



Issue 165

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1) Program Related Information

a) Results of the September 2013 Operating Grants Competition

On behalf of CIHR, I would like to congratulate the grant recipients from the [September 2013 Open Operating Grant Program \(OOGP\) competition](#). Three hundred and ninety seven grants were funded from the core competition, just short of our anticipated target of 400 grants. This was only possible by applying an across-the-board cut of 26.8%. For funded grants, the average (mean) annual core competition grant size was \$604,706 (median grant size of \$505,198) with an average duration of 4.0 years, representing a modest increase in average grant size as compared to previous competitions.

As well, approximately 18 full-term and 64 bridge grants will be funded through Priority Announcements and other sources for a maximum total of 479 grants approved from the Operating Grant 2013-2014 (September) competition.

Recognizing the importance of investigator-initiated research and the need to protect and expand the budget envelope for the OOGP, CIHR has committed to increasing the OOGP budget by \$10M per year for five years. As such, the total OOGP budget envelope has increased from \$465.8M in 2013-14 to \$475.8M in 2014-15. This additional investment made it possible to increase the total amount available for this competition, from \$220M as indicated in the [Operating Grant: 2013-2014](#) funding opportunity description to \$240.1M over six years. (Note that the budget envelope in any one year covers the ongoing commitments for grants awarded in earlier competitions as well as the investment in new grants beginning that year.) Even with this increase, the OOGP budget was not able to both meet the commitments for ongoing grants awarded in earlier competitions and keep pace with the increase in the peer review-recommended application budgets in the current competition. As a result, slightly fewer than 400 grants were funded even with a 26.8% across-the-board cut.

The September 2013 competition marked the seventh time that the Open Operating Grants competition dedicated a part of the Open Operating Grants budget to a specific funding envelope - worth approximately \$12.5 million - for large grants, including large RCTs. Large grants were defined as those within the top 2% of the total grant budgets recommended within the competition; these were ranked together and funded from the top down within the available funding envelope. Six large grants with an average total grant size of \$1.8M were funded in this competition. An update of other facts and frequently asked questions relating to the Open Operating Grant Program will be published on the CIHR website by **February 21, 2014** at the latest. In the meantime the document, which is current as of the **March 2013 competition**, can be accessed at [CIHR Open Operating Grant Program Competitions – Frequently Asked Questions](#).

I would like to again thank the more than 850 reviewers who dedicated their time and energy to have made this competition possible. For the last few competitions, we asked researchers to submit only their most competitive applications. Conversely, we discouraged researchers from immediately resubmitting unsuccessful applications to the next competition with no change or reflection. As well, we suggested that after an application has been unsuccessful two or three times that it not be resubmitted. Despite this, the number of applications we received increased approximately 12% from 2,253 in the spring of 2013 to 2,527 in the current competition. We recognize that concerns from the research community about the implementation of the Open Program reforms have contributed to the increased application pressure, and we continue to encourage researchers to carefully consider the competitiveness of their proposals before applying to help manage application pressure during the transition.

For more information on the reforms to the Open Suite of Programs and the timeline for future Open competitions, please visit the [Reforms of Open Programs and peer review](#) section of the CIHR website. We encourage the community to consult this information and in particular the [Questions and Answers](#) section to learn about the programs and to plan for the transition. Researchers are also reminded that the funding opportunities for both the [Foundation Scheme: 2014 1st Live Pilot](#) and the [Transitional Operating Grant: 2014-15](#) competitions are available on the CIHR website. If you have additional questions about the reforms beyond what is contained on the website please contact Roadmap-Plan.Strategique@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Congratulations again to the recipients of September 2013 Open Operating Grants and best wishes for success in all their research endeavours.

Jane E. Aubin, Ph.D.
Chief Scientific Officer and Vice-President, Research and Knowledge Translation Portfolio
Canadian Institutes of Health Research

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2) Funding Opportunities

a) Funding opportunities posted between December 13, 2013 and January 31, 2014 by CIHR and its partners

* The following is a list of funding opportunities which CIHR and its partners posted between December 13, 2013 and January 31, 2014.

To view these opportunities, please use the [CIHR Funding Opportunity Database](#).

Simply select the opportunity from the list which is sorted alphabetically.

- Catalyst Grant : HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research (2014)
- Operating Grant : Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR)
- Team Grant : Prevention and Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes

* The following funding opportunities are located on CIHR's website:

- [CIHR-Institute of Aging Betty Havens Prize for Knowledge Translation in Aging](#)
- [IHSPR Article of the Year Award 2013-2014](#)
- [IHSPR Rising Star Award 2013-2014](#)
- [Undergraduate Summer Student Health Research Award: Computational Biology \(2014\)](#)

Please direct specific inquiries for each funding opportunity to the contact person listed at the bottom of the funding opportunity.

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b) Call for Nominations - CIHR Partnership Award 2014

The CIHR Partnership Award, established in 2002, recognizes partnerships between organizations that exemplify excellence by bringing health research communities together to create innovative approaches to research, develop research agendas that are responsive to the health needs and/or accelerate the translation of knowledge for the benefit of Canadians and/or the global community. The emphasis of the award is on innovative cross-sectoral partnerships between organizations that promote excellence. **See the [Partnership Award](#) for more information.**

The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2014.

Contact: Claire Belanger claire.belanger@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

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3) Institute and Portfolio News

The following is a list of Institute and Portfolio news items.

a) CIHR Platforms and Major Initiatives

Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging: First Data Set Available Spring 2014

Preparations are underway for the first major data release from the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA). To date, more than 34,000 Canadians have enrolled in the study. In spring 2014, the CLSA will finalize and release the data from the first 20,000 participants who have taken part in telephone interviews.

Recent highlights:

* The Statistical Analysis Centre is currently in the process of cleaning and preparing the data for access by approved researchers. Internal studies are also ongoing to evaluate the reliability and validity of the data. Researchers interested in accessing CLSA data or samples should review the [Data Access Policy](#) and the [Data and/or Biospecimen Request Application](#). For questions about data access, please contact the Statistical Analysis Centre at dsac@clsa-elcv.ca.

* The Hamilton site of the CLSA will be hosting a CIHR Café Scientifique at McMaster Innovation Park on Feb. 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. EST. *The event, Putting your heart into it: The science of cardiovascular aging*, will also be live streamed. Join us at: http://itshappeningrightnow.com/clsa_elcv/

* The fall 2013 issue of [CLSA Connection](#), the newsletter for the research community, is now available. For the latest CLSA news, visit <http://www.clsa-elcv.ca>, find us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

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b) CIHR Institute of Gender and Health - Video: Shaping science for a healthier world

The CIHR Institute of Gender and Health is more than a funding institute. Our new **strategic plan** is focused on shaping science for a healthier world. The future of gender, sex and health research is full of opportunity. Have you considered the possibilities? [Watch the video](#).

For more information, please contact:

Meridith Sones
Knowledge Translation Manager
CIHR Institute of Gender and Health
Email: meridith.sones@ubc.ca

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c) CIHR Institute of Gender and Health

Team Grant: Advancing Research to Improve Boys' and Men's Health – Deadline reminder

In response to the urgent need for increased attention and research capacity in the area of boys' and men's health, the [CIHR Institute of Gender and Health](#) and its partners are launching the Team Grant: Advancing Boys' and Men's Health Research funding opportunity. This unique funding initiative will support interdisciplinary and intersectoral teams of health researchers and knowledge users who are committed to the pursuit of a solutions-focused, collaborative approach to improving boys' and men's health.

For complete application details, please visit the [CIHR Funding Opportunity Database](#).
LOI Deadline: February 12, 2014

For future updates on the *Team Grant: Advancing Boys' and Men's Health Research* funding opportunity, [subscribe](#) to the IGH mailing list.

For questions about this strategic initiative, please contact:

Abigail Forson
Assistant Director
CIHR Institute of Gender and Health
Email: abigail.forson@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
Telephone: 613-954-0616

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d) CIHR Institute of Health Services and Policy Research

Publication Launch: [Paradigm Freeze: Why it is so hard to reform health-care policy in Canada](#)
10 years in the making, this book is a clear and comprehensive assessment of the historical context, current nature and future prospects of Canadian health care reform since the 1990s, and is a product of a CIHR co-funded research team led by Drs. Harvey Lazar, John Lavis, Pierre-Gerlier Forest, and John Church.

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e) CIHR Institute of Health Services and Policy Research (CIHR-IHSPR)

[IHSPR Policy Rounds](#) Resume in February

IHSPR Policy Rounds are webinars that disseminate research results and foster knowledge exchange among researchers, health care policy and decision makers, and other stakeholders. To learn more about the Winter/Spring 2014 Policy Rounds contact Hawa Kombian (hkombian.ihspr@mcgill.ca). IHSPR Policy Rounds are also available on [YouTube](#).

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4) Announcements from other organizations

a) [Canadian Association on Gerontology](#) - Call for Abstracts: Landscapes of Aging

Call for Abstracts
[CAG2014: Landscapes of Aging](#)
Critical Issues, Emerging Possibilities
Deadline: April 15, 2014

43rd Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting
October 16-18, 2014, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

The Canadian Association on Gerontology is pleased to announce the Call for Abstracts for CAG2014: Landscapes of Aging, October 16-18, 2014 in exciting Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. Join us for Canada's premier multidisciplinary conference for those interested in individual and population aging. Abstracts are welcomed from all disciplines and all interests in aging, including research, practice, policy

and related work. International submissions are encouraged. We are also pleased to offer the CIHR-IA Student Poster Competition and student travel assistance grants. Abstracts are due by **April 15, 2014**.

It's easy to get to Niagara Falls by air, train, bus or car! We're pleased to provide a discounted shuttle service from Toronto Pearson (YYZ) and Buffalo, New York (BUF) airports or save on private car service. Visit our website for more transportation information as well as discounts on rooms at the conference hotel, Sheraton on the Falls!

CAG2014 is hosted by the Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging at McMaster University.

Follow Us! [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

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CIHR Wants to Hear from You

Absence does not make the heart grow fonder – CIHR wants to hear from you as much as possible. There is a wonderful story to tell about the results and benefits of health research in Canada, but we need your help to truly make this a page turner. And, we need to keep telling this story. So, we encourage you to let us know when you have or, better still, are close to publishing the results of research funded by CIHR. Please drop us a line at mediarelations@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

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Useful CIHR Contacts

General Inquiries: 613-941-2672
Grants & Awards Information: 613-954-1968
Media Relations: 613-941-4563
Ethics Office: 613-941-6706
Technical / IT Help Desk: 613-941-0068
[CIHR's website](#)

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