



Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis Newsletter: February 2014

# IMHA - *On the Move!*

## A Message from the Scientific Director



As many of you will be aware, CIHR is going through a number of significant transitions. CIHR is making every effort to communicate these changes to the community and IMHA will remain committed to supporting this information sharing through our newsletter. If at any time you should have questions about the changes, I would be pleased to hear from you.

### Institutes Model Review

As announced on July 25, 2013, CIHR's Governing Council will undertake an Institutes Model Review in August 2014. This Review, which was recommended by the International Review Panel in its 2011 report, will assess the existing model of the Institutes, including their roles and their alignment with CIHR's mandate, and whether the current slate of Institutes remains appropriate for meeting the full scope of Canada's health research agenda. Two committees have been struck to undertake this task and report back to Governing Council with recommendations. An Internal committee comprised of the Scientific Directors of the thirteen Institutes and the Vice-Presidents, and an External committee comprised of prominent leaders from the academic, policy making, and business communities. In addition, extensive input is being sought from the Institutional Advisory Boards (IAB). It is hoped by all that this will help CIHR's Institutes better fulfill their mandates, and ultimately CIHR's mandate. More information regarding this review is available online <http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/47656.html>.

### Reform of the Open Operating Grants Program (OOGP)

CIHR has committed to improving the OOGP by introducing a [new Open Suite of Programs and peer review processes](#) that aim to enhance the flexibility,

transparency, and fairness of the OOGP. This is being implemented over several years and features a number of live pilots aimed at achieving a smooth transition. In terms of the schedule, after a familiar open competition in the spring of 2014, the fall of 2014 will feature the first live pilot of the Foundation Scheme as the only open competition. This will be followed by a transitional open competition in the spring of 2015 and then a second live pilot of the Foundation scheme in the fall of 2015. Also, many aspects of the new peer review system have already been piloted in smaller strategic competitions such as knowledge translation and fellowship competitions. The process has been monitored closely and data have been generated and modeled regarding consistency, variability, etc. prior to introducing the peer review system into the larger open competitions. More information about the pilot of the [Foundations Scheme](#) and the [Transitional Operating Grant](#) is now available on [ResearchNet](#).



### Roadmap Refresh



Approximately five years ago, CIHR developed and published a Strategic Plan: [Health Research Roadmap: Creating innovative research for better health and health care](#). It included four strategic directions:

- 1) Invest in World-Class Research Excellence
- 2) Address Health and Health System Research Priorities
- 3) Accelerate the Capture of Health and Economic Benefits of Health Research
- 4) Achieve Organizational Excellence, Foster Ethics and Demonstrate Impact

*continued...*



## A Message from the Scientific Director continued...

"Roadmap" was a transformational strategic plan for CIHR. It introduced the reforms and a number of important strategies and initiatives. Over the last five years, CIHR has made significant progress on *Roadmap's* commitments, however, work is still required to complete *Roadmap's* implementation. As a result, CIHR's Strategic Plan for 2014/15 – 2018/19 will be a refresh of *Roadmap*, and will focus on completing the transformation. The refresh process is nearing completion, and is well timed to coincide with the reforms to the OOGP and the Institutes model review. It is anticipated that, together, these changes will go a long way towards aligning and harmonizing CIHR directions for the next number of years.

Although there are several other important issues to discuss and update, particularly SPOR and multi-Institute Signature Initiatives, we will update you on these in subsequent newsletters. I am pleased to add that we will shortly be announcing the successful teams in the [Inflammation in Chronic Disease Signature Initiative](#), for which IMHA is the co-lead Institute in conjunction with the Institute of Infection and Immunity, and along with several other CIHR Institutes and partners. Exciting times for us!

And finally, I would like to welcome Christine Mazur to the IMHA team as the newly hired Communications Project Officer based at the University of Manitoba.

While Christine Mazur has worn several hats during her working life, ranging from lawyer to violin teacher to communications coordinator she is, at the core, a writer.

Seeking practical application of skills gained from an MA in English Literature at the University of Manitoba, Christine learned life lessons from articling at Legal Aid Manitoba post-Law degree from the University of Alberta. Unable to keep writing as a side hobby, she finally embraced the compulsion by returning to school for Red River College's Creative Communications Diploma, majoring in Journalism. After nearly three years promoting Canadian literature at Winnipeg publishing house Turnstone Press, she followed an opportunity to assist a researcher in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Medicine with qualitative research in risk in science communications. When not writing, Christine leads a musical life as a freelance classical violinist, folk musician, and multi-instrumentalist for fusion Folk / New Wave band Half Man Half Elf - welcome, Christine!

As always, I encourage you to continue to submit any questions or comments to [IMHA@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:IMHA@cihr-irsc.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Hani El-Gabalawy MD FRCPC

Scientific Director  
CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis

## Funding Opportunities & Research News

### IMHA FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**For information on current funding opportunities, please visit [IMHA's Funding Opportunities online](#).**

#### **Operating Grant: Priority Announcement**

##### **[Musculoskeletal, Skin and Oral Health: New Investigators \(Bridge Funding\)](#)**

Priority Announcements offer additional sources of funding for highly rated applications that are relevant to specific research priority areas. The CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (CIHR-IMHA) will fund applications that are determined to be relevant to the research priority areas of IMHA.

Application deadline: March 3, 2014

##### **[Knowledge Translation Prize](#)**

The CIHR Knowledge Translation Prize honours and supports exemplary knowledge translation efforts and activities of an exceptional individual, team, or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to increasing the application of research findings, improving the health of individuals, improving health services and products, or strengthening the health-care system.

Application deadline: March 3, 2014

##### **[Applied Public Health Chair](#)**

The specific objectives of the Applied Public Health Chair are to: Support high quality programs of population health intervention research that contribute to new knowledge to improve health and health equity across the life course; Stimulate the application of innovative theories, methods and approaches in research and knowledge translation that promote reciprocal learning within and between countries; Catalyze interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral collaborations between researchers and knowledge users that contribute to evidence-informed decision-making and use of knowledge by public health and other sectors; and, Mentor the current and next generation of population and public health researchers (in particular post-doctoral fellows and early career researchers), practitioners and policy makers from a range of disciplines and sectors. *IMHA will support applied public health chairs that are relevant to the oral Health in the North research area.*

Application deadline: May 1, 2014

## Reforms of Open Programs (Foundations Scheme)

The funding opportunities for the [2014 Foundation Scheme "live pilot"](#) and the [2014-2015 Transitional OOGP](#) competitions have been published. If you have any questions regarding these funding opportunities, please visit the CIHR [website](#), or contact the [CIHR Reforms team](#).

## September 2013 OOGP results

The results from the [September 2013 Open Operating Grant Program \(OOGP\) competition](#) are now available online. This year, CIHR funded 396 grants from the core competition.

## CIHR Open Access Policy



Amendments were made to the CIHR Open Access Policy, formerly known as the Policy on Access to Research Outputs. As of January 1, 2013, CIHR-funded researchers will be required to make their peer-reviewed publications accessible at no cost within 12 months of publication – at the latest. While the revised Policy provides researchers with clear guidance on CIHR's

minimum expectation, in the spirit of public benefits of research, CIHR continues to encourage researchers to make their publications accessible for free as soon as possible after publication. Compliance with the Open Access Policy will continue to be monitored through end of grant reporting. For more information, please visit the [CIHR Open Access Policy website](#).

## CIHR-IMHA IAB Renewal

### IAB 2014 Renewal

Each of the CIHR's 13 Institutes has an advisory board composed of a diverse group of national and international representatives of the public, private and non-profit sectors, including the research community and health practitioners. Institute Advisory Boards (IABs) act in an advisory capacity to the Scientific Directors of the Institutes and to the Governing Council with respect to the full range of Institute activities. These activities include deliberation and evaluation on Institute health research priorities and strategies and implementation plans for engaging the broader research community.

CIHR launched the [12th cycle of IAB membership renewal](#). The on-line web application form for this cycle is available, and the deadline for applying is April 11, 2014.

Application forms received after April 11, 2014 will be stored in the database and considered for the next renewal cycle. Users can submit or modify their IAB application form at any time during the year.

During the selection process each Institute reviews the roster of candidates who submitted applications to determine which individuals would best fill the critical gaps created by turnover both in expertise and in re-balancing demographic criteria (gender, language, stage of career, and geographic and institutional representation). On average, each Institute appoints 1 to 2 members who will serve 3 year terms, effective September 1, 2014.

## Partner Corner

### Partnership Award

The CIHR Partnership Award annually recognizes a partnership that exemplifies excellence. The recipients receive a \$25,000 award in the form of a one-year research grant for advancing the research or knowledge translation activities of the partnership.

These partnerships involve organizations from the private, voluntary or public sectors. They bring health research communities together:

- to create innovative approaches to research questions;
- to develop research agendas that are responsive to the health needs, concerns and priorities of Canadians and/or the global community; and
- to accelerate the translation of knowledge for the benefit of Canadians and/or the global community.

Find out [how to nominate a partnership that displays excellence](#). **The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2014.**

## Contact Us

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