

<b>Review Type/Type d'évaluation:</b>	Committee Member 1/Membre de comité 1
<b>Name of Applicant/Nom du chercheur:</b>	Moher, David
<b>Application No./Numéro de demande:</b>	443728
<b>Agency/Agence:</b>	CIHR/IRSC
<b>Competition/Concours:</b>	2020-05-12 Operating Grant: COVID-19 May 2020 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity/Subvention de fonctionnement : Possibilité de financement pour une intervention de recherche rapide contre la COVID-19 (mai 2020)
<b>Committee/Comité:</b>	COVID-19 Rapid Research - Social Policy and Public Health Responses/Recherche rapide contre COVID-19- Rép. en matière de politique sociale & de santé publique
<b>Title/Titre:</b>	The CIHR COVID19 open science dashboard

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**Assessment/Évaluation:**

The applicants propose the further development of a real-time dashboard to monitor the degree to which Canadian researchers are meeting the COVID-19 open science activities required by CIHR. The dashboard will document key open science metrics and offer online educational resources to researchers to help implement open science practices (e.g., data sharing). The primary objective is development of an open science dashboard to monitor researcher compliance with 6 open science practices for CIHR-funded COVID-19 clinical trials (open access publication, preprint availability, registration, open study methods/ protocol availability, data sharing, and reporting). Secondary objectives include a self-administered survey and follow-up interviews to identify barriers and facilitators to open science practice by grantees, curation of open science educational modules, and dashboard piloting for future use by funders or universities. Applicants will address the first objective by monitoring and assessing research outputs of the clinical trials. The applicants propose to analyze adherence to open science principles by career stage and gender.

**Evaluation Criteria**
**1. Quality of project:**

- a. Extent to which the application responds to the objectives – This project addresses data sharing, evidence to inform clinical and health system management, and enhancing national and global efforts around COVID-19.
- b. Extent to which the application responds to one or more of the research areas – This project provides infrastructure to support timely and relevant clinical management approach through publicly-available clinical trial data and public health communications.
- c. Addresses clear knowledge gap/need and high feasibility – Successful CIHR grant recipients are required to produce open-access publications and follow international data-sharing guidance for COVID-19 research. This application would be stronger with focus on specific deliverables within the grant time frame. Most of the primary objective, tracking and monitoring of 6 metrics related to the results of clinical trials, (publication, pre-print, data sharing, and reporting) will likely occur outside the 1-year window of this grant opportunity, representing a feasibility concern. The applicants acknowledge they will need to seek maintenance funding for the primary objective. Two of the metrics, protocol registration and protocol publication will likely occur within the 1-year grant window. The proposed grantee survey and interviews, development of the open science educational repository, and pilot testing of the open science dashboard could easily occur during the 1-year grant window, however the grant dedicates little space to describe these activities. A prototype of the dashboard is already available.
- d. Appropriateness of the proposed approach, study design, and populations – The applicants propose an

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**Assessment/Évaluation:**

ambitious and multi-faceted approach to studying implementation of open science outputs from CIHR-funded studies. The applicants propose study of an inception cohort of clinical trials; further justification for limiting the analysis to clinical trials would strengthen the application, given the widespread funding call and need for rapid dissemination of all research. The description of the analytic approach for the survey and interviews is limited.

e. Quality and appropriateness of the sex- and gender-based analysis+ (SGBA+) – The applicants describe a reasonable sex- and gender- based analysis.

## **2. Quality of Applicants:**

a. Track record of team members in fields related to the proposed research – The Nominated Principal Applicant has a strong record of publication and funding in this type of research.

b. Relevance and value-add of collaborations and partnerships to the research objectives - The Nominated Principal Applicant assembled a multidisciplinary international team with early career and senior researchers.

c. Ability of the project team to carry out the proposed research, including project governance – The team has the ability to conduct the research; the application would be strengthened with more explicit descriptions of the contributions of team members to the proposed projects. Several team members propose significant time contributions to the study (Moher 20 h/week; Cobey, Haustein, LeBel 15 h/ week each). Project governance is not clear, including overall responsibility for the project, implementation, and supervision.

d. Ability of team to quickly mobilize necessary resources, including by leveraging existing networks and /or research programs – The team builds on existing national and international relationships.

## **3. Impact of the Research:**

a. Clear justification for rapid response nature of project including the use of funding to achieve timely impacts and maximize health benefits – The application would be stronger with focus on more proximal open science metrics (e.g., trial registration and reporting) and further description of the survey, interviews, educational materials, and dashboard user testing.

b. Quality of the proposed knowledge translation plans to accelerate availability of high quality, real-time evidence for translation of research into policy, practice, and/or clinical guidelines to address the immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic – Many of the primary objective results will occur after the end of funding and the proposed dissemination strategies are premature.

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**Assessment/Évaluation:**

c. Potential to contribute to the global response to COVID-19 – The primary objective will contribute to the global response, however not until after the 1 year grant period. The secondary objectives will make more meaningful short-term contributions to open science for COVID-19.

**4. Budget:**

The budget requests funding for several personnel, including 2 medical students and 2 co-op students. The hourly rate for medical students will be less than the co-op students. This rationale is unclear. Project staff is requested twice. Recommend reduction of \$58,250 (duplicate request for funds for project staff).

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## Assessment/Évaluation:

### 1. Quality of project:

- a. The application responds to the objective of “provid[ing] evidence to inform clinical and health system management” in a very broad way.
- b. The application does not seem to respond to any of the specific research areas listed
- c. The relevance form was not completed to provide added context to support responsiveness to the call.
- d. Relevance is further unclear as this seems better suited to a QI or auditing project as opposed to a COVID-19 specific research project.
- e. There is a need for open science and it is highly feasible for them to track the extent to which these C19 grants adhere but given the 1 year timeline of the grant, and those in this competition, it is unclear how they will be able to track outputs within the time horizon of the grant if others are only completing their studies towards the end of that same year. The timelines do not seem feasible to successfully track all outputs if this study runs concurrently with the C19 awarded studies. In fact, the success of this grant rests on the capability of securing maintenance funding.
- f. Likewise, it would be infeasible to examine the experiences and barriers to implementing OS practices within the same year that the C19 awardees are still working on their projects. At best, doing this work a year later would be a more reasonable time horizon to evaluate OS adherence and practices.
- g. Appropriateness of the proposed approach, study design, and populations;
  - a. The approach of the study does not seem feasible in the tenure of the grant nor does is the primary objective feasible. It seems that the secondary objectives ought to be prioritized and conducted as part of the primary objectives of the grant. Specifically, determining barriers and facilitators of implementing OS practice might actually be done first to inform the development of online OERs, which can be completed during the tenure of the grant. Likewise, including global funders and REWARD dashboard users in the development stages to ensure its global reach would also seem to advance its utility and uptake. Together, fronting the secondary objectives would then inform the development of the dashboard and sidestep the major limitation of not being able to adequately capture outputs during the grant tenure since most of the grantees will not have outputs from their grants yet.
  - b. Interview and survey analyses are not sufficiently detailed, despite being secondary objectives. Qual and quant are being used in the secondary objectives yet applicants do not describe which data take priority in their analyses and how their analyses and interpretations will be triangulated, if at all.
  - c. From where does the 90-95% recall rate derive and is it feasible?
  - d. Applicants refer to gender in their description of SGBA+. However, it is sex that they appear to be documenting, not gender.

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**Assessment/Évaluation:****2. Quality of Applicants:**

- e. The track record of team members in fields related to the proposed research is excellent and there is a balanced composition of team across sex, stage and inclusion of patients
- f. The collaborations and partnerships are relevant to the research objectives and add value.
- g. The ability of the project team to carry out the proposed research is high.
- h. Preliminary development of the dashboard and assembly of team supports high ability to mobilize resources and networks for success.

**3. Impact of the Research:**

- a. There is a justification linking the project to the RFA but the timeliness of the study vis a vis developing and then tracking outputs of the C19 studies within the same year reduces the impact of the research, at least within the time horizon and budget required for this competition.
- b. The KT plans are strong and there is limited potential for the evidence to address the immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- c. There is potential to contribute to the global response to COVID-19 as the dashboard can be used internationally.

**4. Budget:**

- a. The \$58K for project staff is not sufficiently justified.

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## **Assessment/Évaluation:**

### **1. Quality of project:**

#### **a. Extent to which the application responds to the objectives;**

**This proposal seeks to advance data sharing infrastructure and trained personnel to support the dissemination of COVID-19 basic science research and to monitor if Canadian research teams are adhering to the CIHR standards for open science. As such it responds to Objectives 1 and 3 which aim to accelerate the availability of high quality evidence as well as data sharing and enable Canadian engagement in national and international large scale trials.**

#### **b. Extent to which the application responds to one or more of the research areas;**

**The study would support the creation of a more robust evidence base which in turn could potentially support all five research areas.**

#### **c. Addresses clear knowledge gap/need and high feasibility;**

**There is no doubt that the burgeoning research related to COVID-19 will require strategies to ensure its accessibility and transparency and to reduce redundancy in research. The creation of a dashboard that monitors output and creates an access point does sound a reasonable strategy. However I am not sure it is a pressing and immediate need, nor am I sure that it is feasible that, once created, it will be adopted and supported by the funders and the scientific community. In many respects the application makes the case for a state of the art enterprise level national system to do this work rather than a self selected group of experts, however excellent. The uptake by international partners would also need to be assured.**

#### **d. Appropriateness of the proposed approach, study design, and populations;**

**This is not a research project per se but the team proposes taking a robust consultative approach working with researchers and engaging with patient advocates in the development of the dashboard (although it does not explain the role of patient partners in this particular project). The team is**

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**Assessment/Évaluation:**

**experienced and expert in the field and their approach to building the dash board looks appropriately collaborative and data-based.**

**e. Quality and appropriateness of the sex- and gender-based analysis+ (SGBA+). SGBA+ refers to the consideration and examination of sex, gender and other identity factors (e.g., age, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, geography, education, disability, income and sexual orientation) at all stages of the research process including planning and implementation of the research project and related activities**

**The proposal promises to include gender in its analysis and therefore produce data on any variability in behaviour or approaches to open science by gender. I would consider this a minimal approach to SGBA+.**

## **2. Quality of Applicants:**

### **a. Track record of team members in fields related to the proposed research;**

**The PI, Moher, is an expert in OS. The team is largely Ottawa-based with collaborators in Switzerland, Manchester, Berlin and France. It appears only Cobey and Moher have worked together in the past.**

### **b. Relevance and value-add of collaborations and partnerships to the research objectives;**

**The proposal includes a number of supportive letters that represent valuable partnerships which would support the research objectives.**

### **c. Ability of the project team to carry out the proposed research, including project governance;**

**The team looks to be able to manage this project and the project staff.**

### **d. Ability of team to quickly mobilize necessary resources, including by leveraging existing networks and/or research programs.**

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**Assessment/Évaluation:**

**The project could begin quickly. REB would approval would likely be rapid as it is low risk. A prototype is ready.**

**3. Impact of the Research:**

**a. Clear justification for rapid response nature of project including the use of funding to achieve timely impacts and maximize health benefits;**

**It is difficult to guarantee the successful uptake of the dashboard even if it fully met the expectations of the proposal. Education and training of the scientific community would be involved in the second part of the project. This is a hard time to get anyone's attention. There may be other ways of achieving these ends through regulatory mechanisms and requirements set out by government or funders. I am not sure this is the only way or even the best way to approach the problem.**

**b. Quality of the proposed knowledge translation plans to accelerate availability of high quality, real-time evidence for translation of research into policy, practice, and/or clinical guidelines to address the immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic;**

**The KT plan involves scientific dissemination and a conference. I am not sure how it will achieve the goal of engaging the whole scientific community from funders to universities.**

**c. Potential to contribute to the global response to COVID-19.**

**Yes this project does have the potential to contribute to the global response.**

**4. Budget:**

**a. Appropriateness of the budget and justification for amount requested.**



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**Assessment/Évaluation:**

**The budget is personnel heavy. Technical experts and a number of research assistants are required. It looks appropriate in order to build the dashboard.**

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**Assessment/Évaluation:**
**1. Quality of project:**

a. Extent to which the application responds to the objectives;

The authors are proposing to build an OS dashboard to monitor the degree to which stipulated OS practices are being adhered by grantees. This might be an appropriate measure to improve the transparency in research and publication practices in general but it is not included in the objectives of the current call. From my perspective it is not falling into the three domains of projects to understand the safety efficacy, effectiveness, ethics and implementation of vaccine diagnostics or clinical management and has system interventions or social policy and public health responses.

b. Extent to which the application responds to one or more of the research areas;

The proposed project is addressing the area of research and publication management and not falling into the presented research areas in this call.

c. Addresses clear knowledge gap/need and high feasibility;

The project proposed is addressing the neglect and lack of adherence towards OS policies in science. If the project would fall into the objectives of the call it would be certainly feasible due to a very experienced team with a long publication record and a high degree of specialization.

d. Appropriateness of the proposed approach, study design, and populations;

The proposal is not addressing the health challenges caused by the COVID 19 pandemic so it is not appropriate for this funding call. If the task would be to improve transparency and adherence to OS policies it would be a good suggestion and proposal to consider.

e. Quality and appropriateness of the sex- and gender-based analysis+ (SGBA+). SGBA+ refers to the consideration and examination of sex, gender and other identity factors (e.g., age, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, geography, education, disability, income and sexual orientation) at all stages of the research process including planning and implementation of the research project and related activities – See How to integrate sex and gender into research.

a. See Appendix A: “Why Sex and Gender Need to be Considered in COVID19 Research” for information specific to this funding opportunity.

N/A

f. For research involving Indigenous Peoples, appropriate consideration of TCPS2: Chapter 9 – Research Involving First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada, and demonstration of meaningful and culturally safe practices, plans and activities throughout the research project.

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**Assessment/Évaluation:**

N/A

**2. Quality of Applicants:**

- a. Track record of team members in fields related to the proposed research;  
The research team is interdisciplinary and well qualified proven through a long track record of publications. It's made main expertise is an application policies and open science regulations
- b. Relevance and value-add of collaborations and partnerships to the research objectives;  
For their area of expertise the collaboration and international network is an added value and I could improve the quality of work substantially.
- c. Ability of the project team to carry out the proposed research, including project governance;  
The project team would without a doubt able to carry out the proposed research project, which is not covered through the objectives of the call.
- d. Ability of team to quickly mobilize necessary resources, including by leveraging existing networks and /or research programs.  
The project team seems to be well-connected and was excellent and expertise in their area so it should be able to leverage existing that works and research programs and quickly mobilize resources in that area.
- e. For research involving Indigenous Peoples, extent to which the overall research team has the necessary knowledge, expertise and experience in Indigenous health research, and complementarity of expertise and synergistic potential to conduct Indigenous health research.  
N/A

**3. Impact of the Research:**

- a. Clear justification for rapid response nature of project including the use of funding to achieve timely impacts and maximize health benefits;  
The project is not focused on health outcomes or maximization of health benefits.
- b. Quality of the proposed knowledge translation plans to accelerate availability of high quality, real-time evidence for translation of research into policy, practice, and/or clinical guidelines to address the immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic;  
The knowledge translation plans are find to support the intentions of the proposal. A project and a nice translation in that case will not contribute to the immediate response to COVID-19.

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**Assessment/Évaluation:**

- c. Potential to contribute to the global response to COVID-19.  
N/A

**4. Budget:**

- a. Appropriateness of the budget and justification for amount requested.  
a. Reviewers may comment on the budget requested and make a formal recommendation, including clear and detailed rationale for any recommended budget cuts.  
b. The applicant will receive the review as it is submitted by the reviewer.  
The budget seems appropriate for the project