

Discoveries for life / Découvertes pour la vie

# **CIHR-EU Partnerships in Personalized Medicine**

Étienne Richer Ph.D. – CIHR Institute of Genetics

February 21, 2023

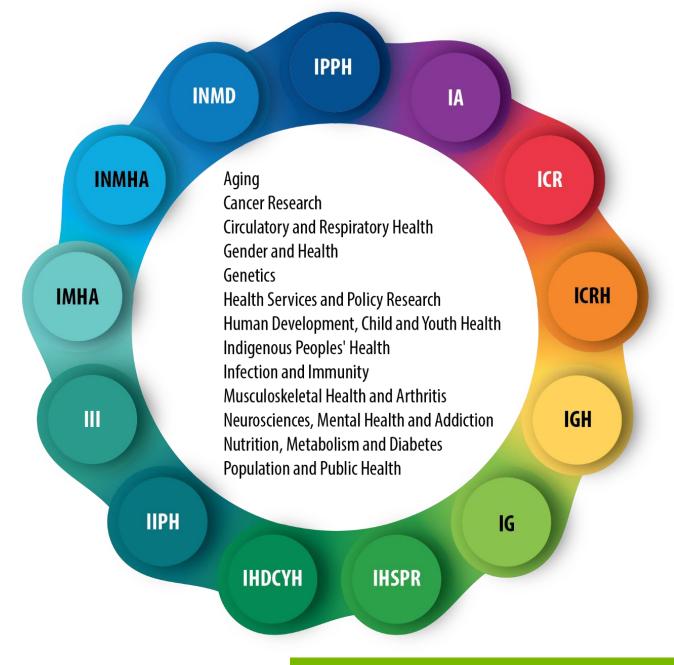




## **CIHR Institutes**

Created in 2000, CIHR is a unique model for health research.

Composed of 13 virtual Institutes with wide-ranging mandates, that together with executive management form the Science Council.



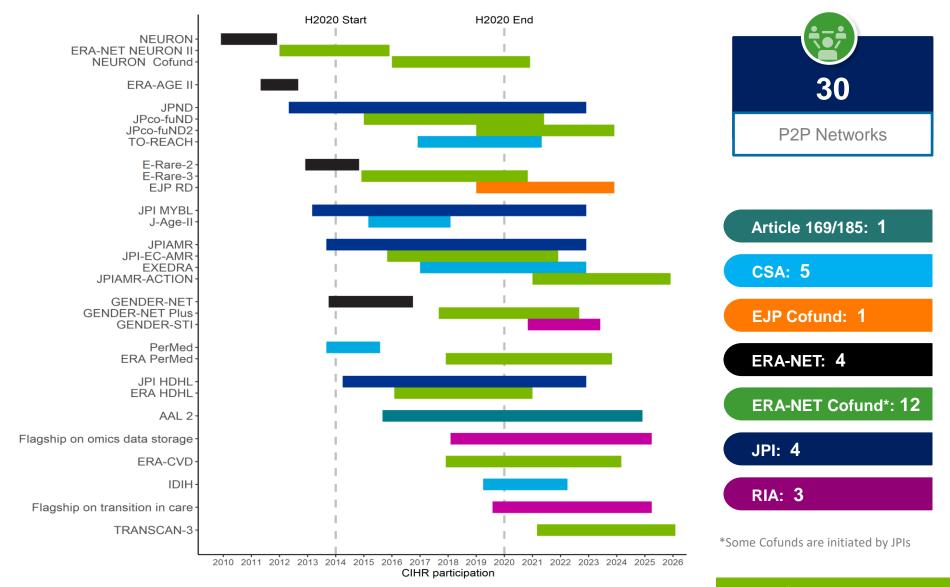
# Setting the Stage: Canada & CIHR collaboration with the European Union



SC Découvertes pour la vie

- EU is a strategic partner and government priority for Canada
  - Canada-EU S&T Agreement 1996
  - EU-Canada Joint S&T Cooperation Committee 2003
  - Canada-European Trade Agreement (CETA) 2016
  - Canada-EU Program Level Cooperation Task Force 2018
  - CRCC 2020 Horizon Global Platform Competition 2019
- EC-Canada have excellent history of cooperation in health research
  - Strong alignment of health research priorities and similar healthcare systems
  - Increasing CIHR participation in European Partnerships since 2010
  - Rich collaboration through multilateral research initiatives (e.g., GACD, GloPID-R, IRDiRC, IC PerMed IHEC)
  - EC has noted Canada's excellence in several research areas, including health, and attaches importance to Canada's participation in *Horizon Europe*

# CIHR Partnership in EU Public-to-Public Networks



CIHR Discoveries for life IRSC Découvertes pour la vie

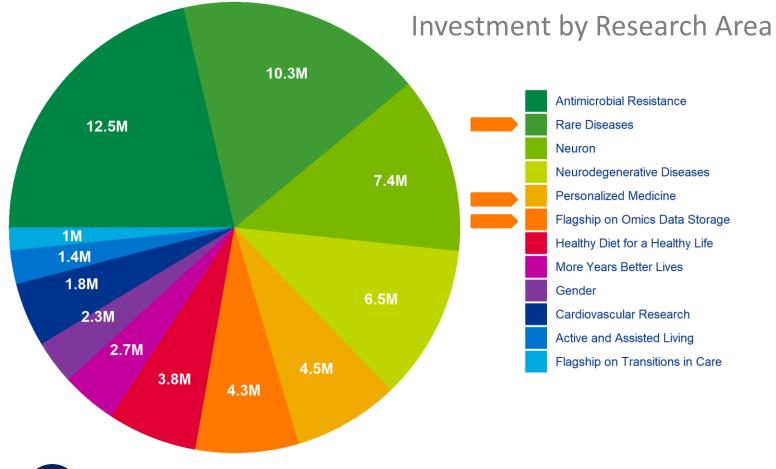
## **CIHR** investments in Horizon P2P Networks













31 countries





367+ researchers



## **Personalized Medicine Portfolio**



## **Overview**

- Member of the CSA PerMed, leading to the PerMed SRIA
- Directly led to the establishment of IC PerMed and ERA PerMed
- Culminated in the development of the Flagship collaboration for human data storage, integration and sharing RIA
   #ICPerMed

## **Benefits**

- Achieving goals of CIHR Strategic Plan
- Informed the development of CIHR Signature Initiative in Personalized Health, and its alignment with EU activities

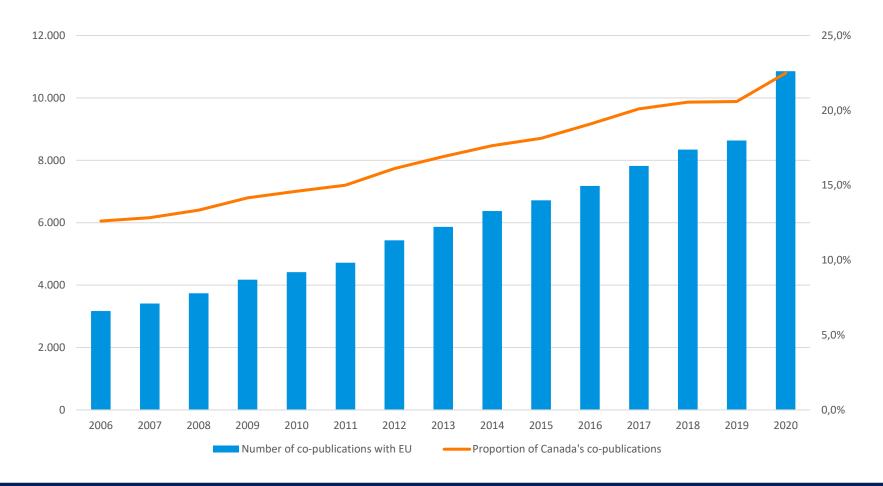
# **#ERAPerMed**

## Lessons

- On-going, sustained partnerships development creates new opportunities
- Cultural and health system alignement between Europe and Canada maximizes the value of such collaborations
- Structures recruited against SARS-CoV-2



# Canada and EU Co-publications



EU framework programmes proved powerful for research & innovation impact "3X more often among top 1% cited publications compared to output in EU Member States." Statistic from Horizon 2020 evaluation and monitoring and \*Framework Programme 7 JRC research paper

## Benefits of participating in EU Framework Programs



Canadian researchers: Create pathway to collaboration with all European countries & beyond



Canadian & European researchers: High success rate for Canadian researchers (Canada=18%, EU Members=12%)



CIHR: Advance CIHR Priorities in ways that wouldn't be possible if working alone & avoid duplication



**CIHR: Influence policy** of international organizations in line with Canadian standards (e.g., EDI, patients engagement).



**CIHR:** Build **international network** and establish long-standing trust-based relationships



**CIHR:** Leverage central project management for **operational efficiency** (e.g., externally-led peer review)



Research community:

High impact scientific advancements



**Research community:** 

Advances in **research infrastructure** (e.g., tools, databases, models)

# Challenges/Risks of participation in EU Framework Programs



Collaboration model Requirement to sign two legally binding documents



Problematic agreement clauses (e.g. GDPR, Consortium Agreement, Belgium/International Law)



#### **Structure**

Complex structure & large number of European Partnerships



#### **Administrative burden**

Participation requires support across multiple Branches in addition to strategic lead



#### **Budget limitations**

Participation can rely mostly on Institutes' funds



### **Access to EU Funding**

- 1. Indirect Costs
- 2. EU top-up funding



#### Governance

As 3<sup>rd</sup> Country, do not participate in Commission-level programme governance decision-making committees



#### Communication

- 1. Commission and CIHR
- 2. CIHR/Canada & researchers

## **Towards CIHR'S Personalized Health Initiative**

2012



## **Personalized Medicine Initiative**

- Enhance health outcomes through patient stratification approaches by integrating evidence-based medicine and precision diagnostics into clinical practice
- \$240M (\$85M from CIHR)
- 110 competition and application partners, including Genome Canada



## **eHealth Innovation Initiative**

- Enhance health outcomes and health care delivery, through the implementation, evaluation and scale-up of eHealth innovations
- \$34.4M (\$16.2M from CIHR)
- 77 application partners

2016



## **Personalized Health Initiative**

- Drive evidence-based implementation of PH that will identify solutions that can contribute to more costeffective and sustainable healthcare
- Investments currently planned: \$82M (\$61M from CIHR)
- Alignment with IC PerMed



## **Multilateral Collaborations**

**Shaping the way Canadian research is performed** 





IG participation in E-Rare has changed the way Canadian scientists approach RD research by nurturing collaboration.

- Six joint calls between 2013 2022; \$11 million announced to fund 42 teams
- EJP Rare Diseases: JTC2023 Canadian Commitment \$1.8M (CIHR \$1.2M; Ataxia Canada \$450K; CF Canada \$150K)



CIHR's Personalized Health Initiative in partnership with the #ERAPerMed PerMed International Consortium

- 31 partners from 22 countries and cofunded by the EC
- \$4.6 From CIHR and FRQS million to fund 10 teams
- JTC2019 Canadian Commitment \$1.85M (CIHR \$1.35M; FRQS \$500K)



Building a framework for long-term cooperation of stakeholders in Europe and Canada

- Flagship collaboration on human data storage
- Funding: \$5.5M Canada (\$5M CIHR; \$500k FRQS); €40M EC

## **Sequencing Our Future**

# Institute of Genetics Strategic Plan 2022-2027



Commitment A:
Enabling Genomic
Medicine



Commitment B:
Improving Genetic
Disease Diagnosis and
Therapies



Commitment C:

Embracing Diversity,

Inclusion, and Indigenous

Rights



Commitment D:
Strengthening the
Community

# Facilitate genomic medicine

## **Towards Predictive and Personalized Medicine**

- Genomic medicine
- Health data
- From monogenic towards polygenic and multi-omics

# **Preventing Adverse Events**

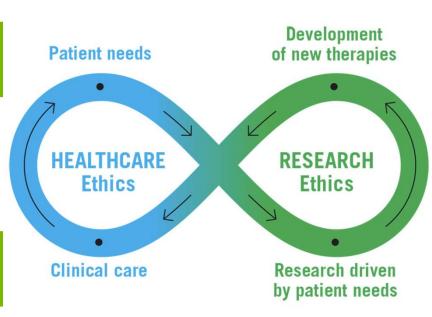
Pharmacogenomic

## **Response to Emerging Health Threats**

Genomic data and analysis capacity

## **International Genomic Data Sharing**

Ethical and technical standards





Discoveries for life / Découvertes pour la vie