

# Criteria for Evaluating the **INTEGRATION OF SEX & GENDER** in CIHR Strategic Funding Initiatives



## CHECKLIST

[CLINICAL/HEALTH SYSTEMS/POPULATION HEALTH RESEARCH]

### LETTER OF INTENT STAGE

#### 1. Quality of the proposed research program

- Statement of any known sex and/or gender differences in the epidemiology, risk factors, conditions, diseases or effects of treatment under study
- Brief discussion of how sex/gender will be considered in the research question under study
- Description of the ways in which sex/gender will be accounted for in the research program, methods, analysis, reporting and knowledge translation plan
- Description of the sex- and gender-related variables under study

#### 2. Strength of the team

- Identification of a Sex and Gender Champion within the research team
- Evidence that the Sex and Gender Champion has credibility and research experience in sex and/or gender science as relates to the field of study (i.e. graduate training, publication history, and/or IGH core competency certificate in sex/gender methodology related to the topic under investigation)
- Appropriateness of the role described for the Sex and Gender champion (i.e. responsible for guiding the formulation of sex/gender-related research questions within research proposal; assurance that experimental design elements, analysis, reporting and knowledge translation plans reflect gold standard sex/gender approaches)

### SCORING OF THE LETTER OF INTENT

The appropriateness of the Sex and Gender Champion will be evaluated. Reviewers will be asked to assess whether sex/gender integration is:

**Outstanding:** extremely thoughtful integration into research question and proposal

**Excellent:** reasonably thoughtful integration into research question and proposal

**Good:** good integration, not compelling

**Fair:** incomplete integration

**Poor:** no mention of sex and gender, the omission is unjustified

### FULL APPLICATION STAGE

#### 1. Vision, rationale, and added value

- Clarity of the vision regarding the analysis and expected results/outcomes as they relate to sex and gender.
- Evidence of explicit consideration being given to achieving equitable health impacts across diverse patient/population sub-groups.

#### 2. Quality and appropriateness of research approach with respect to sex/gender

##### Literature review

- Clear articulation of any known sex and/or gender differences in the epidemiology, risk factors, conditions, diseases or effects of treatment under study
- A literature review that describes known sex and/or gender differences, or lack thereof, in the research area under study. Ethnicity, income, occupation and other key social determinants of health, including social roles should be considered as determinants of gender.

##### Research question

- Clear articulation of the type of research question being considered with respect to sex/gender:
  - Identifying sex/gender differences in the intervention/treatment/outcomes under study
  - Explaining these sex/gender differences
  - Establishing that there are no sex/gender differences in the intervention/treatment/outcomes under study
  - Studying sex/gender as a confounder or interaction variable while testing the main study hypothesis

##### Study Design and Methods

- Inclusion and exclusion criteria that consider sex/gender and diverse populations of men and women/boys and girls
  - Description of the recruitment strategies to accrue required sample size of men and women/boys and girls
  - Outcome measures that are not gender biased and are sensitive and responsive to sex/gender issues
  - Description of the data collection tools/use of administrative datasets with respect to capturing sex- and gender-related variables of interest (quantitative and qualitative data)
- ##### Analysis & Reporting
- Description of the data analysis plan (sex-disaggregated or stratified analyses, pathway modeling, use of sex and gender variables as confounders or in interaction terms, if applicable)
  - Sample size calculations to show adequate power for testing hypotheses with respect to sex/gender differences
  - Inclusion of a statement that negative findings with respect to sex/gender will be reported

#### 3. Knowledge Translation Plan

- Description of how the knowledge translation strategies intend to maximize uptake by men and women/boys and girls; will the content/messages/products vary by sex or gender