre; Sean Parsons, Laurentian University; Deborah Zornes, Royal Roads University (CARA member); Angela McCormick, University of Alberta; Jim Woodgett, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute; Christy McTait, University of British Columbia (CARA member); Jennifer Thurlow, Capital District Health Authority (CARA member).</p>
<p>Staff:</p>	<p>Kelly Taylor, Director General, Program Design and Delivery; Allison Jackson, Manager, College of Reviewers; Martine Lafrance, Manager Program Design and Delivery; Nathalie Gendron, Manager, Program Design and Delivery;</p>	<p>Linda McKenzie, Manager, Program Design and Delivery; Allison Forsythe, Communications Strategist; Corinne Guindon, Change Management Lead; Gilles Leblanc, Change Management Advisor;</p>

1. CIHR Update

University Delegate Executive Committee (UDEEC)

Membership

Eleven (11) self-nominations were received from UD members to the UDEEC. Thanks to all members who submitted a nomination and who participated in the selection process by submitting their vote.

We are pleased to inform you that Dr. Marilyn Hodgins (University of New Brunswick), Dr. Vicki Kristman (Lakehead University) and Dr. Christian Beaulieu (University of Alberta) have accepted their appointment to the UDEEC.

In-person meeting

A reminder that an in-person UDEEC meeting will be held in Ottawa on March 20-21. The agenda will cover a variety of subjects including:

- Project Grant program
- Foundation Grant program
- CIHR Strategic Planning

Members will have an opportunity to discuss these topics with Dr. Strong, who will also confirm his expectations related to the UD Network's involvement in informing CIHR priorities. We are looking forward to engaging with the UDEEC on these topics and to sharing the outcome of these discussions with the entire UD Network – as we work together to address key issues of concern, as appropriate.

Questions from Members

Q: Could we have the list of UDEEC members? Can you confirm that there are some Foundation grant holders on the committee?

A: UDEEC members are identified on the [CIHR website \(en français\)](#):

- Christian Beaulieu, University of Alberta (Foundation Grant holder)
- Lara Boyd, University of British Columbia
- Brian Christie, University of Victoria
- Marilyn J. Hodgins, University of New Brunswick
- Vicki Kristman, Lakehead University
- Jennifer McGrath, Concordia University
- David Rose, University of Waterloo

Foundation Grant holders are identified herein.

Institute Advisory Board (IAB) Membership Renewal Cycle

A number of CIHR Institutes are looking for new Institute Advisory Board members. We invite you to visit our [website \(en français\)](#) for further details. The applications submitted before April 8 will be considered for the 2019 cycle.

Take part in the Canadian Research and Development Classification consultation

CIHR, CFI, NSERC, SSHRC and Statistics Canada are collaborating on the development of the common research classification system. The goal is to help Canada provide consistent, coherent and relevant statistical information about its contribution in specific R&D fields and in overall research and science.

To ensure the proposed CRDC reflects the Canadian research landscape and meets the needs of both the research community and Canadians, individuals and groups are invited to provide feedback. The [online consultation \(en français\)](#) will close on March 22, 2019.

Made-in-Canada Athena SWAN consultations

Canada's greatest potential can only be realized when all people are welcomed into the lab, the classroom and the field. That is why the Government of Canada is taking action to improve equity, diversity and inclusion in the research community.

Recently the Government of Canada announced it would move forward with implementing a *made in Canada Athena SWAN initiative*.

The UK Athena SWAN (Scientific Women's Academic Network) is an internationally recognized initiative that celebrates higher education institutions that have implemented practices to advance EDI in the sciences. Since its launch in 2005, the Athena SWAN initiative has been widely implemented in the UK higher education sector, where it is run by Advance Higher Education (AdvanceHE).

On behalf of Canada's three federal granting agencies, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) is holding consultation workshops in February and March to seek input on a draft Charter outlining the key principles of the Canadian Athena SWAN model. This second tour is a follow-up to a series of workshops held last fall.

Sign up to the workshop of your choice: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Forms-formulaires/Swan-2019_eng.asp [\(en français\)](#)

Programs Updates

Project Panel Mandates Initiative

As some of you may have been engaged on this topic, we have implemented a project that speaks specifically to the evolution of the Project mandates. To date, we have worked with Chairs and Scientific Officers (SOs), to seek feedback about the mandate. CIHR will engage with the UDEC regarding this topic at the upcoming in-person meeting in Ottawa to determine the next steps. We also look forward to engaging more broadly with the UD Network.

Project Grant:

Spring 2019 competition launch

No speaking notes.

Foundation Grant:

2018-2019 competition

No speaking notes.

Questions from Members

Q: What is the definition of a "targeted reviewer"?

A: This is a reference to the number of reviewers that we need for a competition. We are at 70% of that targeted number for Project Grant: Spring 2019 competition. We recruit reviewers based on the needs of the committee.

Q: Will you be able to provide the results for these strategic competitions: 201810MC2, 201809ACR, 201810FFS, 201802JCI?

A: Results for these four competitions are available on the [Funding Decisions Database \(en français\)](#).

Q: When will the Collaborative Health Research Projects next funding opportunity be announced?

A: Last year, we launched it in mid-April and we are looking at a similar timeline this year.

Q: Have the results of the CIHR Gold Leaf awards been announced?

A: Awardees have received their letters signed by the President. There will be an official announcement later this year.

Q: We have heard a rumor that CIHR is discussing policies related to sponsorship of research by cannabis companies - what we have heard is that institutions that are too close to the cannabis sector may face restrictions in receiving CIHR grants. True or not?

A: CIHR does not currently fund any private enterprises directly. Should there be any changes made to current policy these will be communicate to the community.

Budget

Following the announcement of the Project Grant: Fall 2018 results, CIHR has received questions on CIHR's investment in the open competitions, along with questions related to the distribution of funds from Budget 2018.

On March 6, 2019, CIHR published a new [web page \(en français\)](#) to illustrate how CIHR's grants and awards (G&A) expenditures were disbursed in 2017-18. Although the information outlines expenditures for one closed fiscal year, the concepts represent historical trends and foreseen future allocation. This web page was created as part of our ongoing efforts to increase transparency and to better explain our business and processes to the research community.

- With an overall budget of more than \$1 billion each year, CIHR invests nearly 95% of its funding directly in health research activities (with the remaining 5% allocated to operating expenditures).
- CIHR's Grants and Awards (G&A) expenditures are divided into two main categories to reflect CIHR's financial management investment flexibility in its programs: discretionary funding and non-discretionary funding.
- The discretionary funding category supports a variety of programs, including investigator-initiated research (such as the Project Grant program), training and career support, and Institute-led initiatives. It represents the portion of funding over which CIHR has financial management and investment flexibility.
 - For 2017-18, for example, the discretionary funding category represented about 69% of the total G&A expenditures, or approximately \$708.7M.

- Of this \$708.7M, CIHR invested \$551.2M (or 78%) in investigator-initiated research programs, \$128.1M (or 18%) in research in priority areas, and \$29.4M (or 4%) in training and career support.
- CIHR has the authority to determine which programs to support within the discretionary funding category. However, CIHR cannot change the proportion of its overall G&A budget assigned to this category, as the proportion assigned to non-discretionary funding is essentially fixed.
- CIHR's investments through the non-discretionary funding portion of its G&A budget are prescribed by the Government of Canada. As a result, CIHR has very limited authority to use the funding for any purpose other than the one(s) prescribed.
- The non-discretionary funding category of CIHR's G&A budget is divided into two envelopes:
 - Government of Canada Priorities (i.e., Ring-Fenced Funds):
 - Nearly 36% of non-discretionary funding (or approximately 11% of the total CIHR G&A budget) supports strategic initiatives that have been announced in Federal Budgets.
 - Tri-Agency Programs (i.e., Separately Listed Grants):
 - Approximately 64% of non-discretionary funding (or approximately 20% of the total CIHR G&A budget) supports tri-agency programs.

Questions from Members

Q: What is the split between Project and Foundation at this time?

A: The split is currently \$275M for Project (per competition; or \$550M total) and \$110M for Foundation based on the 2018 competition year.

Q: Of the 551M, what is the split between Project and Foundation, assuming the ongoing commitments?

A: Before the 2018 federal budget, CIHR invested approximately \$225M per Project competition (or \$450M total) and \$100M for Foundation. These programs fund multi-year grants, so the split by fiscal year doesn't always work out as cleanly—please see the footnote on the webpage—which is why the donut chart for FY 2017-18 does not divide the investigator-initiated budget into separate programs. (The current investments by program are outlined in the answer above.)

Q: Did the treasury board approval hold up the spending of the extra \$50M?

A: No.

Funds for equipment

Expenses for equipment are eligible and are handled/assessed by CIHR at the program level, after funds have been awarded.

Questions/concerns regarding this topic should be raised to CIHR through the UD mailbox (University.Delegates@cihr-irsc.gc.ca). This will allow us to gain a better understanding of the issue and to ensure that proper steps are taken to address it if required.

Q: Is there a full UD face-to-face meeting scheduled?

A: A meeting has not been scheduled at this time. We will get back to you at a later time to inform you of our decision.

2. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 1:10pm EST. The next meeting of the University Delegates will be on April 4, 2019.