

Message not displaying properly? Try the [web version](#).



## OADR Grant Development Office

### CIHR Virtual Review Experience

---

To CSM Faculty:

We have heard some concerns by recent CIHR Project Grant applicants as to the quality of reviews their applications receive in the virtual reviews now adopted due to COVID-19 restrictions. This may bring back bad memories of CIHR's previous attempt at asynchronous online reviews. However, today's virtual reviews use modern videoconferencing technology and more closely replicate what occurs at in-person meetings. Since virtual reviews are with us for the time being attempts are being made to gauge the experience and recommendations for future meetings. We want to get this information out to applicants with some information about the experience of committee members using the virtual review process. The good news is that overall reviewers, Chairs, and Scientific Officers (SOs) had a positive experience, where surveys suggest:

- virtual reviews are working well;
- the quality of peer review has been maintained; and
- reviewers generally like the new approach.

In fact, 89% reported it as a positive experience and 96% would review virtually again. Despite the overall success, virtual reviews had some drawbacks. Based on 709 survey respondents to CIHR (Reviewers, Chairs and SOs), some felt discussions were shorter and fewer people participated in the discussions. They also felt networking opportunities were lost.

However, it is reassuring that CIHR is diligent in assessing the virtual peer review system and other aspects of Project Grant peer review. Note that some changes to the Project Grant Program are anticipated as early as the Spring 2021 competition. The OADR Grant Development Office will be providing a number of information sessions for the Spring 2021 competition, including a panel discussion amongst those who recently participated in the virtual review. Stay tuned for these dates to be announced early in 2021.

Best,

Jenna

**Jenna Slobozian<sup>Cert RA</sup>** | Manager, Grant Development

OADR Grant Development Office | Cumming School of Medicine | University of Calgary

**Cell:** 403-389-6638 | **E-mail:** [j.slobozian@ucalgary.ca](mailto:j.slobozian@ucalgary.ca)

---

### Grant Development Website

If you believe you have received this message in error,  
please contact [medgrant@ucalgary.ca](mailto:medgrant@ucalgary.ca)



University of Calgary Foothills Campus  
Health Sciences Centre, G351  
3330 Hospital Dr NW  
Calgary, AB T2N 4N1  
CANADA

© University of Calgary 2020  
[Privacy Policy](#)