Agenda

- CIHR’s funding programs
- CCV re-structuring
- CIHR’s Gender Equity Strategy
- CIHR funding policy updates
- College of Reviewers
- Contact Centre
CIHR’s funding programs
Project Grant Program

2016 CIHR Project Grant Recipient
Dr. Juliet Ho, University of Manitoba
Project Grant Program Overview

• The Project Grant program is about funding ideas with the greatest potential for important advances in health.

• The Project Grant program is meant to ensure that there are opportunities for applicants from all disciplines to bring forward proposals from all areas of health research or knowledge translation.

• The focus is on creativity, originality and potential Impact.

The success rate for Early Career Investigators (ECIs) will be equalized. This means that the proportion of ECIs funded will equal the proportion of ECI applicants.
Fall 2017 Project Grant competition updates

Fall 2017 Project Grant competition is well underway with an anticipated Notice of Decision on January 23, 2018. The competition is marked by significant changes to its design and delivery, many of which were announced on July 10, 2017.

Committees were reintroduced to the Fall 2017 Project Grant review process. These include: Randomized Control Trial (RCT), Commercialization, and Indigenous Health committees.

The Chairs and Scientific Officers will work with CIHR to ensure that the appropriate expertise is available to evaluate all applications, including the multidisciplinary ones, in any given committee.
Based on the adjudication criteria (which remain unchanged), each application will be rated by three reviewers on a scale of 0.0 to 4.9, with 4.9 being the highest possible.
Fall 2017 Project Grant competition (in progress)

- **3419 applications submitted:** September 15, 2017
- **Face-to-face discussions in progress (65 committees):** November 14 to December 14, 2017
- **Anticipated Notice of decision:** January 23, 2018
## Fall 2017 Project Grant review process
### Adjudication scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outstanding</strong></td>
<td>4.5 – 4.9</td>
<td>The application excels in most or all relevant aspects. Any short comings are minimal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excellent</strong></td>
<td>4.0 – 4.4</td>
<td>The application excels in many relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Certain improvements are possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Good</strong></td>
<td>3.5 – 3.9</td>
<td>The application excels in some relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Some improvements are necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fair</strong></td>
<td>3.0 – 3.4</td>
<td>The application broadly addresses relevant aspects. Major revisions are required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poor</strong></td>
<td>0.0 – 2.9</td>
<td>The application fails to provide convincing information and/or has serious inherent flaws or gaps.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Timelines for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 Project Grant competitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Fall 2017</th>
<th>Spring 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration deadline</td>
<td>August 15, 2017</td>
<td>February 6, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application deadline</td>
<td>September 15, 2017</td>
<td>March 6, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated Notice of Decision</td>
<td>January 23, 2018</td>
<td>July 10, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding start date</td>
<td>April 1, 2018</td>
<td>October 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Foundation Grant Program

2016-17 Foundation Grant Recipient
Dr. Mohan Babu, University of Regina
Foundation Grant overview

• The Foundation Grant program is designed to contribute to a sustainable foundation of health research leaders, by providing long-term support of innovative, high-impact programs of research.

• This is an opportunity for top Canadian scientists to focus on what they do best – innovate, create and advance science.

• This program is about funding on the promise of innovative vision for the future based on an outstanding track record.

A working group has been put together to look at all aspects of the Foundation Grant program and to make recommendations about the best way forward.
2017-2018 Foundation Grant competition updates

Reminder: ECIs are no longer eligible to apply to the program.

Review process for the current competition will be the same as the previous competition, with no changes to the program for the 2017-18 competition.

CIHR expects to fund approximately 40 Foundation grants in the 2017-18 competition.

CIHR will ensure that the proportion of women moving to stage 2 is in line with the proportion of women applying to the program.
2017-2018 Foundation Grant review process

STAGE 1
Caliber of the Applicant, and Vision and Program Direction

- Match application to reviewers
- Submit Stage 1 Application
- Complete Stage 1 Remote Review

Caliber of the Applicant (75%)
  • Leadership (25%)
  • Significance of Contributions (25%)
  • Productivity (25%)

Vision and Program Direction (25%)

STAGE 2
Quality of the Program, and Quality of the Expertise, Experience and Resources

- Match application to reviewers
- Submit Stage 2 Application
- Complete Stage 2 Remote Review

Quality of the Program (50%)
  • Research Concept (25%)
  • Research Approach (25%)

Quality of the Expertise, Experience and Resources (50%)
  • Expertise (20%)
  • Mentorship and Training (20%)
  • Quality of Support Environment (10%)

Budget

STAGE 3
Final Assessment

- Complete Stage 2 Remote Review
- Complete Final Assessment

The committee is responsible for integrating the result of the Stage 2 reviews, with a focus on assessing applications that fall into the “grey zone” (i.e., applications that are close to the funding cut-off, and which demonstrate a high degree of variance in individual reviewer rankings).

Separate Interdisciplinary Committee

Selection
**Timeline for the 2017-2018 Foundation Grant competition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Dates</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Deadline</td>
<td>August 8, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Deadline – Stage 1</td>
<td>September 12, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated Notice of Decision – Stage 1</td>
<td>December 7, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Deadline – Stage 2</td>
<td>February 6, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated Notice of Decision – Stage 3</td>
<td>July 17, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Start Date</td>
<td>July 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vanier CGS and Banting PDF updates

Official Announcement of the 2016-17 competition results

The 2016-17 class of Vanier/Banting recipients were recognized by Minister Duncan at an event held at Memorial University on September 14, 2017 that coincided with the beginning of the new academic year. A news release was also published for this official announcement.
Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS) updates

Changes to Nomination Package

1. Personal Leadership Statement

   The *Description of Leadership and Communication Skills* and *Special Circumstances* documents have been combined into a *Personal Leadership Statement*.

2. Additional Leadership Reference Letter

   Two letters of reference, rather than just one, are now required for the Leadership criterion.
Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships (PDF) updates

Amendment to binning process during adjudication

The proportion of applications that reviewers assign to the middle bin has been increased to 50%, while the percentage to the bottom bin has been reduced to 20%.
Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral (CGS-D) program harmonization: External consultation

- Organized groups such as the C-TACC will be consulted on relevant topics.
- Additional stakeholders such as deans and administrators of Graduate Studies (including SLOs), supervisors of graduate students, current or recent award holders, and merit reviewers will also be consulted.
- Meetings with key stakeholder groups and/or sub-groups will be held to enable consultations on relevant design elements.
CIHR unveils new vision for health research training

• What will success look like?

“The development of scientific, professional, and organizational leaders within and beyond the health research enterprise.”

• What are the hallmarks of this new vision?

Future trainees will be interdisciplinary, capable of making use of advanced technologies and able to apply their talent across different sectors of Canada’s knowledge-based economy.
Future trainees must be experts in critical priority areas

- CIHR aims to help ensure that trainees are equipped with specialized expertise in the following areas:
  - Data-intensive research
  - Health professional science
  - Research with and by Indigenous Peoples
  - Entrepreneurial skills
  - Patient-oriented research
CIHR will help trainees get there!

- CIHR has unveiled a new research training website where trainees can find helpful tools on the “Career Hub,” like training modules and the newly developed CIHR Individual Career Development Plan (IDP).

- **What is the IDP?**

  - The IDP is a tool that helps trainees take control of their careers by giving them a framework to use when talking to their supervisors about exploring career paths, establishing career goals, and identifying skills gaps and ways to fill them.
Encourage your researchers and trainees to visit the new website today!

### CIHR's Strategic Action Plan on Training

- Since 2007, CIHR has invested **$1.7B** to support health researchers training.
- In 2015-16, CIHR invested **$168M** in training the next generation of researchers.
- In 2015-16, CIHR awarded **1,705** training awards in diverse health research areas in Canada or abroad.

- CIHR embraces a multi-pronged approach to health research training.
- Since 2007, CIHR has more than doubled its support for health research trainees.
- CIHR Institutes have been at the forefront of training innovation within their communities.

- CIHR is committed to making important investments in health research training.
- CIHR invests ~ **$54M/year** through direct awards to trainees in diverse health research areas in Canada and abroad.
- CIHR invests ~ **$114M/year** to indirectly support trainees through stipends paid off of operating grants and strategic training programs.

- Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) for Masters and Doctoral students (including the Vanier-CGS).
- Fellowship programs for postdoctoral fellows (including Banting).
- Awards in targeted areas (e.g., Fellowship in Epigenetics, Fellowships within the Clinical Trials Networks in the U.S., etc.).
Encourage your researchers and trainees to visit the new website today!

### CIHR Individual Career Development Plan (IDP) Form

**Student Name:**

**Program:**

**Year:**

**Supervisor(s):**

#### Section #1 – The Self-Assessment

1. Complete the following table by indicating how much time you have spent on the following activities throughout the past year, and how much time you would like to spend on them next year. (5= a lot of time, 4=quite a bit of time, 3=some time, 2=little time, 1=no time)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill Category</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>This Year</th>
<th>Next Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Skills</td>
<td>Developing discipline-specific technical/research skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statistical analysis and data interpretation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing and preparing grants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing scientific reports/journal articles/book chapters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>Giving presentations, presenting posters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communicating with a mentor or supervisor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teaching/TA, developing course material and lesson plans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal Skills &amp; Networking</td>
<td>Attending professional and career development workshops/seminars</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attending research conferences, symposiums</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Networking within your academic program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Networking outside your academic program</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Transferable Skills</td>
<td>Assuming leadership positions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Budget management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Big picture thinking and planning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Managing shifting goals and projects</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Decision making and informed risk taking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Team and relationship management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Job searching, CV building, interviewing</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CCV re-structuring
Re-structuring of the Canadian Common C.V. (CCV)

- The Canadian Common C.V. (CCV) is a web-based application whose purpose is to provide Canadian researchers with a single window for inputting CV information, namely to support the submission of funding applications.

- The research community has raised concerns about the CCV. The CCV Board of Directors is taking steps to address these.

- There has been a reorganization within the CCV Secretariat to better align activities to meet the ongoing maintenance activities and the modernization project.
Re-structuring of the Canadian Common C.V. (CCV)

- The modernization of the CCV will lead to greater harmonization of approaches, greater interoperability of systems, reduced governance redundancy, and better coordinated consultation activities with our stakeholders.

- As the modernization process proceeds, there will be involvement and opportunities for consultation by researchers and funding bodies implicated.
CIHR’s Gender Equity Strategy
Gender Equity Strategy

Scope
To ensure equitable access to CIHR funds based on the following variables:

- **Gender**
- Career Stage
- Official Languages
- Indigenous Identity
- Size and Location of the Institution

CIHR’s Approach

- Identify **what** gender inequities or differences exist.
- Locate **where** they exist (i.e., which programs).
- Explore **why** these gender differences exist in CIHR funding programs
Gender Equity Framework

CIHR has released two sets of data related to gender equity in our funding programs. These analyses **stem from CIHR’s Equity Strategy**.

Gender differences were identified in success rates, amounts of funding requested, and in the health research enterprise. In response, CIHR developed the Gender Equity Framework.

Next steps will be to conduct more detailed assessments of competition data to determine why the inequities or differences exist in the competition success rates of certain programs.

These analyses will support evidence-based approaches to fostering equity in all of our programs and policies.
Developed and implemented an unconscious bias training module for peer reviewers.

- Estimated 256/290 reviewers/chairs completed the gender bias training and the majority of respondents (94%) reported the training module as being useful.

Committed to proportionately equalize the number of female applicants moving from Stage 1 to 2 in the Foundation Grant program.

- CIHR did not need to intervene to ensure proportionate success rates in the 2016-17 Foundation Grant competition.
CIHR funding policy updates
CIHR’s Grants and Awards Guide renewal project

Objectives

- To improve access, understanding and adaptiveness of the policies that govern CIHR grants and awards administration.

Approach

- Standardize the information in the Grants and Awards Guide into formal policy instruments (similar to the structure of Treasury Board Policies);
- Develop descriptive policy elements that strengthen understanding and inform decision-making;
- Replace overly prescriptive rules with higher level requirements that can be applied more flexibly in today’s complex health research environment.

Impact

- CIHR’s new Funding Policy Suite is expected to be published in Fall/Winter 2017.
- Impact will be minimal - no significant changes to existing requirements.
Recent funding policy changes/impact

Nominated Principal Applicant eligibility

New stipulation (effective September 2017)

A Nominated Principal Applicant living abroad (trainees excepted) must have their substantive role in Canada for the duration of the grant. Substantive role generally refers to the individual’s primary place of employment or primary appointment.

Previous stipulation

NPA must spend 6 months per year in Canada, for the duration of the grant.

Impact

• Accomplishes the same aim as the previous rule - to ensure Agency funds benefit Canadian-based research;
• More responsive to those who carry out their research abroad;
• Easier for administrators to monitor.
Recent funding policy changes/impact (cont’d)

Independent Research Definition

CIHR has updated its definition of Independent Researcher.

New (effective September 2017)

Independent Researcher refers to an individual who is:

- autonomous regarding their research activities; and
- has and academic or research appointment which:
  - must commence by the effective date of funding; and
  - allow the individual to pursue the proposed research project, to engage in independent research activities for the entire duration of the funding, to supervise trainees *if applicable, as per their institution’s policy*, and to publish the research results; and
  - obliged the individual to conform to institutional regulations concerning the conduct of research, the supervision of trainees *if applicable*, and the employment conditions of staff paid with CIHR funding.
Recent funding policy changes/impact (cont’d)

Impact

• More inclusive of researchers working outside of academia (e.g. NGOs, research hospitals, research institutes) and are therefore not necessarily in positions that involve the supervision of students.
College member enrolment timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Cohort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **June 15 onward** | Began sending Wave 1 Enrolment invitations | • Current and recently active Reviewers, Chairs and SOs  
|                  |                                           | • Foundation Grantees                  |
| **August 28 onward** | Began sending Wave 2 Enrolment invitations | • Current and recent Nominated Principal Investigators  
|                  |                                           | • Institution Nominations              |
|                  |                                           | • Self-Nominations                     |
| **October 10 onward** | Continued Wave 2 Enrolment invitations    | • Current and recent Nominated Principal Investigators  
|                  |                                           | • Institution Nominations              |
|                  |                                           | • Self-Nominations                     |
## College enrolment update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wave 1</th>
<th>Wave 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invitations sent:</td>
<td>2,031</td>
<td>2,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Members (accepted):</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>1,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declined:</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding:</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total College Members: 3,929  
(as of November 6, 2017)
Nomination process

- Self/Institution Nomination received
- Candidate completes Reviewer Profile
- Assessment using Membership Selection Criteria
- College Invitation sent
Nomination – Keep them coming!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nomination Type</th>
<th># of Nominations Received</th>
<th># Invited to the College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>1,342 (from over 35 institutions)</td>
<td>764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What’s next for the College

Capacity-building through our Membership Progression Program

Implementing CIHR-wide review quality definition

Implementing a fall 2017 Observer Program and developing the Reviewer-in-Training Program

Ongoing and increased communications with Members and Research Institutions

Ongoing development of learning materials, including role specific and policy-based
We are pleased to announce the extension of the CIHR Contact Centre's hours of operation, effective April 1st, 2017.

This is an important step in ensuring that consistent and full support is offered to stakeholders coast-to-coast.
At any time, questions can be directed to the CIHR Contact Centre

CONTACT CENTRE
Monday to Friday
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET
support@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
Telephone: 613-954-1968
Toll Free: 1-888-603-4178