Clinician Research Event
October 17, 2023
Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre

Event Overview

There are 1,000 clinical faculty members in 14 clinical departments at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University.

The October 17, 2023 reception at the Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre brought together 45 key stakeholders in person from across the local clinical research ecosystem to learn about available services, supports and opportunities to collaborate, and to discuss the question: **How can we increase the number of Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grants held by clinical faculty as Nominated Principal Applicants (NPIs)?**

The agenda included 16 individuals who pre-recorded videos for the evening, highlighting the current state of clinical research at the School, offering information and advice. Between the video presentations, attendees had an opportunity to network and share information via interactive software (known as *Mentimeter)* which collected real-time feedback.

Videos from the event have been posted to the Clinical Research website.

Attendee comments (*verbatim as collected via Mentimeter*):

How can we increase the number of nominated principal investigator CIHR grants held by clinicians?
- Provide departmental level support (chart review costs, ethics submissions, stats help, grant writing help, research support staff)
- Salary support for research for clinicians
- Facilitate collaboration with basic scientists
- Provide protected time and mentorship
- Competitively fund Post-doctoral Fellows and Graduate students within the medical school
- Facilitate collaboration with core facilities

What are your thoughts on "increasing clinician research activity" and "structural considerations around clinical human resources?"
- Encourage new NPIs rather than the same people leading grants
- Support for research staff, research administrators
- Create a culture that holds clinicians accountable to be scholarly
- Each department should provide central resources to help with REDA, ethics, and grant applications

- Link new faculty with basic scientists and graduate student committee(s)
- Invest in core research facilities for biostatistics, trial monitoring, ethics, etc.
- Have a competitive AFP
- Assistance in developing robust patient partnership and EDI opportunities for researchers to enhance the grant process
- Require each department to have a formally appointed research leader and provide stipend and administrative support to them.

Your thoughts on "key enablers to support clinical faculty in their research activities:"
- Mentors are key
- Clinician scientist funding
- An internal review panel to provide feedback on grant applications
- Functioning hospital research institute
- Streamlined and consistent REB process
- Hire research support staff and administrative staff and provide hands on training for clinical research support staff.

Your thoughts on "the research enterprise: ethics, contracts, and insurance" and "Clinical Department research activity, needs, and solutions:"
- Inefficiencies around ethics needs to be improved
- Where is the line between a research review and an ethics review? Should/can they be distinct?
- Improving communications between the B7 and C14 groups is a priority.

Please share suggestions for organizing similar events in the future:
- Provide opportunities for questions (maybe after the recorded talks)
- More networking time would be helpful
- It would be great to have the information provided in advance for viewing and then use this time for discussion/brainstorming
- Have a CIHR/CRC mentorship event
- Have the departmental leaders present
- Have structured group discussions and/or breakouts for group discussion

Summary
The Clinical Research Team at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry would like to thank all presenters and attendees for participating in the Clinician Research Event. Your comments – both formal and informal – were appreciated. As described in Dr. Amit Garg's recorded introduction, the information gathered as a result of this event will be used to guide the strategy and processes used by the School to increase our research success. It will also feed into the Schulich Research Council, and a broader community research event scheduled for January 2024.