2016 Project Scheme
1st Live Pilot Competition

University of Ottawa

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The objectives of today's presentation are to provide an update on the CIHR reforms to:

➢ Open Grant Programs and Peer Review Processes

➢ College of Reviewers

1. **Two separate, complementary funding schemes**

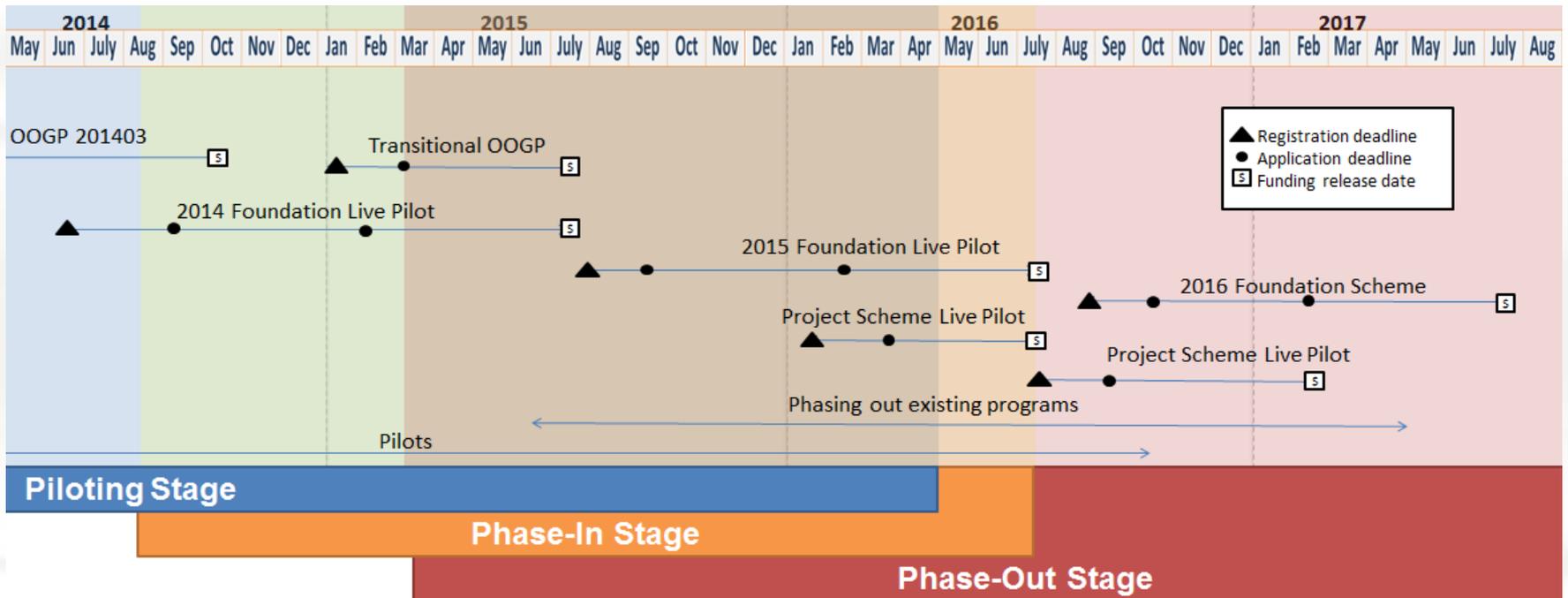   ➢ Foundation Scheme
    ➢ Project Scheme

2. **A peer review process that include:**

    • Application-focused review
    • Multi-stage review
    • Remote review of applications at the initial stage(s)
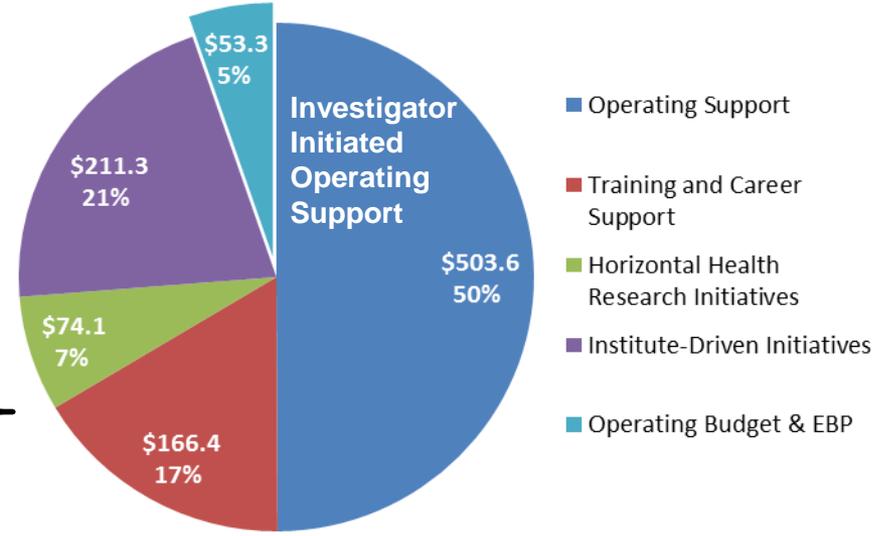   • Structured review criteria

- *The transition* to the new Open Suite of Programs and peer review processes will occur over a number of years.

- Course corrections and *adjustments may be required along the way* as we learn from the outcomes of the pilots.

CIHR Budget 2015-16 - $1,008.6M

Recent government investments have focused on Tri-Council programs for training and horizontal initiatives.

Pie chart — CIHR Budget 2015-16:
- Operating Support — Investigator Initiated Operating Support: $503.6 / 50%
- Training and Career Support: $166.4 / 17%
- Horizontal Health Research Initiatives: $74.1 / 7%
- Institute-Driven Initiatives: $211.3 / 21%
- Operating Budget & EBP: $53.3 / 5%

CIHR commitment to increase investment for investigator initiated operating support by $50 million over the next 4 years.

Source: 2015-16 Main Estimates

Project Scheme

The **Project Scheme is designed to capture ideas with the greatest potential** to advance health research, health-related knowledge, health care, health systems and/or health outcomes.

➢ It supports projects with a specific purpose and a defined endpoint;

➢ The best ideas may stem from new, incremental, innovative and/or high-risk lines of inquiry or knowledge translation approaches;

➢ CIHR will establish a minimum threshold of funded knowledge translation and commercialization projects that include a partnered / integrated knowledge translation approach:

  • Competition processes for these projects will be fully integrated within the competition with no additional steps being required on the part of the applicant outside of identifying their application as a partnered / integrated knowledge translation;

➢ The Project Scheme will have two competitions per year.

CIHR IRSC

Based on historical modeling, it is expected that most Project grant budget requests will fall within a range of:

- $50K to $750K per annum;

- 1- to 5-year duration;

- Project grant funding levels will be commensurate with need, which is expected to vary by research field, research approach and scope of project activities.

Partner Participation

- The Project Scheme has no formal requirements for partnering, however, depending on the nature of the research project a commitment (cash or in-kind) from interested or engaged knowledge user(s) or other partners may be reasonably expected by peer reviewers.

For an application to be eligible:

- The Nominated Principal Applicant must be an Independent Researcher or a Knowledge User;

- If the Nominated Principal Applicant is a Knowledge User, there must be at least one Principal Applicant who is an Independent Researcher;

- Principal Applicant(s) must be Independent Researcher(s) or Knowledge User(s);

- Co-Applicants can be:

  - Independent Researcher(s)

  - Knowledge User(s)

  - Trainee(s)

- ❖ Individuals who hold a Foundation Scheme grant in the role of Program Leader are not eligible to apply to the Project Scheme in the role of Nominated Principal Applicant or Principal Applicant.

- The funding opportunity for the 2016 Project Scheme 1st live pilot competition was posted in March 2015 to provide the community with time to prepare.

- Key dates include:

Registration Deadline *	January 18, 2016
Application Deadline **	March 1, 2016
Anticipated Notice of Decision	July 15, 2016
Funding Start Date	July 1, 2016

* The Registration opened on November 16, 2015

** The Application will open on January 19, 2016

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Project Registration Requirements

The Project registration includes the following sections:

❖ **Task 1: Identify Participants**
 All participants must remain unchanged between registration and application.

❖ **Task 2: Enter Proposal information**
 Includes Lay Title, Lay Abstract, and Partnered/iKT Special Considerations Flag.

❖ **Task 3: Complete Summary**
 The Summary of Research Proposal submitted at the registration stage will be used for the assignment of reviewers.

❖ **Task 4: Complete Budget Information**
 Total amount requested from CIHR. No justification required at this stage.

❖ **Task 5: Complete Peer Review Administration Information**

❖ **Task 6: Preview**

❖ **Task 7: Consent and Submit**

The Project structured application includes the following sections:

- ❖ **Task 1: Identify Participants**
  Includes linking CCV Confirmation Number and identifying Most Significant Contributions

- ❖ **Task 2: Enter Proposal information**
  Includes Lay Title, Lay Abstract, and Partnered/iKT Special Considerations Flag

- ❖ **Task 3: Complete Summary**

- ❖ **Task 4: Complete Application**
  - • Concept and Feasibility
    - o Quality of the Idea (1/2 page)
    - o Importance of the Idea (1 page)
    - o Approach (4 ½ pages)
    - o Expertise, Experience and Resources (1 page)
  - • References (2 pages)
  - • Attachments (Figures only; maximum 2 pages)

- ❖ **Task 5: Identify Application Partners**

The Project structured application includes the following sections:

- ❖ **Task 6: Enter Budget Information**

- ❖ **Task 7: Complete Peer Review Administration Information**

- ❖ **Task 8: Preview**

- ❖ **Task 9: Consent and Submit**

Project Application Requirements Concept

Under **Concept**, the **Quality of the Idea (25%)** sub-criterion is intended to assess the quality of what is being proposed.

Is the project idea creative?

- The project idea is among the best formulated ideas in its field, stemming from new, incremental, innovative, and/or high-risk lines of inquiry; new or adapted research and knowledge translation/commercialization approaches/methodologies and opportunities to apply research findings nationally and internationally.

Is the rationale of the project idea sound?

- The project rationale is based on a logical integration of concepts.

Are the overall goals and objectives of the project well-defined?

- The goal states the purpose of the project, and what the project is ultimately expected to achieve.
- The objectives clearly define the proposed lines of inquiry and/or activities required to meet the goal.
- The proposed project outputs (i.e., the anticipated results of the project) are clearly described and aligned to the objectives.

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Under **Concept**, the **Importance of the Idea (25%)** sub-criterion is intended to assess the value of the anticipated project contributions, and any advances in health-related knowledge, health care, health systems, and/or health outcomes.

Are the anticipated project contributions likely to advance health-related knowledge, health care, health systems and/or health outcomes?

- The context and needs (issues and/or gaps) of the project are clearly described.

- The anticipated contribution(s) are clearly described, and should be substantive and relevant in relation to the context of the issues or gaps.

- The anticipated contribution(s) are realistic, i.e., directly stemming from the project outputs, as opposed to marginally related.

Under **Feasibility**, the **Approach (25%)** sub-criterion is intended to assess the quality of the Project's design and plan; including how and when the project will be completed.

Are the approaches and methods appropriate to deliver the proposed output(s) and achieve the proposed contribution(s) to advancing health-related knowledge, health care, health systems, and/or health outcomes?

- The research and/or knowledge translation/commercialization approaches, methods, and/or strategies should be well-defined and justified in terms of being appropriate to accomplish the objectives of the project.

- Opportunities to maximize project contributions to advance health-related knowledge, health care, health systems and/or health outcomes should be proactively sought and planned for, but may also arise unexpectedly.

Are the timelines and related deliverables of the project realistic?

- Timelines for the project should be appropriate in relation to the proposed project activities. Key milestones and deliverables should be aligned with the objectives of the project, and be feasible given the duration of the project.

Does the proposal identify potential challenges and appropriate mitigation strategies?

- Critical scientific, technical, or organizational challenges should be identified, and a realistic plan to tackle these potential risks should be described. An exhaustive list is not expected.

Project Application Requirements Feasibility

Under **Feasibility**, the **Expertise, Experience, and Resources (25%)** sub-criterion is intended to assess the appropriateness of the complement of expertise, experience, and resources among the applicants (Nominated Principal Applicant, Principal Applicant(s) and Co-Applicant(s)), and their institutions/organizations, as it relates to the ability to collectively deliver on the objectives of the project.

Does the applicant(s) bring the appropriate expertise and experience to lead and deliver the proposed outputs and to achieve the proposed contribution(s)?
- The applicant(s) should demonstrate the combined expertise and experience needed to execute the project (i.e., deliver the proposed outputs as well as achieve the proposed contribution(s)). The roles and responsibilities of each applicant should be clearly described, and linked to the objectives of the project.

Is there an appropriate level of engagement and/or commitment from the applicant(s)?
- The level of engagement (e.g., time and other commitments) of each applicant should be appropriate for the roles and responsibilities described.

Is the environment (academic institution and/or other organization) appropriate to enable the conduct and success of the project?
- Project applicants should have access to the appropriate infrastructure, facilities, support personnel, equipment, and/or supplies to:
  - Carry out their respective roles, and;
  - As a collective, manage and deliver the proposed output(s), and achieve the proposed contribution(s).

➤ **Project Biosketch CV**

- • For Nominated Principal Applicants and Principal Applicants
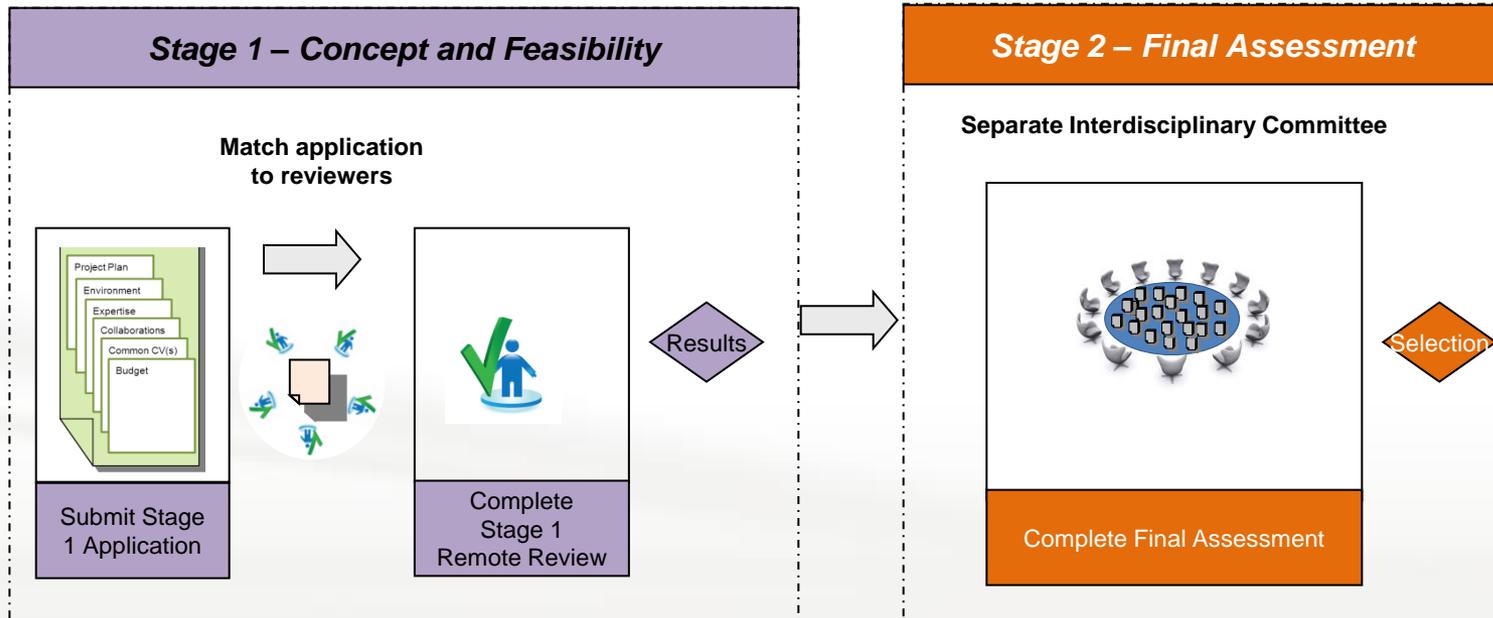
➤ **Project Co-Applicant CV**

- • For Co-Applicants

The purpose of both the Project Bioscketch CV and the Project Co-Applicant CV is to prove to reviewers that applicants have the experience and expertise required to accomplish the research project described in their application.

- • All entries in the CV must be therefore directly relevant to the application.

Project Scheme Review Process

The Project Grant Competition has one application and a two-stage review process

Stage 1 – Concept and Feasibility

Match application to reviewers

Submit Stage 1 Application

Complete Stage 1 Remote Review

Results

Stage 2 – Final Assessment

Separate Interdisciplinary Committee

Complete Final Assessment

Selection

Concept (50%)
- Quality of the Idea (25%)
- Importance of the Idea (25%)

Feasibility (50%)
- Approach (25%)
- Expertise, Experience and Resources (25%)

The committee is responsible for integrating the result of the Stage 1 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).

The committee will make final recommendations on which "grey zone" applications should be funded in consideration of the available funds.

Descriptor	Abbreviation	Definition
Outstanding	O^{++}	For this sub-criterion, the application excels in most or all relevant aspects. Any short-comings are minimal.
	O^{+}	
	O	
Excellent	E^{++}	For this sub-criterion, the application excels in many relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Certain improvements are possible.
	E^{+}	
	E	
Good	G	For this sub-criterion, the application excels in some relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Some improvements are necessary.
Fair	F	For this sub-criterion, the application broadly addresses all relevant aspects. Major revisions are required.
Poor	P	For this sub-criterion, the application fails to provide convincing information and/or has serious inherent flaws or gaps.

Project Supporting Materials

➢ **Resources available on the CIHR website:**

- Funding Opportunity Details

- Registration Instructions

- Application Instructions

- Project Biosketch CV Quick Reference Guide

- Project Co-Applicant CV Quick Reference Guide

- Peer Review Manual and Interpretation Guidelines
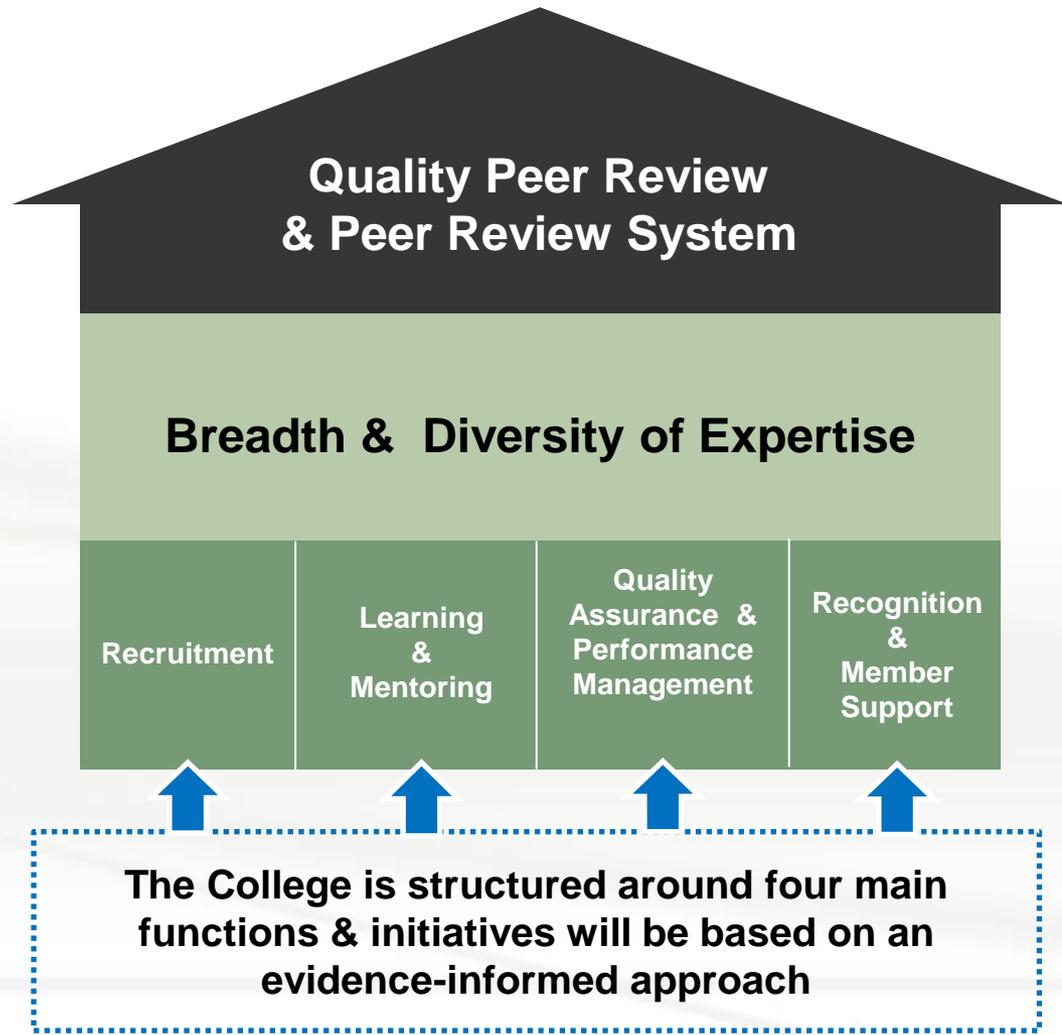
- Qs and As

➢ **Additional materials to be posted:**

- Training materials

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College of Reviewers

Through the College, we have an opportunity to enhance the current peer review system by:

- Supporting **systematic recruitment** to identify and mobilize the appropriate expertise for all funding applications.

- Developing **learning and mentoring programs** to provide reviewers with the knowledge and resources necessary to conduct consistent and fair reviews.

- Designing and implementing **quality assurance** mechanisms that support continuous improvement at all levels.

- Establishing **reviewer recognition and incentive** approaches to promote the value of peer review services and to attract and retain qualified peer reviewers by **supporting members.**