The long game: career planning and your grant application strategies

William Ghali – Scientific Director
Panel – Christine Friedenreich, Brenda Hemmelgarn, Lynn McIntyre
The grant funding game:
Strategies that might help your funding applications

William Ghali
Scientific Director
(with the Returning Panel)
The IPH Grant Strategy Series

- Introductory session
- Revision & resubmission
- Grant budgets
- Knowledge Translation
- Peer review: do it! (well...)
- Programmatic grants
- The “Beautiful Grant”
- And today...
The long game: career planning and your grant application strategies

William Ghali – Scientific Director
Panel – Christine Friedenreich, Brenda Hemmelgarn, Lynn McIntyre
The long game

• What are we talking about?
The long game

• Stepping back and thinking strategically
  – Who are you? } should you apply?
  – Your context?
  – When and how?
  – To what competitions?
  – With what initiatives?
  – Career award applications?
  – Foundation scheme?
  – Your ‘small business’
Who are you?
(In relation to the research mandate)

• What is your training?
• Where are you in your career?
  – Late in training
  – Very early career
  – Mid-career
  – Later career
• Your personal track record?
• Research time allocation?
• “Fire in your belly”? 
Beware!
Research time allocation vs. ‘Fire in belly’ for research?
Some ‘smart’ analytics

- Time protection and application/success rates:
  - >70%: 28/114 = 24.5%
  - 40-70%: 16/64 = 25%
  - <40%: 3/36 = 8.3%

- Number of faculty (app rates):
  - >70%: N=84 (1.36/member)
  - 40-70%: N=112 (0.57/member)
  - <40%: N=244 (0.14/member)
Your context?

- HUGE importance
- If early in career: even more important than you
- Mentorship? (if junior)
- Colleagues? (if more senior)
- Expertise?
- Infrastructure?
- Your institution (and institute)
- Partnerships? Integrated KT?
When and how?

• Grant writing takes time
• (LOTS of time)
• (and preparation)
• Your small business
  – (more on this later)
  – Deciding on scale
  – Ramping up or downsizing?
• Think and plan continuously
• Balancing papers vs. grants
• Anticipating rejection
• Revision & resubmission
• Your role in your enterprise
To what competitions?

• CIHR (the top ‘prize’)
To what competitions?

• CIHR (the top ‘prize’)
  – Open grants
  – Special competitions
  – (Foundation scheme)
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<th>Opportunity Name</th>
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To what competitions?

• CIHR (the top ‘prize’)
  – Open grants
  – Special competitions
  – (Foundation scheme)

• Other agencies/competitions
  – AI-HS
  – Disease foundations
  – Private foundations
  – Ministries/government
  – Local competitions & seed grants
  – Remember UofC bridge funding!!
  – Contract opportunities

• Team grants
With what initiatives?

- Bigger grants
- And smaller grants
- Meeting grants
- Seed grants
- Project grants
- Program grants
- Team grants
- Partnership grants
Career Award Applications

• Pursue them when you can
• Solidify your position
• CIHR (New Investigator and some Chairs)
• Canada Research Chairs
• Disease Foundations
• New Investigators within team grants
• Some other opportunities
• **Based on operating grants**...
CIHR Foundation Scheme

- CIHR’s new funding model
- Our IPR team learning +++
- Anxiety for many +++
IN THE DOOM AND GLOOM OPPORTUNITY LOOMS

JULIAN HALL
ULTRAPRENEURSAYINGS.COM
CIHR Foundation Scheme

- CIHR’s new funding model
- Our IPR team learning +++
- Anxiety for many +++
- Great opportunity...
CIHR Foundation Scheme

- CIHR’s new funding model
- Our IPR team learning +++
- Anxiety for many +++
- Great opportunity...for some
CIHR Foundation Scheme

• CIHR’s new funding model
• Our IPR team learning +++
• Anxiety for many +++
• Great opportunity...for some
• About YOU & your projects
• Leadership criteria (key factor)
• Training and partnerships
• (Somewhat enigmatic <5y)
Your small business

• How big or small do you want it to be?
• What do you want to achieve?
• How much money is being spent each month?
• How much revenue do you need to sustain it?
• Need to account for some grant failures in timing
• Diversify income sources
• Can’t let the tank get empty.