University Delegates WebEx Meeting
November 6, 2014 – 12:30-1:30pm EDT
CIHR Room 10-219, Ottawa, Ontario

Participants

Chair: Jennifer O'Donoughue, Executive Director, Reforms Implementation

Members:
Nicole Baillet (for Ranjana Bird), University of Northern British Columbia
Christian Baron, Université de Montréal
Shari Baum, McGill University
Lionel Berthoux, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
Robert Bertolo, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Janet Bryanton, University of Prince Edward Island
Lori Burrows, McMaster University
Michael Buschmann, École Polytechnique Montréal
Dean Care, Brandon University
Peter Cattini, University of Manitoba
Faith Donald, Ryerson University
Réjean Dubuc, Université du Québec à Montréal
Janice Eng, University of British Columbia
Bareket Falk, Brock University
Denise Figlewicz, University of Western Ontario
Mark Filiaggi, Dalhousie University
Norbert Haunerland, Simon Fraser University
Michael Hayes, University of Victoria
Marilyn Hodgins, University of New Brunswick
Joseph Lam, University of Guelph
Richard Leduc, Université de Sherbrooke
Rod McCormick, Thompson Rivers University
Michael Owen, University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Stephen Perry, Wilfrid Laurier University
Marc Pouliot, Université Laval
David Rose, University of Waterloo
Joanne Simala-Grant (for Richard Wozniak), University of Alberta
Chris Shields, Acadia University
Nancy Young, Laurentian University

Institution staff:
Kristina Arseneau, Queen’s University
Leslie Copp, University of Waterloo
Penny D’Agnone (University of Lethbridge)
Drew Gyorke, University of Toronto
Alana Kolendreski, University of Saskatchewan
Jean-Philippe Marquis, Université Laval Institute of Technology
Colleen McKay, University of Ontario
Keeley Rose, Hospital for Sick Children
Jessica Vaisica, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research

Regrets:
Deborah Anderson, University of Saskatchewan
Estelle Chamoux, Bishop’s University
John Fisher, Queen’s University
Karen Grant, Mount Allison University
Shawn Hayley, Carleton University
Shanthi Johnson, University of Regina
Dale Keefe, Cape Breton University
Olga Kovalchuk, University of Lethbridge
Vicki Kristman, Lakehead University
Julian Little, University of Ottawa
Jennifer McGrath, Concordia University
Cindi Morshed, University of Toronto
Lauren Sergio, York University
Brenda Smith-Chant, Trent University
Peter Twohig, Saint Mary's University
Otis Vacratsis, University of Windsor
Gerald Zamponi, University of Calgary
Welcome Message

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. EDT and welcomed the University Delegates (UDs) to the WebEx meeting.

Outcome of the October 28, 2014 Vice-Presidents of Research (VPR) Meeting

Jennifer O’Donoughue, Executive Director of Reforms Implementation, provided members with the outcome of the October 28, 2014 VPR Call. There were 27 participants on the call.

Topics covered included:

- Transitional Open Operating Grant Program including a reminder about the earlier registration deadline
- Reforms update, including the number of applications received at Stage 1 of the Foundation Scheme and the Stage 2 budget approach
- College of Reviewers
- Institution visits currently being planned
- Sunsetting of Legacy e-Open Programs

Discussion:

- Members requested that discussions on the Institute Model Review be discussed at the next VPR meeting, especially since questions and concerns are circulating through the research community. It was confirmed that this item will be added to the agenda for the next VPR call.

2. Transitional Open Operating Grant Program

Greg Huyer, Deputy Director of Program Delivery, discussed the Transitional Open Operating Grant Program. The final OOGP is coming up in the winter/spring. It is expected to be a large competition because there was no competition in the fall of 2014 and this is the last OOGP competition as we transition to the new Open Suite of programs. CIHR is expecting 3000-3500+ applications and plans to fund 450-600 grants. CIHR has plans in place to manage the large application pressure. The registration deadline is scheduled for January 9, 2015. This is a month earlier than the normal OOGP registration deadline and will allow for peer review preparation. The application deadline remains unchanged on March 2, 2015.
Discussion:
- Members wanted to know if the Biosketch will be used for the Transitional Open Operating Grant Program. The final decision will be made shortly and will be broadly communicated. If CIHR goes ahead with this decision, it will be done through the CCV portal.
- One member asked if CIHR has anticipated the numbers of applications from those who are not successful in Stage 1 of the first Foundation Pilot. This has been factored into the T-OOGP modelling.
- It was confirmed that the format of the application will be similar to previous OOGP application formats. There are no changes to the application, peer review process and committee structure. The only difference is that there will be more committees to manage the high number of applications.
- Members stated that researchers are concerned to review for the Transitional OOGP competition because they will have more applications to review compared the past. Reviewers may be asked to review one additional application. The impact on reviewers will be fairly small.
- One member asked if there will be across the board cuts. There will likely be cuts for this final OOGP competition. CIHR is making every attempt to avoid this in the Foundation Scheme.
- One member asked if the Notice of Decision is still set for the end of June for the OOGP. CIHR is anticipating July 15, 2015 because of the extended peer review period (peer review does not end until June 25) but the funding start date will be back dated to July 1, 2015.

3. Foundation Scheme Update

Dominique Lalonde, Deputy Director of Program Delivery, provided an update on the Foundation Scheme. There are 1366 applications eligible for Stage 1. Reviewers are currently in the process of reviewing. Once reviewers submit their preliminary reviews, online discussions will run from November 13 – November 17, 2014. There were over 800 reviewers that agreed to be part of the pool for Stage 1 but only 447 of that has been used. There are 50 Virtual Chairs/Moderators. On average, each reviewer is looking at 15 applications. Recruitment for Stage 2 and 3 is ongoing and has been progressing well. Stage 1 decisions will be available to applicants and Institutions on December 1, 2014. Applicants will receive all 5 reviews with ranking and strengths and weaknesses. Institutions will receive results for all applicants from their institution.

Discussion:
- One member asked if program experts are required to confirm participation in any way for Foundation Grants and if progress reports will be required for long-term grants. Program experts will have the ability to identify them at Stage 2.
- The group wanted to know how the decisions being distributed for both PI’s and institutions. Institutions will be getting spreadsheets in excel with summary information. Some will get it in ResearchNet. It is still being worked through.
- One member stated that reviewers mentioned that it is strange to have more room to comment than applicants had to write their information. Reviewers will be surveyed after Stage 1 so all comments will be documented.
- It was mentioned that reviewers are finding it difficult to evaluate new investigators and that they are reluctant to putting these applicants forward over more senior people. CIHR stated that they will clarify this to the reviewers.
- One member suggested that new investigators should get a Project first and show their independence. CIHR will definitely track this as we get through Stage 1 and make any changes for the next pilot.
- Members asked if 'leadership' is a metric evaluated to move on to Stage 2. If so, how does this apply for a young investigator? CIHR noted leadership is one of the areas that is examined. The Terms of Reference state specific guidance around leadership. It is challenging for new investigators because we ask reviewers to talk about career stage.
- One member asked if CIHR is considering having a separate call for New Investigators going forward. In this competition, New Investigators are being ranked with everyone else in Stage 1 and 2 and they are being separated out in Stage 3. This process will be assessed and modified if needed.
- One member asked if there is a quota of New Investigators to be funded in the Foundation Scheme. There is a specific allocation for New Investigators. There will be a minimum set which will be going for approval in Scientific Council in the next few weeks.

4. SPOR Networks in Chronic Disease

Linda McKenzie, Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives, presented a PowerPoint on the SPOR Networks in Chronic Disease.

Discussion:
- Members were polled if they find it helpful and informative to hear about specific funding opportunities, such as this one, at the UD calls. The majority of the group agreed.
- One member asked if communicable chronic diseases, such as TB, are included in the scope. CIHR confirmed it is not included in the scope.
- Members asked how well identified/established do international and health services partnerships have to be at the LOI Stage, considering the short timeline. They do not have to be fully developed.
- Members wanted to know if there is a minimum size of a network. There is no minimum (keeping in mind that at the end of the day it is the impact we are expecting).
- One member asked if international collaborators will be eligible to hold some of the grant money. There could be second order transfers done. The CIHR portions will have to be sent to the eligible institutions across Canada. If there is work being done abroad, that money can be second order transferred out to those other organizations. However this all depends on the policies of each institution.
- CIHR noted that there will be a series webinars planned in November 2014. They will be posted online and emailed to UD. If UD hear any common questions in their communities, they can email the UD mailbox and this information can be integrated into the webinars.
Terms of Reference
Jennifer O’Donoughue, Executive Director of Reforms Implementation, discussed the newly approved Terms of Reference. This was one of the items covered at the October 28 VPR meeting.

Members were informed that the membership requirement was changed to, “One delegate from each Canadian Research Institution; delegate should have significant understanding and appreciation for health research.” The updated terms of reference will be posted on the CIHR website.

Discussion:
- One member requested clarification on the term, “Representatives from across CIHR”. This typically includes directors and/or managers from the Research and Knowledge Translation Portfolio.

Adjournment

The next UD call is scheduled for December 4, 2014.

The chair thanked everyone for participating and closed the meeting at 1:23pm.