



CIHR IRSC

Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

CARA East 2017

Dale Dempsey, Manager, Foundation Grant

Discoveries for life / Découvertes pour la vie

St. Johns, NL

November 14, 2017



Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

Canada

Agenda



CIHR's funding programs



CIHR funding policy updates



CCV re-structuring



College of Reviewers



CIHR's Gender Equity Strategy



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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.

Fall 2017 Project Grant competition updates (cont'd)



Reviewers will evaluate and rate their assigned application.
They will no longer be required to rank them.



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

Descriptor	Range	Definition
Outstanding	4.5 – 4.9	The application excels in most or all relevant aspects. Any short comings are minimal.
Excellent	4.0 – 4.4	The application excels in many relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Certain improvements are possible.
Good	3.5 – 3.9	The application excels in some relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Some improvements are necessary.
Fair	3.0 – 3.4	The application broadly addresses relevant aspects. Major revisions are required.
Poor	0.0 – 2.9	The application fails to provide convincing information and/or has serious inherent flaws or gaps.



Timelines for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 Project Grant competitions

Competition	Fall 2017	Spring 2018
Registration deadline	August 15, 2017	February 6, 2018
Application deadline	September 15, 2017	March 6, 2018
Anticipated Notice of Decision	January 23, 2018	July 10, 2018
Funding start date	April 1, 2018	October 1, 2018





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.



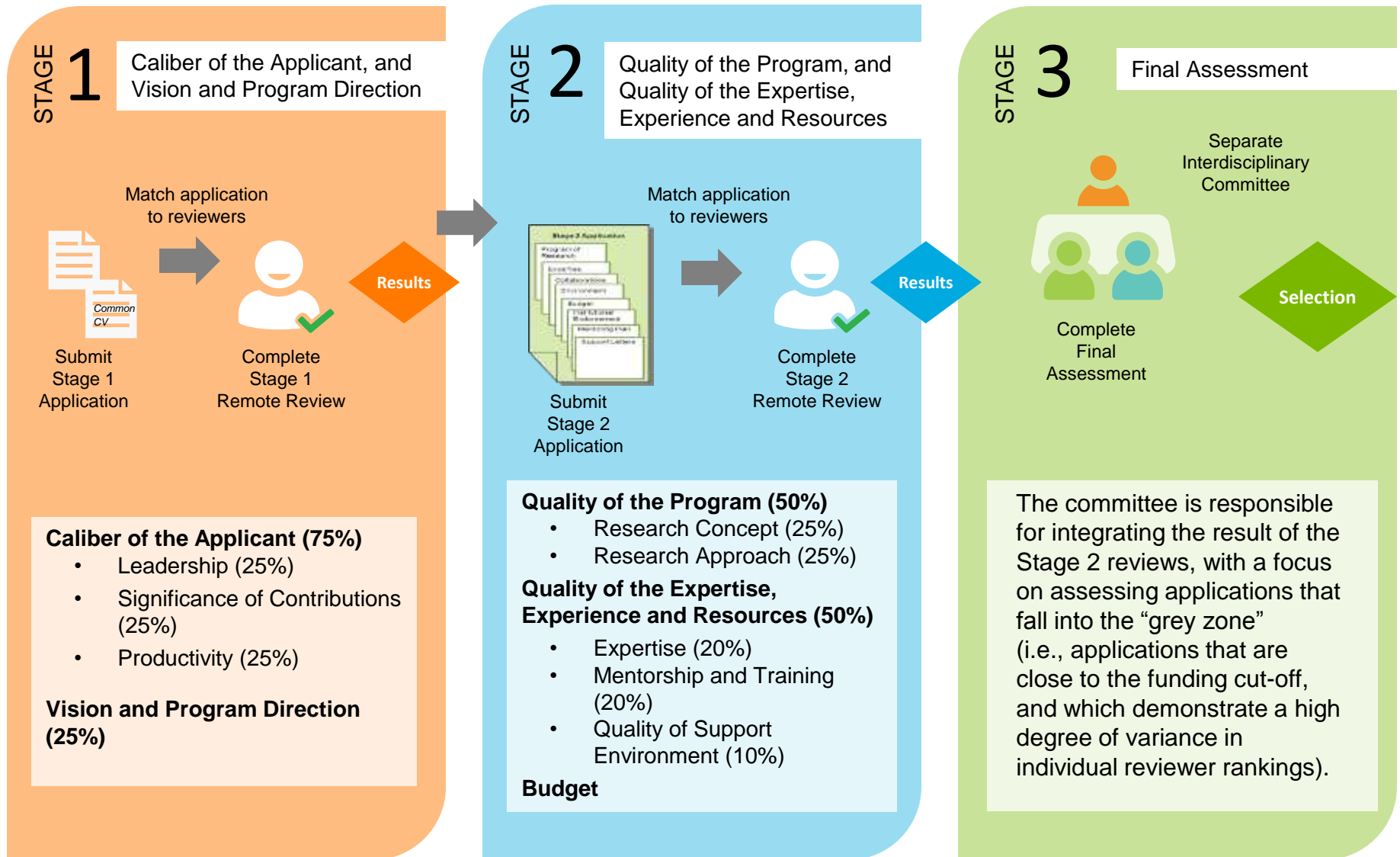
CIHR expects to fund approximately 40 Foundation grants in the 2017-18 competition.



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



Timeline for the 2017-2018 Foundation Grant competition

Key Dates	
Registration Deadline	August 8, 2017
Application Deadline – Stage 1	September 12, 2017
Anticipated Notice of Decision – Stage 1	December 7, 2017
Application Deadline – Stage 2	February 6, 2018
Anticipated Notice of Decision – Stage 3	July 17, 2018
Funding Start Date	July 1, 2018



Bourses d'études
supérieures du Canada
Vanier
Canada Graduate
Scholarships



Banting
Postdoctoral Fellowships



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

over **18%**
of its budget



- 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.

In 2015-16,
CIHR invested
\$168M
in training the
next generation of researchers



- 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.

In 2015-16,
CIHR awarded
1,705
training awards
in diverse health research
areas in Canada or abroad



- 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)

Skill Category	Activity	This Year	Next Year
Research Skills	Developing discipline-specific technical/research skills		
	Statistical analysis and data interpretation		
	Writing and preparing grants		
	Writing scientific reports/journal articles/book chapters		
Communication Skills	Giving presentations, presenting posters		
	Communicating with a mentor or supervisor		
	Teaching/TA, developing course material and lesson plans		
Interpersonal Skills & Networking	Attending professional and career development workshops/seminars		
	Attending research conferences, symposiums		
	Networking within your academic program		
	Networking outside your academic program		
Transferable Skills	Assuming leadership positions		
	Budget management		
	Big picture thinking and planning		
	Managing shifting goals and projects		
	Decision making and informed risk taking		
	Team and relationship management		
	Job searching, CV building, interviewing		



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.



Gender Equity Framework: Progress made to date

- ✓ 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.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands writing on a document held by a clipboard. The person is wearing a watch on their left wrist. A smartphone and a laptop are also visible on the desk.

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 an 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
 - obliges 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 of Reviewers

Advancing peer review excellence



Collège des évaluateurs

Pour l'excellence de l'évaluation par les pairs

College member enrolment timeline

Date	Activity	Cohort
June 15 onward	Began sending Wave 1 Enrolment invitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and recently active Reviewers, Chairs and SOs • Foundation Grantees
August 28 onward	Began sending Wave 2 Enrolment invitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and recent Nominated Principal Investigators • Institution Nominations • Self-Nominations
October 10 onward	Continued Wave 2 Enrolment invitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and recent Nominated Principal Investigators • Institution Nominations • Self-Nominations



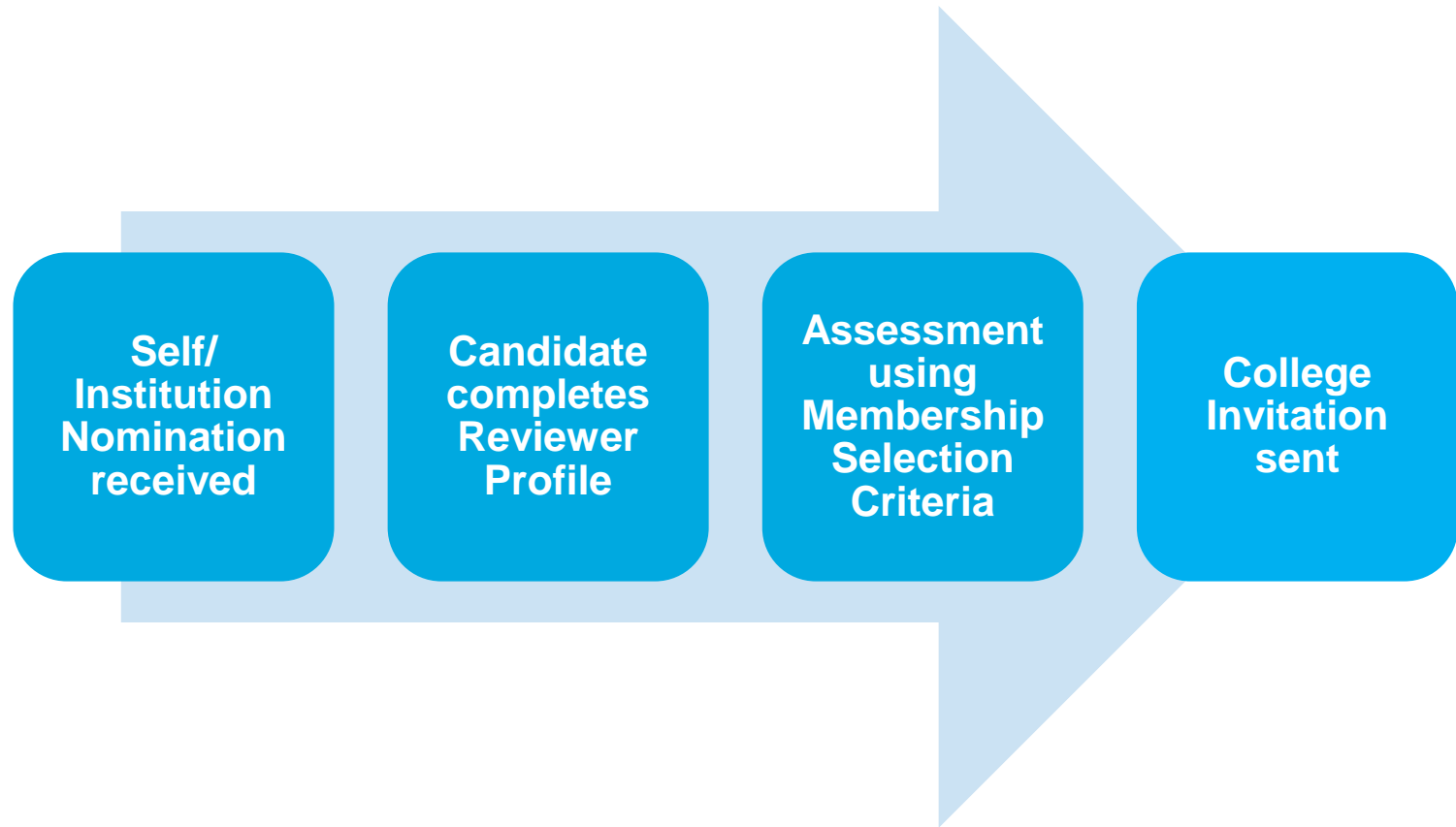
College enrolment update

	Wave 1	Wave 2
Invitations sent:	2,031	2,568
College Members (accepted):	1,750	1,788
Declined:	161	443
Outstanding:	120	337

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



Nomination process



Nomination – Keep them coming!

Nomination Type	# of Nominations Received	# Invited to the College
Institution	1,342 (from over 35 institutions)	764
Self	177	110

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





CIHR Contact Centre

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.



New! Hours of Operation

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

Discoveries for life / Découvertes pour la vie



At any time, questions can be directed to the CIHR Contact Centre

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