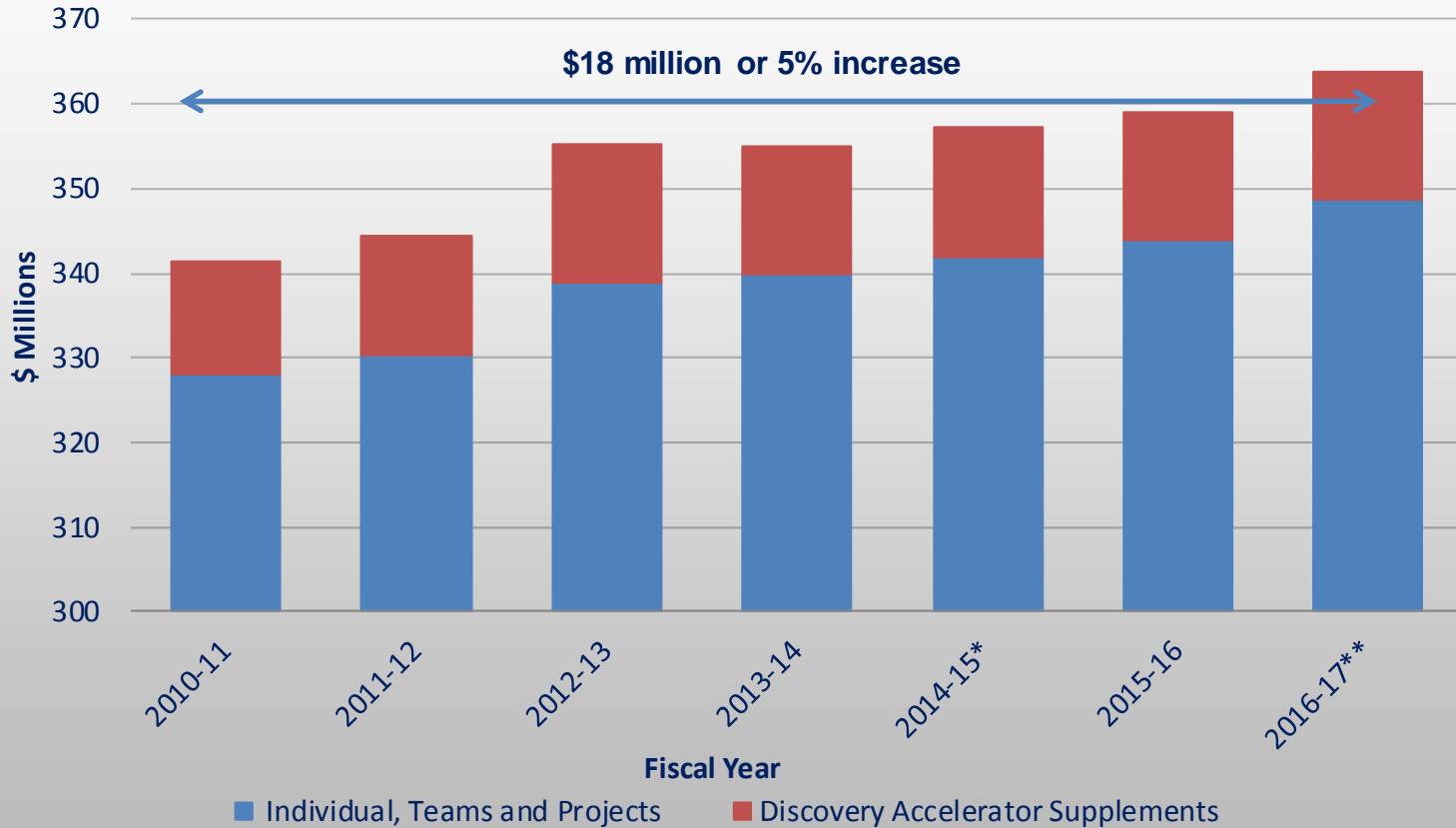






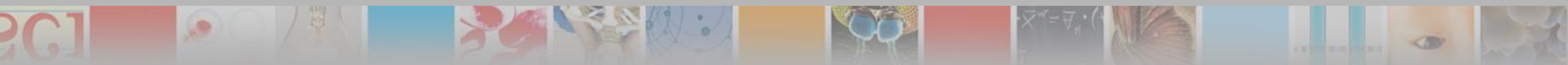


# NSERC Discovery Grants Funding (millions of dollars)



\* Includes additional funding received resulting from Federal Budget 2014

\*\* Projected expenditures for 2016-2017



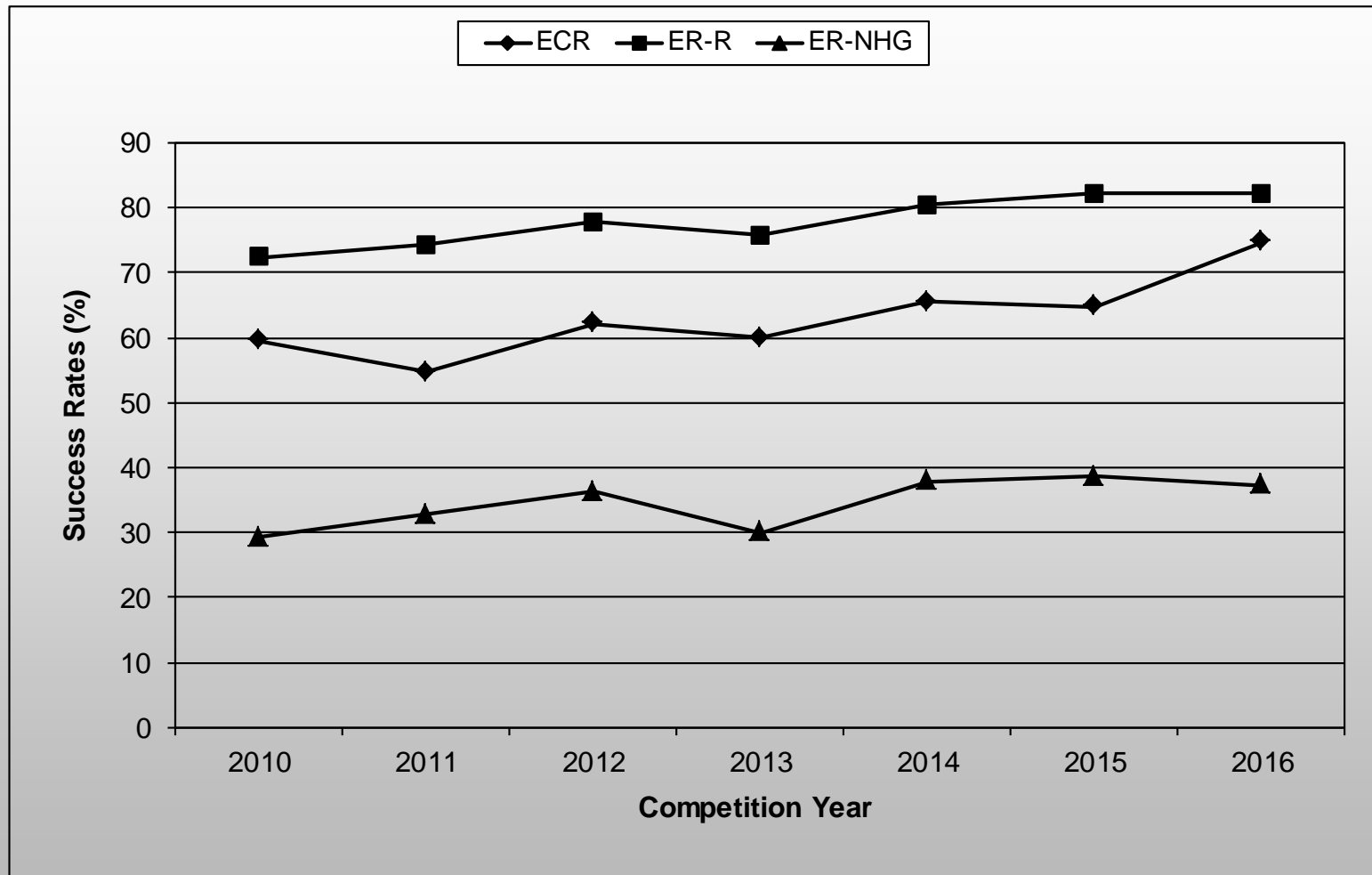
# Discovery Grants Overall Results – 2016 Competition

<b>Data<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Success Rate</b>	<b>Average Grant</b>
Early Career Researchers ( <b>ECR</b> )	75%	\$26,741
Established Researchers ( <b>ER</b> )		
Renewing their grant ( <b>ER-R</b> )	82%	\$36,471
Not Holding a Grant <sup>2</sup> ( <b>ER-NHG</b> )	37%	\$27,814

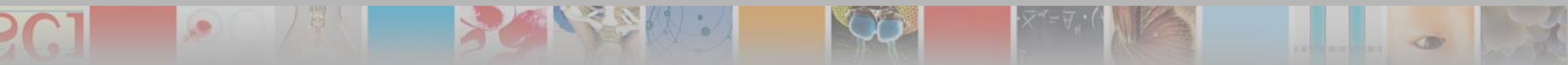
1. Includes Discovery and Subatomic Physics (Individual and Team) Grants, but excludes the Subatomic Physics Projects.

2. Includes returning established unfunded applicants and experienced researchers submitting a first application.

# Success Rate<sup>1</sup> by Category of Applicant



<sup>1</sup> Only includes Discovery Grants Individual





# Discovery Development Grants (DDG)

## A 5 year Pilot

- Promote a diversified base of high-quality research in small universities
- Foster a stimulating environment for research training in small universities
- Facilitate recipients' access to additional funding from other sources
- Award valued at \$10K /year for 2 years
- Was first launched in 2015 competition cycle

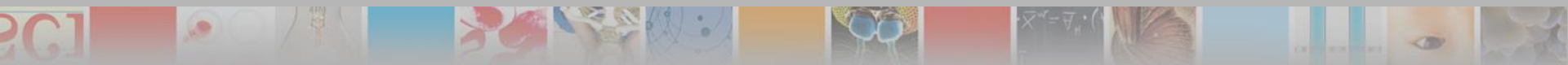
### Competition Results

- 2015, 57 awards
- 2016, 42 awards



# Discovery Accelerator Supplements

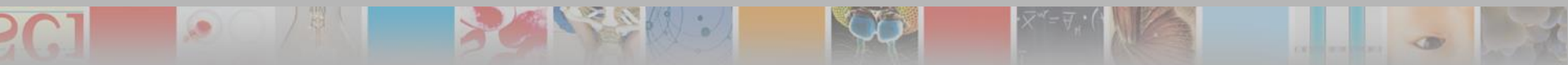
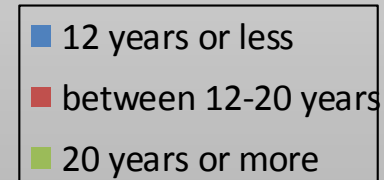
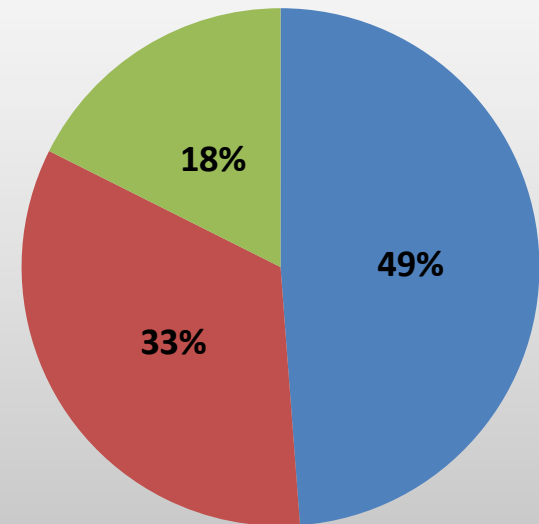
- DAS provides resources to researchers who:
  - *Have highly original and innovative research programs*
  - *Show strong potential to become international leaders within their field*
- \$120,000 - typically over three years
- Up to 125 Supplements per year
- Each EG will receive a quota of DAS nominations to recommend
- EG members nominate candidates. Executive Committee makes the final recommendation to NSERC



# Discovery Accelerator Supplements 2016 Competition Results

Evaluation Group	Awards
Genes, Cells and Molecules (1501)	11
Biological Systems and Functions (1502)	11
Evolution and Ecology (1503)	9
Chemistry (1504)	8
Physics (1505)	7
Geosciences (1506)	10
Computer Science (1507)	18
Mathematics and Statistics (1508)	7
Civil, Industrial and Systems Engineering (1509)	13
Electrical and Computer Engineering (1510)	9
Materials and Chemical Engineering (1511)	9
Mechanical Engineering (1512)	12
Subatomic Physics (19)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>

2016 DAS recipients  
years from PhD



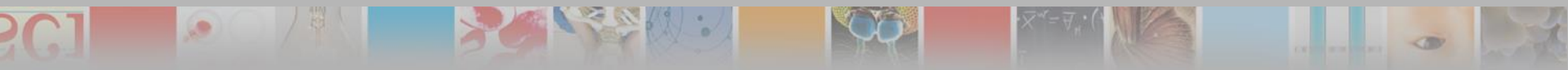


# Research Tools and Instruments 2016 Competition Results

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Budget	\$26M	\$25M	\$19.5M
# Appl.	657	666	468
# Funded	215	218	176
Success Rate	33%	33%	38%
Funding Rate	33%	34%	38%

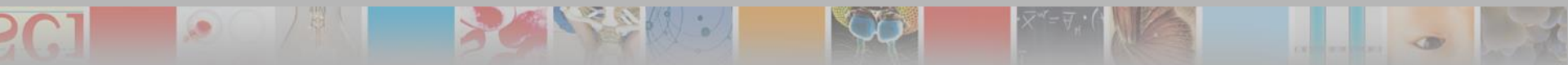


# NSERC UPDATE



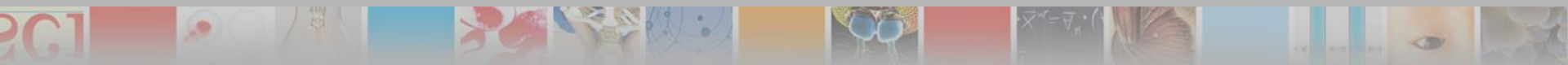
# Highlights of 2016 Federal Budget

- **\$95 million per year** to federal funding agencies
- NSERC: \$30 million + \$15 million (2015 Budget) = **\$45 million moving forward**
- “Minister of Science will undertake a comprehensive review of all elements of federal support for fundamental science over the coming year”
- Government developing Innovation Agenda



# Extension option for ECR first renewal

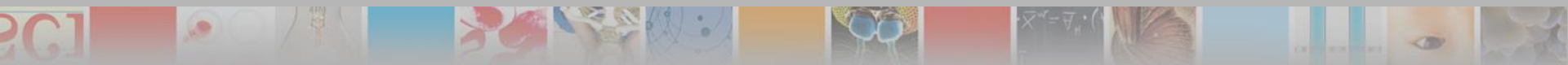
- Early Career Researchers (ECRs) renewing for the first time will have the option of **extending their DG by one year**
- **Goal:** Allow early stage researchers additional time to better establish themselves and their research program before reapplying to the Discovery Grant program and competing with established researchers





# Paid Parental Leave

- Primary caregivers who decline parental leave **may be eligible to receive a one-year grant extension with funds**
  - Pilot program, starting March 1, 2016
  - For grantees holding a DG or DDG

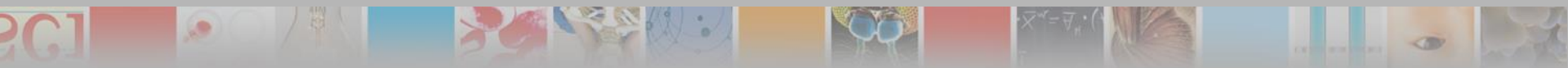






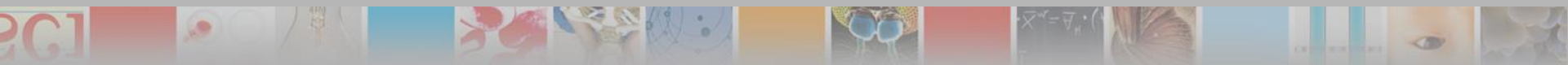
# Subject matter eligibility

- Subject matter eligibility guidelines:
  - Tri-agency guidelines updated
  - NSERC Addendum with specific examples now available



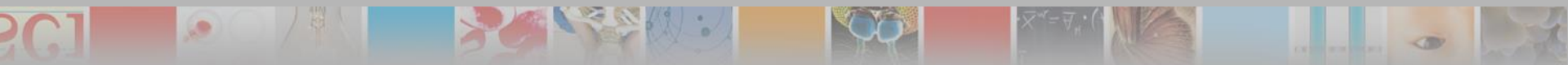
# Discovery Frontiers and RTI

- Discovery Frontiers
  - New award in **New Materials for Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency** announced January 2016
  - Next call: Spring 2017. Process to determine next priority area to start Summer 2016
- Research Tools and Instruments
  - Review of quota system and university-based processes underway



# DG Budget Allocation

- **Status:** Expert Panel has met several times
- **Goal:** ensure the program remains effective, accountable and that funds are used optimally
- Opportunity to introduce new factors to allocate funds among the 12 Evaluation Groups
- Discipline comparisons and allocations to be informed by quantitative indicators and expert judgment





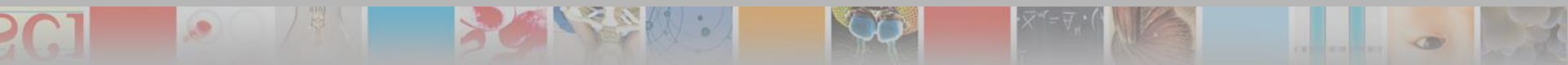






# Evaluation Process Overview

- Two-step process separates merit assessment from funding recommendations.
- Merit assessment uses six-point scale to evaluate:
  - Excellence of the researcher
  - Merit of the proposal
  - Contributions to the training of HQP
- Each application assessed by 5 reviewers in conference model setting, ensuring best possible review.

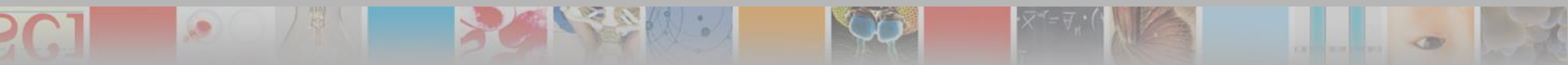


# Evaluation Process Overview

- Funding recommendations: similar overall ratings within an Evaluation Group (EG) receive comparable funding, with possible modulation related to the cost of research.
- Applications grouped into “bins” of comparable merit.

**Demystifying the review process for NSERC Discovery Grants**

[http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/Videos-Videos/DG\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/Videos-Videos/DG_eng.asp)



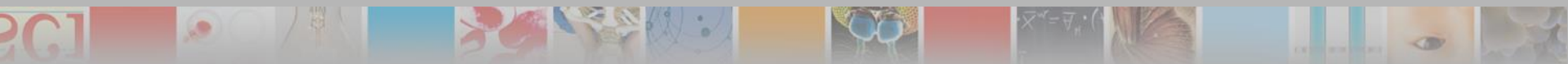
# Roles and Responsibilities in the EG

## Members

- Key participants in the review process (5 per application)
- Act as a reviewer within their EG and for other EGs (joint reviews)
- Input on policy issues related to the discipline

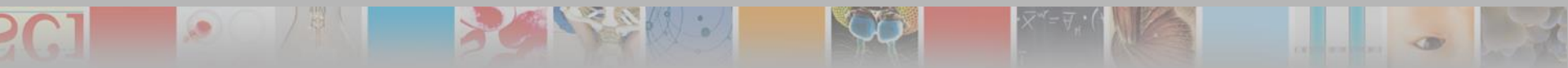
## Executive Committee

- Co-Chairs and Group Chair
- Ensures quality of process (consistency and equity)
- Confirms assignment of applications including joint reviews
- Balances the EG budget following review of applications
- Group Chair acts as EG representative on Committee on Discovery Research, CDR (formerly known as COGS)
  - Acts as spokesperson on policies, scientific/engineering issues



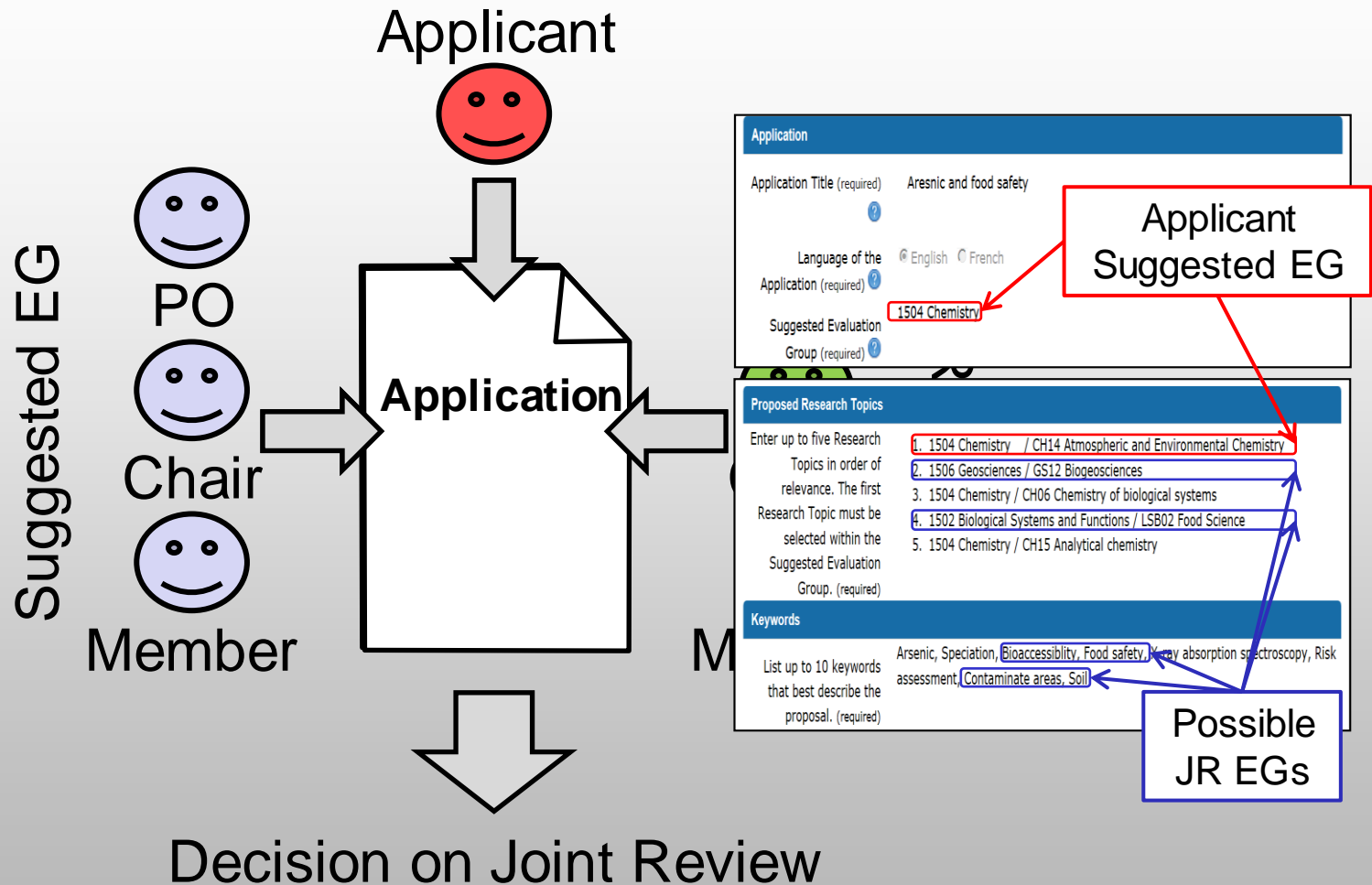
# The Conference Model

- Similar to a scientific conference, several sessions occur in parallel streams.
- Members are assigned to various sections/applications on the basis of the match between their expertise and application subject matter.
  - Members may participate in reviews in more than one EG.
- Flexibility allows applications at the interface between Evaluation Groups to be reviewed by a combination of members with pertinent expertise from relevant groups.
- Evaluation structure consists of 12 Evaluation Groups.





# Determining a Joint Review



# Conference Model in Action

## Joint Review for 2016 Competition

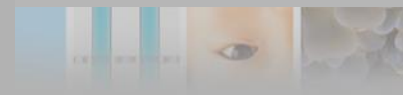
		Participating (Visiting) Evaluation Group											Total	
		GCM	BSF	EE	Chem	Phys	Geo	CS	MS	CISE	ECE	MCE		ME
Reviewing (Home) Evaluation Group	GCM		33	8	12	7	1	9	10	0	1	12	3	96
	BSF	50		7	2	5	0	2	3	1	4	2	5	81
	EE	16	17		1	0	21	1	8	2	0	0	0	66
	Chem	6	0	0		2	4	0	0	1	1	4	1	19
	Phys	1	1	0	1		2	4	3	0	4	4	0	20
	Geo	0	4	9	3	4		2	2	13	0	2	2	41
	CS	4	2	2	1	3	0		12	4	3	0	1	32
	MS	5	4	5	0	6	1	9		3	2	2	3	40
	CISE	0	3	3	3	2	24	6	4		8	11	20	84
	ECE	0	5	0	2	9	0	13	1	3		8	9	50
	MCE	3	2	1	13	2	3	0	2	8	4		7	45
	ME	2	3	0	1	4	1	1	1	7	7	13		40
Total	87	74	35	39	44	57	47	46	42	34	58	51	614	

### Notes:

Applications involving members from more than one other EG (i.e. more than 2 EGs participating in the review) appear more than once.

Joint reviews involving more than one member from the same EG appear only once.

Reviews involving different streams of the same EG, without participation from other EGs, do not appear.





# Implementation of the Conference Model

Reader

Second Internal

Conflicts?

	<u>Excellence</u>	<u>Merit</u>	<u>HQP</u>
	Outstanding	Outstanding	Outstanding
	Outstanding	Very Strong	Outstanding
	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Very Strong</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
	Outstanding	Very Strong	Very Strong
	Very Strong	Very Strong	Very Strong
<u>COR Factor:</u>	N	N	N

Program Officer

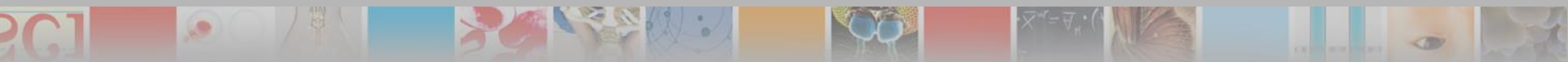
Chair

Observer

Reader

First Internal

Reader



# Discovery Grants Indicators

## (See Peer Review Manual)

### 6.13. DISCOVERY GRANTS MERIT INDICATORS<sup>1</sup>

	Exceptional	Outstanding	Very Strong	Strong	Moderate	Insufficient
Excellence of the Researcher	Acknowledged as a <b>leader</b> who has continued to make, over the last six years, <b>influential accomplishments</b> at the highest level of quality, impact and/or importance to a <b>broad community</b> .	The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be <b>far superior</b> in quality, impact and/or importance to a <b>broad community</b> .	The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be of <b>superior</b> quality, impact and/or importance.	The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be <b>solid</b> in their quality, impact and/or importance.	The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be of <b>reasonable</b> quality, impact and/or importance.	The accomplishments presented in the application were deemed to be <b>below an acceptable level</b> of quality, impact and/or importance.
Merit of the Proposal	Proposed research program is clearly presented, is <b>extremely original and innovative</b> and is <b>likely to have impact by leading to groundbreaking advances</b> in the area and/or <b>leading to a technology or policy</b> that addresses socio-economic or environmental needs. <b>Long-term vision and short-term objectives are clearly defined</b> . The methodology is <b>clearly defined and appropriate</b> . The budget <b>clearly demonstrates</b> how the research activities to be supported are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.	Proposed research program is clearly presented, is <b>highly original and innovative</b> and is <b>likely to have impact by contributing to groundbreaking advances</b> in the area, and/or <b>leading to a technology or policy</b> that addresses socio-economic or environmental needs. <b>Long-term goals are clearly defined and short-term objectives are well planned</b> . The methodology is <b>clearly described and appropriate</b> . The budget <b>clearly demonstrates</b> how the research activities to be supported are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.	Proposed research program is clearly presented, is <b>original and innovative</b> and is <b>likely to have impact by leading to advancements</b> and/or addressing socio-economic or environmental needs. <b>Long-term goals are defined and short-term objectives are planned</b> . The methodology is <b>clearly described and appropriate</b> . The budget <b>demonstrates</b> how the research activities to be supported are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.	Proposed research program is clearly presented, is <b>original and innovative</b> and is <b>likely to have impact</b> and/or address socio-economic or environmental needs. <b>Long-term goals and short-term objectives are clearly described</b> . The methodology is <b>described and appropriate</b> . The budget <b>demonstrates</b> how the research activities to be supported are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.	Proposed research program is clearly presented, has <b>original and innovative aspects</b> and <b>may have impact</b> and/or address socio-economic or environmental needs. <b>Long-term and short-term objectives are described</b> . The methodology is <b>partially described and/or appropriate</b> . The budget <b>demonstrates</b> how the research activities to be supported are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.	Proposed research program, as presented <b>lacks clarity</b> , and/or is of <b>limited originality and innovation</b> . <b>Objectives are not clearly described</b> and/or likely not attainable. Methodology is <b>not clearly described and/or appropriate</b> . The budget <b>does not clearly demonstrate</b> how the research activities to be supported are distinct from and complement those funded by other sources.
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Cost of Research <sup>2</sup>	High	Normal	Low
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# Life Cycle of a Discovery Grant Application

**August 1**

Submission of Notification of Intent to Apply with CCV

**September to October**

Initial assignment to EG and contacting of external reviewers

**November 1**

Submission of grant application with CCV

**Mid-November**

Applications sent out to external reviewers

**Early December**

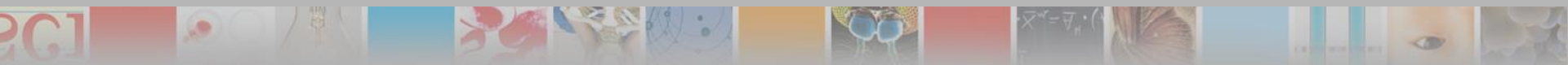
Evaluation Group members receive applications

**February**

Grants competition

**March to April**

Announcement of results



# Notification of Intent to Apply for a Discovery Grant – When and What?

- Deadline: August 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Electronic submission only through the Research Portal
  - **Mandatory**: if not submitted by deadline, full application will not be accepted
- Includes:
  - Notification of Intent to Apply, listing up to five research topics in priority order
  - CCV







# Submitting a Discovery Grant Application

- Deadline November 1<sup>st</sup> through Research Portal
  - Check institutional internal deadline
- A full Discovery Grant submission includes:
  - Application for a Grant
  - NSERC Researcher CCV for the applicant
  - Samples of research contributions (reprints, pre-prints, thesis chapters, manuscripts, patents, technical reports, etc.)





# Discovery Grants Indicators

## (See Peer Review Manual)

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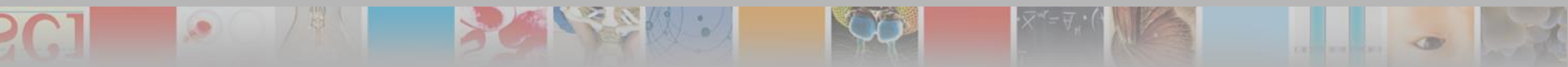
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# How to prepare a Discovery Grant Application

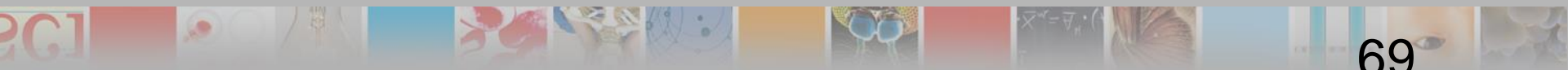
**Prof. Ash Parameswaran, Simon Fraser University**

Member of Electrical and Computer Engineering Evaluation Group



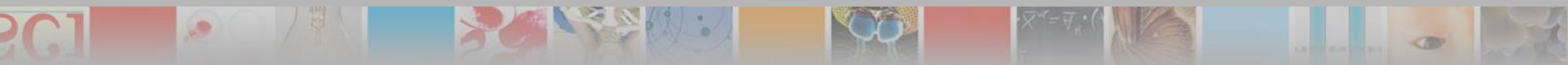
# Discovery Grants Evaluation Criteria

- Excellence of Researcher
- Merit of Proposal
- Training of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP)



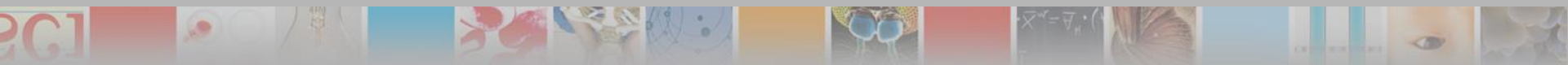
# Excellence of Researcher

- Knowledge, expertise and experience.
- Contributions to, and impact on, proposed and other areas of research.
  - Focus on Natural Sciences and Engineering
- Assessment based on the quality and impact of contributions.
- Assessment based on achievements demonstrated over past six years.
  - “Most significant contributions” section of resume may include earlier work **if** they still have a significant impact (e.g., exploitation of patents).



# Excellence of Researcher

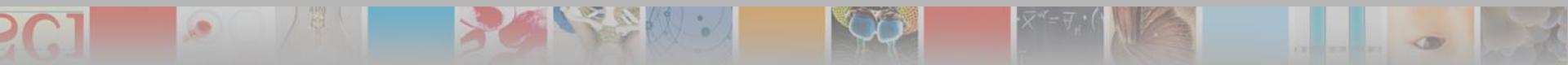
- Describe up to five most significant research contributions (now in **application**) and highlight quality & impact
- List all types of research contributions (**from 2010-2016**)
- Explain your role in collaborative research activities
- List all sources of support
- Give other evidence of impact
- Explain delays in research activity (See Peer Review Manual)



# Excellence of Researcher

## Location of Information

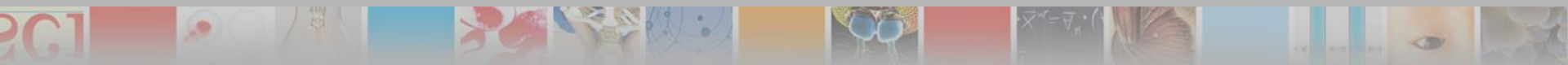
- In **CCV**
  - Recognitions (honors, prizes and awards, etc.)
  - Activities (international collaborations, event administration, editorial activities, organizational review, knowledge and technology transfers, etc.)
  - Memberships (service on committees)
  - Contributions (publications, books, patents, etc.)
- In **Application**
  - Most Significant Contributions (discusses most significant contributions)
  - Additional Information on Contributions (discusses choice of venues, order of authors, etc.)





# Merit of the Proposal

- Write summary in plain language
- Keep in mind that two audiences read your application: expert and non-expert
- Can provide a progress report on related research
- Position the research within the field and state-of-the-art
- Clearly articulate short- and long-term objectives
- Provide a detailed methodology and realistic budget
- Consider comments/recommendations you may have received for previous applications

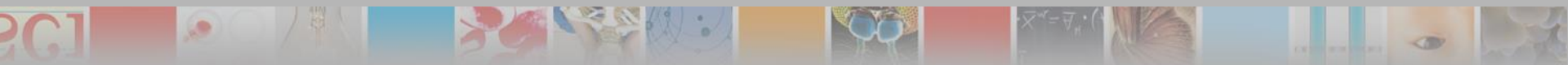




# Merit of the Proposal

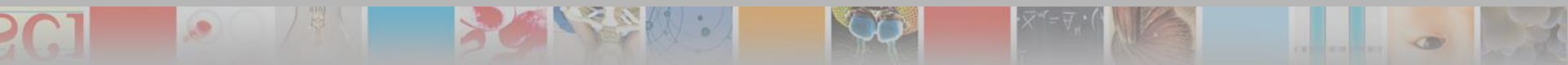
## Conceptual Overlap

- Conceptual overlap occurs when the ideas in the proposal are, or appear to be, the same ideas that are supported by other sources (applicant's other projects/programs).
- **Complementary** parts of an applicant's research program can be supported by different sources.
- The onus is on the applicant to differentiate between the research program covered by the Discovery Grants proposal and other research programs/projects supported by other sources.
- Funds requested from Discovery Grants must support a **program** of research in the Natural Sciences and Engineering.



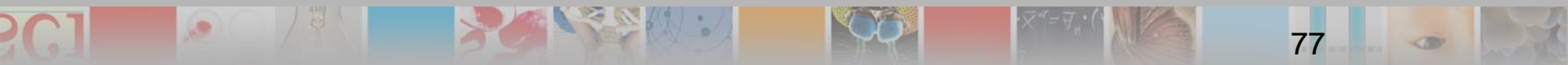
# Merit of the Proposal – Tips: Overlap

- Discuss relationships to other research support
  - For each grant currently held or applied for, clearly provide: the main objective, a brief outline of the methodology, budget details, and details on the support of HQP
  - Must include summary and budget pages for CIHR and SSHRC grants currently held or applied for
  - Should include summary and budget information for other grants with budget overlap



# Additional Recommendations

- Be original and creative, but also show you have the expertise to carry out the program
- Avoid referencing only your own publications
- Have long term vision and short term plan
- Propose a feasible number of objectives
- Propose a program instead of a single short-term project or collection of projects
- Provide clear, precise description of methodology
- Integrate HQP into the proposal



# Merit of the Proposal

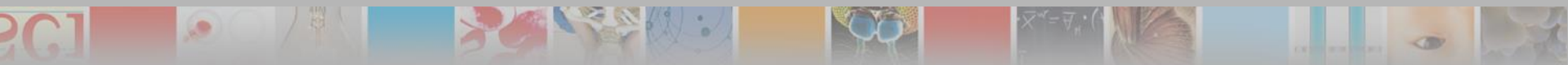
## Location of Information

- In **Application**

- Proposal
- List of References
- Budget Justification
- Relationship to Other Sources of Support  
Explanation
- Other Support Sources – Supporting Documents  
(if applicable)

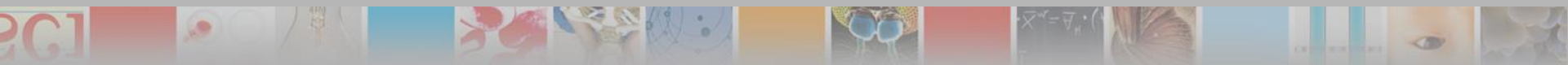
- In **CCV**

- Research Funding History (to assess possible conceptual or budgetary overlaps)



# Contributions to the Training of HQP

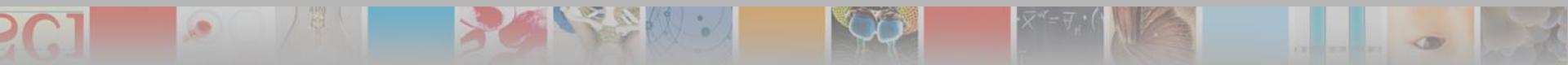
- **Quality and impact** of past contributions to training during the last six years (2010-2016)
- Appropriateness and quality of proposed training in the Natural Sciences and Engineering.
  - Assessment based on appropriateness of plan to train particular trainees; Is the proposed level and mix of trainees (e.g. undergraduate, Master's, or Ph.D. students; postdoctoral fellows) appropriate for the proposed program?
  - Capacity of the researcher to supervise the proposed number and type of HQP.
- Enhancement of training arising from a collaborative or interdisciplinary environment, where applicable.



# Contributions to the Training of HQP

## Past Contributions to Training:

- Use an asterisk to identify students who are co-authors on the listed contributions
- Explain any delays that might have affected your ability to train HQP
- Describe nature of HQP studies
  - HQP ranges from undergraduate theses and summer projects to postdoctoral levels
- Clearly define your role in any co-supervision
- Do not select “Academic Advisor”



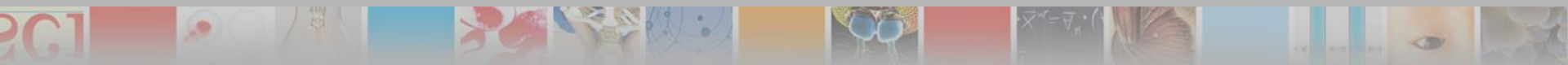
# Contributions to the Training of HQP

## Training Plan:

- Describe the nature of the training (e.g., length, specific projects) in which HQP will be involved, the HQP's contributions and pertinence to the research program proposed
- Discuss the training philosophy and the expected outcomes
- Clearly define your role in any collaborative research and planned joint HQP training

# HQP - Additional Recommendations

- Describe your involvement and interaction with HQP
- Describe the nature (PhD, master's, undergraduate), length of time (summer project vs. thesis) and type of training (course-related or thesis)
- Fully describe the nature of co-supervision
- Include present position for past HQP
- Include all levels of HQP, including undergraduates
- Make sure projects are appropriate for level of HQP proposed





# Contributions to the Training of HQP

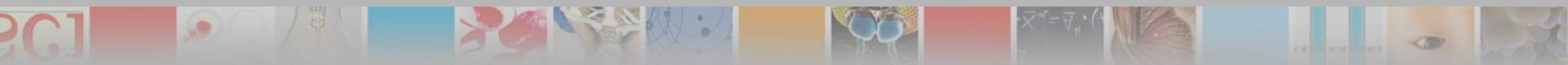
## Location of Information

### *Record of Training*

- In **CCV**
  - Supervisory Activities
  - Publications: Co-authors who are trained HQP are to be identified by an asterisk (\*)
- In **Application**
  - Past Contributions to HQP Training

### *Plan for Training*

- In **Application**
  - HQP Training Plan

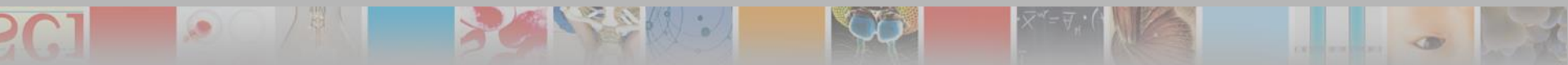


# Cost of Research

- Not used by all Evaluation Groups
- Relative cost of research of the proposed research program as compared to the norms for a given **discipline / field of research**.
  - High, Normal, Low.
  - It is expected that **most applications** will be deemed to have a **normal** Cost of Research relative to the discipline.
- A budget that is large simply because of the **program's size**, while the cost of the activities is **similar to the norm** in the discipline / field of research, does not translate into a High cost of research.

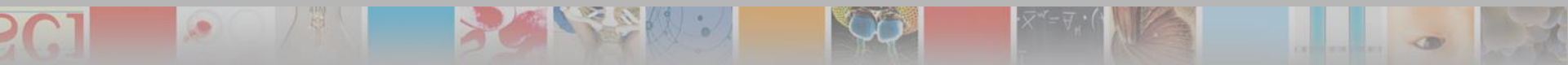
## Location

- In **Application**
  - Proposal
  - Budget Justification



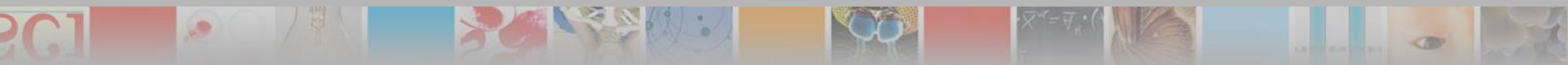
## We suggest...

- Ask colleagues and/or your RGO for comments on your application
- Read other successful proposals
- Consult the Peer Review Manual
- Plan ahead and check institution deadlines
  - Give yourself time: CCV



# Application Process for Discovery Grants

- Notification of Intent to Apply (NOI) and full application must be submitted through NSERC's new [Research Portal](#).
- Applicants must complete and submit NSERC's version of the [Canadian Common CV \(CCV\)](#) at the NOI and application stages.
- Notification of Intent to Apply (NOI) must be submitted to NSERC by the **deadline date of August 1, 8:00 pm Eastern**.
- If an NOI is not submitted by the deadline, it is not possible to submit a full application.

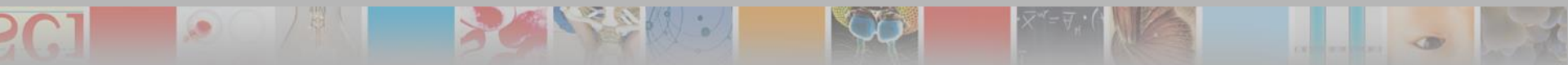






# NSERC Contacts

NSERC Staff	<a href="mailto:First Name.Last Name@nserc-crsng.gc.ca">First Name.Last Name@nserc-crsng.gc.ca</a>
Deadlines, acknowledgement of applications and results	Your university RGO
Your account, Grants in Aid of Research Statement of Account (Form 300)	Your university Business Officer (BO)
NSERC Web site	<a href="http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca">www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca</a>
Discovery Grants Program (including eligibility)	E-mail: <a href="mailto:resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca">resgrant@nserc-crsng.gc.ca</a> Tel.: 613-995-5829
Use of Grant Funds	E-mail: <a href="mailto:awdad@nserc-crsng.gc.ca">awdad@nserc-crsng.gc.ca</a>
On-line Services Helpdesk	E-mail: <a href="mailto:webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca">webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca</a>



# Over to you...

- Questions?
- Comments?

