University Delegates Teleconference
March 14, 2013 – 12:30-1:30pm ET
CIHR Room 10-219, Ottawa, Ontario

Participants

Chair: Danika Goosney, Director, Science, Knowledge Translation and Ethics

Members: Christian Baron, Université de Montréal
Lionel Berthoux, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
Janet Bryanton, University of Prince Edward Island
Lori Burrows, McMaster University
Michael D. Buschmann, Polytechnique Montréal
Noreen Ek (on behalf of Dean Care), Brandon University
Peter Cattini, University of Manitoba
Keith De’Bell, St. Francis Xavier University
Faith Donald, Ryerson University
Réjean Dubuc, Université du Québec à Montréal
Janice Eng, University of British Columbia
Denise Figlewicz, University of Western Ontario
John Fisher, Queen’s University
Lucie Germain, Université Laval
Norbert Haunerland, Simon Fraser University
Michael Hayes, University of Victoria
Dale Keefe, Cape Breton University
Olga Kovalchuk, University of Lethbridge
Joseph Lam, University of Guelph
Richard Leduc, Université de Sherbrooke
Julian Little, University of Ottawa
Marianna Newkirk, McGill University
Lucia O’Sullivan, University of New Brunswick
Michael Owen, University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Reinhart Reithmeier, University of Toronto
David Rose, University of Waterloo
Brenda Smith-Chant, Trent University
Otis Vacratsis, University of Windsor
Helen Coe for Richard Wozniak, University of Alberta
Diana Coholic for Nancy Young, Laurentian University
Gerald Zamponi, University of Calgary

Regrets: Shawn Hayley, Carleton University
Shanthi Johnson, University of Regina
Gerry Johnston, Dalhousie University
Mary Lou Kelley, Lakehead University
Star Mahara, Thompson Rivers University
Jennifer McGrath, Concordia University
Geoff Payne, University of Northern British Columbia
Stephen Perry, Wilfrid Laurier University
Roger Pierson, University of Saskatchewan
Proton Rahman, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Lauren Sergio, York University
Chris Shields, Acadia University
Peter Twohig, Saint Mary's University
Welcome Message

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and welcomed the University Delegates (UDs). A roll call was done, followed by a round table of CIHR staff attending the meeting.

1. CIHR Reforms

Jennifer O’Donoughue, Director, Program Support and Business Transformation, presented an update on CIHR’s reforms.

CIHR Institution Visits

CIHR is continuing its institution visits across Canada. We thank the UDs for their help in scheduling and coordinating these visits. Due to a personal emergency, Dr. Aubin’s visits for this week had to be cancelled and will be rescheduled for the earliest available date.

The Town Hall meetings are going well and the Town Hall presentation seems to be concise and clear. The focus of the discussions at the Town Hall meetings has shifted. When CIHR held discussions with institutions last year to gather input on the proposed design, the focus was about why CIHR was proposing the changes. The current discussions are generally more positive and focused on pilots and transitioning into the new funding schemes.

CIHR’s discussions with administrative leadership have provided us with further considerations towards our approach of the Institutional support requirement. The definition and components of Institutional support are currently under discussion and further information will be provided at the June face-to-face meeting.

CIHR is currently in the planning phases for its pilot projects. Changes to IT systems will be tested through the pilots. Further information and discussions on pilots will take place at the UD face-to-face meeting in June.

A question on how CIHR will accommodate the number of peer reviewers required for each application and how this will improve the quality of peer review was raised. CIHR is committed to monitoring the mechanics of peer review through pilot testing.
A question was asked on how transition timelines will impact opportunities to apply for funding and opportunities to apply for renewals. Further discussions are underway to determine different funding scenarios during the transition period.

A question was raised to obtain clarification regarding eligibility and roles for applicants to the Foundation and Project schemes. An updated list of Questions and Answers will be posted to CIHR’s website by the end of the month.

Annual face-to-face meeting

A poll to obtain the availability of the UDs for the June face-to-face meeting was completed by the majority of the UDs. An email will be sent to the UDs next week to inform them of the exact date of the June face-to-face meeting.

2. SPOR Update

David Peckham, Director, Strategic Program Design and Analytics, presented an update on SPOR.

Since the last UD teleconference, SPOR continues to make progress in its key activities which include the following:

2.1 SUPPORT Units

Feedback on SUPPORT Unit Business Plans

Teleconferences have been held with jurisdictions who have submitted a draft Business Plan to provide general feedback on the plans. As requested by the other jurisdictions, teleconferences have been and will continue to be scheduled to help them in the preparation of their preliminary submissions.

Adjudication Process

The review will be an iterative process and feedback from the panel will provide accountability and assurance that scope, scale and resources are reasonably matched for ultimate success of the SUPPORT Unit.

The expertise of the International Adjudication Panel members includes patient-oriented research, component specific expertise (clinical trials, data management, etc.), SUPPORT Unit-like experience internationally, patient engagement, government perspective and business knowledge.

We anticipate the first set of final Business Plans in the upcoming weeks.
2.1 SPOR Networks

Mental Health Network

The deadline for the Expressions of Interest is April 30, 2013.

To ensure widespread communication across the community, the Partnership Lead, Jacques Hendlisz, is promoting the initiative across the country. In addition, four webinars were held on February 27, 2013 to provide further information on the initiative and answer questions.

Please let us know if you would like Jacques Hendlisz to meet with your institution. His contact information is also available on the SPOR section of the CIHR website (http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/45854.html).

Community Based Primary Health Care (CBPHC) Network

The framework for this Network is still under discussion.

Future SPOR Networks

The Open Call for Expressions of Interest was launched on behalf of the National Steering Committee on January 18, 2013 with the intention of gauging interest and the capacity of existing networks within the community. The call closed on February 28, 2013 with 105 submissions received.

In parallel with this process, a list of priorities is currently being drafted to identify areas that would benefit from a SPOR Network, following a thorough environmental scan of provincial/territorial priorities and consultation with the Canadian public. The priorities emerging from this scanning activity have been synthesized, and circulated to Institute Advisory Boards.

The results of the provincial and territorial and citizen engagement scans and the Expression of Interest call will then be shared with the SPOR Working Group.

2.3 Capacity Building

The CIHR Patient Oriented Research Training and Career Development External Advisory Committee (EAC) created a document with 12 Guiding Principles they felt should direct the development of future SPOR capacity building programs. This document was used to inform discussions at a national, multi-stakeholder workshop held in Ottawa on February 22, 2013.

There were 55 attendees at the workshop which included members of the advisory committee, provincial ministries and health funding agencies, representatives from Faculties of Medicine, etc. A draft report on the workshop is being prepared. The EAC is currently working on reviewing this report and incorporating more specific action recommendations.

It was suggested that a one-page summary update on SPOR activities would be helpful. CIHR will look into providing UDs with a written update on the various initiatives in the future.
3. Open Operating Grant Program (OOGP) Update

Dale Dempsey, Deputy Director, Program Delivery, presented an update on the Open Operating Grant Competition (OOGP) and the Collaborative Health Research Projects program.

3.1 Spring 2013 Open Operating Grant Competition:

CIHR has received approximately 2,150 applications to the Spring 2013 OOGP competition. Once all extensions have been resolved by March 15, 2013, CIHR will be able to provide an exact number of applications. The number of applications received in the Spring 2013 competition is down from a total of 2,330 in the 2012-09 Fall competition and is likely due to a combination of individuals realistically evaluating the competitiveness of their applications and likely some effect from other concurrent funding programs.

CIHR is looking to fund 400 applications from the OOGP funding envelope this round, and additional applications may be picked up under Priority Announcements as in the past. The new Funding Opportunity which encompasses the 2013-09 Fall and the 2014-03 Spring competitions will be launched on the CIHR website this June (the actual launch date is still to be determined).

3.2 Collaborative Health Research Projects program:

The Collaborative Health Research Projects program is co-funded by NSERC and CIHR. CIHR took over the administration of this program from NSERC last year. In the most recent round which ended in January, we received 367 Letters of Intent (LOI) from which 150 full applications were invited to be submitted. Of these, 127 applications were reviewed and 40 applications were ultimately funded. The funding pool for this program is $9M per competition and the maximum term of any grant is 3 years. The Funding Opportunity for this program will be posted on our website by early next week. The LOI deadline for this next competition is May 15, 2013.

3.3 Follow-up from the last teleconference:

The UD network was informed that the data requests regarding the OOGP competition made during the last teleconference are still in progress due to an overload of requests with the Data Production group. CIHR will follow-up with the requestors as soon as the data request has been completed.
4. **CCV Update**

Adrian Mota, Manager, Process Stream, presented an update on the Canadian Common CV (CCV).

In 2012, the CCV directorate identified the need for an external user group which would represent the research community’s perspective on the CCV.

The role of the user group is to provide feedback on the prioritization and design of CCV enhancements, the usability of the application and to participate in user acceptance testing of functionality changes. In December, CIHR asked interested UDs to participate in the user group, there were 9 volunteers from the network and the group currently has over 50 members.

Furthermore, CIHR is currently working to streamline its CV templates in order to ensure that only information that is needed for the peer review of applications is collected. CIHR also continues to work with the CCV directorate to improve the functionality and usability of the CCV.

CIHR continues to collect feedback on the CCV. To provide feedback, please contact: [ccv-cvc@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:ccv-cvc@cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

**Adjournment**

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation, and adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:20 p.m.