SEX AND GENDER BASED ANALYSIS (SGBA): CONSIDERATIONS IN HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH

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Land Acknowledgement

In Canada, we live, learn, and work on traditional Indigenous territories. We pay our respects to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit ancestors and affirm our commitment to respectful relationships with one another and this land.

TERMINOLOGY 101

GENDER

- Psychosocial and sociocultural attributes: Describes the socially constructed ways a person identifies and is identified
  - Gender Identity: How a person labels their own gender
  - Gender Expression: How a person outwardly expresses their gender
  - Gender Attribution: How others perceive a person's gender
  - Gender Roles: Imposed expectations and norms
- Terms: men, women, girls, boys, non-binary, gender non-conforming, gender diverse people

Resources:
What is gender? What is sex? - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
Queer Terms – OUTSaskatoon
Usask Positive Space Training
Gender Pronouns | LGBT Resource Center (uwm.edu)

SEX

- Biological attributes of cells, tissues, humans, and animals: include DNA, hormones, reproductive organs, and secondary sex characteristics (i.e., vocal pitch, facial hair, distribution of fat tissue, etc.)
- Terms: male, female, intersex

TWO-SPIRIT

- Describes how Indigenous people who are gender and/or sexually diverse identify.
- Encompasses the interconnectedness of cultural identity, gender, and sexual identity.
- Terms: Nehiyaw / Cree Genders, Ayaahkwew: Non-binary / Genderfluid, Iskwew: Cisgender woman, Iskwehikan: Transgender woman / Trans-femme, Napehikan: Transgender man / Trans-masc, Napew: Cisgender man

CIHR PEER REVIEW: POLICY

- Purpose of SGBA: to promote rigorous science that is sensitive to sex and gender, thereby expanding our understanding of health determinants for all peoples.

- CIHR expects all applicants integrate SGBA into their research design when appropriate

Resources:
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)

CIHR PEER REVIEW: PROCEDURES

- Project Grant Evaluation Criteria: Criterion 2 – Assessment of Feasibility (Sub-Criterion 2.1 – Approaches and Methods

  - Is sex (as a biological variable) and/or gender (as a socio-cultural factor) taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings?

- Reviewers will be **explicitly required** to include their assessment of whether SGBA is appropriate for the research being proposed.

  - If yes, to supplement the current practice of simply identifying whether SGBA is a strength, a weakness or not applicable, the **overall application score and written evaluation** will reflect if SGBA has been suitably addressed in the research proposed.
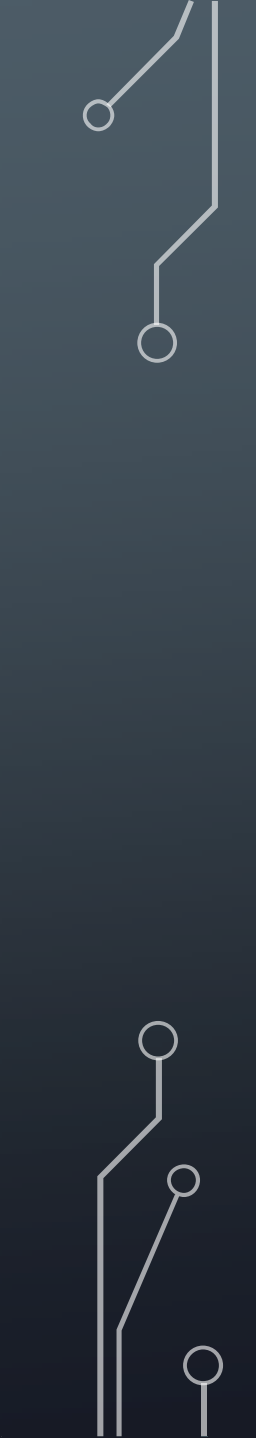
WHAT IS CONSIDERED A STRENGTH?

- 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.

- As in previous competitions, when sex and/or gender considerations are applicable in the research being proposed, addressing these considerations solely in the sex and/or gender textbox is insufficient. (Updated: 2022-01-12)

TIPS FOR INTEGRATING SGBA INTO YOUR PROPOSAL

- Consider the text box as a summary of the SGBA described within your proposal: This section should not be the only area of your application where this information appears!

- Ensure details are also shared in your <u>research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings</u>

  - ✓ Know the "real world" representation of sex and/or gender in your field of study

  - ✓ Clearly justify sample sizes and material

  - ✓ Describe a data collection and analysis strategy that will show reviewers you can disaggregate and report results by sex and/or gender

  - ✓ Include knowledge translation tools that will reach diverse peoples and audiences

  - ✓ Consider the strength of your team - do you have the right combination of expertise and experience in SGBA?

WHAT IS CONSIDERED A WEAKNESS?

➢ Proposals that do not integrate sex and/or gender:

✖ Do not provide a strong justification for a single-sex study

✖ Fail to report that gender is relevant to the topic

✖ Ignore sex and/or gender differences reported in the scientific literature, or fails to build on published data

✖ Do not report sex of cells, tissues, animals, or humans

✖ Fail to disaggregate results by sex and/or gender where possible/relevant

✖ Conflate terms for sex and gender

WHAT IF SGBA IS NOT A CONSIDERATION?

➢ If sex and/or gender considerations are not applicable to your research proposal/design, applicants must include compelling justification

  ✓ [Key considerations for the appropriate integration of sex and gender in research – CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)](#)

  ✓ [Sex and Gender Equity in Research: rationale for the SAGER guidelines and recommended use (biomedcentral.com)](#)

➢ Research studies that could include:

  ✓ Pathogens grown in vitro in an acellular environment

  ✓ The pre-clinical design and application of some biomedical technologies

  ✓ Biomedical research studies that exclusively use cells, tissues and animals (Gender only)

  ✓ Certain single-sex studies using existing datasets

  ✓ Secondary data analyses where it is impossible to create a new gender variable

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).

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)

APPLICATION DETAILS

- Task 7: Attach Other Application Material
  - Certificate of Completion for the sex- and gender-based analysis training modules for the NPA (optional):
    - After completing the appropriate training module that applies to the research project, you will receive a Certificate of Completion that you will save and upload under other.

- Task 8: Apply to Priority Announcement/Funding Pools (optional)
  - **Spring 2022: Sex and Gender in Health Research (Bridge Funding) (PJX)**
    - The Institute of Gender and Health (IGH) will provide bridge funding for applications that are relevant to its mandate. These one (1) year operating grants afford Principal Investigators an opportunity to resubmit their research proposal without the loss of momentum, staff, or trainees.

Resources:
IGH Learning - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca) (SGBA Training Modules)
ResearchNet – RechercheNet (Spring 2022 Priority Announcements)

RESOURCES

- Access training resources available through CIHR and locally
  - CIHR Training Modules
  - CIHR Checklists (Biomedical & Research with Human Participants)
  - CIHR Sex and Gender in Health Research Factsheets
  - USask Grants Repository
  - Work with your Research Facilitator (click on this link and search by discipline)
  - SCPOR: Sex and Gender in Health Research
    - Resource: Checklist for Integrating Sex and Gender Considerations
  - SSHRC Best Practices in EDI in Research
  - USask EDI resources