Today I will talk about...

✓ What is CIHR?
✓ What’s New at CIHR?
✓ CIHR Funding Opportunities for Trainees
✓ Application Process and Tips for Award Applicants
✓ Peer Review Process for Awards
✓ Program Statistics
What is CIHR?
CIHR is:

- Government of Canada’s health research funding agency
- Supporting the work of 1,000’s of researchers and trainees in universities, teaching hospitals, and research institutes across Canada
- Developing high-quality people, excellent science and training the next generation of health researchers
- Funding research that improves Canadians’ health, health care system and quality of life
- Fostering commercialization, moving research discoveries from academic setting to the marketplace

**CIHR Mandate**

“To excel, according to internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence, in the creation of new knowledge and its translation into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health care system…”
CIHR’s 13 Virtual Institutes

- CIHR’s 13 Institutes have become a meeting ground for Canada’s health research community
- Each Institute -- with its partners -- has developed a strategic plan to guide its research initiatives
- These plans build on existing knowledge, fill research gaps, and help to fully realize Canadians’ investment in health research by maximizing cooperation and minimizing duplication
CIHR’s Research Themes

CIHR’s funds a broad spectrum of health research, categorized into four themes:

• Biomedical Research
• Clinical Research
• Health Systems and Services
• Population and Public Health (including the social, cultural, environmental and ethical dimensions of health)
Research Capacity Development

Supporting the “Brightest Minds”

Training Students and Postdoctoral Fellows

- Individual Trainee Awards, e.g., master’s, doctoral, postdoctoral
- Training Grants (STIHR)
- Partial or complete support from CIHR research grants

Salary Support for Independent Investigators

- New Investigators
- Chairs

Support for Collaborative Team Research

- Team Grants
- Emerging Team Grants
What is new at CIHR?
CIHR’s Proposed Strategic Directions and alignment with S&T Strategy

Four strategic directions to address health challenges:

1. **Invest in World-Class Excellence**
2. **Set Health and Health System Research Priorities**
3. **Accelerate the Capture of Health and Economic Benefits of Health Research**
4. **Achieve Organizational Excellence, Foster a Culture of Ethics and Demonstrate Impact**

**S&T Strategy Principles**

- Promoting world-class excellence
- Focusing on priorities
- Encouraging partnerships
- Enhancing accountability
Application Completeness

Biggest Change Made Last Year affecting Research Community

Application Completeness

• Announced in May 2008: “As per our existing policy, CIHR does not accept applications that are incomplete. This policy will be adhered to by all CIHR staff to ensure fairness and transparency. The applicant is responsible for ensuring the application is complete and all signatures are obtained.”

How did it go?

• Highlighted loopholes in instructions
• Exceptions granted for all consistently
• More clarity regarding signatures required
• Dependence of researchers on research Institution’s application review
Fall 2008 Competitions:

- CIHR held 62 competitions from September 1-October 30, 2008
- Of the 4525 applications received 233 were withdrawn because they were not complete, representing 5%.
  - 72 (1.6%) for missing signatures
  - 17 (0.4%) for draft CVs
  - 143 (3.1%) for other missing components (e.g. no budget, no transcripts, no letters of support)
- Some were withdrawn for multiple reasons

Reminder: Applicant is responsible for verifying application is complete (as stated in Meaning of Signatures for Applicants)
$35 million over three years, for the expansion of the Canada Graduate Scholarships program

These funds will provide for an additional 200 doctoral scholarships, valued at $35,000 each per year for three years, and an additional 800 master’s scholarships, valued at $17,500 each for one year, over the next two fiscal years.
CIHR Funding Opportunities Database
The next announcement of funding opportunities is scheduled for December.
This database:

✓ provides a complete listing of current and archived opportunities
✓ is searchable
✓ can be viewed by Institute, program type, or target applicant

CIHR Funding Opportunities database

http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/780.html
Funding Opportunities

Find:

- Current CIHR Funding Opportunities
- Archived CIHR Funding Opportunities
- Non-CIHR Funding Opportunities
- Non-CIHR Training Opportunities
Find Funding Help

Search

To search for grants and awards, identify the search criteria in one or more fields below. To search for certain words, type them into the search term(s) and for all words or any of the words. Click "Search" when all of your search criteria are entered.

Search Term(s)

- Search for all words
- Search for any words

CIHR Institute**

Program Type

Target Applicant

Deadline Date

- ---
- ---
- TO
- ---
- ---

Launch Date

- ---
- ---

Number of search results per page

- 25

Include Archived Opportunities

Search Clear

** Refers to CIHR Institute, Portfolio, Initiative or Office
### Option 2 - View the complete list of opportunities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunity Name</th>
<th>Registration/LOI Deadline</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Fellowship: Focus on Stroke (2009-2010)</td>
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<td>2009-10-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowship: Gastroenterology/Nutrition (2009-2013)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2009-10-01</td>
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</table>
Option 3 - View by program type/Institute/target applicant

Search

Browse Current Opportunities

By Program Type
Catalyst Grant, Chair, Doctoral Research Award, Emerging Team Grant, Fellowship, Knowledge Synthesis Grant, Master's Award, Meetings, Planning and Dissemination Grant, Mid-Career Investigator Salary Award, New Investigator Salary Award, Operating Grant, Other, Partnerships for Health System Improvement, Prize, Proof of Principle, Randomized Controlled Trials, Team Grant, Training Grant, Undergraduate

By CIHR Institute**

By Target Applicant
Administrators, Clinicians, Doctoral Students, Graduate Students, Health Professionals, Master's Students, Media, Medical Students, Other, Policy/Decision Makers, Postdoctoral Fellows, Researchers, Special Interest Groups, Technicians, Undergraduate Students

**Refers to CIHR Institute, Portfolio, Initiative or Office
Training Award Programs
This program funds... health professional students enrolled in an undergraduate program leading to Canadian licensure. Students enrolled in a program requiring a graduate degree for Canadian licensure are also eligible.

- Funding is offered through a voucher process
- Allocations are provided to the VP Research Office and are based on the number of health professional degree programs at the university
- Applications are forwarded to CIHR by the nominating university

**Stipend**: $4,251 or $5,961 (depending on degree type)

**Term**: 13 weeks
This program funds… students enrolled at a Canadian university in a combined MD/PhD program.

- Funding is allocated to the MD/PhD program director at the Canadian university
- Applications are forwarded to CIHR by the nominating university

Stipend: $21,000
Research Allowance: $1,000
Term: up to 6 years
Deadline for nominations: November 1

To note: A review of the quota formula used for the distribution of the funding of this program will take place during the next months.
Summer Program in Japan

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) provides graduate students in health research with an eight-week research experience in Japan, an introduction to the science and science policy infrastructure in Japan, and an orientation to the culture and language. CIHR is one of the nominating Canadian authorities for this program.

The first week of the program will be dedicated to an orientation session, including an introduction to the language, culture and research systems of the host country, as well as activities. The following seven weeks (approximately) will be spent working on research activities at the host institution.

**Stipend:** $3,000  
**Term:** 8 weeks  
**CIHR Application Deadline:** November 1
Master’s Awards

This program funds... Master’s students at Canadian universities

• Application quotas are provided to each AUCC member university
• Applications are forwarded to CIHR by the nominating university
• Direct applications accepted only from students who are not registered at a Canadian university in the Fall semester prior to the CIHR deadline

CIHR Application Deadline for all applications: February 1
Stipend: $17,500
Term: 1 year

Progress! This year, the program is managed using an electronic nomination process. Transcripts and signature forms must however, still be submitted directly to CIHR.
Funding is available for… Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada, and international doctoral students, nominated by the Canadian University where they will pursue doctoral studies.

- Tri-Agency program supporting students who achieved outstanding success in their studies and who will pursue a doctoral program in a Canadian University.
- Separate competition timeline for the Vanier awards from the CGS and other tri-agency scholarships
- No automatic CGS award for unsuccessful Vanier nominees

**Stipend:** $50,000  
**Term:** 24 or 36 months  
**Application Deadline:** CIHR Application Deadline for all applications is November 6
Vanier Program

**Target:** 500 active Vanier scholarships (167 scholarships for the 2009 competition, divided equally among the three agencies)

**Application Process:** Through ResearchNet (now available), students are able to create and sign into an account to complete their application and send it to the university of their choice

**Review Process:** Each agencies’ Interdisciplinary Selection Committee recommends to the Vanier Selection Board the top 70 most meritorious candidates (total of 210 candidates between all 3 agencies)

**Criteria:**
- Academic excellence (1/3)
- Research potential (1/3)
- Leadership ability (1/3) for ex: personal achievement, Involvement in academic life, volunteerism/community outreach, etc.
**Funding is available for**… Doctoral students in Canada and abroad

Two programs of funding (not including the Vanier) …

- Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral Awards (CGSDA)
- CIHR Doctoral Research Awards (CIHR DRA)

To note: All doctoral students who want to be considered for a Vanier AND a CIHR CGS award, must submit an application for each competition.
Funding is available for... Students who are pursuing a PhD degree in a health-related field in Canada or abroad. The top ranked Doctoral Research Award (DRA) applicants pursuing doctoral research training at a Canadian institution are automatically considered for a Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) Doctoral Research Award.

Open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

**Stipend:** up to $26,000 (DRA) and $30,000 (CGS)

**Research Allowance:** $1,000 (DRA) and $5,000 (CGS)

**Term:** up to 3 years

**Application Deadline:** October 15
# Doctoral Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Application process</th>
<th>Eligibility Criteria</th>
<th>Value / Duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships</td>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Pre-selection at the universities</td>
<td>Canadian students, permanent residents and foreigners who have a remarkable school records and who are proposing to complete their studies in a Canadian university</td>
<td>50 000 $ / year / 3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral Awards</td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Directly to CIHR</td>
<td>Canadian students or permanent residents who are proposing to complete their doctoral studies in a Canadian university</td>
<td>35 000 $ / year / 3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIHR Doctoral Research Awards</td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Directly to CIHR</td>
<td>Canadian students or permanent residents who are proposing to complete their doctoral studies in a university out of Canada</td>
<td>26 000 $ / year / 3 years</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
This program funds... existing Canadian CGS Master’s or Doctoral Award recipients that would like to pursue a short research period outside of Canada. In future years, Vanier CGS recipients will also be eligible.

Supplement: up to $6,000

Term: usually four to six months

CIHR deadline for applications is October 10 and June 10

To note: This program is presently 'under used' at CIHR! Why not increase the 'marketing' of the program to increase the rate of applications?
Fellowship Awards

This program funds... trainees with PhD and/or health professional degree(s) that are proposing research training in Canada or abroad

Stipend per annum: $40,000 to $55,000; depending on the background of the awardee and where the award is held

Research Allowance per annum: $5,000

Term: up to five years; depending on the intended use of the award

Application Deadlines: October 1st and February 1st
New Investigators

This program funds... researchers who have held a full time research appointment for a period of no more than 60 months as of the September competition deadline

Salary per annum: $60,000

Research Allowance per annum: up to $50,000

Term: up to five years

Application Deadline: September 15
Priority Announcements

• Offer additional sources of funding for highly rated applications that are relevant to specific CIHR research priority areas

• Candidates may request that their application to a core program be considered for up to three priority announcement research areas in each competition

• For the 2009-10 competition cycle, there will be Priority Announcements for the Master’s Award, Doctoral Research Award, Fellowship and New Investigator programs.
A CIHR Training Program Grant is awarded to a group of excellent mentors/educators, accomplished in health research, who work collaboratively to offer a research training program of defined format and content to a group of trainees.

Potential trainees apply directly to successful Training Programs for program admission and for stipend support. These competitive training opportunities are advertised nationally and internationally.

54 training programs are presently funded by CIHR and their partners. An investment of approximately 27 million dollars in the current year and a total of 100 million dollars over 6 years.

www.stihr.ca
The Application Process
CIHR Application Modules

• Award programs are in the process of transitioning to an automated application process through the use of ResearchNet

• All programs will be using ResearchNet for electronic submission starting in December 2009

• Until then some funding opportunities will continue to require the use of CIHR Webforms with a paper copy submission

• Review the How to Apply section of the Funding Opportunity to which you are applying
The CV Module is used for almost all of CIHR grants and awards programs.

Access the Common CV Website (www.ccv-cvc.ca) via the Webforms login or via the ResearchNet website (https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca).

You should take advantage of this space to demonstrate your academic background, research training and achievements, awards held, acknowledgements, publications, previous funding and leadership in your field.
The main focus of this form is your training expectations and proposed training program.

You should take advantage of this space to demonstrate innovation, originality, the feasibility of your project, the viability of proposed experiments and methods, and plans for the dissemination of research findings. You will also be required to comment on your access to space, funds and infrastructure, your time and availability for research and your planned collaborative arrangements with other researchers/institutions.

Ensure that the content is well written and focused, indicates the potential to improve the understanding and the potential for impact within and beyond the academic community.
If applying to a program using electronic submission via ResearchNet, you will be required to identify sponsors and an e-mail will be sent to them through ResearchNet with forms attached.

Accessible via the List of Forms and Guidelines for Completion section of the CIHR Website or directly on ResearchNet for the programs that have electronic submission.

Sponsor should provide specific examples of the candidate’s behaviour with respect to each characteristic.
Things to consider when applying…
Tips for Applicants

- follow instructions exactly
- adhere to format guidelines (e.g., font, page limits)
- applications MUST be completed using the media specified in the funding opportunity
- use the full page allowances
- start at least two months before the deadline
Tips for Applicants

Applicants are encouraged to…

- work on the research proposal in collaboration with their supervisor/mentor
- proofread their application
- show the complete application to their supervisor/mentor, peers and other researchers for feedback

Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted:
- If you are submitting through ResearchNet, all tasks must be listed as complete in order to be allowed to submit the application successfully
- Do not wait until the last minute to submit your application!
Tips for Applicants

Common issues with award applications:

• Missing CIHR CV Module: most training award applications require the CIHR CV Module for the candidate and the proposed supervisor(s)

• Official transcripts are required…certified copies will not be accepted

• Completed Sponsor’s Assessments must be sent to CIHR prior to the application deadline

Ensure all components of the application are complete and included when the application is submitted…incomplete applications are withdrawn from the competition!
Useful Links

Current funding opportunities:  
http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/780.html

Apply for Funding:  http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/795.html

CIHR funding policy (incl. the Grants & Awards Guide):  
http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/204.html

CIHR Funding Database of funded research:  
http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/826.html

Peer review related information:  http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/37790.html

Peer review committees and mandates:  
http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/4657.html
Peer Review for Award Programs
Each CIHR award program has a set of peer review committees that are created specifically to review applications for that program:

- 2 Master’s Awards committees
- 2 Doctoral Research Award (DRA) committees
- 5 Fellowships committees

Each set of peer review committees is grouped into committees that review specific themes; generally themes 1 and 2 or 3 and 4, however, there are a few committees that review applications from all themes, i.e., 1 through 4.

Committees for the Master’s Awards, Doctoral Research Awards and Fellowships use a “virtual” review process. Reviews are done off-site and submitted to CIHR via ResearchNet.
The following general criteria are used for evaluating applications for Master’s Awards, Doctoral Research Awards, Fellowships:

- Achievements and Activities of the Candidate
- Characteristics and Abilities of the Candidate
- Research Training Environment
Program Statistics
High success rate is due to the pre-selection process completed at the universities.
Doctoral Research Awards
Open and Strategic Competitions

- STIHR began
- CGS began
- Additional CGS

Number of Applications

Success Rates

Applications Reviewed in Open Comp.
Applications Approved in Open Comp.
Open and Strategic
Success Rate of Open Comp.
Fellowships
Open and Strategic Competitions

STIHR began

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Competition Year</th>
<th>Applications Reviewed in Open Comp.</th>
<th>Applications Approved in Open Comp.</th>
<th>Open and Strategic Applications Approved</th>
<th>Success Rate of Open Comp.</th>
<th>Success Rate of Open and Strategic Comp.</th>
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<td>149</td>
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Contact the Research Capacity Development Branch with your questions...
## Research Capacity Development Contacts

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<td>Doctoral Research Awards and CGS Doctoral Awards</td>
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<td>Fellowships</td>
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<td>JSPS Summer Program in Japan</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:HPSRA@cihr-irsc.gc.ca">HPSRA@cihr-irsc.gc.ca</a></td>
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</table>
If you have questions or comments, please contact…

ResearchNet Support
support@researchnet-recherchenet.ca
(613) 941-9080
QUESTIONS?

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Team Lead, Program Delivery
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