Updates: Pierre Côté

- Dr. Strong, incoming CIHR President, officially started October 1, 2018. There have been several introductory meetings that have “gone back to the basics”. Dr. Strong has conveyed desire to maximize health research to improve people’s lives. [http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51173.html](http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51173.html)
- Dr. Strong will meet with UDEC on October 15.
- Dr. Tammy J Clifford is replacing Anne Martin Matthews as Vice President Research Programs (note title has changed from Chief Science Officer, but no change in role or responsibilities). See announcement here: [https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2018/10/dr-tammy-j-clifford-appointed-cihr-vice-president-research-programs.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2018/10/dr-tammy-j-clifford-appointed-cihr-vice-president-research-programs.html)
- Gold Leaf Prize reminder to nominate by October 10th – deemed highest honor that can be bestowed on an individual or team for excellence in health research [http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/27894.html](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/27894.html)
- Tri-Agency Fund Update – Budget 2018, 65$M ongoing fund to support high risk, interdisciplinary, international, and groundbreaking research. CRCC proposed funding design, shared for consultation in August (online, working groups); goal is to harmonize research across agencies and CFI, as well as the Minister of Health and Minister of Innovation, Science, & Economic Development. Originally proposed two streams (1) proof of concept projects; (2) larger projects. There is no access to money right away – need to submit Treasury Board submission to Minister’s office – if approved, then can start spending. Meeting planned for November 29 for the Treasury Board submission. CIHR has “really heard from the community” in the consultations. Plan is to spend money in 2018-19 – anticipate launch as early as December. Some elements of design cannot yet be shared because it is not yet approved.
  - Committee heard that funds should address substantive needs – to fund interdisciplinary, high-risk research, to give Canadians opportunities to conduct international research
  - Asked to clarify key concepts and priorities (what is meant by “high-risk, transformative, interdisciplinary etc.)
  - Asked to change the “review culture” – need reviewers to be trained to review this type of proposal (blind review? International members?)
  - Steam 1 was originally <1$M, Stream 2 up to 20$M – asked to reconsider these funding amounts; CIHR received “lots of good feedback”, especially to encourage ECI/ECR participation
  - How to shape special calls? Wondered if they should use advisory bodies? But community recommended more bottom-up approaches to identify emerging trends. CIHR is striving to find correct balance.
  - CIHR will soon share the consultation report, after is has been approved.
  - Be prepared, there could be something happening very soon (early December) – there will be calls to be on the lookout for.
  - Governing Council – Appointment opportunities, looking for applications from diverse and talented individuals. [http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/38103.html](http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/38103.html)
- Planned online interruptions – 6pm Eastern Oct 6 to 2pm East Oct 7 – Website, CCV, Vanier website. BUT your favorite ResearchNet will be available for your Thanksgiving Holiday. ResearchNet not available Oct 16 (10-4pm?). [http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/193.html](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/193.html)
- UD requested sharing of meeting minutes more efficiently and quickly. CIHR will now provide minutes within 3 days after the meeting (English; French to follow within 1 week).
- **Q** – Takes time to put together international funds, will the short timeline of TriCouncil fund meet intended goals? **A** – We take this seriously and we are thinking about what we can share to help

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researchers prepare. We hope short timeline will still allow you to meet goals. CIHR is looking at different approaches and which “streams” could be more conducive for this short timeline approach. It will be structured to meet goal of fund.

- Q – Will this TriCouncil fund exist every year? A – Yes, there will be “things every year”, but it might not be all of the streams. CIHR has heard the need to focus.

Project Update Martine Lafrance

- Fall competition has 2498 applications received; slight reduction compared to Spring 2018 (5%; n=2633) and Fall 2017 (n=3415).
- 59 Peer Review Committees, 58 + 1 Iterative for Indigenous; Plan 50% streamlining
- 918 reviewers have accepted participation; several reviewers have not yet responded to invitation; Nearly all committees have core membership established (core = expertise according to committee mandate); Additional recruitment of members is aimed at filing specific gaps of expertise (sensitive to applications received) – this is underway
- Assignment of applications will be open to reviewers on October 11 – to identify conflicts; assignment will be released in staggered fashion relative to committee meeting date; all reviewers will have 4-5 weeks to review applications. Aim to have maximum of 8 applications per reviewer, to extent possible.
- Notice of Decision planned for January 23rd
- 7 info sessions planned for reviewers – these start Oct 9 to Oct 31; Registration open online (reviewers sent links directly)
- Chairs Meetings held in Ottawa to review role and responsibility of Chairs and to ensure consistency across many key topics (ethics, sex/gender, etc).
- Q – How are proportions of EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) being considered? A – Currently, calculating baseline rates and plans are under consideration with the Treasury Board. Have established targets for EDI, approved by Treasury Board. Need to create baseline and can then share information about where CIHR is going with it – this allows them to get additional money. (This is nearly verbatim answer by CIHR.)
- Q – Is information asked of applicants in the application about the reason for the choice of committees helping with review committee assignment? A – Yes, but applicant is asked to provide as much information as possible to help make decision. The summary of proposal is also key source for essential information to determine if applicant matches committee mandate.
- Q – I have heard that several SOs have not be invited back to ensure diversity. A – No, this is not necessarily the case. We are sensitive to good balance (gender, language). F-up Q – Is there a policy on rotation? A – No, there is no policy. But, we are reviewing what was previously done in OOGP. Establishing membership unique to each application cycle focus application-centric review was used in the Reforms. We are currently looking at recreating standing committees with possible implementation in the next competition. Want to have good balance between consistency and responsive expertise.
- Q – Can you share link for Peer Reviewer webinars? A – Unsure if these are open to the public or if they are closed only for Peer Reviewers. CIHR will look into this.
- Q – Will Foundation grant holders be able to apply for TriAgency Fund? A – Good question. This is one of the topics we are currently finalizing with NSERC and SSHRC. Great question.

Research Data Management Alison Bourgon

- Draft Policy for Data Management (June to Sept had been open for consultation) – aims to facilitate sound data management, plans, data deposit, and data stewardship. Working with NSERC and SSHRC to identify potential changes over the Fall. Will review and revise in spring.
- Proposed policy suggests a phased approach to implementation.

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- Launch of CIHR Research Data Management Learning Module – tools, resources for effective data management practices. Designed in anticipation of the upcoming policies for data management plans. Meant to be a complement to TriAgency digital data management. Canadian Association of Libraries & PORTAGE were extremely helpful. [http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/49938.html]

Foundation Update Aaron Jackson
- As of September 19th deadline, 216 full application (237 registrations had been received)
- Sufficient reviewer pool secured; released Stage 1 conflict-of-interest task
- Options being considered given low pressure
- Foundation Review Working Group will present(?) information November 4
- Funding envelope is still a combined pool between project and foundation – so no exact numbers as to split yet

Strategic Update Martine Lafrance
- Several updates announced – HIV AIDs & STD/STIs; (no information posted on slides – no links provided in chat – difficult to hear these); deadlines announced all in November range
  o Catalyst Grant: SPOR Innovative Clinical Trials (The Strategy for Patient Oriented Research)
    Application deadline: November 14, 2018
  o Other: Centres for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and other STBBIs Research (The HIV/AIDS Research Initiative with strategic leadership from the CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity, the Institute of Indigenous Peoples’ Health, the Institute of Population and Public Health and the Institute of Health Services and Policy Research) Application deadline: December 11, 2018
  o Other: Indigenous Gender and Wellness: Idea Fair and Learning Circle (CIHR’s Institute of Gender and Health, Institute of Indigenous Peoples’ Health and Institute of Population and Public Health) Application deadline: November 8, 2018
  o Team Grant : Canadian Microbiome Initiative 2: Research Teams (The CIHR Roadmap Accelerator Fund under the scientific leadership of the Institute of Genetics, Institute

- Results Presented:

- Q New information about GMS and Research Portal changes available? A – Yes, there was presentation made to 3 Presidents – proposal and announcement will be made really soon. Approved to go in with Tri-Agencies. There will soon be a nomination to the new executive to be in charge of the project. “It is a go to go forward with one project. It will mean one research portal.” Will soon announce what this means and the consultation process.

Next UD meeting: November 1, 2018

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