

Partnership Matters



CIHR Partner Communiqué!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Alan Bernstein, O.C., FRSC
President
Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Welcome to the first edition of *CIHR Partnership Matters*. CIHR recently celebrated its 6th anniversary. Together with our partners, Canada has developed new approaches and innovative programs to enable our health research community to be internationally competitive and to translate the results of their research for the benefit of Canadians.

Partnerships have played a central role in the evolution of CIHR. By pooling resources we have been able to fund more and more research teams in areas of shared strategic importance spanning a wide range of health challenges. Partnerships have also helped provide a united and strong voice to stress the need for continued investments in health research.

Successful partnerships grow and flourish in an environment of trust and open communication. The purpose of this new publication is to provide even more focus on communications, providing timely news to keep everyone informed of new developments at CIHR.

I look forward to ongoing dialogue with all of our partners as we move forward on our mandate to create and translate new knowledge to ensure improved health for Canadians.

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF CIHR

In early 2006, CIHR assembled a 27-member International Review Panel to review CIHR's mandate and performance. Chaired by Dr. John Bell, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University, the Panel met with more than 100 young and well-established investigators, university and government leaders, partners in industry, the health charities and the provinces, and CIHR management and staff. In their Report to Governing Council, the Panel applauds CIHR for what has been accomplished to date, noting that Canada is setting an example to the world. The Report also includes, at an appropriately high level, important observations on the future directions CIHR might consider in the next stage of its evolution. You are invited to read the full report which can be found at <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/31680.html>.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our partners who met with members of the Panel and/or provided feedback in preparation of the review.

RESEARCH NEWS

- The Small Health Organization Partnership Program (SHOPP) is a program designed to foster partnership opportunities with small health charities and not-for-profit organizations with modest health research funding (under \$250K per year) by co-funding training and salary awards. We are currently partnering with 17 organizations to co-fund Doctoral Research Awards, Fellowships and New Investigator Salary Awards. For more information, please contact Gwendoline Simard (contact information provided below.)
- CIHR has introduced new stipend levels for Salary Awards (i.e. New Investigator, Clinician Scientist Phase Two and Mid Career awards). The stipend level has been increased to \$60,000 including fringe benefits and will take effect beginning with the September 2006 competitions. The reason for this change is to ease the administrative burden of paying the fringe benefits. For example, in many cases, reconciliations to resolve fringe benefits were done late, with the result that funding payouts overlapped several fiscal years. For more information see <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/22372.html>.
- New for 2006: Master's Awards are now available as a funding option for partnered awards. See <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/24190.html> for more details.
- CIHR has introduced new index titles for all CIHR funding opportunities in order to simplify the presentation of funding opportunities on the web site and to make it easier for researchers to find specific funding opportunities of interest to them. This is the first step in making this information searchable. The Master List is located at <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/27194.html>.
- CIHR has adopted a new process for reviewing Fellowship applications. See <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28643.html> for more information. The Guide for reviewers – CIHR Fellowships (2005-2006) can be found at <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/26720.html>

Administrative Changes to Transfer Payments:

The Finance Branch has implemented a plan to phase out collaborative agreements with third-party delivery as a method of payment as this process does not comply with the Treasury Board Policy on Transfer Payments. This method of payment was removed as an option for all new collaborative agreements as well as for agreements that were up for renewal or revision. Currently, there are several agreements still in place that use third-party delivery. Finance will be working with the partners to transition these agreements by March 31, 2007.

CIHR Budget 2006-07:

CIHR received \$17 million in new funding in the May 2 federal budget, which represents a 2.4% increase. CIHR was also awarded \$21.5 million over five years to fund research into pandemic preparedness. Despite the budget increase, CIHR's uncommitted funds for 2006-07 were still lower than in recent years. As a result, CIHR was obliged to make some changes in its 2006-07 budget. These changes were made after extensive consultations with the program directors and Scientific Directors and the revised budget was approved by Governing Council in June 2006. In making these decisions, management made a conscious effort to not reduce/delay programs which were partnered. As such, it is expected that the impact on partnered initiatives will be negligible. For more information, see <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/31487.html>.

REORGANIZATION OF CIHR

CIHR recently conducted a review of internal governance, reporting relationships, and accountabilities. The rapid growth of CIHR has created challenges for the organization and it was felt that strengthened internal governance and clearer lines of accountability are needed. As a result, the Partnerships Branch will now report to the new Vice-President of Knowledge Translation. Our web pages will be updated as soon as changes are implemented.

CIHR INSTITUTE NEWS

- CIHR welcomes Dr. Colleen Flood as the incoming Scientific Director for CIHR's Institute of Health Services and Policy Research effective September 1, 2006. Dr. Flood is currently an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto and a Canada Research Chair in Health Law and Policy. For more information, please see <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/31051.html>.
- Interviews for the next Scientific Director for CIHR's Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis took place over the summer. Dr. Cy Frank concludes his term on December 31, 2006. An announcement regarding Dr. Frank's replacement is expected shortly.

GOODBYE TO DR. MARK BISBY, CIHR VP Research (2000-2006)

The transformation of the Medical Research Council into CIHR, and the unprecedented growth of this organization over the past 6 years, did not occur by chance or on its own. It required many individuals with great dedication, intelligence, vision, integrity, and wisdom. Unquestionably, no one has exemplified these qualities better than Dr. Mark Bisby, who retired on June 30, 2006 as CIHR's Vice-President, Research. Dr. Bisby rightfully earned the fondness and respect of all the staff at CIHR, the hundreds of members of CIHR's Grants and Awards Panels, the research community, and our many valued partners.

In honour of Dr. Bisby's contribution to health research, CIHR will be launching a Fellowship program in his name by designating the top ranking applicants in each year's competitions as Bisby Fellows.

WELCOME TO DR. PIERRE CHARTRAND

CIHR welcomed Dr. Pierre Chartrand as the new Vice-President of Research on September 5, 2006. Prior to his

appointment, Dr. Chartrand was the Chief Executive Officer, Institute for Research in Immunology and Cancer and a Full Professor, Department of Pathology and Cellular Biology, Faculty of Medicine, at the Université de Montréal. (See <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/32130.html> for more information.)

WELCOME TO DR. IAN GRAHAM, CIHR VP KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

CIHR recently welcomed Dr. Ian Graham as the Vice-President of Knowledge Translation. Dr. Graham is Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Ottawa and Senior Social Scientist and Associate Director of the Clinical Epidemiology Program of the Ottawa Health Research Institute. (See <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/31717.html> for more details.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Canadian Health Research Awards – A Celebration of Excellence, Wednesday, November 22, 2006 (<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/27894.html>)

PARTNERSHIPS CONTACTS:

See our website at <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/27380.html>