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

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TERMINOLOGY

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

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.

Resources:
What is gender? What is sex? - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
Queer Terms - OUTSaskatoon
CIHR PEER REVIEW: POLICY

• Spring 2018: Review of SGBA within health-related research was embedded into peer review for the Project grant competition

• Now: CIHR expects all applicants integrate SGBA into their research design when appropriate

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

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

• Reviewers are asked to:
  • explicitly assess whether the integration of sex (as a biological variable) and/or gender (as a socio-cultural factor) is a strength, a weakness or not applicable to the proposal
  • comment on their assessment and to provide recommendations to the applicants on how they might improve the strength of their applications with respect to the integration of sex and/or gender

UPDATE (Feb 2021)

• Reviewers will be explicitly required to include their assessment of whether SGBA is appropriate for the research being proposed.
  • If so, the overall application score and written evaluation will reflect if SGBA has been suitably addressed in the research proposed.
  • This will supplement the current practice of simply identifying whether SGBA is a strength, a weakness or not applicable to the proposal.

Resources:
Assessing Sex and Gender Integration in Peer Review – YouTube Peer review - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
What you should know about the Spring 2021 Project grant competition - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
### WHAT IS CONSIDERED A STRENGTH?

**Strong proposals will:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Integration of Sex:</th>
<th>Integration of Gender:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Include, report and analyse cells, tissues, animals, or humans by sex</td>
<td>✓ Report what is known about gender in the field of study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Build on what we know about sex differences in the field of study</td>
<td>✓ Describe how gender will be investigated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Design experiments that will disaggregate results by sex</td>
<td>✓ Use methods that address and mitigate bias (Consider recruitment strategies, data collection methods, KT plan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Design experiments that will disaggregate and analyse results by gender</td>
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</table>
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

❑ 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)
APPLICATION DETAILS

• Task 2: Enter Proposal Information (Sub-task: Details)
  • Within the online portion of the grant application within ResearchNet you will be required to answer two “Yes/No” regarding integration of sex and/or gender considerations.
  • A text box is provided to provide justification to your responses must then be completed.

Resources:
Project Grant: Application Instructions - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
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!

  • Literature review/Background: Know the “real world” representation of sex and/or gender in your field of study

  • Methods: Clearly justify sample sizes and describe a data collection and analysis strategy that will show reviewers you can disaggregate, and report results by sex and/or gender.

  • Knowledge translation: Ensure methods will reach diverse peoples and audiences

  • Consider the strength of your team
RESOURCES

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