

**University Delegates WebEx Meeting  
November 1, 2018 - 12:30-1:30pm EDT  
CIHR Room 10-219, Ottawa, Ontario  
Minutes**

**Participants**

Chair: Pierre Côté, Director General, Operations Support

Members:	<p>Ali Jenabian, Université du Québec à Montréal;</p> <p>Brenda Bruner, Nipissing University;</p> <p>Brian Christie, University of Victoria;</p> <p>Brittney Roughan, Mount Saint Vincent University;</p> <p>Chris Whitfield, University of Guelph;</p> <p>Christian Baron, Université de Montréal;</p> <p>Christian Beaulieu, University of Alberta;</p> <p>Christian Patenaude, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivière;</p> <p>Claudia Malacrida, University of Lethbridge</p> <p>David Litchfield, Western University;</p> <p>David Rose, University of Waterloo;</p> <p>Frédéric Lesage, École Polytechnique Montréal;</p> <p>Gerald W. Zamponi, University of Calgary;</p> <p>Jennifer McGrath, Concordia University;</p> <p>Keely Rose, The Hospital for Sick Children</p> <p>Kristen Baetz, University of Ottawa;</p> <p>Lara Boyd, University of British Columbia;</p>	<p>Lori Burrows, McMaster University;</p> <p>Lori Livingston, University of Ontario Institute of Technology;</p> <p>Marc Pouliot, Université Laval;</p> <p>Marilyn Hodgins, University of New-Brunswick;</p> <p>Peter L. Twohig, Saint Mary's University;</p> <p>Rebecca R. Pillai Riddell, York University;</p> <p>Roger McLoed, Dalhousie University;</p> <p>Shari Baum, McGill University;</p> <p>Stephen Perry, Wilfrid Laurier University;</p> <p>Stephen Waldman, Ryerson University;</p> <p>Tanya Brann-Barrett, Cape Breton University;</p> <p>Timothy Takaro, Simon Fraser University;</p> <p>Vicki Kristman, Lakehead University;</p> <p>Yvonne Myal, University of Manitoba;</p>
CARA members	<p>Joanne Simala-Grant, University of Alberta (CARA member);</p> <p>Kate Keetch, Department of Evaluation &amp; Research Services in Fraser Health (CARA member);</p>	<p>Lorraine Deydey, University of Alberta (CARA member);</p>
Institution staff:	<p>Jim Woodget, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute;</p> <p>Kristina Arseneau, Queen's University;</p> <p>Leslie Copp, University of Waterloo;</p> <p>Nicole Baillet, University of Northern British Columbia;</p> <p>Paul Wiebe, Health Sciences Centre;</p> <p>Donald Tremblay, Université de Montréal;</p> <p>Drew Gyorke, University of Toronto;</p>	<p>Peter Schwarz-Lam, University of Toronto;</p> <p>Samar Saneinejad, St. Michael's Hospital;</p> <p>Wei Su, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital;</p> <p>Manisha Jalla, University of Saskatchewan;</p>

<p>Regrets:</p>	<p>Andrea Lawrance, Carleton University;  Brenda Smith-Chant, Trent University;  Daniel Cyr, Institut Armand-Frappier;  Darcy Marciniuk, University of Saskatchewan;  Dina Brooks, University of Toronto;  Estelle Chamoux, Bishop's University;  François Boudreau, Université de Sherbrooke;  Geoff Payne, University of Northern British Columbia;  Jeff Ollerhead, Mount Allison University;  Jennifer Walker, Laurentian University;  Lisa Porter, University of Windsor;  Richard Isnor, St. Francis Xavier University;  Robert Bertolo, Memorial University of Newfoundland;  Rod McCormick, Thompson Rivers University;  Said Mekary, Acadia University;</p>	<p>Sandra Turcotte, Université de Moncton;  Sébastien Normand, Université de Québec en Outaouais;  Steven Smith, Queen's University;  Sunny Hartwig, University of Prince Edward Island;  Wendy Ward, Brock University;  Christy McTait, University of British Columbia (CARA member);  Deborah Zornes, Royal Roads University (CARA member);  Jennifer Thurlow, Capital District Health Authority (CARA member);  Jeremy Knight, University of Toronto (CARA member);  Judith Chaidwick, University of Toronto (CARA member);  Maria Margarita Heras, University of British Columbia (CARA member);  Virginie Portes, Université de Montréal (CARA member);</p>
<p>Staff:</p>	<p>Dr. Michael Strong, President  Kelly Taylor, Director General, Program Design and Delivery;  Allison Jackson, Manager, College of Reviewers  Martine Lafrance, Manager, Project Grant Program;  Dale Dempsey, Manager, Foundation Grant Program;</p>	<p>Allison Forsythe, Communications Strategist;  Annik Poirier, Manager, Business Solutions, Competition Management and Support;  Julie Conrad, Manager, Training Awards and Prizes  Nathalie Gendron, Manager, Program Design and Delivery;  Richard Côté, Curriculum Development Advisor;</p>

## 1. Words from CIHR President

- The role of UDs and their level of engagement will be reevaluated with the goal of exploring how this group could be involved in key consultations and how members can be empowered to play a greater role in representing the community's views on key policy and implementation questions.
- Dr. Strong met with UDEC members in person on October 15 and enjoyed the candid conversation. They discussed options for the UD Network, including the possibility of:
  - Expanding the UDEC;
  - Holding regular recurring meetings (face-to-face or videoconference);
  - Assisting CIHR in defining the strategic plan (anticipated release in June, 2020).
- Dr. Strong plans to visit universities over the next few months.
  - Small, focused discussions;
  - Groups and locations will be determined later with the assistance of the UDEC.
- A new initiative, "On the mic with Mike", will generate a series of discussions with CIHR-funded researchers. The objective is to translate the excitement of doing research and engage the next generation of researchers.

Pierre Côté provided additional UD-related information:

Format of monthly meetings will be modified:

- Presentation and other relevant meeting material will be shared in advance of the call;
- Presentations will focus on highlighting key information only – allowing more time for questions and answers;
- UDEC will contact the UD members to get a list of topics of interest;
- Calls will focus on one or two topics, selected based on UD members' topics of interest and any important topics identified by CIHR;
- Topics may also be presented by UD members.

CIHR will work with the UDEC over the coming months to define the future state of UD Network operations in order to ensure that members are engaged in the most meaningful and impactful way. [Terms of Reference](#) will also be reviewed.

*Questions from Members*

***Q: As we are currently reviewing the Project Grant applications, we've learned that the anticipated success rate will remain similar to the last competition whereas there are less applications compared to last Project Grant fall competition. Is this rate acceptable and if not how might it be improved?***

**A (from Dr. Strong):** CIHR wants to engage the UD Network in this discussion. We need to understand if the success rate of any competition is the best metric to use for judging CIHR. We

also need to determine if the appropriate breadth of research is being funded. We must ask whether funding is uniformly distributed across all sectors of our investigators.

***Q: How will you ensure that all universities feel they have had a chance to directly talk with the President to shape the new Strategic Plan?***

**A (from Dr. Strong):** Over the next several months, the CIHR Executive team will be visiting the various universities / regions of the country. These individuals are well equipped to represent CIHR and relay messages. Coordinated efforts to bring together groups from locations that are geographically close to one another are welcome. The President counts on the UD Network to facilitate these efforts.

## **2. CIHR Update**

### General Updates

#### *CIHR Executive Members*

- Dr. Tammy J. Clifford began her appointment as the new Vice-President, Research Programs, on October 29, 2018.
- Dr. Rick Glazier has been named Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute of Health Services and Policy Research. See the [press release of October 9, 2018](#).

#### *College of Reviewers*

- On October 29-30, 2018, the Chairs from CIHR College of Reviewers met here in Ottawa. The following key points were discussed:
  - Holding multiple grants in the Project grant competition;
  - How to improve NPI success rate;
  - Analysis of the success of French applications;
  - Update on reviews of various grant programs.
- CIHR has recently published statistics on the College of Reviewers membership. You can see more details on the [College of Reviewer page on the CIHR web site](#).
- College Institutions Reports should be available in the coming months. Each individual report will provide details about the College membership within your institutions, as well as how your membership base compares with the College member activities and demographics overall.

#### *Questions from Members*

***Q: As a Scientific Officer for the Fall 2018 Project Grant competition, it would have been much easier to access the College to fill in expertise gaps for our Peer Review Committee. When will this be possible?***

**A:** Program Coordinators at CIHR have access to the College member database, as they work with the Chairs and SOs of all committees to fill expertise gaps. The pool of expert reviewers is smaller for some sectors. College recruitment is now focusing on recruiting in these areas.

**Q: Was there a discussion about the Foundation Grant Program's future?**

**A:** Only to indicate that the matter will be presented to the Governing Council in November.

*Tri-Council Fund*

- Program expected to receive final approval by the end of November.
- Official announcement should be made in December 2018.

Program Design and Delivery

Refer to slides for details

*Questions from Members*

**Q: Some of these strategic competitions are very small. How much peer review capacity is taken away from larger competitions such as Project Grant?**

**A:** CIHR closely monitors program delivery costs, both in terms of salary and non-salary resources. Peer reviewers recruited for Investigator-Initiated Research programs are often different than those for strategic competitions.

### **3. Adjournment**

- The next University Delegates meeting will be held on December 6, 2018.
- The Chair thanked everyone for their participation, and adjourned the meeting at 1:21 p.m. ET.