

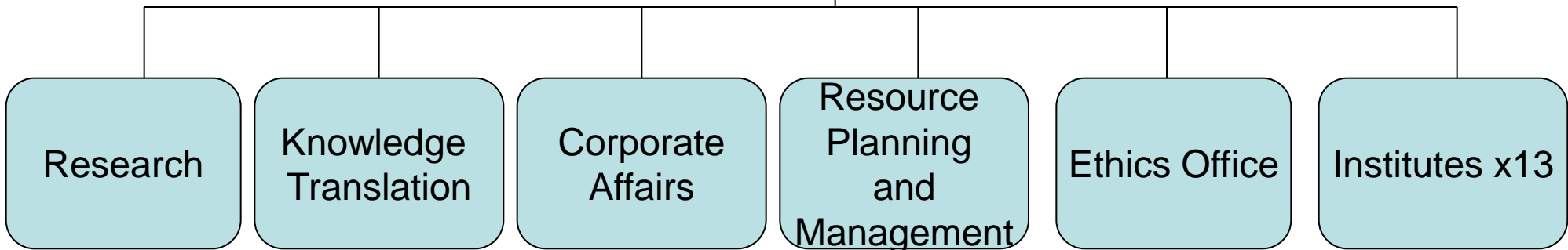


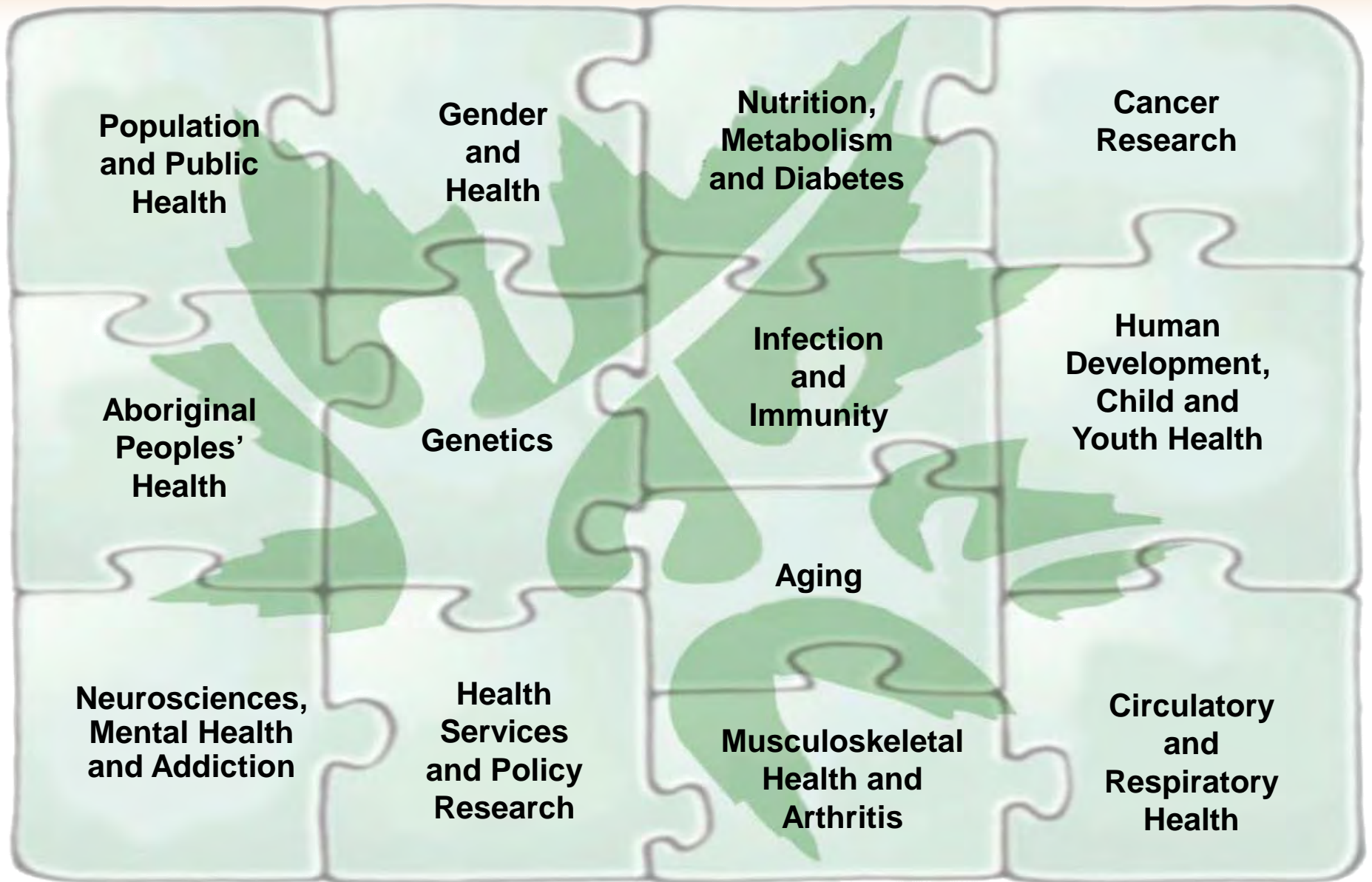
Canadian Institutes of Health Research

CIHR Basics - Overview

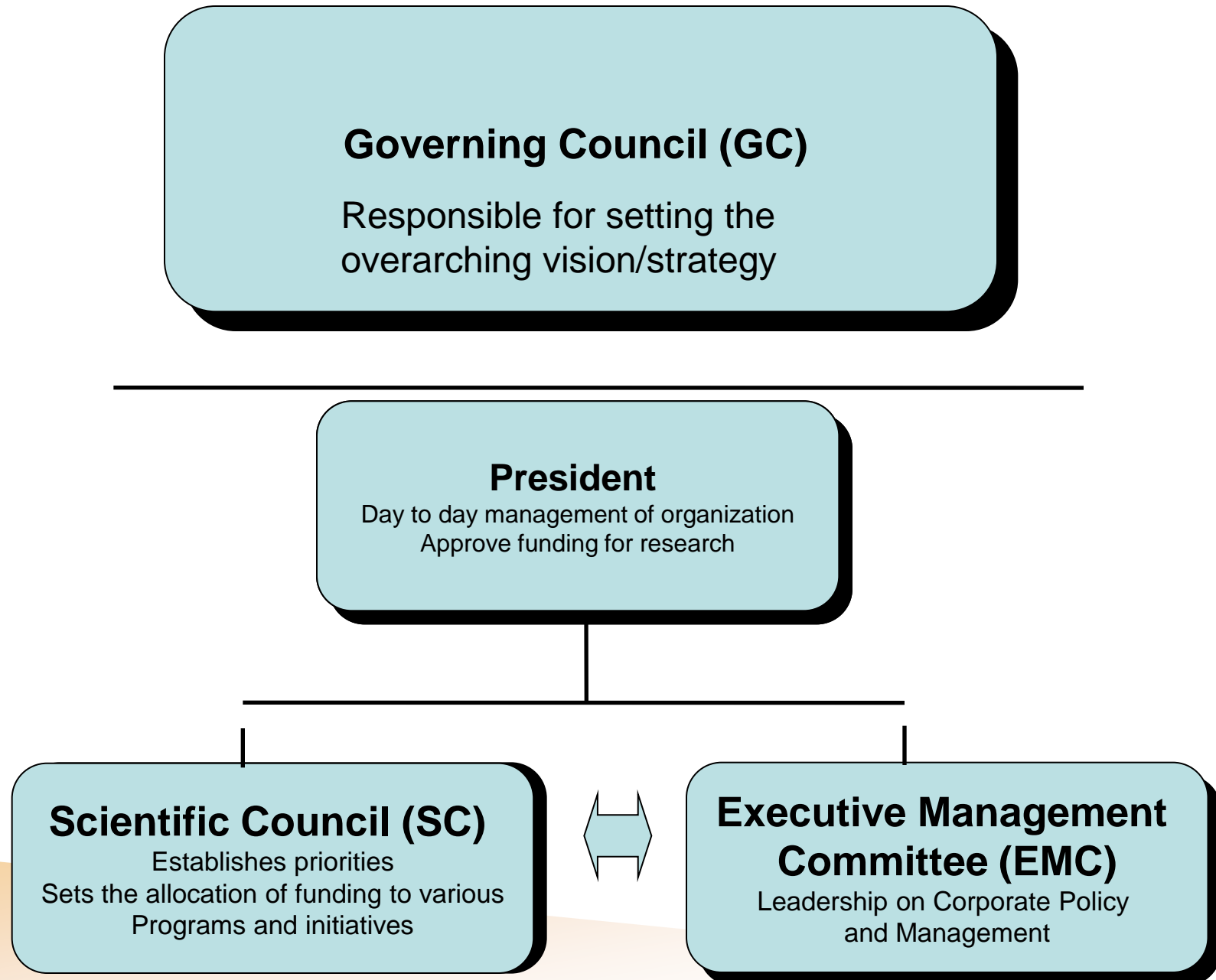
- ✓ **CIHR as an organization**
- ✓ **The peer-review process**
- ✓ **Application basics**
- ✓ **Timelines**
- ✓ **Savvy Tips**

CIHR Organization





CIHR Governance & Management Committees



CIHR - Mission

“To excel, according to internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence in the creation of new knowledge

and

its translation into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health care system...”

Research Portfolio

The Research Portfolio - 4 Branches:

Three Program Delivery Branches:

- ❖ **Knowledge Creation Programs – Open Grants**
- ❖ **Research Capacity Development – Open Awards (trainees, salary)**
- ❖ **Targeted Initiatives – Initiatives and Programs from Institutes (and Partners)**

One Oversight Branch:

- ❖ **Program Planning and Process - quality control of program delivery (e.g. policies, standard operating procedures)**

Peer Review

Major Ethical Considerations

You must not be involved in the review if the applicant(s):

- Are from your institution
- Has collaborated with you within the last five years
- Has been supervised by you within the last ten years
- Is a close personal friend or relative
- Has major differences of opinion with you
- If you could be affected financially from the outcome of the application
- Are for some other reason unable to provide an objective review.

Peer Review Confidentiality

- Do not forward copies of applications or discuss them with others
- Do not discuss the results of a peer review process or a part of until the results are formally announced

Peer Review

CIHR Operating Grant

- Assessment of the Applicant (~50%)
- Assessment of the Proposal (~50%)

Peer Review

CIHR Operating Grant

Assessment of the Applicant

- Productivity during the present funding period (the most important)
- Significant contributions to the field
- Research Experience

Peer Review

CIHR Operating Grant

Assessment of the Proposal

Synopsis of the Proposal

- Purpose
- Hypothesis to be tested/questions to be answered
- Objectives to be achieved
- Approaches being used
- Progress to date

Peer Review

CIHR Operating Grant

Assessment of the Proposal

Assessment of the Proposal

- Significance, impact, and importance
- Originality and innovation
- Appropriateness and feasibility of the Research Plan
- Research Environment: facilities, personnel, time commitment to complete the proposed research

Application Basics

Guidelines

- Read guidelines
- Follow guidelines
- Read successful applications
- Understand and follow program mandate

Timelines

- Start early - Set personal deadlines 6-8 weeks before due
- The Art of Grantsmanship – Jacob Kraicer
http://www.med.ubc.ca/__shared/assets/The_Art_of_Grantsmanship40.pdf

Timelines - good but delusional

● 2 months before

- Re-read guidelines and application
- Get quotes and letters of collaboration

● 1 month before

- Final draft (on agency forms) to colleague for review

● 2 weeks before

- Proofread final version – have someone else proofread
- Get signatures

● 1 week before

- Make copies

● 2 days before

- Submit!

Savvy Tips

Review Committee

- Choose reviewing committee wisely
(committee descriptions on website)
- NEVER rely on external reviews

Review Committee

- Weighted categories – what to expect
- Write for informed non-expert reviewer
- Have grant read internally (non-expert)

Format - Visual Appeal

- Margins – avoid “wall of words”
- Font
- Align text left - “justify-right” and columns are for newspapers

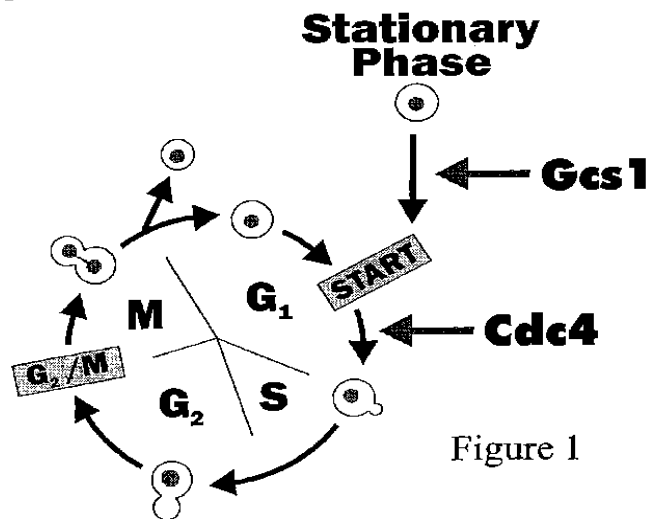
Format - Visual Appeal

- More - *headings*
 - ***white space***
 - ***PROOFREADING***
- Intersperse diagrams/figures

(mutations) are located in the same region of a chromosome, creation of a double-mutant cell requires that recombination occurs within the region separating the two mutations, an event that becomes less frequent as the distance between the two mutant loci becomes smaller. Because the collection of deletion mutants represents a linear series of mutations covering the entire yeast genome, the robotics facility allows high-throughput mapping of any mutation that causes a discernible phenotype. **In the case of mutational suppressors of the *gcs1Δ* mutation, the discernible phenotype will be the suppressor-mediated restoration of growth of *gcs1Δ* mutant cells at 14°C.** The initial *gcs1Δ* mutation is marked by a drug resistance gene so that the presence of *gcs1Δ* mutation can be determined. In the context of the *gcs1Δ* mutation, the suppressor mutation will restore growth of drug-resistant segregants at 14°C. After running the robotics screen, any deletion mutations that reside near the suppressor mutation will fail to appear in combination with the *gcs1Δ* and suppressor mutations. The cluster of deletion mutations that fail to appear will determine the chromosomal location for the suppressor mutation (and, of course, the *gcs1Δ* mutant gene itself). At this point, inspection of the relevant region of the yeast genome will identify a handful of yeast genes as candidates for the suppressor gene. These candidate genes can be tested one at a time by standard molecular procedures to confirm the identity of the suppressor gene.

(3) Genetic selection based on “sparing” cells from death

Mutations that specifically affect the resumption of cell proliferation from stationary phase may arise from genetic alterations (for example, single-base pair changes) that are not equivalent to the complete gene deletions assessed above. Therefore, a more general selection scheme has been devised to identify interesting mutations regardless of the type of genetic change involved. This scheme is designed to select for mutations that prevent cell death under conditions that otherwise cause a rapid loss of viability when cells attempt to resume cell proliferation from stationary phase and embark on the first mitotic cell cycle. Our selection scheme relies on the use of a



temperature-sensitive version of the *CDC4* gene. The *CDC4* gene product is an F-box protein that targets cell-cycle regulatory proteins for ubiquitin-mediated degradation (Bai *et al.*, 1996; Feldman *et al.*, 1997; Nash *et al.*, 2001). At the restrictive temperature of 37°C, *cdc4* mutant cells are able to complete the cell-cycle regulatory step termed START (or R-point in mammalian cells) that initiates a new mitotic cell cycle (Hartwell, 1974; Figure 1). The Cdc4-mediated cell-cycle step is required for both actively proliferating cells and stimulated stationary-phase cells to initiate a new cell cycle. Stationary-phase cells stimulated to perform the reentry transition and resume cell proliferation must first progress to the START regulatory step, and then complete the Cdc4-mediated step. However, cells harboring

Take note!

Ideal grant includes:

- Proper formatting, font (follow guidelines)
- Clear headings
- Diagrams interspersed (vs. all at end)
- Right justification free

Content

- Avoid jargon
- Flow/consistency
- Pay attention to budget (and justification)
- For godness sake, PROFREAD four tip'o's

Content

Remember the 4 main rules:

1. Tell me what you're going to tell me
2. Tell me
3. Tell me what you just told me
4. Repeat as often as possible

Public Summary

- Avoid jargon – write for your grandmother
- Never underestimate the potential influence of the summary