



**HEART &
STROKE**
FOUNDATION

Date: March 31, 2016

Re: Message to all 2016/17 applicants

From: Mary Lewis, Vice-President, Research, Advocacy and Health Promotion

Dear applicants,

Now that offer letters are being sent out, I want to report briefly on this year's results. Of course, final numbers await acceptances but the trends are clear. I am pleased to report that this year's success rate for the GIA program will be about 20% (up from 15% last year). This was made possible because the board approved a further investment of \$1.5Million in 2016.

There are, of course, implications for the next two years as the total commitment is \$4.5Million. The board remains committed to achieving a balanced budget in our next fiscal year and this will place significant pressures on fundraising. We appreciate the research community's offers of assistance with fundraising and will be working on a plan in consultation with members of the Scientific Review Committee (SRC) and other researchers. Your help is needed and welcome.

As you know we consolidated the process for provincial personnel awards with the National New Investigator awards. The results were quite positive, we are expecting a 28% success rate for the National New Investigator competition, 25% for the Alberta New Investigator competition, 67% for Ontario's Clinician Scientist (Phase I), and 40% for Ontario's Mid-Career Investigator Award. There were no applications to Ontario's Clinician Scientist Phase II competition. In addition, the expected success rate in the Emerging Research Leaders Initiative (ERLI) is 25%.

We have appreciated your engagement in the Integrated Research Investment Strategy (IRIS) planning process. The discussion generated helped surface a number of important issues. The frank, open discussions during the research consultations across the country were also very valuable. A copy of the summary of these consultations was circulated earlier, and can be found at: <http://files.ctctcdn.com/a3f93065301/34e464c2-0f43-4d48-862f-0e181fcd0c7.pdf> .

There was a full discussion at the March board meeting. As outlined above the board approved a further allocation for the current year. In addition we will be establishing a Research Advisory Committee and the SRC Chair and Vice-Chair will be members, as well as a number of mechanisms to enhance communication and engagement between the research community and the board. The board had an initial discussion of proposed future directions based on the IRIS planning process. We will hold further consultations in the next couple of months and then take an implementation plan to the board in June. There will be no significant changes for the next research cycle.

On the advocacy front, as you may know we have been advocating actively with the federal government for additional CCVD research funding. Now that the Federal Budget has been announced, we are pleased that the government has allocated \$5 million to the Foundation over five years for women's heart health research. The government has also proposed a significant investment (\$30 million/year) to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), which HSF supported. We will be continuing with our advocacy efforts.

I continue to welcome your comments and suggestions; the last couple of years have been difficult and a strong, open relationship with frank discussion is key to successfully navigating

through tough times. While the fundraising environment remains very challenging, I am optimistic that the path ahead is encouraging and exciting.

Thanks for your participation and your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Mary Lewis
Vice-President, Research, Advocacy and Health Promotion