Pre-Announcement: CIHR Funding for SARS-CoV-2 Variant Research

February 5, 2021 • Reply to Deanna Pong

CIHR would like to provide the research community with information about the upcoming launch of a rapid research response, comprised of three separate but linked initiatives, designed to contribute to global efforts to address SARS-CoV-2 variants.

**Initiative 1: Supplementary funding for CIHR funded COVID-19 researchers studying variants**

This funding opportunity will be launched within the next week and will provide two streams of supplementary funding for Nominated Principal Applicants (NPA) funded through one of CIHR’s previous rapid COVID-19 competitions.

To be eligible for either stream, funded COVID-19 NPAs must show clear evidence of current work on SARS-CoV-2 variants or are able to rapidly incorporate the study of variants into their existing COVID-19 research to show impact within 3-6 months. This initiative is open to research from all areas of research.

**Initiative 2: Priority funding of applications focusing on SARS-CoV-2 variants**
Leveraging the Fall 2020 Project Grant competition, CIHR will invest in applications specifically addressing SARS-CoV-2 variants across all pillars of research. Nothing is required from applicants to the competition at present and additional details will follow in the coming weeks.

**Initiative 3: Funding of a Canadian Network of Networks for SARS-CoV-2 Variant Research**

CIHR will launch a funding opportunity in the coming weeks to provide up to $9 million funding for a national network of networks focused on all four pillars of SARS-CoV-2 variant research. The funded entity is expected to coordinate the networks and fill gap areas so that it is composed of interdisciplinary teams that integrate biomedical, clinical, population health and social science researchers working together on emerging variants.

The delivery of this initiative will be patterned on the successful process implemented for the development of a Network of Clinical Trials Networks which was completed within 6 weeks, that facilitated the collaboration and coordination of research on interventions to prevent, detect, manage, and/or treat COVID-19. Details for this initiative will be announced shortly with the target anticipated application deadline around the end of February 2021.

**Useful Links:**

[Pre-announcement Informational Page](#): Web page with further information on the three initiatives, funding amounts and eligibility details.

*Distributed to: Research Funding Opportunities, Health & Life Sciences*