

FAQs for the 2024 Institute Advisory Boards (IAB) Membership Cycle

1. What Is CIHR?

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is the Government of Canada's health research investment agency. We fund innovative health research across basic science, clinical, health systems and population health domains to improve the health and well-being of all Canadians.

CIHR was established in 2000 under the authority of the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research Act](#). It is an independent government agency and is accountable to Parliament through the Minister of Health.

Our mission is to create new scientific knowledge and to enable its translation into improved health, more effective health services and products, and a strengthened Canadian health care system.

Our vision is the best health for all, powered by outstanding research.

Our goal is to support the best health for all powered by outstanding research. Watch the video [here](#) to learn more.

2. [What are Institute Advisory Boards \(IABs\)?](#)

Each of CIHR's 13 Institutes has its own Institute Advisory Board (IAB). The IAB is a collective body of advisors who provide Institute-specific advice and enhance the Institute's overall ability to plan, function, and engage their respective communities. They may be called upon to provide guidance on Institute-specific and where appropriate, cross-Institute initiatives and activities; and help to increase CIHR's commitment to health research excellence and improved health for Canadians.

IABs are composed of a diverse group of national and international representatives including scientists, clinicians, non-scientific experts from public, private and not-for-profit sectors, patients and individuals with lived experiences.

3. Why join our IABs?

As a member of an IAB, you will have the opportunity to advance/contribute to health research priorities, strategies, and community engagement of your Institute.

- **Shape the Future of Canadian Health Research:** Your valuable insights will inform strategic decisions and plans of the Institute, contributing to health research initiatives that will make a positive impact on the lives of all Canadians.
- **Collaborate and Network:** Immerse yourself in a dynamic group of experts from diverse backgrounds. Collaborate on multifaceted challenges and expand your professional network.
- **Contribute your Perspectives:** Serving as an IAB member is an opportunity to share your perspectives on health and health challenges facing distinct groups in

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Canada. Your involvement will help shape a health research landscape that reflects the diversity of the Canadian population.

To learn more about the role by clicking the link of [Terms of Reference](#).

4. What does equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) mean at CIHR?

CIHR's commitment to the values and principles of equity, diversity and inclusion and recognize the need for IABs to reflect the diversity of the Canadian population to serve all communities. The composition of the IABs aims to reflect the diversity in the Canadian population to ensure representation of equity-denied groups, Francophones, Indigenous Peoples, LGBTQ2S+ community members and individuals with disabilities.

5. Submitting an application

We encourage applications from candidates with diverse and unique experiences and backgrounds. As an IAB member, your distinct experiences and perspectives will provide invaluable perspective and insight in shaping Institute priorities, initiatives and activities.

How can I apply for IAB?

Interested applicants can apply through the CIHR's online ResearchNet portal, following the specific guidelines and deadlines.

- [How to Apply to Become an IAB Member](#)

When are the deadlines for applications?

The 2024 IAB membership cycle ended on **April 25, 2024**.

Who is eligible to apply to be an IAB member?

Applications are encouraged from individuals with a range of expertise and experiences. This includes individuals in research and clinical health fields, private and public sectors as well those in industry, ethics, law and non-for-profit organizations. People with lived experiences, patients and their caregivers are also encouraged to apply. Candidate selection by each Institute is based on a number of dynamic factors including relevant expertise and experience, representation and demographic composition. The selection process prioritizes diversity and excellence, to ensure inclusive and well-rounded IAB compositions.

Please click the following link for more details.

- [Selection Criteria](#)

6. Research Initiatives & Programs

What research areas does CIHR support?

CIHR supports excellence across all four pillars of health research: [biomedical](#), [clinical](#), [health systems services](#), and [population health](#).

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As stated in the [CIHR Act](#), CIHR's mandate is 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."

Can early career researchers and trainees join the IABs?

Early career researchers and trainees are encouraged to apply to the IABs. CIHR offers programs such as the Reviewer in Training Program. You can find more details from the following link.

[Opportunities for Early Career Researchers](#)

7. General questions

How can I get updates on CIHR's latest initiatives and news?

Stay updated by subscribing to our newsletter, following us on social media, or visiting the ['CIHR News'](#) section of our website.