University Delegates Teleconference
May 9, 2013 – 12:30-1:30pm ET
CIHR Room 10-219, Ottawa, Ontario

Participants

Chair: Jennifer O’Donoughue, Director, Program Support and Business Transformation

Members: Christian Baron, Université de Montréal
Lionel Berthoux, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
Janet Bryanton, University of Prince Edward Island
Joaquin Ortega (on behalf of Lori Burrows), McMaster University
Michael D. Buschmann, Polytechnique Montréal
Noreen Ek (on behalf of Dean Care), Brandon University
Faith Donald, Ryerson University
Réjean Dubuc, Université du Québec à Montréal
Chihya Hung (on behalf of Janice Eng), University of British Columbia
Bareket Falk, Brock University
Denise Figlewicz, University of Western Ontario

Regrets:

Ranjana Bird, University of Northern British Columbia
Peter Cattini, University of Manitoba
Keith De’Bell, St. Francis Xavier University
John Fisher, Queen’s University
Norbert Haunerland, Simon Fraser University
Michael Hayes, University of Victoria
Shawn Hayley, Carleton University
Shanthi Johnson, University of Regina
Dale Keefe, Cape Breton University
Mary Lou Kelley, Lakehead University
Olga Kovalchuk, University of Lethbridge

Lucie Germain, Université Laval
Gerry Johnston, Dalhousie University
Joseph Lam, University of Guelph
Richard Leduc, Université de Sherbrooke
Julian Little, University of Ottawa
Marianna Newkirk, McGill University
Stephen Perry, Wilfrid Laurier University
Reinhart Reithmeier, University of Toronto
Bernie Duncker (on behalf of David Rose), University of Waterloo
Lauren Sergio, York University
Chris Shields, Acadia University
Richard Wozniak, University of Alberta
Nancy Young, Laurentian University
Gerald Zamponi, University of Calgary

Star Mahara, Thompson Rivers University
Jennifer McGrath, Concordia University
Lucia O’Sullivan, University of New Brunswick
Michael Owen, University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Roger Pierson, University of Saskatchewan
Proton Rahman, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Brenda Smith-Chant, Trent University
Peter Twohig, Saint Mary’s University
Otis Vacratsis, University of Windsor
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.

CIHR welcomed Dr. Bareket Falk from Brock University to the network. As well, CIHR welcomed Dr. Ranjana Bird, from the University of Northern British Columbia who once again joins the network.

1. CIHR Reforms

Jane Aubin, CSO/VP, Research and Knowledge Translation and Jennifer O’Donoughue, Director, Program Support and Business Transformation, presented an update on the changes to CIHR’s Open Suite of Programs and peer review process.

CIHR Institution Visits

Since January 2013, CIHR has engaged with 43 institutions and associations on the design and implementation plan for the new Open Suite of Programs and peer review process. At this time, there are 5 remaining institution visits. The last visit, which is a combined visit with McMaster and Brock Universities, will take place on June 24, 2013. Both the town halls and meetings with administrators at each institution have been going well.

Much of the conversation has shifted from why CIHR is proposing the changes to how it will affect the community and individual researchers. The discussions are generally more positive and the research community is looking for more details on the funding schemes and adjudication process in order to prepare for the implementation.

Concerns have been expressed at the institution visits with respect to virtual review, institutional support, the mechanics behind ranking and how it will work, and not only new/early career but mid-career researchers. Further discussions on these topics will take place at the face-to-face UD meeting in June.

CIHR continues to work with institutions to define the Institutional support requirement. Through our discussions, CIHR is clarifying that Institutional support is not about matching CIHR funding, which has alleviated some of the concerns with administrative leaders however CIHR recognizes that further discussion is warranted and will take place over the coming months.
Questions are also being asked around how different kinds of applicants (i.e. team members, co-applicants, etc.) will be eligible/recognized in the new funding schemes. This will be further discussed at the face-to-face meeting.

Face-to-face meeting

The UDs will be gathering in Ottawa on June 27, 2013 for the annual face-to-face meeting.

In preparation for this meeting, a draft agenda was circulated for feedback. The UDs proposed additional topics for consideration including:

- Functionality of the College of Reviewers (IT solutions, the number of reviewers required per application).
- Membership to the College of Reviewers and the quality of the review.
- How members of the final face-to-face committee are selected
- The evaluation of the reforms
- Information around Co-PIs and how budgets will be divided.
- Biosketch

The UDs were reminded to confirm their attendance by May 17, 2013. The UDs also noted that they would like to get together for dinner the night before the meeting. CIHR will make a reservation on behalf of the UDs and details will be circulated closer to the meeting date.

Other

An updated list of reforms-related Questions and Answers will be posted to CIHR’s website once available.

To ensure accuracy and clarity of the monthly discussions, it was recommended that the UD Executive Committee review the monthly teleconference summaries.

2. Update on Signature Initiatives

Jonathan Faulkner, Manager, Strategic Investment Planning and Reporting, presented an update on CIHR’s Signature Initiatives. Since the UD call in November 2012, progress continues to be made on the Signature Initiatives.

Key highlights

- Personalized Medicine

  - On March 26, 2013, The Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State Science and Technology, announced the results of the $150-million genomics and personalized health competition, a Genome Canada-CIHR partnership.

  - Seventeen projects in total have been approved for funding, each valued in the range of $3 million to $13 million. The projects will be spearheaded by some of Canada’s top researchers and leading teams at academic institutions in Quebec
(eight projects), Ontario (four projects), Alberta (one project) and British Columbia (four projects).

- **Evidence Informed Healthcare Renewal (EIHR)**
  - The EIHR Portal has been established – a continuously updated repository of policy-relevant documents that address ‘healthcare renewal’ in Canada. [http://www.mcmasterhealthforum.org/eihrportal](http://www.mcmasterhealthforum.org/eihrportal)
  - Healthcare Renewal Policy Analysis – Funding Opportunity was launched in April 2012 and attracted the participation of all 13 Provincial/Territorial Ministries of Health and the European Observatory. A total of 12 grants have been funded by CIHR.

- **Community Based Primary Health Care (CBPHC)**
  - CBPHC Team Grants – A total of 12 grants have been funded. The overall funding announced is approximately $30M. International partner contributions are still being confirmed.

- **Canadian Epigenetics, Environment and Health Research Consortium**
  - The results for the Canadian Epigenetics, Environment, and Health Research Consortium teams are posted on CIHR’s website. The overall funding announced is approximately $8.6M.
  - The results for and Japan-Canada Epigenetics of Stem Cells Team Grants have been communicated with the applicants and the official announcement is expected in the coming weeks.

- **Inflammation in Chronic Disease**
  - The Team Grant: Health Challenges in Chronic Inflammation Initiative funding opportunity was launched in July 2012 and the 27 approved LOIs (available on the web) are working towards the October 2013 full application deadline.

- **International Collaborative Research Strategy for Alzheimer’s Disease (ICRSAD)**
  - The Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA) was launched on March 28, 2013, with Expressions of Interest due on May 21, 2013. A partner forum will be held at the end of August.
  - The vision of the CCNA is to bring together the best of Canadian research in the field of neurodegenerative diseases affecting cognition to work on bold, innovative and transformative research that will improve the quality of life and the quality of services for patients and their caregivers.

- **Pathways to Health Equity for Aboriginal Peoples**
  - The Pathways initiative, which was officially launched in June 2012, will be rolling-out its core funding opportunities in the coming months.
• Strategy on Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR)
  ○ SPOR continues to make progress on the activities discussed at the March UD Call.

3. SPOR communications to the research community

Jeff Latimer, the new Director of Platforms and Major Initiatives introduced himself to the delegates.

Stacey McKinnon, Engagement Lead presented an outline of the draft revised content for the SPOR website. The delegates provided feedback on the proposed content for the website that would benefit and provide clarity to the research community on SPOR initiatives.

VARIA

Concerns were raised regarding the Canadian Common CV (CCV). An E-Alert was issued on April 22, 2013 outlining changes that were made to the Common CV.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the CCV, please contact ccv-cvc@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Adjournment

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