



Michael Smith Foundation for  
Health Research

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## Program Announcements from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research

The following is an update to the May 2009 MSFHR program announcement and reflects decisions made by the MSFHR Board Executive Committee in early September 2009. The decisions – which were necessary given MSFHR was not in the provincial government's September 1<sup>st</sup> budget – immediately affect the Institutional awards and Research Units Cohorts 1 and 2.

While we regret having to make this announcement, we recognize the difficult financial situation government faces. We are grateful for the \$15 million provided through end of year government funds in April 2009, and consider this an expression of strong, ongoing support. We will continue to work closely with government with a view to positioning ourselves and BC's research community to take advantage of an economic recovery in the near future.

In the meantime, our Board will be reviewing next steps in light of our funding situation and our Strategic Direction 2009-2015. Updates on our plans and activities will be posted on our website and communicated through our President's Quarterly Report and emails to the research community.

### **September 2009 Program Decisions**

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#### **Infrastructure Programs**

##### **Institutional awards**

The MSFHR Board Executive Committee has confirmed that we have insufficient funding available at present to hold renewal competitions or to provide further extensions. Accordingly, Institutional awards will not be extended past September 30, 2009. MSFHR will allow the use of unspent funds at September 30th until March 31, 2010, at which point unused funds must be returned. Award holders have received notice of this decision.



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### **Research Units Cohorts 1 and 2 (funded in July 2003 and July 2004)**

The MSFHR Board Executive Committee has confirmed that we have insufficient funding available at present to hold renewal competitions or to provide further extensions. Accordingly, Research Units Cohorts 1 and 2 awards will not be extended past September 30, 2009. MSFHR will allow the use of unspent funds at September 30th until March 31, 2010, at which point unused funds will be returned. Award holders have been notified of this decision.

The current group of **Health of Population Networks (HoPN)** will be extended by six months to March 31, 2010, when funding will cease. The Foundation hopes to announce a new network program in the future, contingent on additional funding to the Foundation and in alignment with our Strategic Direction.

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For all other programs, the following applies:

**Technology /Methodology Platform** awards currently ongoing will be extended at the same award level until March 31, 2010. Funding thereafter is contingent on additional funding to the Foundation and alignment with our Strategic Direction.

### **Research Unit Awards Cohorts 3 and 4 (funded in July 2006 and July 2007)**

Funding for these awards will be extended to the end of their original award term or to March 31, 2010 (whichever is sooner). Funding thereafter is contingent on additional funding to the Foundation and alignment with our Strategic Direction.

**Team start-up awards and team planning awards** currently ongoing will be extended through to the end of their original award term. There will be no new awards in these existing programs. However, pending further funding and in alignment with our Strategic Direction, we hope to implement a new start-up program with reconfigured guidelines that will provide a single award for the development of a new research unit, network or research platform.



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## Personnel Programs

### Research Trainees

All trainees currently funded will continue to receive funding as per their award letters and for the full duration of their current award period.

A new trainee award competition was launched in May 2009 for junior and senior graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. We received more than 700 submissions; peer review is underway as of early September, 2009. Our Board of Directors will confirm at its September 25th meeting the number of trainees to be funded.

### Career Investigators

Scholar and senior scholar awards are extended up to September 30, 2010 or to the end of their original award term, whichever is sooner. If funding becomes available, further award extensions and/or new awards will be considered.

*Note: This announcement does not affect the Special Initiatives.*

### **For more information, contact:**

Dr. Sharon Mortimer  
Senior Director, Programs  
[smortimer@msfhr.org](mailto:smortimer@msfhr.org)  
[604-714-2777]