



RI -What's Open, What's Closed

Research Administrative offices will be closing at 1pm on December 24th and functioning with limited services throughout the remainder of the holiday period.

The offices are closed on December 25th, 26th, and January 1st and 2nd. Full operations resume on Monday, January 5th, 2009.

The following services are also on slow-down during the holidays. If you are not sure what's open or closed, call in advance.

Fedex - not picking up Dec 25th, 26th or January 1st.

IS - Updates to the Intranet will continue to be made, but there will be a reduction in service response time from between December 22nd 2008 and



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January 12th, 2009 inclusively.

Office of Clinical Contracts - closed from Monday December 22, 2008 to Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Please note that in event of emergency (fire, flood, break-in, etc) investigators and staff are asked to call **ext 55555** for emergency assistance and to ask for the Research Administrator on call during the holiday period.

This service is provided to all Research Institute personnel.

Research Administration wishes everyone in the Research Institute and across the MUHC happy holidays and good health to all.

We're looking forward to working with you all again in the coming new year.

Clinical Research Pilot Project 2008

Competition Results

Results of the Research Institute's Clinical Research Pilot Project Competition held last summer were recently announced. \$200,000 in total funding was awarded this year to 10 new clinical research teams. The awardees are listed below.

The purpose of the competition is to provide funding for clinical research projects leading to full grant proposals.

Congratulations to all the awardees:

New Investigators

Morin Suzanne

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Post-Hospitalization care following hip fracture repair: An Environmental Scan

Zappitelli Michael

Endocrinology, Diabetes, Nutrition and Kidney Diseases

Early biomarkers of acute Kidney Injury in children treated with aminoglycosides

Martineau Paul

Musculoskeletal Disorders

MRI Characteristics of Acute Cartilage Injury: Pilot study of the Use of an In Vitro Cartilage Injury Model with MRI

Kaminska Marta

Respiratory Health

Disease-specific evaluation of a respiratory assistance technique in neuromuscular patients

New Teams

Tamblyn Robyn

Health Outcomes

Accuracy of using clinical and administrative data for measuring adverse

events in hospitalized medical and surgical patients: A pilot validation study

Nagano Makoto

Human Reproduction and Development

Characterization of human male germ line stem cells for developing stem cell-based male fertility restoration strategies for cancer survivors

Pineau Christian

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Humor in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: A Pilot Project

Chasen Martin

Cancer

What Is The Relationship Between a Focussed Exercise Program And Cancer-Related Fatigue?

Daskalopoulou Stella

Cardiovascular Diseases and Critical Care

Quantification of the Effect of Smoking on Arterial Stiffness

Loo Vivian

Infection and Immunity

Household Transmission of Clostridium difficile

RI Grants Dept Reorganization

As part of The Research Institute's continued effort to improve services to RI investigators, the Institute's Director, Dr. Vassilios Papadopoulos, recently announced the temporary appointment of Ms. Cinzia Raponi as Interim Director, in the newly reorganized Division of Grants Management.

Ms. Raponi has been with the RI since 1994. She has held a variety of administrative positions more recently as Director of Finance, a position she will continue to maintain while assuming temporary responsibilities for Grants.

As a result, Ms. Raponi now becomes the official representative of the Research Institute as the designated financial officer.

Please ensure that all future grant related documentation names Ms. Raponi as the grants contact person.

Located at 2155 Guy St, 5th floor, Ms. Raponi can be reached directly via email at cinzia.raponi@muhc.mcgill.ca or by phone at ext 44515.

The Research Institute expresses sincere appreciation to Ms. Sylvie Domingue for her long term service and commitment to the RI. Please join us all in wishing her success in her future endeavours.

New RI IT

Steering Committee

The RI announces the creation of an RI MUHC Information Technology Steering Committee to act in an advisory capacity to the RI Management Committee. The mandate of the committee is to determine and define current and future Information Systems and Information Technology (IS/IT) requirements of the research community and to propose strategies to implement solutions.

Some of the upcoming issues the new committee will deal with include:

- Assess current IS/IT status and requirements of -RI investigators in term of networking, online services and level of support and propose solutions.
- Develop RI IS/IT strategic plan, both for current status and for transition to new sites in line with the programs included in CFI proposal.
- Evaluate the RI rapport with MUHC-IS (Syscor) and McGill Networking and Communications Services in terms of IT infrastructure.
- Monitor service levels and changing needs; address problems as they arise.

The committee's membership presently includes Drs. Robert Platt, Robyn Tamblyn, Allen Huang, Stéphane Laporte, Thomas Nilsson and Mr. Jean-Marie Chavannes. Mr. Francois Schubert will attend ad hoc. Others will join the committee soon. We'll keep you posted on developments. Feel free to contact any of the members with your ideas or suggestions.

Internal Review

Coordinator

Wanted

The Research Institute is seeking a scientist to take over the position of Coordinator,

Grant Review for new and young investigators from the MGH and RVH.

The system is extremely well organized and basically runs itself. The incumbent would be expected to fulfill the following:

- 1) Send email reminders to all the tenure track and new recruits periodically advising them about the availability of internal review.
- 2) Manage the web based site (muhc.gsubmit.net) which is operated by eJournal Press. The site is easy to operate.
- 3) When a grant is submitted for review, the coordinator identifies potential reviewers on the site and then follows up in order to get two reviewers per submission.
- 4) Tracks the progress of the review process via the website
- 5) Answers questions about grant submissions.

Interested applicants should forward their CV to Mr. Francois Schubert, GM at francois.schubert@muhc.mcgill.ca. The RI's Management Committee will select a candidate in the new year.

Applicants will receive a stipend. For more information about the position and process, contact the current coordinator, Dr. Marianna Newkirk at marianna.newkirk@mcgill.ca.

Internal Competitions

Eligibility Notice

Beginning January 1, 2009, *only* RI investigators will be eligible to apply for internal funding from the Institute's internal competitions based on the following criteria:

- *Applicants must be an RI member
- *Applicants must have grants and/or contracts managed by the RI
- *Applicant's accounts must be in good

standing.

*RI physical location will be defined where there are administrative agreements in place with McGill & the RI (i.e. Bellini, Meakins, Ludner).

Each year, the Research Institute provides \$1.25M in funding to run 5 internal competitions;

*Studentship/Fellowships (2 x per yr currently)

*Equipment Competition

*Clinical Research Pilot Projects

*Stem Cell Research Competition

All funds allocated to the competitions come from overhead collected from clinical and fundamental research.

Supporting Conferences

Each year, the RI receives a number of requests to provide financial support to conferences and symposiums within the RI and across McGill University.

While the RI is happy to provide some support where and when it can, do note that the following information is required in advance of being considered for funding:

- 1) min. 6 months notification in advance of the conference or symposium
- 2) a one-page summary including title, objectives, planned invitees, proposed budget and amount requested
- 3) confirmation that the organizers have solicited CIHR and/or FRSQ for support prior to (check their websites).

Requests should be sent directly to Caroline Donelle, Manager Research Communications, Public Relations and Internal Awards:

caroline.donelle@mail.mcgill.ca

Internal News

Kudos

Dr. Paul Goodyer, Human Reproduction and Development Axis, is the recipient of the Kidney Foundation of Canada 2008 Medal for Research Excellence. Honoring a Canadian researcher whose work has significantly advanced the treatment of kidney disease and related conditions, this prize recognizes Dr. Goodyer's seminal contributions to the identification of the gene mutations responsible for cystinuria and Dent's disease as well as his findings related to the function of PAX2, a protein essential to the normal development of the kidney and other organs.

Dr. Barry Posner, Endocrinology, Diabetes, Nutrition and Kidney Diseases, won the Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism and Stephane Laporte won the Young Investigator Award from the Canadian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism in 2008.

Research Institute Appointments

Dr. Costas Karatzas, PhD to the position of Director of Business Development for the Research Institute. Dr. Karatzas holds MSc and PhD degrees from McGill.

With 16 years of national and international experience as an executive manager directing research, product and business development activities in Biotechnology and Life Science companies, Dr. Karatzas' responsibilities have included managing multidisciplinary teams engaged in the pre-clinical development of human therapeutics, setting-up, negotiating and overseeing strategic R & D collaborations and partnerships, securing and managing grant funding, developing and executing IP strategies. Dr. Karatzas was honored in 2002 by Scientific American 50 as the Team Leader in Innovation in Chemicals & Materials in recognition of the work on recombinant spider silk he led at Nexia Biotechnologies, a successful McGill spin-off company.

Reporting to the General Manager, Dr. Karatzas will be responsible for the Business Development activities of the Research Institute. He will participate in generating new initiatives and identifying opportunities for strengthening and expanding the RI's brand. Dr. Karatzas is located at 2155 Guy street, 5th floor and can be reached at costas.karatzas@mail.mcgill.ca or by calling at ext. 75321.

Susan James, MBA to the position of Project Manager of its recently awarded CFI grant that will be used to create and equip a new, state-of-the-art medical research centre as part of the MUHC's new facilities on the Glen Campus. She brings with her a wide range of experience in both health research and project management and will be reporting to the General Manager.

A native Montrealer and McGill graduate, Susan worked with Dr. Hugh Bennett at the Endocrine Research Laboratory at the RVH for many years, specialising in studies of the structure/function relationships of peptide hormones and growth factors. After completing an MBA at McGill University, she joined Génome Québec as Manager of the Proteomics Platform at the McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre in 2002. Located at 2155 Guy St, 5th Floor, contact Susan directly via email at susan.james@mail.mcgill.ca or at ext. 71562.

McGill Appt



Associate Dean, Research McGill

Dr. Marianna Newkirk, recently named as Associate Dean Research, will provide critical support to Dr. Remi Quirion, named to Vice-Dean for Science and Strategic Initiatives and Senior University Advisor on Health Sciences Research on all matters relating to funding agencies, special funding initiatives and research relations with the Research Grants Office and the Office of International Research.

She will supervise the Coordinator of Investigator Funding and oversee the grant submission process for all Faculty of Medicine researchers. Dr. Newkirk will also represent the Faculty at the Office of the Vice-Principal, Research and International Relations on infrastructure, animal ethics and other research-related issues.

Dr. Newkirk received her PhD in immunology from the University of Toronto in 1984 and her master's in biology from Queen's University.

Among the recognition that Dr. Newkirk has received throughout her career is the Award of Exceptional Merit in 2005 from the Canadian Society of Immunology, in recognition of her service in the advancement of immunology.

Congratulations Dr. Newkirk.

CIHR Policy on the Institutional Electronic Approval of Applications

1.0 Definitions

Authorized official: An individual who has the authority to bind the research institution to the general conditions governing grants and awards, as per the statement "Meaning of Signatures on Application Forms" outlined in the CIHR Grants and Awards Guide).

Electronic approval of applications: Electronic approval of applications for the purpose of this schedule, refers to the electronic review and approval of applications by the institution for which the Nominated Principal Applicant has identified as the Institution Paid.

2.0 Policy

CIHR requires all Eligible CIHR Institutions to electronically approve all applications submitted by Nominated Principal Applicants at their institution. This policy applies to programs where the functionality exists on ResearchNet.

3.0 Responsibilities

3.1 Responsibilities of Eligible CIHR Institutions

Beginning December 17, 2008, institutions administering CIHR grants and awards are reminded to adhere with the following new responsibilities:

1. Review applications submitted by Nominated Principal Applicant to their institution. Electronically approve applications to be submitted to CIHR.
2. Provide support and information to Participants at their institution on questions regarding the application process and on the Institution's internal

deadline.

3. Understand and comply with CIHR's definition of "Meaning of Signatures on Application Forms".
4. Notify CIHR of any changes and new appointments of authorized officials.
5. Obtain approval and signatures from other institutions involved in the application process prior to submitting CIHR applications.
6. Keep on file for a period of 7 years:

*all applications including original ("wet") signatures collected for applications approved electronically.

* a paper record of all electronically signed applications when secure electronic signatures are used at the institution.
7. Limit the reason for the return of applications after the CIHR deadline and before the end of the 48 hour grace period to critical compliance issues.
8. Document/keep track of the reasons for the return of applications after the CIHR deadline and before the end of the 48 hour grace period for the purpose of further refining and restricting allowable updates to information from Nominated Principal Applicants for future ResearchNet releases.

9. Provide an original ("wet") signature to CIHR if electronic approval by the Research Institution is not possible.
10. Provide signatures on file as requested by CIHR as part of any auditing process.
11. Ensure all users who have access to the electronic Approval tool have the right to access the information provided on applications.

Further details can be found at <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/38314.html>

Community Outreach Initiatives

The Research Institute is pursuing community outreach initiatives with local area high schools and we are appealing to members of the Research Institute to volunteer some time in the name of education and awareness.

Several schools have expressed interest in having Research Institute scientists provide students with a glimpse of the world of healthcare research and the career of the scientist via the auditorium lecture. Your audience would be a throng of enraptured students between the ages of 14-17 years of age.

Lectures would be reasonably brief (30 minutes or more depending on titillating topic) followed by 15-20 minutes of Q & A between lecturer and inquiring student minds. Your presentation would be in sufficient enough laymen terms that this age group could comprehend, coupled with enough eye candy visuals (think YouTube and Facebook Generation) presentations to keep their attention intact and generate "buzz" during the lectures.

If you are completely at ease with a large group of teenage students, and are interested in getting involved, (with a minimum of time commitment on your part and a ton of gratitude on theirs (you could change a life's direction...), please provide the following information:

Your full name and degrees

Your area of specialty and expertise

Topic(s) you would lecture on

Your availability and contact info

then send to:

caroline.donelle@mail.mcgill.ca

You will be contacted in the new year to discuss possibilities.

New 2009 NCE Competition

Funding Agency:

Networks of Centres of Excellence

Program: 2009 Competition for New NCE Networks

Agency Deadline: March 2, 2009

(Letter of Intent)

August, 2009

(full application)

Expression of Interest to RGO

Deadline: January 5, 2009 (firm)

Special Instructions:

The Networks of Centres of Excellences is launching a competition for the establishment of 3 to 4 new networks within the priority areas established by the Federal Government's Science and Technology Strategy. It is expected that a maximum of one network per priority area will be funded in this competition.

Environmental science and technologies:

1. water (health, energy, security)
2. cleaner methods of extracting, processing and using hydrocarbon fuels, including reduced consumption of these fuels

Natural resources and energy:

3. energy production in the oil sands
4. Arctic (resource production, climate change adaptation, monitoring)
5. biofuels, fuel cells and nuclear energy

Health and related life sciences and technologies:

6. regenerative medicine
7. neuroscience

8. health in an aging population
9. biomedical engineering and medical technologies

Information and communication technologies:

10. new media, animation and games
11. wireless networks and services
12. broadband networks
13. telecom equipment

The Research Grants Office (RGO), in collaboration with the Office of Vice-Principal, Research & International Relations (OVPRIR), is requesting that Expressions of Interest be submitted by January 5, 2009 at the latest. The Expression of Interest should indicate the priority and sub-priority area to be addressed as well as the scientific leader for the proposed network. Due to the administrative impact involved in hosting a network, the RGO and OVPRIR will need to work closely with Faculty offices in order to advance proposals of this magnitude

Expressions of interest should be sent by email to Mary-Margaret Klempa in RGO (contact information below).

RGO Contact: Mary-Margaret Klemp
Grants Officer Phone: 514-398-7359

Email: mary.margaret.klempa@mcgill.ca

Security over the Holidays

Research Institute personnel are reminded to keep all personal belongings and confidential information locked up when you step out of the office.

Prevent potential thefts by routinely securing confidential and sensitive information, and keeping office doors locked.

Major Flood occurs at the MGH

On Saturday, December 13, 2009, a major flood occurred in the early morning hours in the mechanical room on L14 that severely affected laboratories, animal facilities and investigator's offices on the floors below; L13, L12, L11 and L10.

The cause was determined to be the result of a number of heating coils which burst following a shutdown of hot water facilities under repair. Due to the freezing conditions outdoors, the pipes subsequently froze after the shutdown, and burst several hours later causing extensive damage throughout.

Cleaning crews were immediately sent into affected areas, followed by animal facility, technical support and risk management staff.

On behalf of all of the staff affected, RI administration is working closely with risk management, technical services and the insurance companies in an effort to rectify the situation as soon as possible.

As of December 17th, it was confirmed that renovations have already begun in the affected areas. The RI regrets the inconvenience to all of those impacted.

For more information, contact:

Mr. Jean-Marie Chavannes, Director,
Technical Support Division ext 44554,
or

Walid Al-Challe, Manager
Infrastructure and Equipment ext.
71541