

Theme /Pillar 1 (Biomedical) September 2010 CIHR OOGP Applications

Most Common Errors Observed in Feedback Received from CIHR

Outlined in this document is a summary of the most common errors found in applications submitted to the September 2010 CIHR Open Operating Grant Program (OOGP) competition by University of Alberta applicants, with a primary designation of **Theme/Pillar 1 Biomedical**. This application pool included 55 new and renewal applications from junior, mid-career and senior investigators. The analysis was derived from the feedback of received from CIHR from both the peer reviewers and the scientific officer. Peer review committees represented include Behavioural Sciences A – Behavioural Studies in Animal Models (BSA), Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (BMB) , Biochemistry and Molecular Biology A (BMA), Biological & Clinical Aspects of Aging (BCA), Biomedical Engineering (BME), Cancer Progression & Therapeutics (CT2), Cardiovascular System B - Basic Translational Research in Cardiovascular Sciences (CSB), Cardiovascular System C - Vascular System (CSC), Cell Biology & Mechanisms of Disease (CBM), Cell Physiology (CP), Clinical Investigation A (CIA), Clinical Investigation C (CIC), Developmental Biology (DEV), Diabetes, Obesity Lipid & Lipoprotein Disorders (DOL), Genetics (G), Haematology, Digestive Disease & Kidney (HDK), Immunology & Transplantation (IT), Molecular & Cellular Biology of Cancer (MCC), Molecular & Cellular Neurosciences (NSB), Movement & Exercise (MOV), Pharmaceutical Sciences (PS), Pharmacology & Toxicology (PT), Respiratory System (RS), Systems & Clinical Neurosciences (NSA) and Virology & Viral Pathogenesis (VPP).

Most Common Errors:

The number in brackets indicates the number of times the error was reported out of 55 grants and only those errors that were reported more than 5 times are listed. The percentage the error occurs in 55 grants is shown in square brackets.

1. Missing experimental details **(26) [47%]**
 - lack of positive control, sample/dose calculation, route of administration, letters of collaboration, explanation of the role of co-applicants.
 - no consideration of pitfalls, limitations of the experimental method proposed, proposal of alternative approaches, or prediction of outcomes.
2. Issues with preliminary data **(20) [36%]**
 - preliminary work not provided to support each aim;
 - quality of preliminary data is questionable;
 - the preliminary data was already published;
 - disagreement over interpretation of data, unclear conclusions, or generalization of results.
3. Lacking grantsmanship **[29%]**
 - The proposal was densely written and not well structured **(10)**; or
 - Issues with the figures **(6)**
 - legends were mislabeled or too long; or
 - too many figures.
4. Relevance of the experimental approach/model/hypothesis to the disease, to the move field forward, or to the health field **(14) [25%]**
5. Low productivity in terms of publications **(12) [22%]**
 - papers that are submitted must be accompanied with proof of submission; recent publications are very important.

6. Incorrect interpretation of data, unclear conclusions, or generalization of results **(11) [20%]**
7. Budget design issues **(9) [16%]**
 - poor justification including poorly defined roles (technician, student).
 - access to resources and scarce funding is ignored.
 - salary for students and post-doctoral fellows was above CIHR guidelines.
 - budget request was too high for the experiments suggested.
8. Lack of novelty **(5) [9%]**
9. Apparent lack of depth of understanding of the research topic **(5) [9%]**
i.e. insufficient attention to the most recent literature in the field.
10. Lack of support for New Investigators **(5) [9%]**
 - New Investigators would benefit from partnering with more senior investigators as co-applicants; no support or mentorship indicated.

Please take the time to fill out this short survey regarding resources found on this webpage. This survey will take approximately 1 minute to fill out. To fill out the survey, please go to the following link:

[University-wide CIHR Special Project Questionnaire about Resources](#)