Participants
Chair: Danika Goosney, Director, PPP
Members: François Berthod for Lucie Germain, Université du Laval
Ranjana Bird, University of Windsor
Peter Cattini, University of Manitoba
Gilles Côté, UQTR
Réjean Dubuc, UQAM
Janice Eng, Univ. of BC
John Fisher, Queen’s University
Mary Hampton, Univ. of Regina
Michael Hayes, U of Victoria
Norbert Haunerland, Simon Fraser University
Jan Hopkins for Valerie Booth, Memorial University
Gerry Johnston, Dalhousie University
Mary Lou Kelley, Lakehead Univ.
Joseph Lam, University of Guelph
Julian Little, Univ. of Ottawa
Colleen MacQuarrie, UPEI
Jennifer McGrath, Concordia University
Sylvie Nadeau, Univ. of Montreal
Malcolm Ogborn, Univ. of Northern BC
Michael Owen, U of ON Institute of Tech
Stephen Perry, Wilfrid Laurier University
Roger Pierson, Univ. of Saskatchewan
David Ragsdale, McGill University
Reinhart Reithmeier, University of Toronto
David Rose, University of Waterloo
Chris Shields, Acadia University
Dan Sinai for Bill Avison, Univ. of Western Ontario
Naweed Syed, University of Calgary
Wendy Ward for Mike Plyley, Brock University
Richard Wozniak, University of Alberta
Nancy Young, Laurentian University
Regrets: David Andrews, McMaster University
Sam Benchimol, York University
Dean Care, Brandon University
Shawn Hayley, Carleton University
Olga Kovalchuk, Univ. of Lethbridge
Jane Lewis, Cape Breton University
Barbara Paterson, Thompson River University
Barbara Paterson, Thompson River University
Jean-Pierre Perreault, Université de Sherbrooke
Chris MacDonald, Saint-Mary’s Univ.
Chris McGibbon, UNB
Souraya Sidani, Ryerson University
Guests: Dr. Alain Beaudet, President
Staff: Kelly VanKoughnet, A/VP Research
Peggy Borbey, Director, Knowledge Creation Programs (KCP)
Michelle Gagnon, Director, Research Capacity Development (RCD)
Nancy Mason MacLellan, A/Director, Targeted Initiatives Branch (TIB)
François Zegers, A/Manager, Peer Review Management
Linda Mealing, Health Research Roadmap Implementation Office
Secretariat: Scott Buck, Governance Advisor, Corporate Affairs
Welcome Message
The University Delegates (UD) were welcomed and the teleconference was called to order at 09:05 a.m.

A roundtable was conducted and UDs indicated their goals for the face-to-face meeting. It was noted that the UDs have a unique voice in research enterprise and have a unique opportunity to provide advice and guidance to CIHR. CIHR was encouraged to use the UDs as a resource for consultations on key research issues and to engage them in managing communication to the research community.

1. Corporate Highlights and Overview
CIHR’s President, Dr. Alain Beaudet, was introduced. He informed the UDs that CIHR is actively listening and addressing the concerns of the research community. Greater cohesion needs to be attained across the health research enterprise to manage the complexity of the health research landscape, and the UD network is key to helping CIHR with this challenge. A presentation was then provided outlining current events and progress on key initiatives at CIHR.

Discussion focused on the need to maintain excellence across pillars regardless of CIHR’s budget for grants and awards. It was noted that CIHR budget increases are often mandated for the creation of, or investment in, specific programs. CIHR is always appreciative of new money and uses the opportunity to demonstrate impact in the mandated area in order to increase its reputation for demonstrating results. Concern was raised that CIHR’s top-down strategy may be neglecting opportunities from the bottom-up. Clarification was provided noting that CIHR has always been and will continue to be heavily invested in the bottom-up approach.

Ongoing discussions are being held at Scientific Council (SC) to develop an Open Suite of Programs that truly captures innovation and excellence from all pillars. The current Open Operating Grants Program (OOGP) is being reviewed and will be reformed to ensure fairness and equal opportunity for all types of research. As capacity in a given area is built the importance of an adequate receptor for sustaining and capturing this growth is essential. Program reforms are aimed at ensuring the correct tools exist for all types of research.

2. Break-out Sessions
The objectives of the break-out sessions were presented and the delegates were divided into groups and asked to share challenges and insights in the following areas:

- Open programs
- Peer review enhancement
- Institution engagement

Delegates noted the importance of an improved, two-way relationship with CIHR. The UD network has the potential to be much more than an information-sharing body and should be seen as a tremendous resource to CIHR as it rolls out its program reforms and seeks improved relationships with institutions. Delegates also suggested that CIHR further define notions of success and excellence to help provide focus to peer review. An evidence-based approach should be used when communicating with applicants in order to increase transparency around the peer review process. Delegates requested that CIHR look into holding another face-to-face meeting within fiscal year 2011/12 which would assist in risk managing the amount of change expected from CIHR within the next 6-12 months.
A more detailed summary of the break-out sessions will be communicated to the UD network in the near future. UDs were also informed that the A/VP Research would also debrief SC on the meeting at their June 15-16, 2011 meeting. Delegates were thanked for their engagement in the face-to-face meeting. UD feedback will be used to shape the thinking behind the roll-out of CIHR’s Health Research Roadmap.

The meeting was adjourned at 04:00 p.m.