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RESEARCH ALERTS 

Program Structure and Peer Review Changes at CIHR

July 5, 2016 • Reply to [Judith Chadwick](#)

A message from the Vice-President, Research and Innovation to the University of Toronto's CIHR Community:

Over the past five years, CIHR has been actively moving forward on [reforms of its Open Operating Grant programs and its peer review processes](#). While the underlying rationale for these changes was generally understood and supported in theory, the implementation has resulted in an uneven experience across the CIHR community, and has elicited a number of significant and very public expressions of concern.

My office, in consultation with the research leadership of our academic divisions and affiliated hospitals has been actively engaged in discussions and consultations on the program and peer review changes, and is monitoring closely the impact of the changes as the implementation progresses. Engagement is ongoing, formally and informally, between the University and various levels at CIHR, in collaboration with other organizations including the [U15](#) group of research universities, [HealthCareCAN](#) (Canadian health care organizations) and the Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario ([CAHO](#)). Our goal is to ensure that excellent health research conducted at publicly funded institutions in Canada, within which UofT and affiliated hospitals are significant players, continues to be enabled through a respected system that is both effective and efficient. That objective continues to be central to all of our discussions on the evolution of health research funding delivered through

CIHR. Today's [message from the Minister of Health](#) is a strong indication that research and procedural excellence is a top priority.

We encourage you to share constructive feedback on your experience as an applicant, a grant holder, a reviewer or in any capacity and to provide your ideas on how the system can be made stronger. I urge you to write to [CIHR](#) and to also consider providing input to the [Federal Science Review](#). In either case, it would be extremely helpful if you would share your communication with me by copying VP.Research@utoronto.ca.

Regards,

Vivek

Professor Vivek Goel

Vice-President, Research and Innovation

University of Toronto

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