

MEMORANDUM

Date:	December 19, 2024
To:	Island Health Research Community
From:	Research Ethics & Compliance
RE:	Guidance on the use of Artificial Intelligence in the development and review of research grant proposals

In November 2024, after public consultation, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) ('the agencies') released the '[Guidance on the use of Artificial Intelligence in the development and review of research grant proposals](#)'.

Definition of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

From the [panel of external experts](#), the following elements define Generative AI systems:

- Presents a straightforward, often conversational, interface that makes deploying the power of the system accessible to a broad range of non-expert users;
- Intrinsically enables iterative design and improvement processes;
- Makes available information extracted from enormous amounts of data and computing power;
- The output approaches a level of sophistication that may cause non-experts to erroneously identify the output as having been created by humans.

Development of Research Grant Proposals

When the applicant is developing the research grant proposal, they need to ensure the following are met:

- Review the application for truth, accuracy and completion;
- Acknowledge and reference all sources appropriately (i.e. proper recognition of authorship);
- Disclose if and how generative AI was used (i.e. funding opportunities will provide specific instructions).

Review of Research Grant Proposals

For all reviewers of research grant proposals, the use of publicly available Generative AI tools (i.e. ChatGPT and DeepL) is strictly prohibited due to the potential for breach of privacy or loss of custody of intellectual property when information is added to these tools.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the use of generative AI and research ethics and compliance, please contact researchethics@islandhealth.ca.

Research Ethics & Compliance Office

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