CIHR Townhall

Winter-Spring 2015

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

The objectives of today's presentation are to:

- Introduce CIHR's new Strategic Plan – Health Research Roadmap II - Capturing innovation for better health and health care

- Address some of the rumours about CIHR's budget and changes to the Institutes

- Provide an update on the first Foundation Scheme Pilot – including some of the preliminary survey results

- Provide an update on the launch of the Project Scheme and the College of Reviewers

Health Research Roadmap II - Capturing innovation for better health and health care

CIHR

HEALTH RESEARCH ROADMAP II:
Capturing innovation to produce better health and health care for Canadians
Strategic Plan 2014-15 – 2018-19

- *Health Research Roadmap II* (2014) is an updated version of CIHR's previous strategic plan (2009-2013).

- It strikes a balance between **completing** the transformation we set to achieve in *Roadmap* (2009)*,* and **aligning** to the future.

Completing Roadmap

A number of current *Roadmap* initiatives and activities will ***continue*** to be an important part of *Roadmap II*.

Aligning to the Future

There will also be ***new*** initiatives and activities that CIHR must embrace to stay relevant and aligned to the future.

Canada

Roadmap II's strategic directions will guide efforts and investments to advance knowledge and capture innovation for better health and health care.

ROADMAP II

Capturing Innovation to Produce Better Health and Health Care for Canadians

Promoting Excellence, Creativity and Breadth in Health Research and Knowledge Translation

- Supporting Leading Researchers for Advances in Health
- Building a Solid Foundation for the Future

Mobilizing Health Research for Transformation and Impact

- Refreshing Health and Health System Research Priorities
- Reaping Benefits through Strategic Alliances
- Embracing the Data Revolution

Achieving Organizational Excellence

Does CIHR still value Investigator-Initiated Research?

Strategic Direction #1	Promoting excellence, creativity and breadth in health research and knowledge translation

EXCELLENCE

- Supporting **investigator-initiated** ideas and research, from discovery to application.

- Decreasing researcher burden with the implementation of the **Foundation and Project Open funding schemes**.

- Improving the effectiveness, consistency, reliability, fairness and sustainability of peer review decisions through changes to **peer review processes**.

- Ensuring the sustainability of the health research enterprise through the development of a national vision to position **trainees** for success in both academic and non-academic careers.

CIHR is committed to supporting investigator-initiated research.

Canada

Strategic Direction #2

Mobilizing health research for transformation and impact

MOBILIZE

- Maximizing the health, social and economic **impact** of research through targeted and partnered investments.

- Enabling **multidisciplinary** research and increasing **capacity** to address complex research questions.

- **Focusing** on critical health issues championed by Canadians.

- Forging strategic alliances with new health and non-health **partners**.

Success in health innovation will be achieved through strategic alliances.

Canada

Discussions with researchers, partners and other stakeholders have informed a refreshed set of priorities.

Enhanced patient experiences and outcomes through health innovation

- Accelerating the discovery, development, evaluation and integration of health innovations into practice so that patients can receive the right treatments at the right time.

Health and wellness for Aboriginal peoples

- Supporting the health and wellness goals of Aboriginal peoples through shared research leadership and the establishment of culturally-sensitive policies and interventions.

A healthier future through preventive action

- A proactive approach to understanding and addressing the causes of ill health, and supporting physical and mental wellness at the individual, population and system levels.

Improved quality of life for persons living with chronic conditions

- Understanding multiple, co-existing chronic conditions and supporting integrated solutions that enable Canadians to continue to participate actively in society.
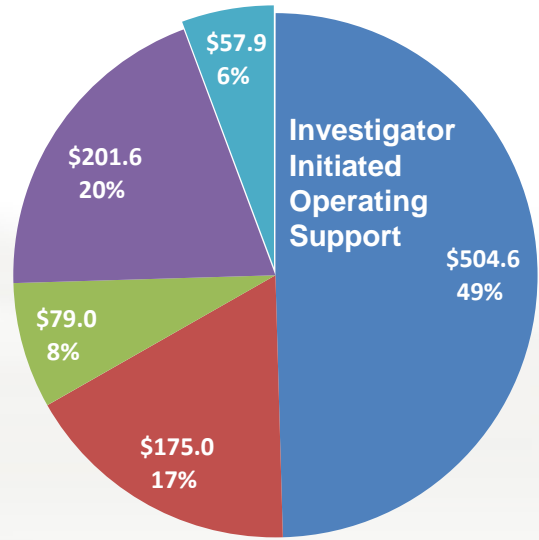
Canada

CIHR's Budget and Changes to the Institutes

CIHR Budget 2014-15 - $1,018.1M

Recent government investments have focused on Tri-Council programs for training and horizontal initiatives.

Pie chart:
- Operating Support
- Training & Career Support
- Horizontal Health Research Initiatives
- Institute-Driven Initiatives
- Operating Budget & EBP

Chart values:
- Investigator Initiated Operating Support — $504.6 / 49%
- $175.0 / 17%
- $79.0 / 8%
- $201.6 / 20%
- $57.9 / 6%

* Anticipated budget, including 2014-15 Supplementary Estimates C and adjustments to be provided by Treasury Board.

- In 2012, CIHR's Governing Council committed to increasing the funding envelope for the **Investigator-Initiated programs by $10M a year** cumulatively for five years, beginning in 2014.

Investigator-Initiated Operating Support

Will researchers be required to find their own partners in order to access CIHR funding?

- Researchers **will not** be required to find their own partners for the Foundation Scheme, the Project Scheme, or for the awards programs.

- Leverage is required for **some** priority-driven initiatives; the responsibility to find partners will sometimes be on CIHR and sometimes on applicants.

Canada

Why is CIHR making changes to the Institutes?

- Governing Council has now completed the Institutes Model Review as mandated in the *CIHR Act,* and as recommended by the 2011 International Review Panel.

- This review has resulted in two key changes:

  1. ***Restructuring the Institute Advisory Boards*** (IABs) such that members will advise more than one Institute

  2. Enhancing effective cooperation with the Institutes by having them invest half of their budget into a ***Common Research Fund –*** now referred to as the ***Roadmap Accelerator Fund***.

- These changes will:
  - Provide Institutes with a broader, higher level strategic perspective
  - De-silo Institutes and provide for greater inter-Institute collaboration and more cross-disciplinary research
  - Promote linkages with national multi-disciplinary initiatives and platforms (e.g. NCEs, CECRs, Genome Centers, SPOR Support Units, etc.)
  - Accentuate the distinction between investigator-initiated research and priority-driven research focused on impact

- The changes to the Institute Advisory Boards will take time.

- Work is currently underway with the chairs of the current boards to build the new model.

- Once a new model has been identified, it will be communicated broadly.

- Until that time, the existing advisory boards will remain in place.

- The Roadmap Accelerator Fund, which is essentially a reallocation of resources to better support Signature Initiatives, will be established at the beginning of CIHR's next fiscal year (April 1st, 2015).
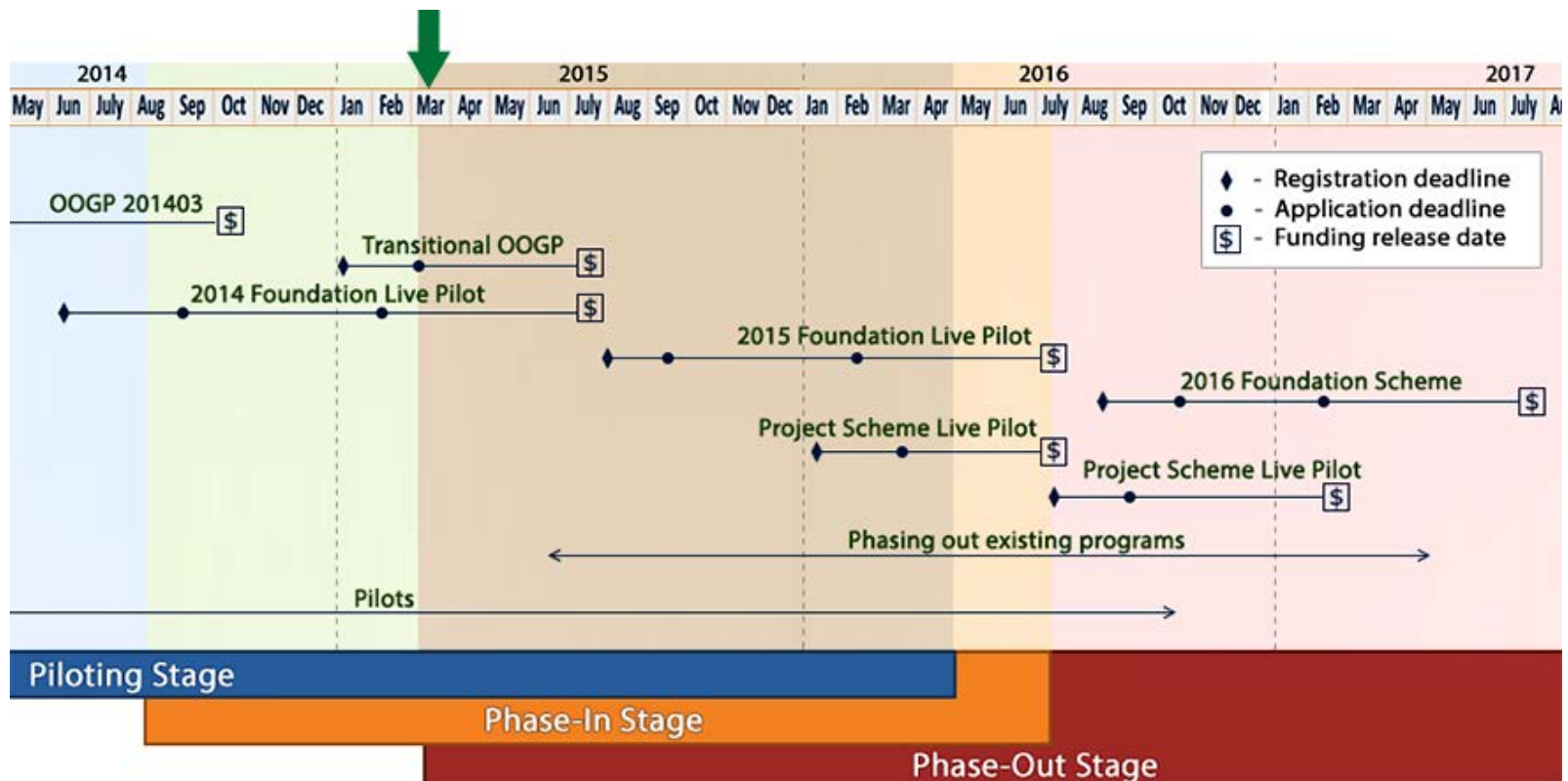
Canada

Foundation Scheme Pilot

Where are we in the transition process?

- *The transition* to the new Open Suite of Programs and peer review processes will occur over a number of years.

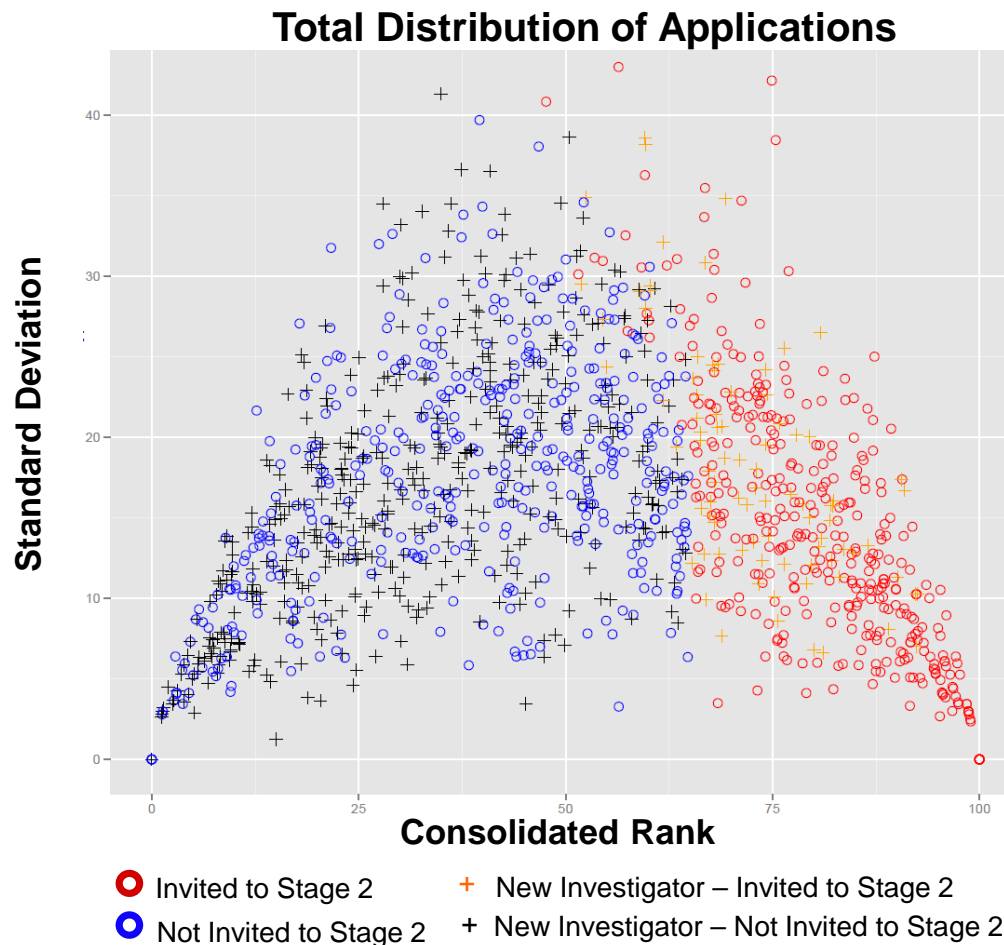- Course corrections and *adjustments may be required along the way* as we learn from the results of the pilots.

- Piloting is an essential part of the transition plan.

- As each of the pilot studies is complete, findings are made available to contribute to the body of literature on peer review and program design.
  - Fellowships – completed (www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/47940.html)
  - Knowledge Synthesis Pilot #1 – completed (www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/48940.html); Pilot #2 – underway
  - Partnerships for Health System Improvement (PHSI) – underway
  - Knowledge to Action – underway

- Improvements have already been implemented as a result of early pilot results:
  - Development of a *new rating scale* for peer reviewers with more gradation at the higher levels.
  - Establishment of a *virtual chair/moderator* role to shepherd sets of applications and ensure that online discussions are being held for applications with discrepant reviews.
  - More comprehensive *training material for applicants.*
  - More comprehensive *training material for peer reviewers.*
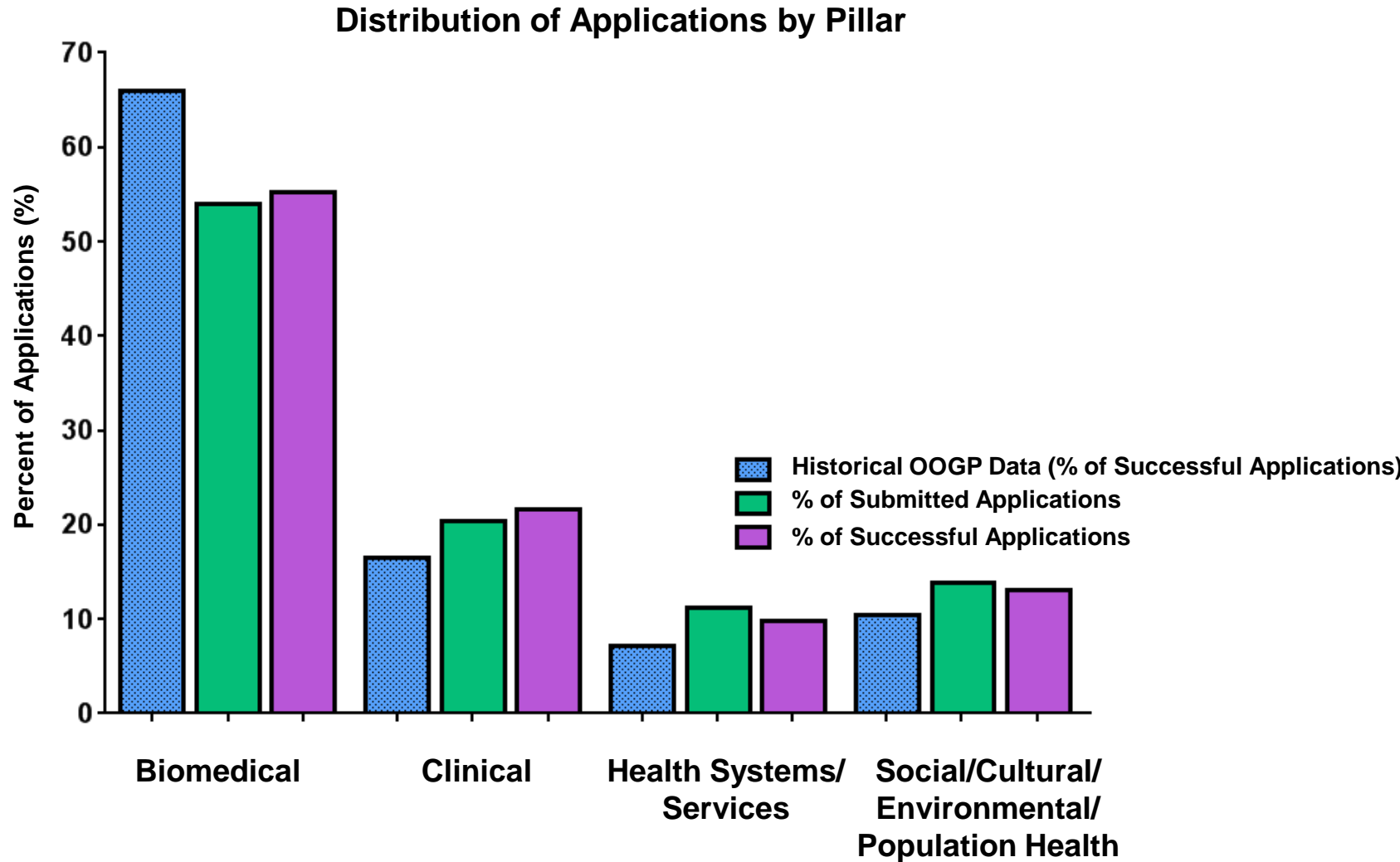 - Technology enhancements to ResearchNet to *improve usability*.

- In Stage 1, 1366 applications were reviewed by ***443 peer reviewers***.

- Each peer reviewer was assigned between 8-20 applications. The average was 15 applications. Over 98% of applications were reviewed by 5 peer reviewers.

- As the tool to match peer reviewers to applications was not in place for this pilot, a labour intensive manual process was used for assignment.

- For future pilots, a matching solution will be put in place.

- This will assist CIHR staff and the virtual chairs/moderators with the assignment of peer reviewers to applications using "concept matching" functionality.

Canada

- After analyzing the results of the competition and the available budget, CIHR has ***invited 467 (34%)*** applicants to submit a Stage 2 application.
- At this point in the process, it is anticipated that between 150-210 applications will be funded in the first pilot.


Total Distribution of Applications

- ○ Invited to Stage 2
- ○ Not Invited to Stage 2
- + New Investigator – Invited to Stage 2
- + New Investigator – Not Invited to Stage 2

Distribution of Applications by Pillar

Legend:
- Historical OOGP Data (% of Successful Applications)
- % of Submitted Applications
- % of Successful Applications

How did new/early career investigators do in Stage 1 of the Foundation Scheme?

- The first Foundation Scheme competition received more applications from new/early career investigators than originally expected (40.92% of applications).

- Peer reviewers expressed some concern about their ability to rank very new investigators.

- Despite these challenges, almost **20% of all applications** *(87 of the 467)* that were brought forward to Stage 2 were submitted by new/early career investigators.

- This is comparable to what is typically seen in the OOGP (~15%).

- CIHR has committed to ensuring that a minimum of 15% of the funded Foundation grants at the end of the process will be awarded to new/early career investigators.

Distribution of Applications submitted by New/Early Career Investigators by Pillar

Canada

21
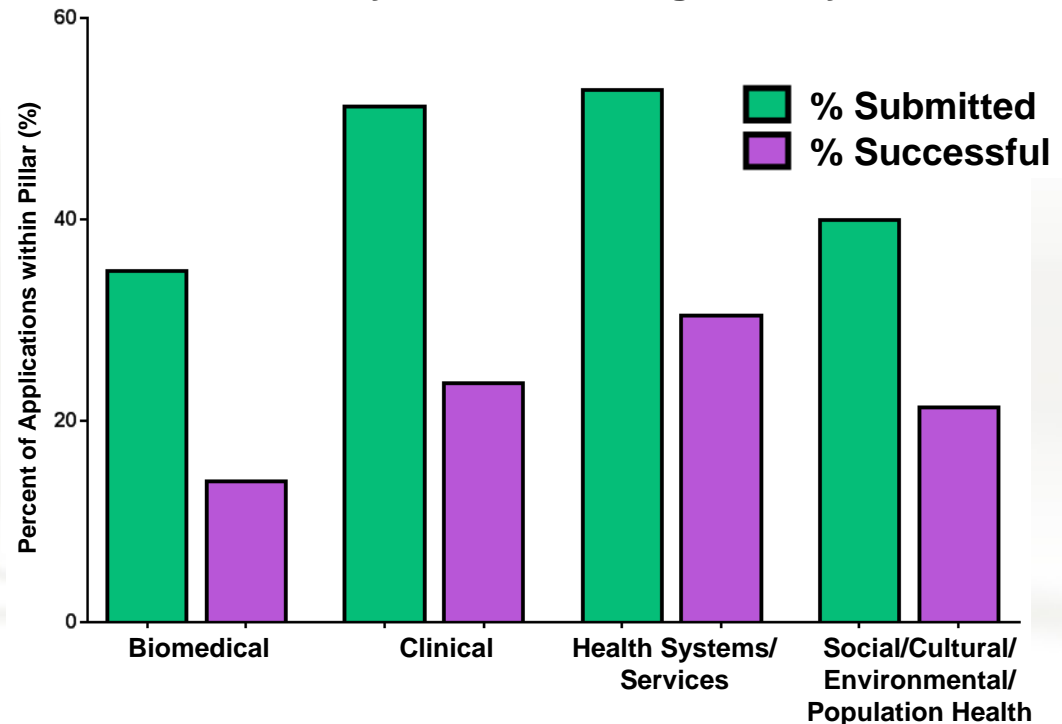
How did mid-career investigators do in Stage 1 of the Foundation Scheme?

- CIHR does not currently have a definition for "mid-career investigator".

- The system does track:
    1. Applicants who have been independent researchers for 6 – 10 years (61 – 120 months)
    2. Applicants who indicated their current academic position to be "Associate Professor"

Distribution of Applications Submitted
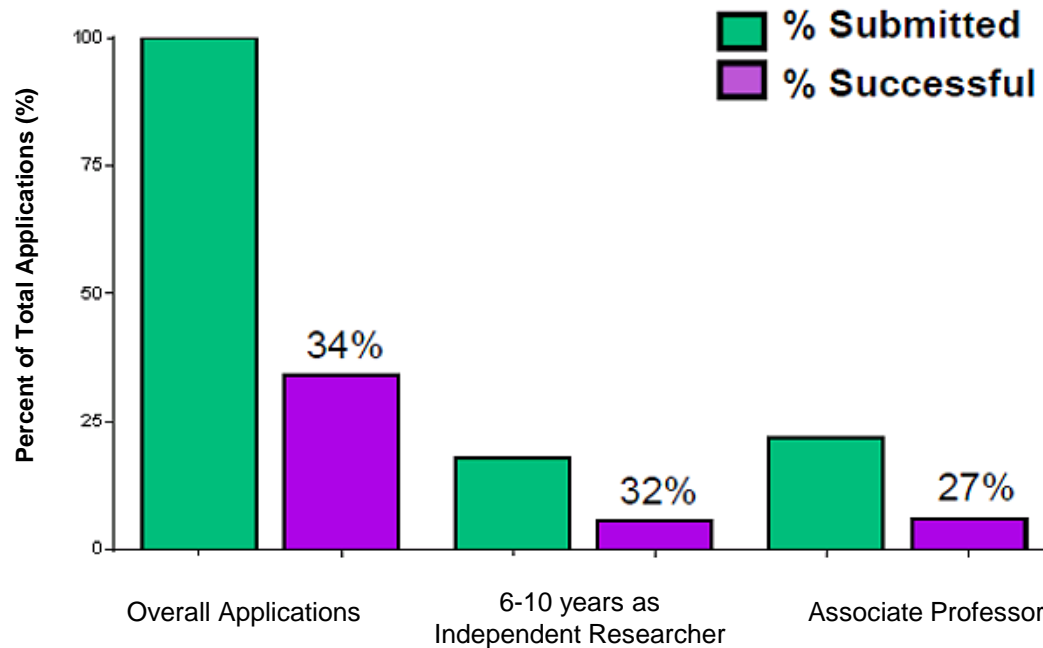
* There is overlap between the individuals included in the "6 -10 years as an Independent Investigator" and the "Associate Professor" categories in the figure above.

- The response rates for the first Foundation Scheme pilot were exceptionally high

Response Rates for Foundation Scheme pilot Stage 1 (as of Jan 14, 2015)

Participant Role	Total # Invited (Survey)	Total # Responded	Survey Completion Rate
Applicant	1366	1074	78.6%
Stage 1 Peer Reviewer	443	322	72.7%
Virtual Chair	50	40	80%

- Surveys just recently closed, and the data presented in the next few slides is **preliminary**.

- The information presented in the following slides should therefore be interpreted with caution.

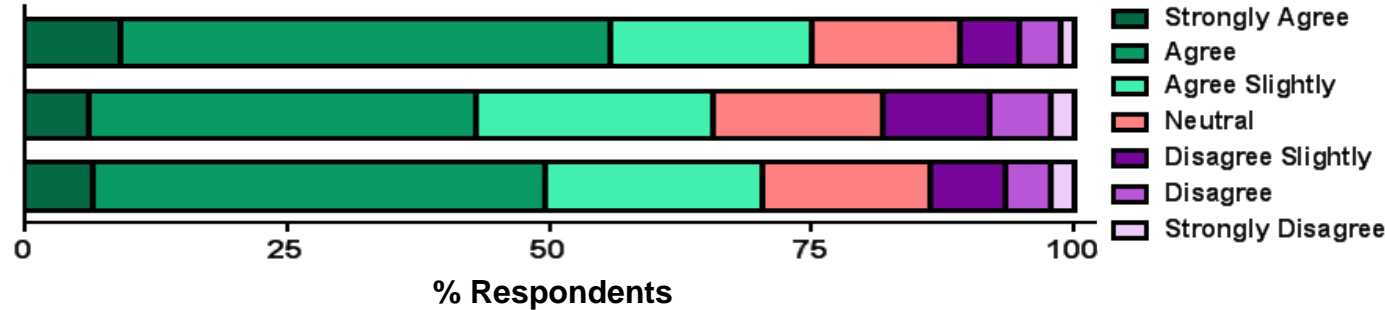- The full results of the pilots will be made available once the analysis is complete.

Canada

Applicants

* The data presented is <u>preliminary</u> data gathered from survey respondents who participated in Stage 1 of the first Foundation Scheme live pilot, and further analysis is required.
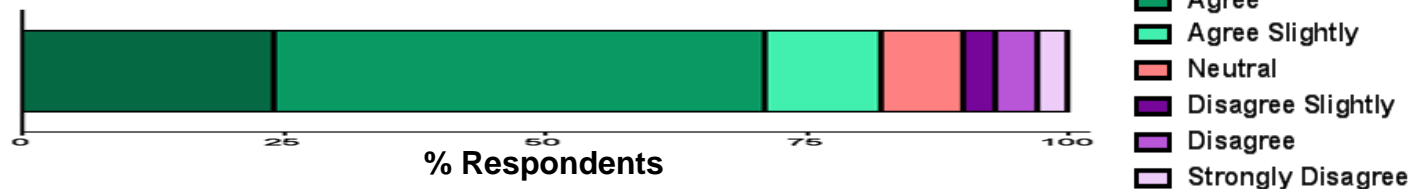
Thoughts regarding the <u>structured application</u> format (i.e. having one section for each adjudication criterion)

- The Structured Application Format is Easy to Work With
- The Structured Application Format is Intuitive
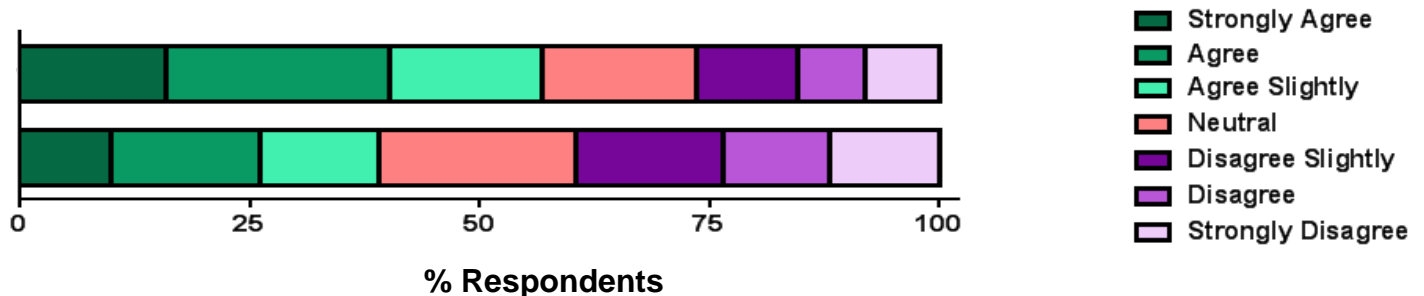- Applicants are Satisfied with the Structured Application Process

% Respondents

Legend:
- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Agree Slightly
- Neutral
- Disagree Slightly
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Peer Reviewers

The <u>structured application</u> format was helpful in my review process

% Respondents

Legend:
- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Agree Slightly
- Neutral
- Disagree Slightly
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Compared to the last time peer reviewers reviewed applications for CIHR (i.e. completed a non-structured review), completing a <u>structured review</u>:

- Made it Easier to Review
- Was a Better way to Provide Feedback to Applicants

% Respondents

Legend:
- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Agree Slightly
- Neutral
- Disagree Slightly
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

- Peer reviewers were provided with interpretation guidelines for each of the adjudication criteria and then asked to apply these based on career stage (www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/48193.html):
  - Leadership
  - Significance of Contributions
  - Productivity
  - Vision/Program Direction

- Feedback from peer reviewers has indicated that it was difficult to apply the adjudication criteria across career stages.
  - Peer reviewers found the Leadership criterion to be particularly difficult to apply.

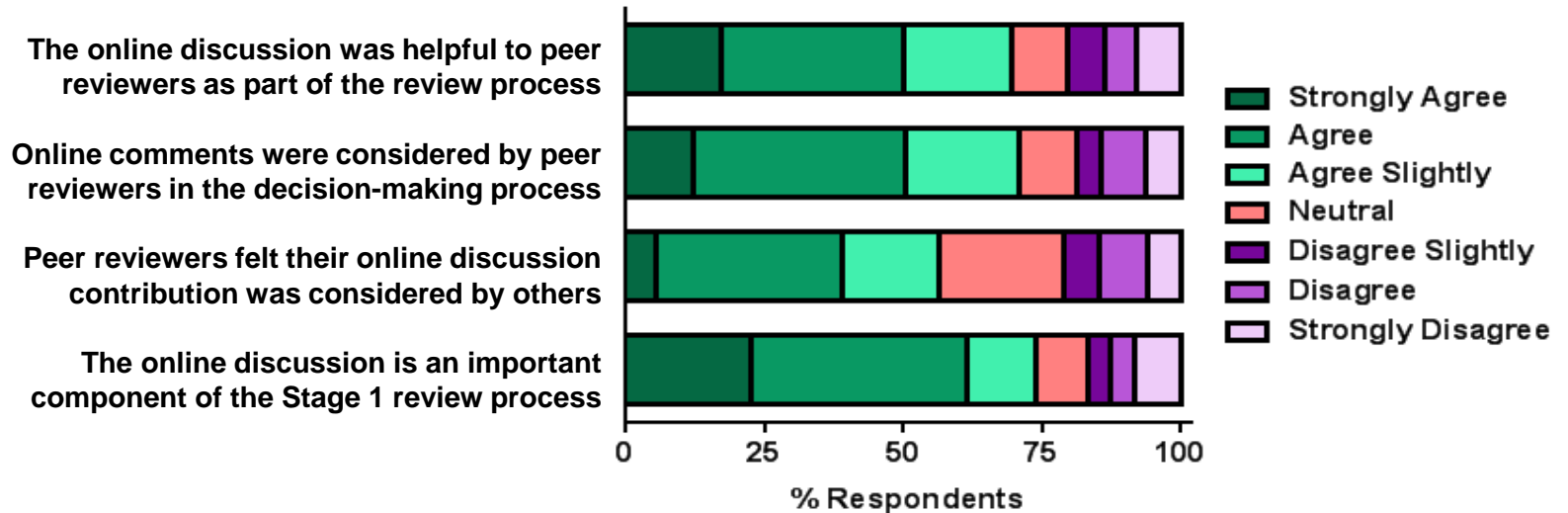- CIHR will look at providing additional guidance to peer reviewers in the next pilot.

Canadä

* The data presented is <u>preliminary</u> data gathered from survey respondents who participated in Stage 1 of the first Foundation Scheme live pilot, and further analysis is required.

Did peer reviewers participate in online discussions?
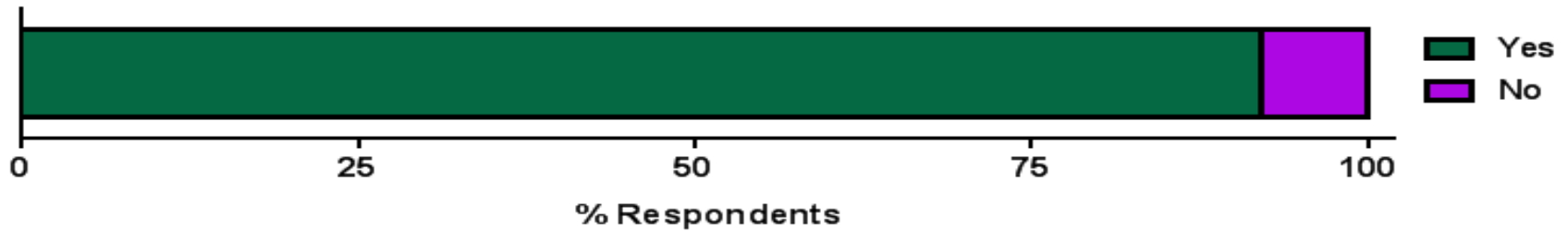
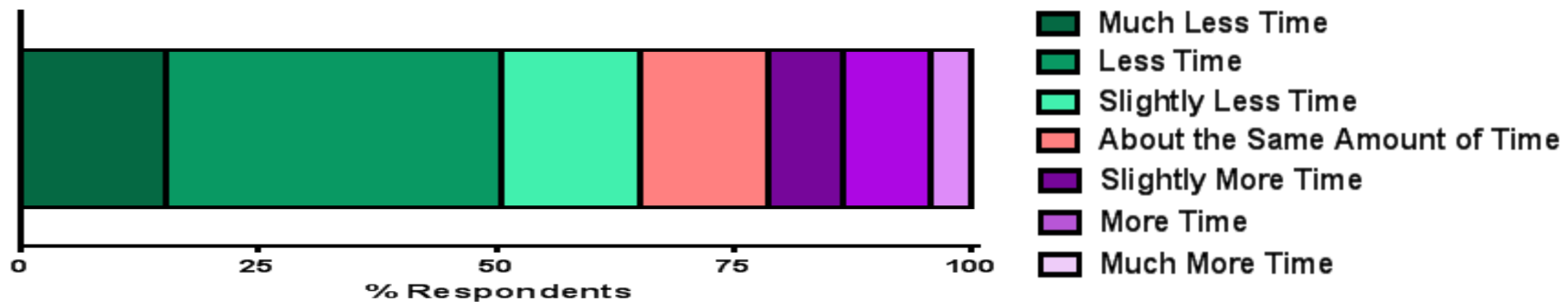## Peer reviewer thoughts regarding the online discussion:

Applicants:

* The data presented is <u>preliminary</u> data gathered from survey respondents who participated in Stage 1 of the first Foundation Scheme live pilot, and further analysis is required.

- **Compared to the last time you submitted an application to CIHR, completing the structured application took, on average:**

Legend:
- Much Less Time
- Less Time
- Slightly Less Time
- About the Same Amount of Time
- Slightly More Time
- More Time
- Much More Time

Peer Reviewers:

- **Compared to the last time you reviewed for a CIHR competition, the workload assigned to you was:**

Legend:
- Much Less Work
- Less Work
- Somewhat Less Work
- Same Amount of Work
- Somewhat More Work
- More Work
- Much More Work

Peer Reviewers

* The data presented is _preliminary_ data gathered from survey respondents who participated in Stage 1 of the first Foundation Scheme live pilot, and further analysis is required.
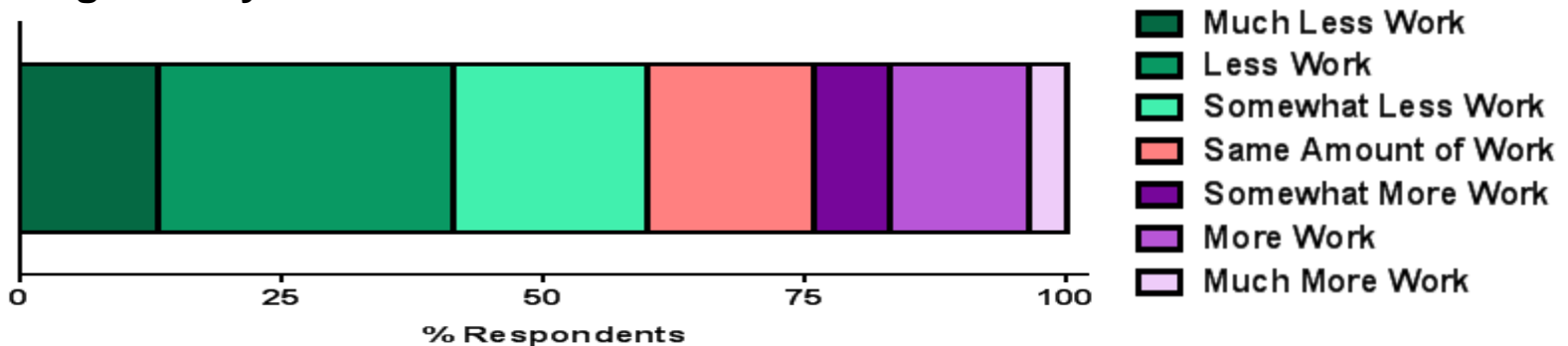
28

- Decisions for the first Foundation pilot will occur in July 2015.
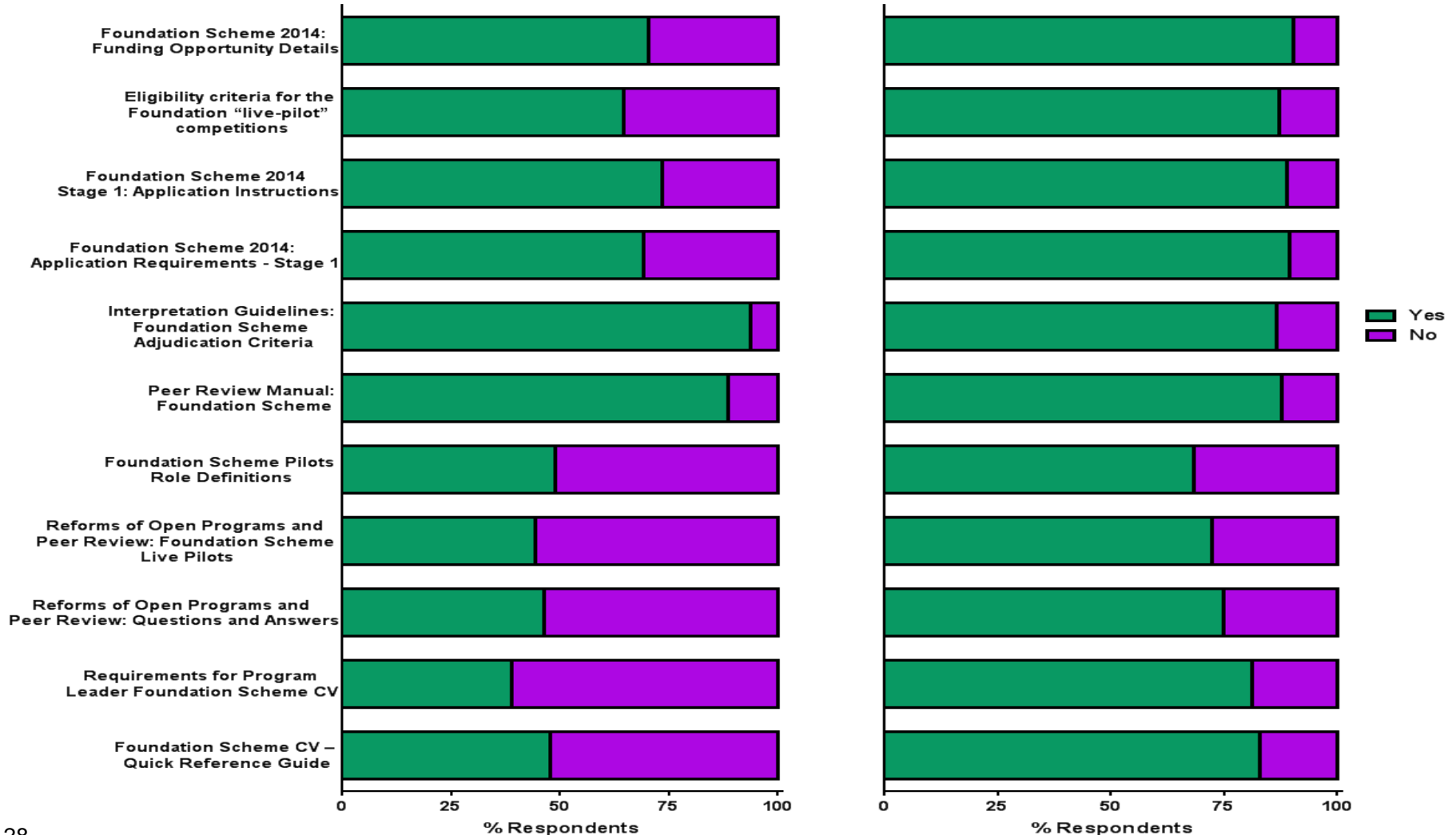
- The competition timelines for the 2014 Foundation Scheme "live pilot" are as follows:

Registration Deadline	June 23, 2014
Stage 1 Application Deadline	September 15, 2014
Anticipated Stage 1 Notice of Decision	December 1, 2014
Stage 2 Application Deadline	February 5, 2015
Anticipated Stage 2 Notice of Decision	May 15, 2015
Anticipated Stage 3 Notice of Decision	July 15, 2015
Funding Start Date	July 1, 2015

Project Scheme

When is the Project Scheme being launched?

- The funding opportunity for the 2016 Project Scheme "live pilot" competition will be 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 Stage 1 Notice of Decision	May 16, 2016
Anticipated Stage 2 Notice of Decision	July 15, 2016
Funding Start Date	July 1, 2016

The Project Scheme is designed to capture ideas with the greatest potential for important advances.

Canada

What is the plan for integrating existing legacy open programs?

- As part of the implementation of the Reforms, a number of existing open programs will be integrated.

- CIHR has been piloting the new Project Scheme design elements in many of these programs to ensure applicability of the new design.

- As the pilot results have been positive, these programs will be integrated into the new open funding schemes. The anticipated application deadlines for the <u>final competition</u> for each of these programs are:

Legacy Open Program	Competition Launch	Anticipated Application Deadline
Open Operating Grants Program	November 2013	March 2015*
Partnerships for Health System Improvement	June 2015	October 2015
Knowledge Synthesis	June 2015	January 2016
Knowledge to Action	June 2015	October 2015
Proof-of-Principle (I and II)	June 2015	September 2015
Industry-Partnered Collaborative Research Program	June 2015	September 2015
New Investigator Salary Awards	July 2015	December 2015

* Actual

- To ensure a smooth transition, *minimum thresholds* will be established for partnered/integrated KT applications in the Project Scheme and for new/early career investigators in the Foundation Scheme.

College of Reviewers

- CIHR will begin to enroll College members in the coming months, using a phased-in approach.

- The first waves will be CIHR's current and recently active peer reviewers.

- Peer reviewers will be asked to agree to a set of terms and conditions for the College and will be asked to validate a peer reviewer profile.

- In parallel, a number of targeted recruitment approaches will be developed to address areas where there are gaps in peer reviewer expertise.

- If you are interesting in becoming a member of the College of Reviewers please contact the research office at your institution.

- CIHR will be coordinating with institutions to identify potential College members.

Quality Peer Review and Peer Review System

Breadth and Diversity of Experience

Structured Recruitment	Training and Mentoring	Quality Assurance	Recognition Program

Canada

Who is helping CIHR build the College?

- An Interim Advisory Group has been established to:

  - Serve as an advisory body to refine the College design

  - Act as champions for the College and its credibility

  - Contribute to defining the structure for the College of Reviewers

  - Provide input and advice into the key components, as well as short-term targets of the College

- Senior leaders will also be recruited from various research communities to act as *expertise cluster leads* in the College. An expression of interest process will be launched in the coming months.

- Key partners are also being engaged as we develop key elements of the College.

College Advisory Group Members:

- Gerry Wright, McMaster University (Chair)

- Brett Finlay, University of British Columbia (previous Chair – on sabbatical)

- Ivy Bourgeault, University of Ottawa

- Andreas Laupacis, St. Michael's Hospital

- Martin Schechter, University of British Columbia

Canada