Dear members of the University Delegates Network,

As you may know, CIHR—like many other research-funding agencies—has long had a policy that prohibits the submission of identical or essentially identical applications to competitions with overlapping timelines.

CIHR’s Policy on Identical and Essentially Identical Applications can be found in section 5.2 of the CIHR Application Administration Guide (AAG).

The requirements of the policy are based on the principles that CIHR must manage public funds effectively, such that funding is not duplicated for the same research objectives, and that fairness is shown towards those applicants who compete for funding in observance of CIHR’s policies.

This fall, CIHR aims to strengthen the research community’s awareness and understanding of the policy, and to that end, we would appreciate your help in promoting among your networks some recent developments.

What’s new?

- New guidelines have been published to support the community’s understanding of the policy requirements. The CIHR Guidelines on Identical or Essentially Identical Applications are located in the Supporting Guidelines section of the Application Administration Guide (AAG).
- A direct link to the policy was added to the Fall 2020 Project Grant competition (and will be added to the FOs for subsequent Project Grant competitions).
- CIHR will be actively screening the applications submitted to the Fall 2020 Project Grant competition for potential applications of concern and staff will be reaching out to the Nominated Principal Applicants (NPAs) for an explanation or clarification to help resolve any discrepancies.
- The NPA’s institution will be copied on confirmed cases of non-compliance. As per the policy, consequences will be determined on a case-by-case basis and may require the withdrawal of the application submitted second.
- As part of on-going compliance-monitoring activities, confirmed cases of non-compliance will be tracked by CIHR, for future reference. Should any additional cases associated with an NPA be confirmed, the details would be reported to the Secretariat on the Responsible Conduct of Research, as a breach of the Tri-agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research, under article 3.1 Breaches of Agency Policies.

For additional questions or concerns, please contact support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

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