

# **The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Request for Applications (RFA) to support the Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative**

**LOI receipt date : October 18, 2016**

## **Background**

The Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative is a priority-driven collaborative initiative between the Department of Biotechnology and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

The Department of Biotechnology's mandate is to promote innovative research and development activities across the country and take up initiatives for translational interdisciplinary research that cross the agency's and countries boundaries. This aligns with the CIHR's interest in an international initiative to support healthy growth and development. The Department will fund Indian researchers through funds received from the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has a Roadmap Accelerator Fund (RAF) that is intended to support transformative and impactful research that aligns with CIHR's Research Priorities and is multi-disciplinary in nature. Scientific leadership and support for this RAF-funded initiative is shared across CIHR's Institute of Aboriginal People's Health, Institute of Gender and Health, Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health, Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction and Institute of Population and Public Health.

## **Description**

**The Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative Linked International Intervention Cohorts (HeLTI LIIC)** will work in partnership across countries with populations where there has been rapid changes in population demographics e.g., urbanisation and lifestyles, change in diet, that have resulted in increased non-communicable diseases (NCDs) over a relatively short period of time (2-4 generations). The initiative will be a collaboration of national research funding agencies and scientists in participating countries to develop linked international intervention cohorts, both retrospective and prospective interventions, focused on risk factors for NCDs based on the developmental origins of health and disease concept (DOHaD). CIHR will support research activities in participating countries through co-funding mechanisms to Canadian scientific collaborators. Due to the deliberate coordination and co-funding of these linked international intervention cohorts, this initiative is ground-breaking in nature and will allow for accelerated learning and impact within and across countries through methodological advances, common measures, and data harmonization, as well as enhanced understanding of the results and their implications across contexts. In India, similar to the other participating countries, the joint

research team will include a principal investigator from India and a co-lead from Canada in order to establish a cohort composed of a representative sample of the target population in India. This initiative will be supported through a novel partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide secretariat support for initiative management and governance.

The goal of HeLTI is to generate evidence that will inform national policy and decision-making in India, Canada and other participating countries for the improvement of health and mitigation of the risks of NCDs, with an emphasis on obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes throughout the lifespan. Given that both maternal and paternal health have trans-generational effects on development and health of offspring, this funding opportunity also aims to develop gender-responsive evidence for interventions and policies aimed at the needs of men, women, boys and girls. The engagement of multiple countries will promote value-added international collaborations through a multifaceted, multidisciplinary approach to the problem by spanning basic science to public health research and policy, which will position the initiative to have significant long term impacts on global health. It is expected that the research initiative will yield greater value because of the collaborative nature than if studies were implemented as single country projects. The collaboration will enable comparative analysis of interventions, harmonized data, assessment of biological mechanisms and biological-environmental interactions in different populations and the exchange and stimulation of scientific ideas and sharing of expertise.

This Request for Applications invites researchers to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to form a Cohort Leadership Team comprised of investigators and knowledge users/policy makers from both India and Canada to establish an intervention cohort in India.

## Funds available

DBT and CIHR financial contributions for this initiative are subject to availability of funds. Should DBT or CIHR funding levels not be available or are decreased due to unforeseen circumstances, DBT and CIHR reserve the right to reduce, defer or suspend financial contributions to grants received as a result of this funding opportunity.

- ) Funding is available for one team grant.
- ) The total amount available in India for this funding opportunity is 118,650,000 INR
- ) The maximum amount per Indian grant is 23,730,000 INR per year for up to five (5) years. This funding may be renewable.
- ) The total amount available in Canada for this funding opportunity is \$2,535,000
- ) The maximum amount per Canadian grant is \$ 500,000 per year for up to five (5) years. This funding may be renewable
- ) An amount of \$35 000 is available from CIHR to Canadian applicants at LOI stage. This grant is provided for activities related to the development of the full application, including the participation of the proposed Cohort Leadership Team to a Strengthening Workshop.

## Objectives

The specific objectives of this funding opportunity are to:

- Through the Cohort Leadership Team, the Indian and Canadian investigators will:
    - Develop a linked DOHaD intervention-risk cohort composed of a representative sample of the target population in India, including recruitment of women both preconception and during pregnancy, their infants, as well as the fathers;
    - Develop and conduct implementation and also evaluate implemented interventions for and with women and men preconception, during pregnancy and for infants during the postnatal period that are designed to substantially reduce the prevalence of NCDs in children and adolescents;
    - Conduct evaluation and mechanistic studies that will explain the effect of the selected interventions on outcomes, including economic analyses of interventions;
- As part of the international HeLTI initiative, develop international multi-country, multi-disciplinary, cross-site collaborations that will provide a learning platform and training environment for new investigators and/or early career stage researchers, support data interoperability and improve harmonization practices
- Generate evidence that will guide policy and other decision-making in the near term through an assessment of retrospective interventions, and identify opportunities for future research and interventions as part of a longer-term strategy for NCD prevention;
- Improve health outcomes, particularly related to women and men's health preconception, during pregnancy, early life and childhood by targeting early exposures and early development, to have a significant impact on long term health outcomes.

### **Relevant Research Areas**

Applications to evaluate interventions along the continuum of care from pre-conception to pregnancy, infancy and childhood must include:

- Reduction of prevalence of obesity, adiposity and metabolic markers indicating risk of future cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other NCDs.
- Interventions addressing other risk factors for NCDs will be considered in addition to obesity, adiposity and metabolic markers

### **Relevant DOHAD Cohort and Interventions**

- Indian and Canadian investigators will be expected to establish a prospective DOHAD cohort in India, composed of a representative sample of the target population. The LOI should describe the population that will be studied. See 'How To Apply' instructions below and the Evaluation criteria.
- Interventions that will be studied in the HeLTI cohort must target evidence-based modifiable risk factors for one or more chronic diseases. Interventions to be studied can include, but are not limited to those identified in the World Health Organization Ending Childhood Obesity report (<http://www.who.int/end-childhood-obesity/en/>). Interventions can be natural experiments (e.g., policy, programs, or other interventions not under the control of a researcher) or researcher delivered interventions and interventions can be newly implemented or adapted. These details are not required for the LOI but will be included in the full Application (step 2) that will follow.

### **Eligibility:**

Please note: To ensure that all interested individuals have the opportunity to participate in a Leadership Cohort team, CIHR has established a [tool](#) whereby Indian and Canadian investigators

may signal their interest and take the initiative to contact one another if so desired. Involvement in a cohort can take on different forms. Some individuals could be involved in development of applications as principal applicants or could participate in the governance model. Others could be collaborating research team members who will provide letters of support for the application while others may engage with the cohort only after it has been established. Individuals can indicate how they expect to participate and include their area(s) of expertise through the online form.

### **Eligibility to apply**

Each application must be comprised of team members from both India and Canada. There must be a minimum of one Principal Applicant from both India and Canada to which the application pertains for the application to be considered eligible.

### **India-based Applicants**

- i. Principal Applicant with at least 1-2 co-principal applicants must be well established, independent researchers in a faculty position or employed by a university, science council, research institute or a government approved not-for-profit research institution in India and must be Indian citizens.
- ii. For profit institutions and organizations are NOT eligible to apply.
- iii. The Indian team of investigators must have
  - (a) Maternal and/or Child health intervention research skills & experience
  - (b) Track record in recruiting and following cohorts of children with minimal loss to follow up.
  - (c) Expertise in research related to growth, metabolism, obesity and NCDs.
- iv. The Indian team must have access to
  - (a) Field sites (preferentially 2-3 sites in different parts of India) with population in which childhood obesity/metabolic fitness are issues of public health concern
  - (b) Supportive research infrastructure such as field offices & data management facilities.

Collaboration between teams of investigators at different field sites is encouraged.

### **Canada-based Applicants**

- i. Eligibility criteria for all CIHR research funding programs apply. The business office of the institution of an eligible Nominated Principal Applicant generally administers CIHR funds. Refer to the Individual Eligibility Requirements regarding the eligibility requirements for individuals and institutions.
- ii. The Nominated Principal Applicant must be an independent researcher registered at a Canadian eligible institution.
- iii. At least one other team member must be from a different discipline than that of the NPA and must be an independent researcher.
- iv. At least one other team member must be a knowledge user, preferably a policy maker at the national level.

## Conditions of Funding

### **For recipients of DBT funding:**

All Indian applicants will be required to comply fully with the DBT Terms and Conditions of Funding. Grant should be exclusively spent on the project for which it has been sanctioned within the stipulated time. The Institute is not permitted to seek or utilise funds from any other organisation (Government, Semi Government, Autonomous or Private) for this research project. Please refer to DBT website for additional details (<http://www.dbtindia.nic.in/forms-downloads>). Please view “Terms and Conditions of the Grant-Annexure IV” section. The applicant must acknowledge DBT support along with the grant No., duration of grant along with dates in the acknowledgement section of scientific publications, patents, technology transfer documents etc.

DBT will support the Indian investigators of the successful joint team to participate in the Strengthening Workshop that will take place in Geneva, Switzerland after selection.

### **For recipients of CIHR funding:**

Successful Canadian applicants funded through this funding opportunity and any other persons working on the project must comply fully with the CIHR Funding Policies. Policies and guidelines cover areas such as Applicant Responsibilities, Official Languages policy, Access to Information and Privacy Acts, and Acknowledgement of CIHR's Support. Successful Canadian applicants will be informed of any special financial requirements prior to the release of funds or when they receive CIHR's Authorization for Funding (AFF) document.

In addition, the following conditions will apply to this funding opportunity:

- **INCLUSION OF A 'SEX/GENDER CHAMPION:** To foster meaningful integration of sex/gender, teams are to identify a 'sex/gender champion' who will ensure that where appropriate, both males and females are included in studies and that sex and or gender considerations are taken into account. Applicants are encouraged to use the tools and resources developed by CIHR to integrate sex and gender into their research. Further, the eventual policy implications of the research must be considered and explored within the application. Thus, close collaboration between researchers and knowledge users and/or policy makers to facilitate the effective translation of the knowledge to be generated into program, interventions, and evidence-informed policy decision is required.

### **As part of the larger international HeLTI initiative, the following special requirements shall apply:**

- **STRENGTHENING WORKSHOP:** Following selection at the LOI stage, the Indian lead and Canadian lead must attend a Strengthening Workshop (to be held in Geneva, Switzerland in Q4 2016). The purpose of this workshop is to assist successful LOI applicants in each of the countries to agree on study designs for the intervention cohorts in respective countries including scope of interventions, data management systems and timelines, common measures, and to agree to the overarching data harmonization and project governance systems. These details will form the basis for their final proposals.
- **GOVERNANCE:** The research team will be required to collaborate on the development of a shared governance model and to participate in the governance supported through a partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), to enable coordination and

harmonization across country. The governance structure will facilitate oversight of the initiative, data harmonization, access and sharing, and best practices. It is expected that the governance model will be discussed among all partners and teams at the Strengthening Workshop.

- **ANNUAL MEETINGS:** To facilitate networking and knowledge exchange among funded teams, each Cohort Leadership Team will be required to budget for their attendance at annual meetings of funded teams. The earmarked budget should cover the costs of 3 to 4 members of the team to attend these meetings.
- **STANDARDS:** Standards for sharing cohort data will be developed in collaboration with the HeLTI Coordinating Centre. Applicants must demonstrate an understanding, and adoption, of these standards.
- **ETHICS:** Ethical guidelines for research involving humans from both DBT and CIHR shall apply.

### **Communication Requirements**

Funding recipients are required to acknowledge DBT, CIHR and their respective institutes and partners in any communication or publication related to the project. The contributing internal collaborators/partners will be identified on the Authorization for Funding (AFF) and decision letter.

See [Communication of Competition Results](#) for details on CIHR's communication requirements.

### **Performance Measurement**

- ) Evaluation and milestones targets will be collaboratively established by the funding partners at the strengthening workshop, and updated periodically on an ongoing basis as per the agreed upon governance model;
- ) Each Cohort Leadership Team will be required to produce regular progress reports. Reporting intervals and process will be discussed as part of the larger governance discussions;
- ) Annual meetings of the Cohort Leadership Teams will be held to enhance collaboration, share approaches, challenges and successes, and facilitate evaluation of the research program, as well as providing an opportunity for networking and knowledge exchange among funded teams.
- ) If available, funding renewal after the 5 year timeframe will be dependent on the results of a program evaluation conducted in year 4 of the research program.

**For Indian grantees:** Investigators will be required to furnish progress report to DBT of work on the project. The progress of the project will be reviewed by the DBT monitoring committee and experts. The format is available at the DBT e-promise portal.

**For Canadian grantees:** CIHR is committed to collecting and disseminating information on the outputs and impacts of the research it funds. This information is an important part of CIHR accountability within the Federal Government and to Canadians:

- ) The Canadian Nominated Principal Investigator will be required to submit an electronic Final Report to CIHR. This online report will be made available to the Nominated Principal Applicant on ResearchNet at the beginning of the grant funding period and can be filled in as the research progresses;
- ) The Canadian Nominated Principal Investigator must contribute to the monitoring, review and evaluation of CIHR's programs, policies and processes by participating in evaluation

studies, surveys, workshops, audits and providing data or reports as required for the purpose of collecting information to assess progress and results;

- ) The Canadian Nominated Principal Investigator must also encourage their associates, trainees and administration to participate in the monitoring, review and evaluation of CIHR's programs policies and processes as required.

## How To Apply

A single LOI should be submitted by the joint Indian-Canadian team through the CIHR web platform, ResearchNet, as described below. While the application must be a collaborative effort from the joint India-Canada team and Principal Investigators from India and Canada will be considered Co-Principal Applicants, for administrative and system purposes, the Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA) - the person who completes the tasks on ResearchNet - must be Canadian.

Please read all instructions to familiarize yourself with the application process before applying. For new applicants or for those wanting a reminder of the main application procedures, an overview of CIHR's application processes can be found under Application Process. Note that these are general instructions only as the specific application instructions for this funding opportunity are located below.

- ) The application process for this funding opportunity is comprised of two steps: 1.) Letter of Intent and 2.) Application.
- ) Only Letters of Intent are invited at this stage
- ) To complete your Letter of Intent, follow the general instructions in the [Team Grants/ Emerging Team Grants - ResearchNet "Letter of Intent" Phase Instructions](#) along with any additional instructions found below under "Specific Instructions".
- ) **Reminder to applicants:** Please ensure that your application is [complete](#) (includes all required signatures) and is submitted on time to CIHR.

## Submission Requirements

Your Application must be submitted using [ResearchNet](#). Scan and upload the signed signature pages including the routing slip in the Print/Upload Signature Pages task in ResearchNet prior to submitting your application.

## Specific Instructions

- ) You must have a ResearchNet account to apply for for this funding opportunity.
  - o To register for an account, go to ResearchNet and select "Register" from the Sign-in box on the right hand side of the page, as shown in the screen shot below. Fill in and submit the on-line form that appears on your screen.
  - o Once you have submitted this form, your account is created immediately.
- ) A CIHR PIN is required to apply for this funding opportunity
  - o Log into your ResearchNet Account;
  - o Select your name from the top right hand side of the screen;

- Select "Register for a CIHR PIN" from the drop-down menu; and
  - Complete and submit the on-line form that appears on the screen.
  - You should receive a confirmation e-mail with your CIHR PIN within 24 hours of submitting your form. If it has been longer than 24 hours since you submitted your form and you still have not received a confirmation e-mail with your CIHR PIN, please call 1-888-603-4178 or e-mail support@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
  - Note that when you register for a PIN this way, your PIN has already been validated. There are no additional steps you need to take.
- ) A CCV account is required to apply for this funding opportunity
- To register for an account, go to the [Canadian Common CV](#).
  - Click on the Login button in the top right of the screen even if you do not yet have an account, then click on Register at the bottom of the login form.
  - Fill in and submit the on-line form that appears on your screen. Use the Next and Submit buttons at the top right of the screen to navigate through the form and to submit.
    - Note that the password you choose must include an upper case letter, a lower case letter, a number, one of the following special characters: ! @ # \$ % ^ & += \_ { } -, and must be a minimum of six characters in length and a maximum of ten.
  - You must read and agree to the Privacy Notice Statement that appears immediately after you have submitted your form to be able to use your account. Use the "I agree" button at the top right of the screen to submit your consent.

## **Step 1 - Letter of Intent (LOI)**

### **Task: Identify Participants**

- ) For administrative purposes, the Nominated Principal Applicant (NPA) must be Canadian.
- ) All participants must be identified in the "identify participants" task.
- ) A CIHR Project Biosketch CV (available on the [Common CV](#) website) is required for all Indian and Canadian participants. Full Academic CVs will not be considered.
- ) Collaborators are not required to submit a CV.

### **Task: Enter Letter of Intent Information**

- ) The LOI description should be limited to ten (10) pages (not including references, charts, tables, figures and photographs).
- ) The LOI should outline clearly each of the elements below:
  - Appropriateness of the team composition as it relates to their ability to carry out the proposed research program, including:
    - Competencies and experience in prior interventions, cohorts, data management, multi-faceted teams and knowledge of the research area.
    - A collaborative work plan between Indian and Canadian researchers.
    - An outline of the proposed contribution of each team member to the research program
  - Access to relevant populations
    - Description of population
    - Stability of population



- Demonstration of their experience with implementing complex interventions with a DOHaD focus
- Demonstration of experience in recruitment strategies that are culturally appropriate, gender sensitive, ethical and methodologically sound.
- Demonstration that future recruitment strategies will support equitable and ethical partnerships with communities.
- Description of prior or ongoing research on interventions in which part or all of the research team has been involved in relevant areas:
  - lifecourse approach,
  - inclusion of interventions at individual, family, community, and population levels,
  - aimed at foetus, infant, mother, father, family, community, and population
  - adaptation of interventions/inclusion of new interventions
  - inclusion of natural experiments and researcher-developed interventions
  - need to document multiple intervention exposures in design and implementation
- Environment for the Research and Knowledge Translation
  - Availability and accessibility of personnel, facilities and infrastructure required to conduct the research in both countries
  - Institutional commitment to long-term studies
  - Relationships of research team with policy makers

Applicants are encouraged to use the tools and resources developed by CIHR to integrate sex and gender into their research. Further, the eventual policy implications of the research must be considered and explored within the application. Thus, close collaboration between researchers and knowledge users and/or policy makers to facilitate the effective translation of the knowledge to be generated into program, interventions, and evidence-informed policy decision is required.

**Task: Enter Budget Information (Canadian applicants only)**

- ) Canadian applicants may request up to \$35,000 to be used for the development of a full application.
- ) Budget requested should be justified in relation to the activities. Applicants are required to allocate a sufficient amount for both the NPA and other Canadian team members to attend the Strengthening Workshop to be held in Geneva, Switzerland after selection. NOTE: DBT will be providing funding directly to the Indian team members of the successful joint team to attend the Strengthening Workshop.
- ) Applications must include the full budget breakdown and justification of the Canadian costs in the '*Financial Assistance Requested Details*' (i.e., budget justification) attachment.
- ) Details entered under the '*Financial Assistance Requested*' must only reflect funds requested from CIHR in CAD.

**Task: Attach Other Application Materials**

- ) All participants must be listed in an Applicant Table and include the following information:
  - In a table format, provide a list of all participants, their title, affiliation, relevant expertise and role in the application.
  - Publications: A listing of no more than ten (10) publications relevant to the proposal (optional- 1 page maximum).

### **Task: Print/Upload Signature Pages**

- ) Required signatures:
  - o Signatures must be included for all applicants (except collaborators), and individual(s) with signing authority from the Institution Paid.
  - o **NOTE:** In the section 2 of the signature page, the lead Indian Principal Investigator must ALSO provide the signature from the individual(s) with Executive signing authority from the Indian Institution
- ) Original signatures are not required. The scanned signed signature pages and the Routing Slip must be uploaded in the Print/Upload Signature Pages task in ResearchNet prior to submitting your application.

### **Step 2 – Full Application:**

- ) The successful applicant from the LOI stage that attended the Strengthening Workshop will be invited to apply to the full application stage. Specific evaluation criteria will be provided following the Strengthening Workshop.

### **Timelines**

LOI receipt date	October 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2016
Review/Selection panel	November 2016
Notification of Team Selection	Mid-November 2016
Strengthening workshop	Tentatively scheduled for December 2016 but subject to travel approvals and arrangements

### **Review Process and Evaluation**

#### **Relevance Review Process**

The DBT and CIHR will provide funding for applications that are relevant to (in alignment with) the objectives and research priority areas described in the Objectives section.

Prior to peer review, DBT (or one of its subsidiary organizations) and CIHR will have access to Letters of Intent (LOIs) and nominative information to conduct relevance review. The applicant must consent to the sharing of nominative information at the time of application to be eligible for funding.

Applications that are not deemed to be relevant will be withdrawn from the competition.

#### **Review Committee**

A joint peer review committee of DBT & CIHR will evaluate the letters of intent (LOI) and full applications. The committee will be created specifically for this funding opportunity. Committee

members would be selected following DBT policy and the CIHR [Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy of the Federal Research Funding Organizations](#).

## **Evaluation Criteria**

### **Letter of Intent Stage:**

#### **Teams**

- ) Appropriateness of the team composition as it relates to their ability to carry out the proposed research program, including:
  - Competencies and experience in prior interventions, cohorts, data management, multi-disciplinary and multi-country teams and knowledge of the research area. This may be present within a single research team or may be achieved through partnerships within India as well as the collaboration between the Indian and Canadian joint team
  - A collaborative work plan between Canadian and Indian researchers.
  - An outline of the proposed contribution of each team member to the research program.
  - Access to relevant populations.
  - Demonstration of their experience with implementing and evaluating complex interventions with a DOHaD focus.
  - Description of prior or ongoing intervention research experience in which part or all of the research team has been involved.

#### **Potential for a DOHaD Cohort**

- ) Description of target population and the plan for establishing a new cohort that is representative of that target population.
- ) Stability of population.
- ) Demonstration that the proposed recruitment strategies are culturally appropriate, gender sensitive, ethical and methodologically sound.
- ) Demonstration that the proposed recruitment strategies will support equitable and ethical partnerships with communities.

#### **Environment for the Research and Knowledge Translation**

- ) Availability and accessibility of personnel, facilities and infrastructure required to conduct the research in both countries.
- ) Institutional commitment to long-term studies.
- ) Relationships of research team with policy makers.

## **Funding Decision**

Upon completion of the LOI review, the top LOI receiving a rating of 3.5 or higher (out of 4.9) will be invited to submit a full application. The lead Indian principal applicant and the lead Canadian principal applicant of the successful LOI will then attend a Strengthening Workshop, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland in Q4 2016, at which the key elements for development of the full application will be discussed and agreed upon as a collaborative effort with other successful teams from participating countries. The details of the applications that are successful at the LOI stage, including applicant team, title and abstract, may be published on the DBT and CIHR and Partner websites.

## **Full Application**

Upon completion of the Full Application review, one application will be funded.

## **Sponsor Description**

### **Partners**

#### **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**

The Department of Biotechnology focuses on building coherence and connectivity between disciplines and bring together variegated skills across the country to enhance synergy in biotechnology sector. The mandate of the organization is to:

1. Promote large scale use of Biotechnology
2. Support R&D and manufacturing in Biology
3. Responsibility for Autonomous Institutions
4. Promote University and Industry Interaction
5. Identify and Set up Centres of Excellence for R&D
6. Integrated Programme for Human Resource Development
7. Serve as Nodal Point for specific International Collaborations
8. Establishment of Infrastructure Facilities to support R&D and production
9. Evolve Bio Safety Guidelines, manufacture and application of cell based vaccines
10. Serve as nodal point for the collection and dissemination of information relating to biotechnology.

The Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative aligns with the DBT mandate to support high quality, relevant and impactful research that will improve the lives of Indians. The DBT contribution is provided through funding received from the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

#### **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)**

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is the Government of Canada's health research investment agency. CIHR's mission is to create new scientific knowledge and to enable its translation into improved health, more effective health services and products, and a strengthened health care system for Canadians. Composed of 13 Institutes, CIHR provides leadership and support to more than 13,700 health researchers and trainees across Canada.

The Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative is a priority-driven initiative funded through CIHR's Roadmap Accelerator Fund (RAF). The RAF is intended to support transformative and impactful research that aligns with CIHR's [Research Priorities](#) and is multi-disciplinary in nature. Scientific leadership and support for this RAF-funded initiative is shared across CIHR's [Institute of Aboriginal People's Health](#), [Institute of Gender and Health](#), [Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health](#), [Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction](#) and [Institute of Population and Public Health](#).

## Additional Information

The Institute of Gender and Health have developed a [free online course](#) that examines how sex can be integrated into biomedical research at every stage of the research project.

To assess the extent in which your proposal has integrated sex and gender, you can refer to the [Sex/Gender-Responsive Assessment Scale](#).

## CIHR Access to Information Act and Privacy Act, and the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)

All personal information collected by CIHR about applicants is used to review applications, to recruit reviewers, to administer and monitor grants and awards, to compile statistics, and to promote and support health research in Canada. Consistent with these purposes, applicants should also expect that information collected by CIHR may be shared as described in the [Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy of the Federal Research Funding Organizations](#).

CIHR as a federal entity is subject to the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act, therefore the requirements of these two statutes will apply to all information located in CIHR's premises including, without limitation, cost-sharing agreements related to this funding opportunity and all matters pertaining thereto.

While respecting the application of the Privacy Act to federal entities, all signing parties involved in a collaborative agreement will also be bound by the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA). All personal information (as identified by the PIPEDA) collected, used or disclosed in the course of any commercial activity under collaborative agreements related to the Funding opportunity will be collected, used and disclosed in compliance with the PIPEDA.

## CIHR Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications

CIHR believes that greater access to research publications and data will promote the ability of researchers and knowledge users in Canada and abroad to use and build on the knowledge needed to address significant health challenges. Open access will promote accessibility to CIHR-funded research and will serve to increase the international visibility of Canadian research. CIHR grant recipients are reminded to adhere with the responsibilities outlined in the [Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications](#). Under this policy, grant recipients must ensure that research papers and bio-molecular data generated from CIHR funding are freely accessible online.

## Contact Information

Indian applicants: for all inquiries please contact:

DBT details Dr. Anamika Gambhir (Email ID: [anamika.dbt@nic.in](mailto:anamika.dbt@nic.in))

Canadian applicants: for all inquiries please contact:

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Toll Free: 1-888-603-4178

Email: [support@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:support@cihr-irsc.gc.ca)