CIHR: Shaping Clinical Research in Critical Care

Canadian Critical Care Forum:
Jean Rouleau,
Scientific Director ICRH
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Clinical Trials in Canada: The Environment

• The cost of clinical research, in particular, large RCTs has become prohibitive, thus innovative approaches to RCTs are required (ex. PADIT trial)

• Many countries fund, or have increased funding of clinical research in a major way, giving their community an edge in the competition for funding of clinical research

• CIHR’s funding has been pretty well flat-lined for at least four years, but CIHR has invested into SPOR to create SUPPORT Units for clinical research, and is launching a chronic disease National Network competition, but funding for clinical research is as of now, lacking

• The new OOGP funding scheme does not presently permit Canadian researchers to adequately compete for the funding of large clinical trials.
SPOR Core Elements

- Support for People and Patient-Oriented Research and Trials (SUPPORT) Units
- SPOR Networks
- Training and capacity development
- Improving the clinical trials environment
- Patient engagement
Information of Interest for CCCF Investigators:

• The CCCTG is considered by ICRH as the gold-standard for Networks, and a proposal has been submitted to CIHR’s leadership to advance talks on how to facilitate the funding of large international collaborative clinical research initiatives.

• There are discussions regarding the development of a special multi-million dollar fund for large clinical research initiatives.

• There are discussions regarding permitting investigators with a foundation grant to be eligible to compete for funding from this special fund.
Opportunities and Priorities

• Translating discovery into practice
• Improving health care delivery
• Patient Engagement
• Training and mentoring
Translating Discovery into Practice

- Accelerating the translation of new knowledge generated by basic biomedical, clinical, and population health research into clinical science and practice.
The development of National High Content Networks capable of Applying Advanced Technological Techniques to Research

- The development of a Network of technologically advanced multi- and inter-disciplinary Phase 1, 2a, 2b, 3 and in some cases 4 Clinical Trial Centers focused on knowledge translation.

- The development of standardized methodologies, software platforms, web based portals for data transfer, etc..

- The development of Core Lab Programs and facilities for the identification and development of therapeutic targets.
Improving Health Care Delivery

• Fostering the **development and implementation** of evidence-informed and gender-responsive **practices, policies, services, products and programs** to improve patient outcomes, access to care and quality, efficiency and effectiveness of health care.
Patient Engagement

1. Involving patients in the decision of which are the most important research questions: Lind Alliance

2. Involving patients in the governance of Networks: Boards, executive committees, and steering committees.

3. Training researchers, patients and health care professionnals to integrate patient engagement in their clinical and research practices

4. Performing RCTs evaluating the benefits and determining the best practices in the clinical application of patient engagement (partnership).
Training and Mentoring: KEY BARRIERS TO EARLY CAREER成功 < 3yrs

1) Inadequate salary support
2) *Inadequate start-up operating funds* leading to reduced chances of success at grant competitions
3) Lack of bridge-funding to increase chances on 2nd attempt for well-ranked applicants not funded at 1st attempt
4) Inadequate time protection
5) Inadequate space and $$ for equipment (poor access to CFI-LOF grants for Pillars 3 & 4 and poor access to BIG DATA)
6) Isolation (poor integration into a critical mass of expertise)
7) *Inadequate mentoring*
8) Inadequate career planning with clear milestones
ESTABLISHMENT GRANT: OPERATIONAL ISSUES (ERLI program)

Funding of $50K per year for 3 years, plus commitments from the host institution.

Candidates would submit application to HSFC/CLA at same time as salary award application to any funding agency (HSFC, CLA, HC, CIHR, NAPHRO agency, Brain Canada, etc..)

Before funding confirmed, need written confirmation of university/affiliated institutions’ commitments

Candidates linked-up with ICRH or other networks (CDP)

Possible Timeline:

RFA: Spring 2014
Submission: Fall 2014
Funding to Start: July 2015
Questions??