



April 26, 2012

Hello,

As you are aware, Research Canada has been closely monitoring CIHR's proposed reforms to its Operating Grants Program and our community's response to the proposals. As I indicated to you in my last e-mail dated March 21, 2012, Research Canada is dedicated to communicating our members' common views and concerns to Dr. Alain Beaudet, CIHR's President, and Dr. Jane Aubin, CIHR's Vice-President of Research, on an on-going basis throughout this process.

Mr. Jacques Hendlisz, Research Canada's Chair, Dr. Michael Julius, Research Canada's newly appointed Science Advisor, and I had the opportunity to meet with Drs. Beaudet and Aubin on Friday, April 20th in their offices in Ottawa. At that meeting we expressed the two major concerns which you, our members, communicated to us last month which were:

- 1) We want the process to slow down so that we have more time to assess and analyze what these proposed changes would mean to our respective institutions and to the enterprise as a whole and we need this time to formulate our views, deliver them and ensure that they are heard and understood clearly by CIHR;
- 2) Whatever proposals are put forward need to be tested and evaluated by CIHR and the community before they are formally implemented by the agency.

Both Drs. Beaudet and Aubin assured us that the process for reform is a six-year one with ample time for members of our community to weigh in and influence the outcome. They also assured us that following a series of consultations they have undertaken throughout the country that they have listened, changed some of their thinking in terms of improving the originally proposed mechanisms aimed at making the process fairer and improving efficiencies and as a result of your input are very close to presenting a set of changes that better reflect what they heard across the country.

They also assured us that whatever proposals went forward would be tested, as you requested, before they would be formally implemented.

It was clear from the meeting that the reforms will go forward—the train has left the station—because the existing system cannot sustain the demands that are now being placed upon it. Looking to other jurisdictions, such as Europe, for example, which has



made similar changes to the ones that are now being proposed by the CIHR for Canada, there is sufficient time and a dedicated consultation process with the community that Drs. Beaudet and Aubin are confident will produce an outcome that the community can accept and adopt in the future.

Research Canada would like to encourage our members to continue to provide us with your comments and concerns as this process unfolds. We will reach out to you and share with you what are your common concerns and then we will proceed with your support as we did on April 20th to bring these forward to Drs. Beaudet and Aubin on an on-going basis.

We thank you for your confidence in Research Canada to represent your collective interests and to do what is in the best interests of the health research community in Canada throughout this important reform process.

Best regards,

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