From Cell to Society: Research on Health and Aging in Canada

FICCDAT Invitational Workshop:
“Canada Meets UK on Design and Technology for Quality of Life in Old Age”
Toronto, Canada
June 17, 2007
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

- Major health research agency for Canada
- Launched on June 7, 2000
- Supports 10,000 researchers in universities, teaching hospitals, institutes
- Replaces Medical Research Council and the National Health Research & Development Program of Health Canada
- New structure for funding research:
  - virtual institutes
  - multidisciplinary approach
“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…”
CIHR Grants and Awards Funding: Research Themes

Increase from 1999-2000 to 2005-2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Theme</th>
<th>Increase (Millions)</th>
<th>Fold Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical</td>
<td>$231 M</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical</td>
<td>$55 M</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Systems</td>
<td>$38 M</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Health</td>
<td>$59 M</td>
<td>10</td>
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Note:
Figures include a proportional distribution of projects where researchers had not selected a primary research theme. Figures do not include CRC’s and NCE’s.
The fundamental goal of the Institute of Aging is the advancement of knowledge in the field of aging to improve the quality of life and the health of older Canadians.
Growth in CIHR Investment in Aging

Estimated CIHR Investment in Research in the area of Aging

in millions of dollars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Investment (in millions)</th>
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<tr>
<td>200001</td>
<td>$14</td>
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<tr>
<td>200102</td>
<td>$26</td>
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<tr>
<td>200203</td>
<td>$36</td>
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<td>200304</td>
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<tr>
<td>200405</td>
<td>$55</td>
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<tr>
<td>200506</td>
<td>$63</td>
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</table>
Note: Figures do not include NCEs and Chairs.
Five Priority Research Areas

- Healthy and successful aging
- Biological mechanisms of aging
- Cognitive impairment in aging
- Aging and maintenance of functional autonomy
- Health services and policies relating to older people
Institute of Aging: Strategic Initiatives

- Cognitive Impairment in Aging Partnership
- Mobility in Aging
- Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging
- Public Engagement: Regional Seniors’ Research Workshops
Strategic Research Focus: Mobility in Aging

- Understanding and defining mobility
- Maintaining and restoring mobility
- Measures, tools, and technologies in research, assessment and mobility aids
- Supportive designs for mobility in aging: housing, communities, and transportation
Strategic Initiative: Mobility

- Strategy re Mobility in Aging Initiative:
  - Institute Advisory Board Working Group
  - Partner with other CIHR Institutes
  - Requests for Applications (RFAs):
    » Planning and Development Grants
    » Research Synthesis Grants
    » Emerging Team Grants (2007; 08; 09)
  - Consultations with researchers, potential partners, policy makers, consumers
Overall Strategic Activities

- **Support strategic aging research:**
  - Pilot Project Program (‘risky initiatives’)
  - Proof of Principle – Commercialization

- **Support Capacity-Building:**
  - Training Programs and Teams
  - Training and Investigator Awards
  - Summer Program in Aging (SPA)
Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging

Principal Investigators:
- Parminder Raina, McMaster
- Christina Wolfson, McGill
- Susan Kirkland, Dalhousie
Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA): Research Team

- 3 Principal Investigators
- 20 Co-Investigators
- 180 collaborators (all provinces)
- 20 years: Study ages 40+
- 30,000 – 50,000 people followed
- Launch: 2008 (Statistics Canada; inception cohort of 30,000)
Proposed CLSA

Environmental influences
(e.g., rural, socio-economic, exercise, nutrition)

Genetics

e.g., telomeres / oxidative stress
psychological & cognitive abilities
immune functions

Chronic diseases
(diabetes, cancer, dementia
arthritis, cardiac)

Aging

time

Health Services Utilization

infections
Canada Meets UK: Future Funding Opportunities?

- **New Dynamics of Aging (NDA)/ CIHR Institute of Aging:**
  - September 2007 launch
  - Support Canada – UK collaborations

- **Foundation for Canadian Studies (UK):**
  - Canada/UK University Partnerships
  - Post-Graduate Training
Canada Meets UK: The Future is AGING!