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2002 CIHR and VOLUNTARY HEALTH SECTOR SURVEY REPORT August 27, 2002



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SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✍ 36 participants completed the survey in part or in whole, representing a response rate of 43.4%;
- ✍ 20 participants were from HCCC organizations, while 14 participants were from CIHR/HRFP organizations;
- ✍ The majority of participants clearly see the relationship between CIHR and the Voluntary Health Sector as being very important;
- ✍ “Partnering in research” and “Peer review” are viewed as the most important issues to the participant’s organization;
- ✍ “Advocacy” is viewed as the least important issue to the participant’s organization;
- ✍ The majority of participants feel that the current relationship between CIHR and Voluntary Health Sector is ineffective;
- ✍ Over three-quarters of the participants indicate that they interact through joint funding of research projects;
- ✍ Both CIHR and HRFP participants agree that the main challenges facing the each organization is “Lack of Consultation,” and “Lack of input to IAB”;
- ✍ Two-thirds of the participants agree that “Joint knowledge translation and dissemination” is a potential opportunity that would benefit both organizations;
- ✍ 42.9% of the participants feel that the best option to manage the peer review process is “Support working toward joint peer review”;
- ✍ 64.7% of the participants selected “Lack of formal mechanisms/exchange of information” as the top challenge facing their organization as it relates to communications in their respective organization;
- ✍ 52.9% of the participants selected “Joint recognition on all relevant communications/announcements” as the top challenge facing their organization as it relates to branding their respective organization;
- ✍ Participants feel that the Voluntary Health Sector’s advocacy efforts on behalf of CIHR are somewhat effective;
- ✍ 60.6% of the participants feel that CIHR should play a role in the Voluntary Health Sector’s advocacy;

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

If the goal of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Voluntary Health Sector is to improve the health of Canadians, then the majority of the participants confirm that this is very important to them. Of special importance is the concept of “Partnering in Research” and the “Peer Review Process.” Of lesser importance to the relationship, would seem to be the issue of “Advocacy.” While the partnership is deemed important by all concerned, the results clearly indicate that the majority of participants do not feel that the current partnership is effective. This is particularly true for such issues as “Advocacy,” “Peer Review,” and “Knowledge Translation.”

Currently, most of the personal interaction in the working relationship between the Voluntary Health Sector and CIHR is either through the joint funding of research projects and/or through an exchange of information. Both groups firmly believe that the partnership is facing several challenges such as the “Lack of Consultation,” the “Lack of input to the Institute Advisory Board,” and the “Lack of Exchange of Information.” However, even though there are challenges facing the partnership, several potential opportunities exist including “Joint Knowledge Translation and Dissemination” and “Joint Strategies.”

There is an overall positive attitude towards the “Peer Review Process”, and the majority of participants believe that the process would best be managed by “support working toward a joint peer review.” CIHR should continue to play a pivotal role in “Knowledge Translation” and continue to work towards finding ways to improve the process. To the majority, Communications/Branding between the CIHR and the Voluntary Health Sector lacks a formal mechanism for the exchange of information and faces a major challenge as it relates to “joint recognition on all relevant communications/announcements.” The Voluntary Health Sector’s advocacy efforts would seem to be somewhat effective at the current time and the majority of participants suggest that CIHR should play a role in the Voluntary Health Sector’s advocacy.

RESEARCH PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the survey was to obtain up-to-date information on the current "health" of the working relationship between the Canadian Voluntary Health Sector and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and its partners. This aggregate information will then be used for discussion purposes during a one-day joint conference scheduled for sometime between late fall of 2002 or early spring 2003.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Research objectives included:

- to assist in arriving at a mutually acceptable definition of partnering for CIHR and the Voluntary Health Sector;
- to determine opportunities for partnering, more specifically:
 - financial partnering (i.e., fundraising joint activities and leveraging those dollars); and
 - to engage patients' organizations in the research agenda.

And;

- to determine any barriers to partnering.