

Dear IMPART Trainees and Mentors,

December 2, 2009

At the October 19, 2009 meeting, the program advisory committee made the decision to shorten the duration of full stipend awards to trainees in all funding categories. For trainees already in the program prior to January 2010 these changes will not take effect until **September 2011**, at which time their stipends will no longer be eligible for renewal. This means a full academic year remains for current trainees to secure other funding. All possible aid will be provided in the process of applying for CIHR and other funds.

The new maxima for stipends will be:

PhD: 2 years full stipend
(or up to 4 years if only incentive bonus awards & topups claimed)

Masters: 1 year full stipend
(or up to 2 years if only incentive bonus awards & topups claimed)

Postdoctoral Fellow: 1 year full stipend
(or up to 2 years if only incentive bonus awards & topups claimed)

Once a trainee has reached the maximum within his/her category, s/he may be eligible for *affiliate trainee status*. This would not include a stipend, but it would include invitations to all IMPART events, programs and seminars and continued access to the online resources, and would also include the ability to use any remaining travel stipend funds. Conferral of affiliate status will be at the discretion of the program advisory committee. This status may continue for up to 2 years for a PhD student, 1 year for a Masters student, and 1 year for a PDF. Trainees in the affiliate category would be responsible for submitting progress reports on an annual basis and to respond to reporting requests as needed to fulfill CIHR requirements. It is our hope that affiliate status will continue to provide trainees with the academic support, collaborations and networking possibilities to be successful in their research projects, but will also allow the expansion of our community beyond current budget constraints.

These changes were judged by the committee to be in accordance with IMPART's main objective as a Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research (STIHR): to produce researchers capable of bringing gender/sex-based analysis to addictions research, and to cross traditional boundaries between health-related disciplines. Feedback on policy changes is of course welcome.

If you have questions about the new stipend policies for IMPART or if you want to know exactly how this will affect you, please email Nicole to set up a meeting. As with all new policies, there may be adjustments along the way. Any updates will be emailed as necessary.

Regards,
Nicole Vittoz
IMPART Program Coordinator
(sent on behalf of the Program Advisory Committee)