CIHR IRSC

CIHR Project Scheme 2016
1st Live Pilot Competition
CIHR Peer Review System

University of Toronto

January 7, 2016

Martine Lafrance, Ph.D.
Project Scheme Manager

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

➢ Open Grant Programs and Peer Review Processes
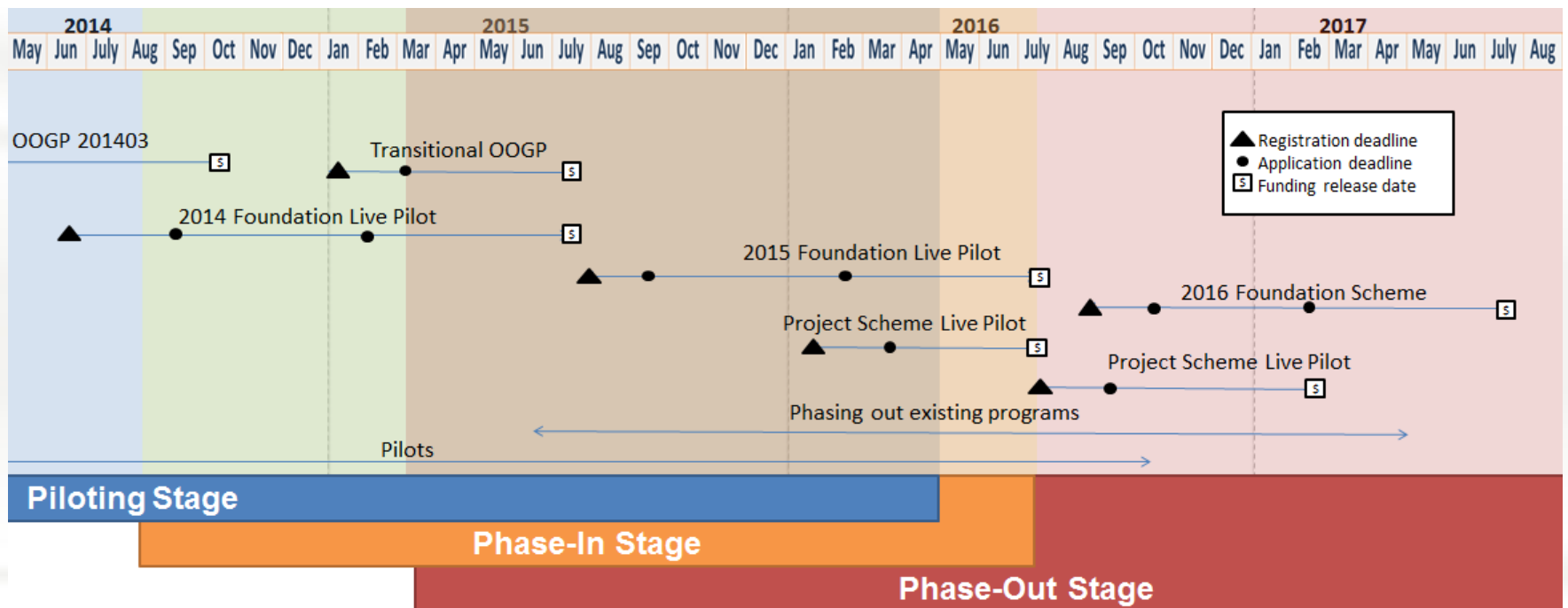
➢ College of Reviewers

CIHR IRSC

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

   ➢ Foundation Scheme
   ➢ Project Scheme

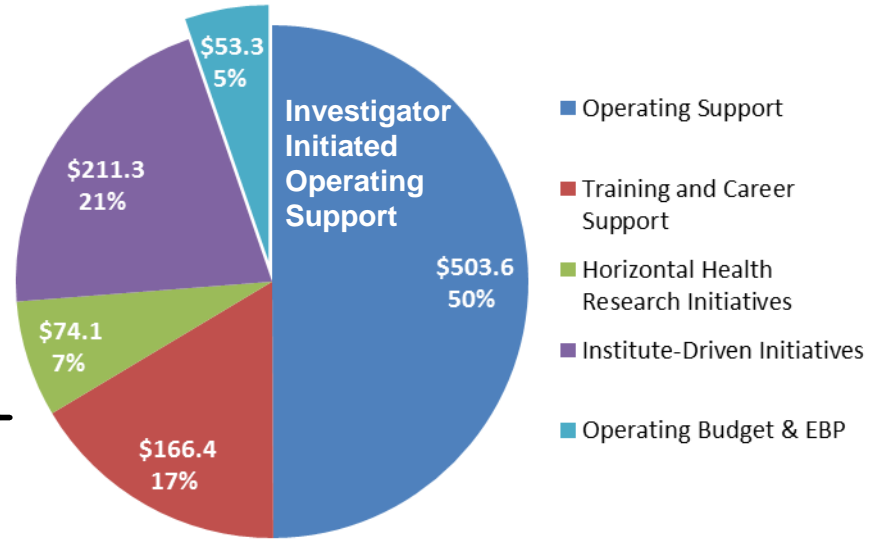2. **A peer review process that include:**

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

Canada

- **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.

NCE RCE
Networks of Centres | Réseaux de centres
of Excellence of Canada | d'excellence du Canada

Canada Research Chairs

Canada Excellence
Research Chairs
Chaires d'excellence
en recherche du Canada

Bourses postdoctorales
Banting
Postdoctoral Fellowships

Vanier
Canada Graduate
Scholarships

Investigator Initiated Operating Support

$53.3
5%

$211.3
21%

$74.1
7%

$503.6
50%

$166.4
17%

- Operating Support
- Training and Career Support
- Horizontal Health Research Initiatives
- Institute-Driven Initiatives
- Operating Budget & EBP

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

Source: 2015-16 Main Estimates

Canada

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.

Project Scheme Timelines

- 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:

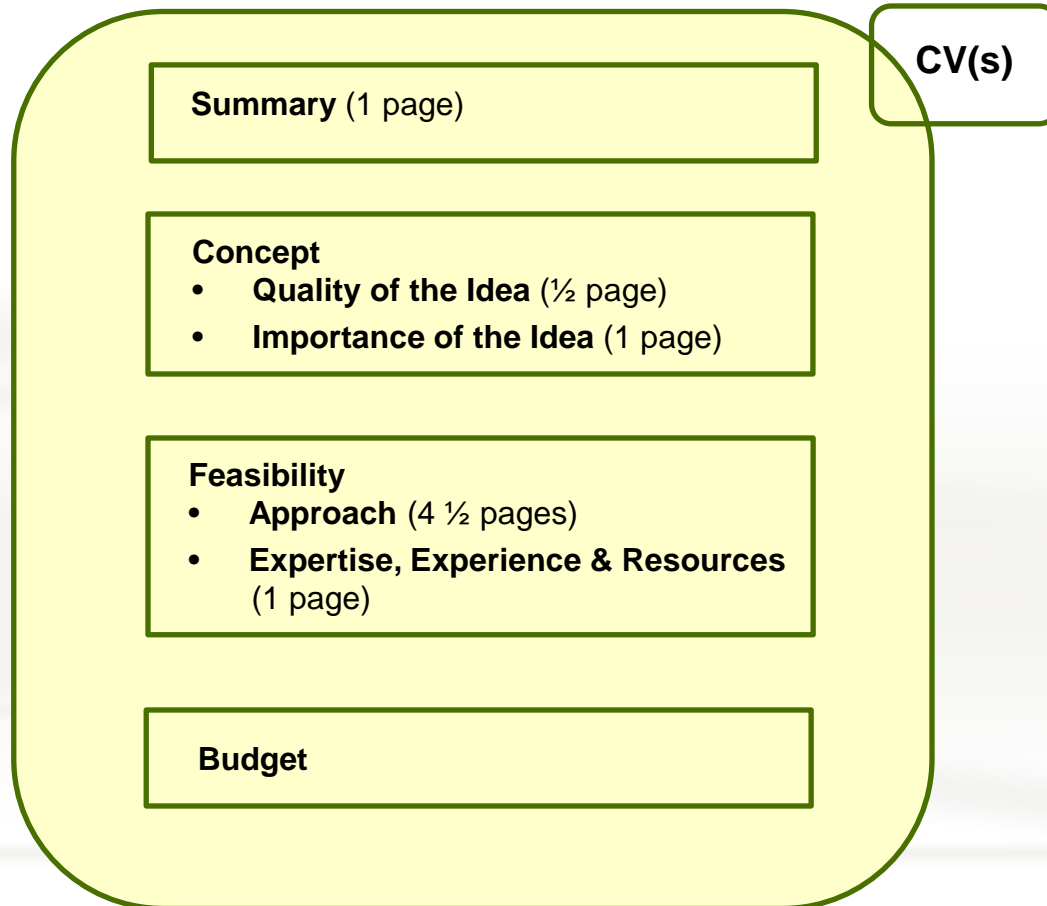|	
Registration Deadline *	January 18, 2016
Application Deadline **	March 1, 2016
Anticipated Notice of Decision	July 15, 2016
Funding Start Date	July 1, 2016

  * The Registration opened on November 16, 2015

  ** The Application will open on January 19, 2016
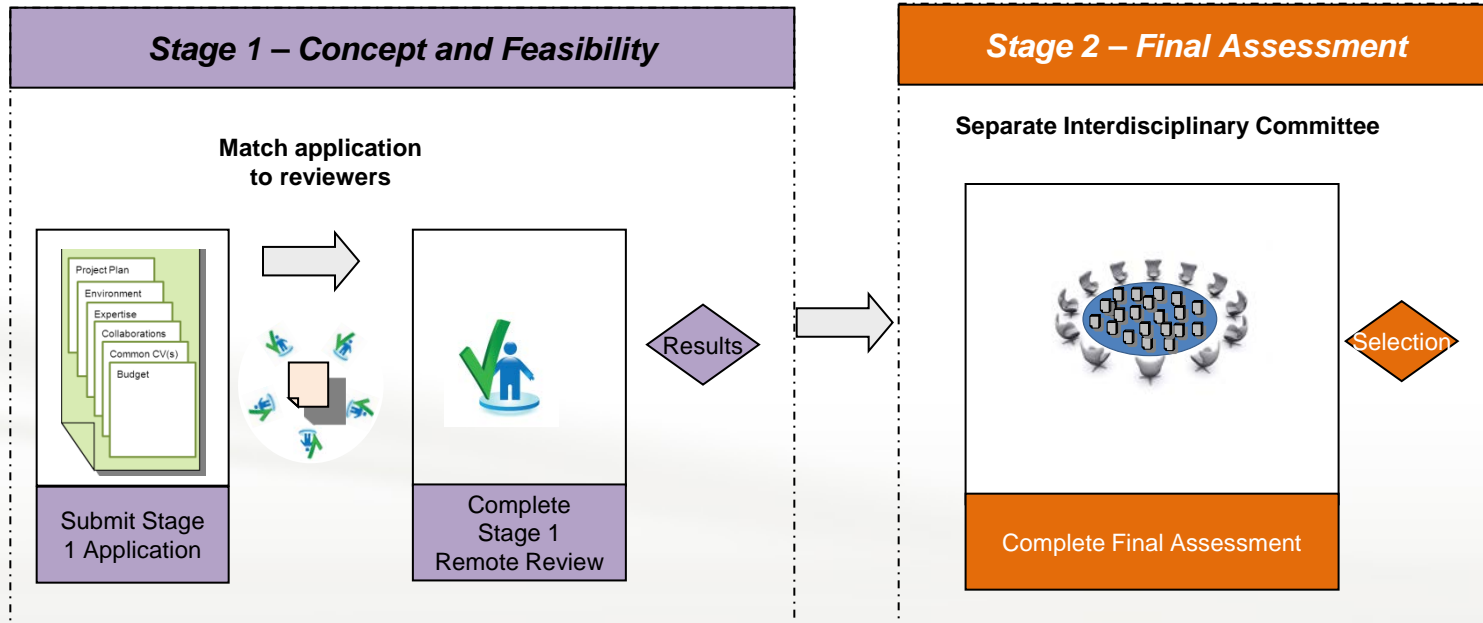
Project Application Requirements

Applicants submit a structured application and CVs to the Project Grant Competition

CV(s)

Summary (1 page)

Concept
- **Quality of the Idea** (½ page)
- **Importance of the Idea** (1 page)

Feasibility
- **Approach** (4 ½ pages)
- **Expertise, Experience & Resources** (1 page)

Budget

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.
Outstanding	O^{+}	For this sub-criterion, the application excels in most or all relevant aspects. Any short-comings are minimal.
Outstanding	O	For this sub-criterion, the application excels in most or all relevant aspects. Any short-comings are minimal.
Excellent	E^{++}	For this sub-criterion, the application excels in many relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Certain improvements are possible.
Excellent	E^{+}	For this sub-criterion, the application excels in many relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Certain improvements are possible.
Excellent	E	For this sub-criterion, the application excels in many relevant aspects, and reasonably addresses all others. Certain improvements are possible.
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.

Foundation Scheme

Foundation Scheme Objectives

The **Foundation Scheme is designed to contribute to a sustainable foundation of new and established health research leaders** by providing long-term support for the pursuit of innovative and high-impact research programs.

It is expected to:

➢ Support a broad base of health research leaders across all career stages, areas, and health-related disciplines with a demonstrable track record of excellence and impact in their field of study;

➢ Develop and maintain Canadian capacity in health research and other related fields;

➢ Provide research leaders with the flexibility to pursue novel and innovative lines of inquiry;

➢ Contribute to the creation and application of health-related knowledge through a wide range of research and/or knowledge translation activities, including relevant collaborations.
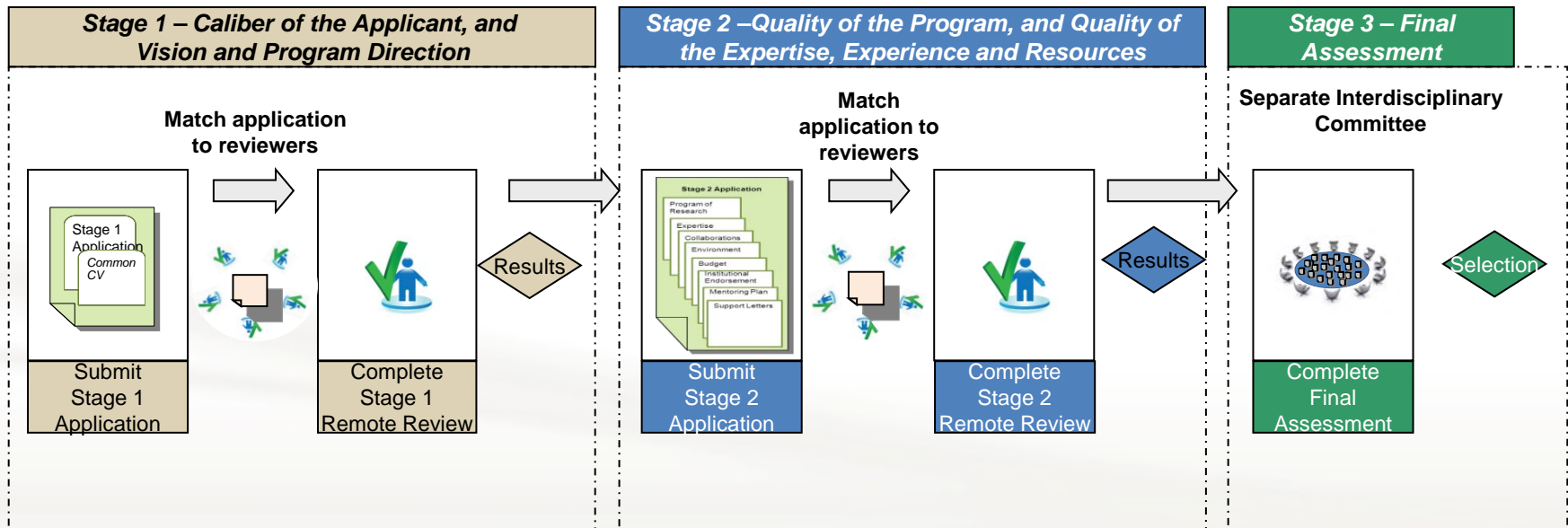
Key dates include:

Registration Deadline	July 27, 2015
Application Deadline - Stage 1	September 15, 2015
Application Deadline - Stage 2	February 5, 2016
Anticipated Notice of Decision – Stage 1	December 1, 2015
Anticipated Notice of Decision – Final Assessment Stage	July 15, 2016
Funding Start Date	July 1, 2016

Canada

Foundation Scheme Applications and Review Process

The Foundation Grant Competition has two applications and a three-stage review process

Stage 1 – Caliber of the Applicant, and Vision and Program Direction

Match application to reviewers

Stage 1 Application *Common CV*

Submit Stage 1 Application

Complete Stage 1 Remote Review

Results

Stage 2 – Quality of the Program, and Quality of the Expertise, Experience and Resources

Match application to reviewers

Stage 2 Application — Program of Research, Expertise, Collaborations, Environment, Budget, Institutional Endorsement, Mentoring Plan, Support Letters

Submit Stage 2 Application

Complete Stage 2 Remote Review

Results

Stage 3 – Final Assessment

Separate Interdisciplinary Committee

Complete Final Assessment

Selection

Caliber of the Applicant (75%)
- Leadership (25%)
- Significance of Contributions (25%)
- Productivity (25%)

Vision and Program Direction (25%)

Quality of the Program (50%)
- Research Concept (25%)
- Research Approach (25%)

Quality of the Expertise, Experience and Resources (50%)
- Expertise (20%)
- Mentorship and Training (20%)
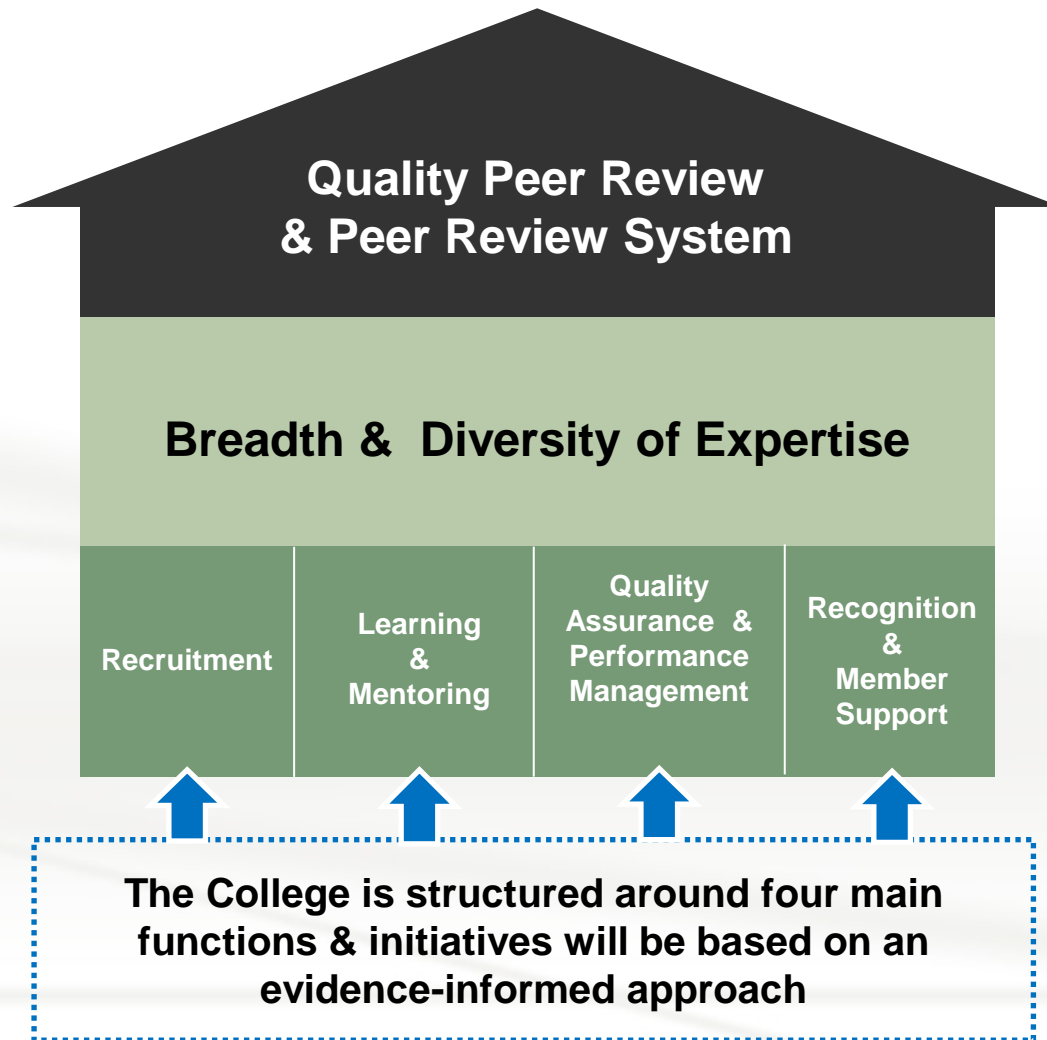- Quality of Support Environment (10%)

Budget

The committee is responsible for integrating the result of the Stage 2 reviews, with a focus on assessing applications that fall into the "grey zone" (i.e., applications close to the funding cut-off, and which demonstrate a high degree of variance in individual reviewer rankings).

The committee make final recommendation on which "grey zone" applications should be funded based on the available funds.

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.**