UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

CIHR Project Grant Workshop: Special Considerations during Application Development (including Sex & Gender Considerations in Health Research)

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Sex and Gender Based Analysis (SGBA): Considerations in Health-Related Research

SGBA in Action at CIHR: Present

✓ CIHR expects that all applicants will integrate sex and gender into their ***research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings*** within their research proposal, when applicable.

  ✓ Ensures that health research in Canada leads to sound science and reliable evidence that effectively addresses biological (sex) and sociocultural (gender and other identity factors) differences between diverse groups of people.

  ✓ Ensures that CIHR-funded research is relevant, impactful and culturally sensitive for Canada's diverse population.

✓ CIHR metric: health research capacity is strengthened.

Percentage of research that addresses sex or gender considerations	2021-22: 78.2% 2022-23: 81.2% 2023-24: 84.3%	Greater than or equal to 67%	March 31, 2026

Sources:
Progress Update: SGBA in Action at CIHR – CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
Peer review: Policies and procedures - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
Science is better with sex and gender - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
2024-25 Departmental Results Report: Gender-based analysis plus – CIHR
Canadian Institutes of Health Research 2025–26 Departmental Plan - CIHR

CIHR Peer Review: SGBA Considerations

✓ Project Grant reviewers are asked to provide the following (including notes):

   ✓ Please indicate your appraisal of the integration of sex as a biological variable as a strength, weakness, or not applicable to the proposal.

   ✓ Please indicate your appraisal of the integration of gender as a socio-cultural determinant of health as a strength, weakness, or not applicable to the proposal.

✓ Reviewers are **required** to include their assessment of whether SGBA is appropriate for the research being proposed.

   ✓ The **overall application score and written evaluation** will reflect if SGBA has been suitably addressed in the research proposed.

Resources:
Assessing Sex and Gender Integration in Peer Review – YouTube
Peer review - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

SGBA in your application: Strengths & Weaknesses

Strengths:		Weaknesses:	
✓	Weave description of SGBA throughout your proposal	✗	ONLY address SGBA in the sex and/or gender textbox.
✓	[Understand and use](#) sex and gender [terminology](#) correctly	✗	Conflate sex and gender terminology
✓	Know the "real world" representation of sex and/or gender in your field of study	✗	Ignore this representation or fail to build on published data in your field
✓	Show reviewers you will be able to disaggregate and report results by sex and/or gender	✗	Fail to provide a strong justification for a single-sex study
✓	Include knowledge translation tools that will reach diverse audiences	✗	Fail to report sex of cells, tissues, animals or humans
✓	Seek out and identify sex and gender champions to strengthen your team	✗	Don't report results by sex and/or gender where applicable

Registration/Application Details

✓ Task 2: Enter Proposal Information (Sub-task: Details)

- ✓ Is sex as a biological variable taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings? Y/N
- ✓ Is gender as a socio-cultural factor taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings? Y/N
- ✓ If yes, please describe how sex and/or gender considerations will be integrated into your research proposal (limit of 2,000 characters).
- ✓ If no, please explain why sex and/or gender are not applicable to your research proposal (limit of 2,000 characters).
- ✓ **NOTE:** Available during Registration AND Application stages

✓ Task 7: Attach Other Application Material (Mandatory)

- ✓ The Nominated Principal Applicant must complete one of the sex- and gender-based analysis training modules available online through the CIHR Institute of Gender and Health and upload with the application the Certificate of Completion in the Attach Other Application Material task. **Limitation of 1 individual document of 1 page.**
- ✓ **NOTE:** Available during Application stage only

Resources:
Project Grant – Registration Instructions - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
Project Grant: Application Instructions - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
CIHR Checklists (Biomedical & Research with Human Participants)

SGBA in Action at CIHR: Future

✓ The Institute of Gender and Health (IGH) works in partnership and collaboration with CIHR's Learning Health Systems portfolio, contributing to CIHR's efforts to increase equity and reduce bias in research funding.

✓ According to the IGH Research Priority Plan 2024-2029:

  ✓ "The next five years will require responsive, innovative and dynamic efforts to advance the quality of sex and gender integration in health research, from grant application, data collection and analysis, to reporting findings by sex and gender, and through to knowledge mobilization."

  ✓ Planned efforts include:

    ✓ **Advancing Research Excellence:** Develop and advance methodological guidance for how to integrate sex and gender in research, including how to incorporate the lens and tools of intersectionality (i.e., gender+).

    ✓ **Bridging Capacity:** Modernize the online training module curriculum and contribute to the development and improvement of peer reviewer training, processes and expectations aimed at advancing appropriate assessment of the quality of sex and gender integration.

    ✓ **Knowledge Mobilization:** Promote best practice standards of sex and gender integration in research and knowledge mobilization, including how to increase sex, gender, and intersectional diversity of participants in human health studies.

Source:
Research Priority Plan 2024-2029 - Strengths to Solutions: Advancing Sex and Gender Science for Healthy Futures - CIHR

Resources

Available at Usask:

- ✓ [Grants Repository]
- ✓ Work with your [Research Facilitator]
- ✓ Resource: [Checklist for Integrating Sex and Gender Considerations]

Available at CIHR:

- ✓ Online [Training Modules]: Integrating Sex & Gender in Health Research
- ✓ Criteria for Integration of Sex and Gender in your application ([Biomedical] & [Research with Human Participants])
- ✓ [Meet the Methods & Science Factsheets]

CIHR defines Indigenous Health Research as…

✓ Any research topic or area related to health and wellness that is:

  ✓ Conducted by…

  ✓ Grounded in…

  ✓ Engaged with…

  First Nations, Inuit, or Métis communities, societies, individuals.

✓ Embracing Indigenous wisdoms, cultures, experiences, and/or knowledge systems

✓ Respectful engagement and equitable opportunities for meaningful and culturally safe health research

Source: Indigenous Health Research - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

Peer Review: Indigenous Health Research Committee

✓ The overarching goal of Indigenous health research is to inspire, promote and support research with the highest potential to advance health and wellness for Indigenous peoples, grounded in commitment to deep community-engagement, partnership and collaboration in research and knowledge translation.

   ✓ The integration of concepts of service to community within the very definition of scientific and scholarly excellence is a distinguishing feature of Indigenous health research.

✓ A proposal should:

   ✓ Describe meaningful and culturally safe research involving Indigenous Peoples with the intent to promote health through research that is in keeping with Indigenous values and traditions.

   ✓ Address the TCPS 2 - Chapter 9 on Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada and Indigenous partnering community/organization ethical guidelines

✓ **NOTE: IHRC may deem your application eligible for the Iterative Peer Review Process.**

   ✓ The objective of the Iterative Peer Review Process is to allow applicants whose applications have been deemed good, as per CIHR's rating scale, the opportunity to address necessary clarifications and/or panel recommendations with the goal of improving their application to increase their chances of being funded.

Registration/Application Details

✓ To be considered for IHR Committee, you MUST complete the following steps at **registration** stage:

- ✓ **Task 2: Enter Proposal Information (Sub-task: Details)**
  - ✓ Select 'yes' to the question regarding the TCPS 2 – Chapter 9 ("*Does your proposal address the* [TCPS 2 - Chapter 9 Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada](#) *and Indigenous partnering community/organizational ethical guidelines?*");
  - ✓ Provide a detailed justification in the related text field (2000 characters) to indicate how the proposal addresses the principles of the TCPS 2 – Chapter 9;
- ✓ **Task 5: Complete Peer Review (Sub-task: Suggested Committees)**
  - ✓ Select the Indigenous Health Research (IHR) committee as the first suggested peer review committee and provide the mandatory justification (750 characters) for why your application fits within this committee.

✓ At the application stage:

- ✓ **Task 8: Attach other application material (Mandatory)**
  - ✓ Letters of community support from Indigenous partner(s): If your proposal relates to Indigenous health research, provide at least one letter of community support from Indigenous partners. **Limit of up to 20 individual documents of up to 5 pages each.**

Resources

Available at USask:

- ✓ [Indigenous Research and Scholarship - Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives - Office of the Vice-President Research | University of Saskatchewan (usask.ca)](usask.ca)
- ✓ SCPOR:
    - ✓ https://www.scpor.ca/s/IRLET-2022.pdf
    - ✓ https://www.scpor.ca/s/IRLET-Companion-Document_2022.pdf

Available at CIHR:

- ✓ [Indigenous Health Research - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)](cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
- ✓ [Defining Indigenous Health Research - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)](cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
- ✓ [Action Plan: Building a healthier future for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)](cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in Research

Tri-Agency EDI Action Plan (2018-2025)

✓ **Purpose:** To foster a more equitable, diverse and inclusive research ecosystem in Canada that creates a culture where EDI considerations into all aspects of research is second nature.

✓ **Objectives:**

  ✓ Fair access to Tri-Agency research support

  ✓ Equitable participation in the research system

✓ ***NOTE:*** While Indigenous Peoples in Canada are equity-deserving groups that can be supported by an EDI strategy, researchers co-creating with Indigenous communities have responsibilities, expectations, and obligations to undertake research-related activities in ways that ***extend well beyond*** those identified under the principles of EDI.

Source:
NSERC - Action Plan (nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

What are the benefits of EDI in research?

✓ Better research outcomes because EDI practices:

 ✓ Engage a more extensive, representative, and diverse pool of talent

 ✓ Increase spectrum of ideas and insights to broaden and vastly improve chances of producing breakthrough discoveries and innovation

✓ Enhances the research environment:

 ✓ Improves recruitment and retention

 ✓ Increases availability of diverse role models

 ✓ Increase creativity, productivity, engagement, and innovation

Source:
Guide_for_Applicants_EN.pdf (nserc-crsng.gc.ca)
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Research System - CIHR

What can you do as a researcher?

✓ Create an EDI Strategy that is comprehensive, team specific, and actionable beyond the scope of one grant

✓ Things to consider:

  ✓ What are the known EDI challenges in your field of research and institution?

  ✓ Seek out information about equity-deserving groups, inclusive excellence, known systemic barriers.

  ✓ Determine the specific actions and practices your team will undertake/develop/support/advocate for to address these challenges.

✓ Examine: team composition, recruitment and retainment practices, mentorship and PD opportunities, community engagement practices, potential impact of research

Resources:
Equity Diversity & Inclusion - Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives - Office of the Vice-President Research | University of Saskatchewan (usask.ca)
Best practices in equity, diversity and inclusion in research practice and design

Resources

- ✓ USask EDI resources
- ✓ Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 (2018) – Chapter 4: Fairness and Equity in Research Participation (ethics.gc.ca)
- ✓ NSERC - Action Plan (nserc-crsng.gc.ca)
- ✓ Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Research System - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
- ✓ Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in Action at CIHR - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
- ✓ Guide_for_Applicants_EN.pdf (nserc-crsng.gc.ca)
- ✓ Best practices in equity, diversity and inclusion in research practice and design
- ✓ cihr-irsc.gc.ca/lms/e/cor/bias/
- ✓ Tri-Agency Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) | Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

Other Considerations:
Research Data Management (RDM)
Research Security

Tri-Agency Research Data Management (RDM) Policy

✓ Research data collected using public funds should be responsibly and securely managed and be available for reuse by others (where ethical, legal and commercial obligations allow).

✓ The Tri-Agencies support the **FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable)** guiding principles for research data management and stewardship

✓ There will be differences in the standards for RDM among the disciplines, areas of research, and modes of inquiry that the agencies support.

✓ What can you do? Consider developing a data management plan (DMP)

Sources:
Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy - Science.gc.ca
Research Data Management - Office of the Vice President Research - Research | University of Saskatchewan (usask.ca)
Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy - Frequently Asked Questions (science.gc.ca)

Research Security

✓ Tri-agency guidance on the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC Policy): Grant applications submitted by a university or affiliated research institution to the federal granting agencies and the Canada Foundation for Innovation involving research that aims to advance a Sensitive Technology Research Area will not be funded if any of the researchers involved in activities supported by the grant are currently affiliated with, or in receipt of funding or in-kind support, from a Named Research Organization.

✓ Tri-agency guidance on the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships (NSGRP): Grant applications involving one or more private sector partner organizations must include a completed a Risk Assessment Form. Applicants must also develop a tailored risk mitigation plan commensurate with the risks identified that will be implemented for the duration of the grant.

✓ USASK Supports: Safeguarding Your Research - Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives - Office of the Vice-President Research | University of Saskatchewan

Sources:
Tri-agency guidance on the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC Policy) - Research security
Tri-agency guidance on the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships - Research security

Resources

- Home - Research Data Management - Research Guides at University of Saskatchewan (usask.ca)
- Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy - Science.gc.ca
- Frequently Asked Questions Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy - Science.gc.ca
- GO FAIR initiative: Make your data & services FAIR (go-fair.org)
- Research Data Management | Digital Research Alliance of Canada (alliancecan.ca) (Tool: DMP Assistant)
- Safeguarding Your Research - Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives - Office of the Vice-President Research | University of Saskatchewan
- Research security - Tri-agency guidance on research security
- The National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships' Risk Assessment Form
- Risk Assessment Review Process

University of Saskatchewan

Thank you!