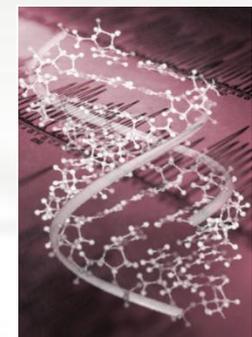




Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes

Programmatic Grants in Environments, Genes and Chronic Disease

**Webinar for Applicants
December 9, 2014**



Programmatic Grants in Environments, Genes and Chronic Disease: Objectives

- To support interdisciplinary programmatic research that improves our understanding of how environment-gene interactions or environment-microbiome-gene interactions contribute to both metabolic and immunologically-mediated non-communicable chronic diseases;
- To support interdisciplinary programmatic research on the etiology of chronic non-communicable disease that may ultimately contribute to the development of new intellectual property, research methodology (including new methods for measuring environmental exposures) and/or approaches for disease prevention or treatment; and
- To build interdisciplinary collaborations and foster Canadian expertise in order to elucidate the environmental and genetic origins of non-communicable chronic disease.

Relevant Research Areas

Four funding pools:

- Environment-microbiome-gene interactions in chronic non-communicable diseases.
- Environment-gene interactions in chronic, non-communicable, immunologically-mediated diseases (e.g. IBD, type 1 diabetes, celiac disease).
- Environment-gene interactions in chronic, non-communicable metabolic diseases (e.g. type 2 diabetes, NAFLD, obesity).
- Environment-gene interactions in chronic, non-communicable diseases related to reproduction, fetal and/or early childhood development.

All applications must be relevant to one of the funding pools, and the research must include *at least one environmental factor and at least one genetic component and how these components interact to contribute to chronic non-communicable disease.*

Funding Opportunity Details

The total amount available for this funding opportunity is \$14M (~7 grants, \$400,000 per year for up to 5 years). This funding is non-renewable.

Of this \$14 M:

- Up to \$2 M is available to fund a minimum of 1 application focusing on the role of environment-microbiome-gene interactions in chronic non-communicable diseases.
- Up to \$2 M is available to fund a minimum of 1 application focusing on chronic non-communicable immunologically-mediated diseases (e.g. IBD, type 1 diabetes, celiac disease).
- Up to \$2 M is available to fund a minimum of 1 application focusing on chronic non-communicable metabolic diseases (e.g. type 2 diabetes, NAFLD, obesity).
- Up to \$2 M is available to fund a minimum of 1 application focused on chronic non-communicable diseases related to reproduction, fetal and/or early childhood development.

The top rated application in each funding pool will be funded, and then all applications in the competition will be pooled together and funded in rank order as far as the remaining \$6 M will allow.

Conditions of Funding

- Applicants who are successful at the LOI stage will be **required** to participate in a **Partners' Forum in June, 2015**.
- The purpose of the forum is to provide opportunities for Applicants and Partners (representatives from voluntary health organizations, private sector organizations and other partners) to exchange information and ideas, with the overall goal of strengthening the full applications. The Forum will also help identify alignment of interests between researchers and Partners.
- To facilitate this exchange of ideas, Partners will have access to reviewer comments and full LOI applications submitted by all Applicants successful at the LOI stage.
- Partners will have access to full applications to conduct relevance review at the Full Application Stage.



CIHR Institute Collaborators

- Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes
- Institute of Aging
- Institute of Human Development, Child Youth and Health
- Institute of Infection and Immunity

External Partners*

- Canadian Association of Gastroenterology
- Crohn's and Colitis Canada
- Cystic Fibrosis Canada
- Heart and Stroke Foundation
- Kidney Foundation of Canada

* INMD is seeking additional partners

Important Dates

Competition	201501EGC (Phase 1: Letter of Intent)	201509ECD (Phase 2: Application)
Application Deadline	January 20, 2015	September 17, 2015
Anticipated Notice of Decision	April 16, 2015	January 29, 2016
Funding Start Date	January 1, 2016	January 1, 2016

Eligibility to Apply

- The Nominated Principal Applicant must be an independent researcher.
- The Nominated Principal Applicant must be registered at an eligible institution.
- The application must include at least **one other** Principal Applicant, who is an independent researcher with expertise in a different discipline than the Nominated Principal Applicant.
- The application must include a New Investigator (within the first 5 years of an academic appointment) and/or a Clinician Scientist as either a co-Applicant or co-Principal Applicant.
- The application must include researchers from at least 2 different institutions.
- The application must align with only one of the funding pools.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Impact of the Research (30%)

2. Originality of the Proposal (25%)

- Value added through a “program” of research
- Evidence of unique inter-disciplinary collaboration(s)

3. Research Approach (20%)

4. Applicant(s) (15%)

- Evidence that applicants will engage researchers from multiple institutions and in different disciplines and
- Integration of New Investigator(s) and/or Clinician-Scientist(s).

5. Environment for the Research (10%)

- Mentoring New Investigators and/or Clinician Investigators;
- Evidence of collaboration involving substantive contributions from all members.



Contact Information

For questions on CIHR funding guidelines, how to apply, and the peer review process contact:

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For questions about this initiative and research objectives contact:

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Perspective of a Researcher

Valerie Tarasuk, PhD, Professor
Department of Nutritional Sciences and
Dalla Lana School of Public Health
University of Toronto

Designing programmatic research

Opportunity to tackle the BIG questions:

- Where does your field need to go?
- What is stopping it from moving forward?

→ core research problem

Critical attributes of the core research problem

- Filling this gap must have benefits that are readily understandable and clearly important.
- Addressing this research problem is a complex task, with multiple dimensions that can be pursued simultaneously
 - i.e., something that could not be accomplished with an operating grant.
- Addressing the problem entails innovation and interdisciplinary partnerships.

Building the research program

- Identification of co-investigators needs to be ***strategic***.
- Each individual who is named should bring unique strengths to the program:
 - e.g., research expertise, relevant research experience, stage in career, ability to facilitate needed alliances, data access, etc.
- In the proposal, the relevance of each investigator should be obvious.

Individual projects within program

- Each project should be necessary to fully address the core research problem.
- The individual projects should be conceptually related and complementary to one another, but non-linear.
- Together, the projects should span disciplines.
- They need to be designed so as to build needed capacity and facilitate knowledge translation.

In the proposal:

Build in ample start-up time for

- Sub-grant agreements
- Ethics submissions and approvals
- Hiring and orientation of new, qualified staff
- Recruitment and orientation of new, qualified graduate students
- Meetings with your co-investigators

And remember:

You will still need time to complete whatever else you were doing before this competition came along.....

Note to PIs:

- You have to write this proposal. All of it.
 - Crafting a connected sequence of conceptually-related research projects means writing a single, cohesive document.
- Only you can recruit co-investigators.
 - Make time, and don't underestimate the importance of this task.
- Accept different levels of investment from co-investigators.
- Free up as much time as you possibly can for this submission.