



CIHR **IRSC**

Canadian Institutes of
Health Research

Instituts de recherche
en santé du Canada

Objective


*“To excel, according to internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence in the **creation of new knowledge** and its **translation** into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health care system...”*

Section 4, C-6, R.S.C. 2000

Four Research Themes

- Biomedical
- Clinical
- Health services and health systems
- Health of populations, societal and cultural dimensions of health, and environmental influences on health

CIHR Supports

- Investigator-initiated research proposals
 - Any area of health research
 - Open competitions
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- Strategic Research Initiatives
 - Priority areas chosen by Institutes
 - Requests for applications
- 

Applying for a Grant: timing

Program	Registration	Deadline	Adjudication	Notification	Funding start
Operating Grants	Aug. 15	Sep. 15	Dec.	End Jan.	Apr. 1
	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	May	End June	Oct. 1
RFAs		vary			

Coordination of RFA cycle

Pre-announce	RFA launch	Application deadline not before	Funding start date
Aug 15	Sept 1	Jan 1	April 1
Oct 15	Nov 1	April 1	July 1
Feb 15	Mar 1	July 1	Oct 1
April 15	May 1	Oct 1	Jan 1

- Minimum of 4 months to prepare applications
- Minimum of 3 months to review applications

Applying for a grant

Do you have:

- Appropriate training and publications
- Protected time for research
- Space and facilities
- “Seed” grants from local or specialized agencies enabling you to produce...
- Preliminary data to show feasibility
- If not, start out as collaborator

Applying for a grant Writing:

- Competition is tough: only 1 in 3 applications is funded!
- Start at least 4 months before deadline
- It should be complete 1 month before deadline
- Show it to experienced colleagues for feedback (*mentorship!*)
- Revise, revise, revise|

Applying for a grant

Writing: in 11 pages explain

- **What you want to do**
 - ✓ central hypothesis/research question: the big idea
 - ✓ plus specific objectives (or aims)
- **Why this is a reasonable thing to do**
 - ✓ review of previous work by you and others,
 - ✓ succinct rationale for project (concept and approach)
- **Why this is important**
 - ✓ significant new knowledge to be obtained
 - ✓ improvements to health which will result

Applying for a grant

Writing: in 11 pages explain

- **How you are going to do it**
 - ✓ detailed work plan, logical sequence and timelines
 - ✓ analysis and interpretation of results
 - ✓ pitfalls, ways around them, alternatives
- **Why **you** should do it**
 - ✓ relevant prior experience and skills
 - ✓ collaborators for technical gaps
 - ✓ preliminary data showing feasibility

Applying for a grant

Writing: on budget pages explain

- **What you need to do it**
 - ✓ supplies
 - ✓ personnel (research assistants, trainees, interviewers) - named, if possible
 - ✓ equipment, database access
 - ✓ services (photography, computing)
 - ✓ travel to present findings, or for collaboration
- **Don't ask for**
 - ✓ salary for applicants
 - ✓ infrastructure costs (space rental, heat, light, furniture, regular telephone service, secretarial support, etc.)

Applying for a grant

Help yourself:

- Follow instructions exactly
- Adhere to format guidelines, e.g., font size, margins, page limits, etc.
- Select preferred review committee carefully: ask CIHR staff for advice.
- Select suggested reviewers carefully (avoid conflict of interest)
- Write the summary and key hypothesis and rationale sections for generalists, detailed work plan for specialists.
- Use short paragraphs and summarize often
- Proof-read! Proof-read! Proof-read!
- It should be a pleasure to read

Peer Review Committees

- 45 for operating grants (currently)
- Over 600 volunteers
- Composition for Grants committees:
 - ✓ Chair
 - ✓ Scientific Officer
 - ✓ 8-12 members
- Review 30-70 applications over 2-3 days, twice a year.

Operating Grants - Peer Review Process

- Applicants suggest most appropriate peer review committee
- Committee officers make final selection of review panel
- If necessary, additional expertise obtained by inviting extra members in person or via teleconference, and/or external reviews

Peer Review Process - cont.

- Application may be sent to external reviewers ... experts...who provide written reviews to the committee
- Reviewed by 2 committee members (internal reviewers)...may not be expert in your specific field... they provide oral and written reports and initial rating (0 to 4.9...e.g. 3.7)
- Committee listens to reports, discusses application, reviewers reach consensus on rating, members rate privately (e.g. between 3.2 and 4.2)
- Budget then discussed and recommended
- 20-30 minutes, then on to the next....

Evaluation criteria

- **Proposal**

- ✓ Clear, testable hypothesis or central research problem
- ✓ originality and innovation in concept or approach
- ✓ significance and relevance to health
- ✓ feasibility of work plan, usefulness of results
- ✓ knowledge of the field (cited literature)

- **Applicant(s)**

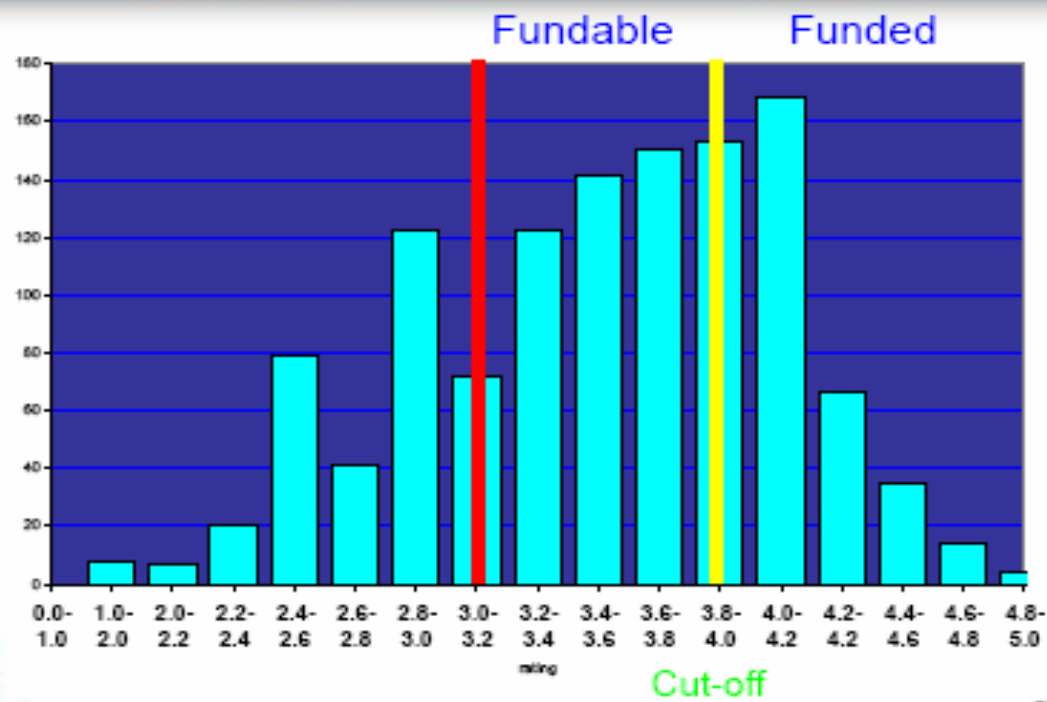
- ✓ relevant experience
- ✓ productivity and reputation, appropriate to stage of career
- ✓ supportive environment

Significance
Approach
Novelty
Team
Environment

Rating Scale

<i>Range</i>	<i>Descriptors</i>	
4.5 - 4.9	outstanding	usually funded
4.0 - 4.4	excellent	
3.5 - 3.9	very good	may be funded
3.0 - 3.4	solid/significant	seldom funded
2.5 - 2.9	needs revision	not fundable
2.0 - 2.4	needs major revision	
1.0 - 1.9	seriously flawed	
0	not acceptable	

Distribution of Ratings, Typical Operating Grants Competition



Feedback to applicant

- External and internal reviews (anonymous), plus Scientific Officer's summary of discussion
- Read and take advice (from reviewers and colleagues)
- If not funded, can re-apply next competition
- 2 pages of rebuttal to explain how reviewers were wrong, or right... and how their concerns have been addressed by your improvements.
- Contact CIHR Research Portfolio staff if you have any questions

For More Advice

Information guide on writing grant applications by Jacob Kraicer

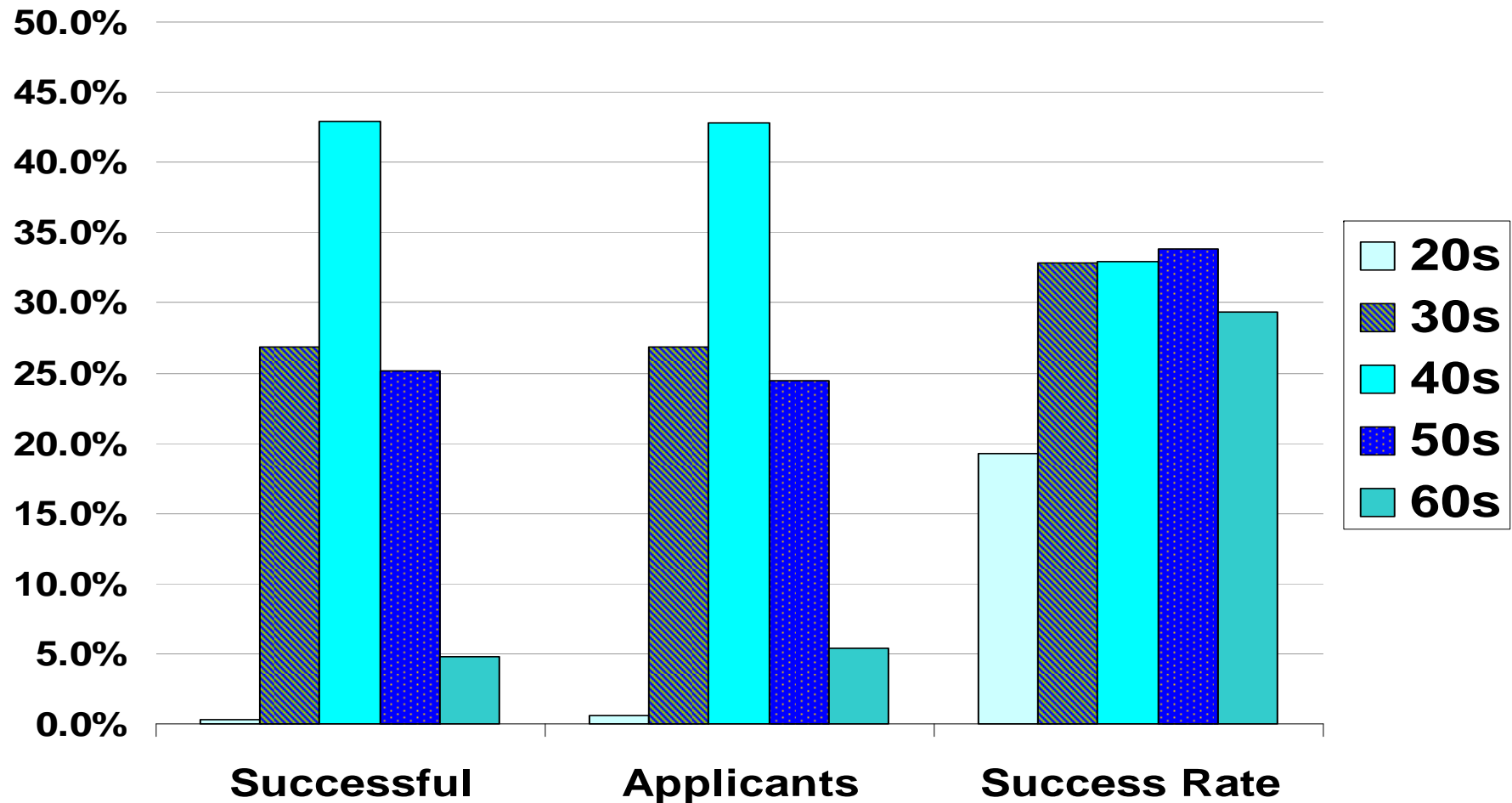
<http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/explore/grantmanshipmain.html>

Visit us often at
www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca

For :

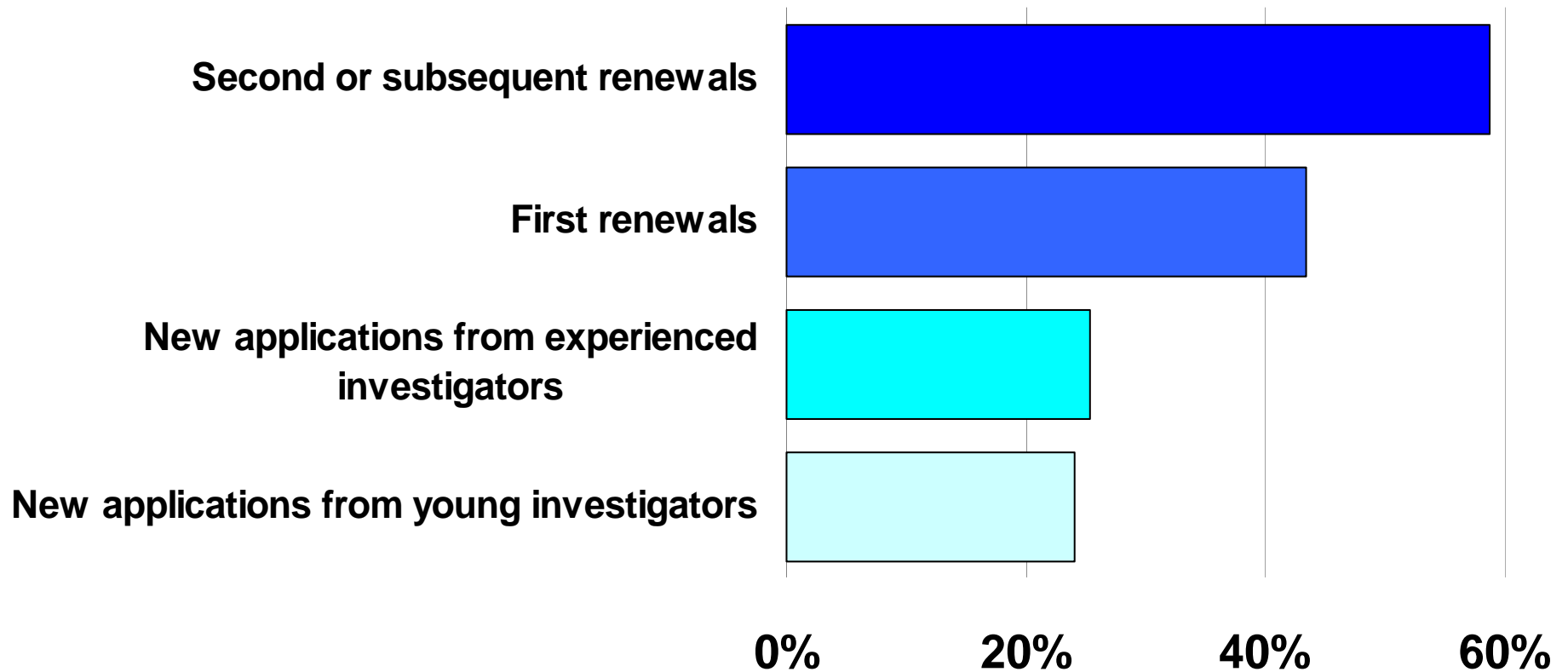
- Current RFA opportunities
- Grants and Awards Guide
- Database of funded research
- Peer review process in detail
- Application forms
- Staff contacts for assistance of any sort
- Toll-free number 1-888-603-4178

Age and CIHR Open Operating Grants



Competitions up until 2004: current success rates are proportionately lower

Experience and Success



Competitions up until 2004: current success rates are proportionately lower



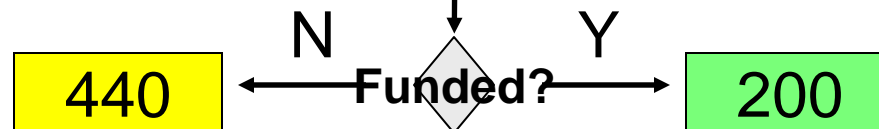
What's the real success rate in CIHR competitions?

Competition 1

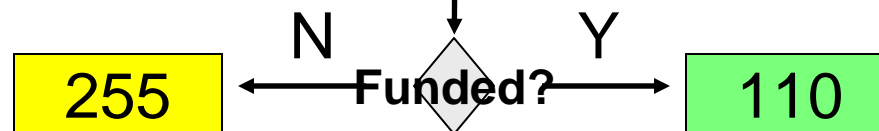
1000 new apps.



Competition 2



Competition 3



Etc.

Cumulative funding: 530/1000

Competitions up until 2004: current success rates are proportionately lower



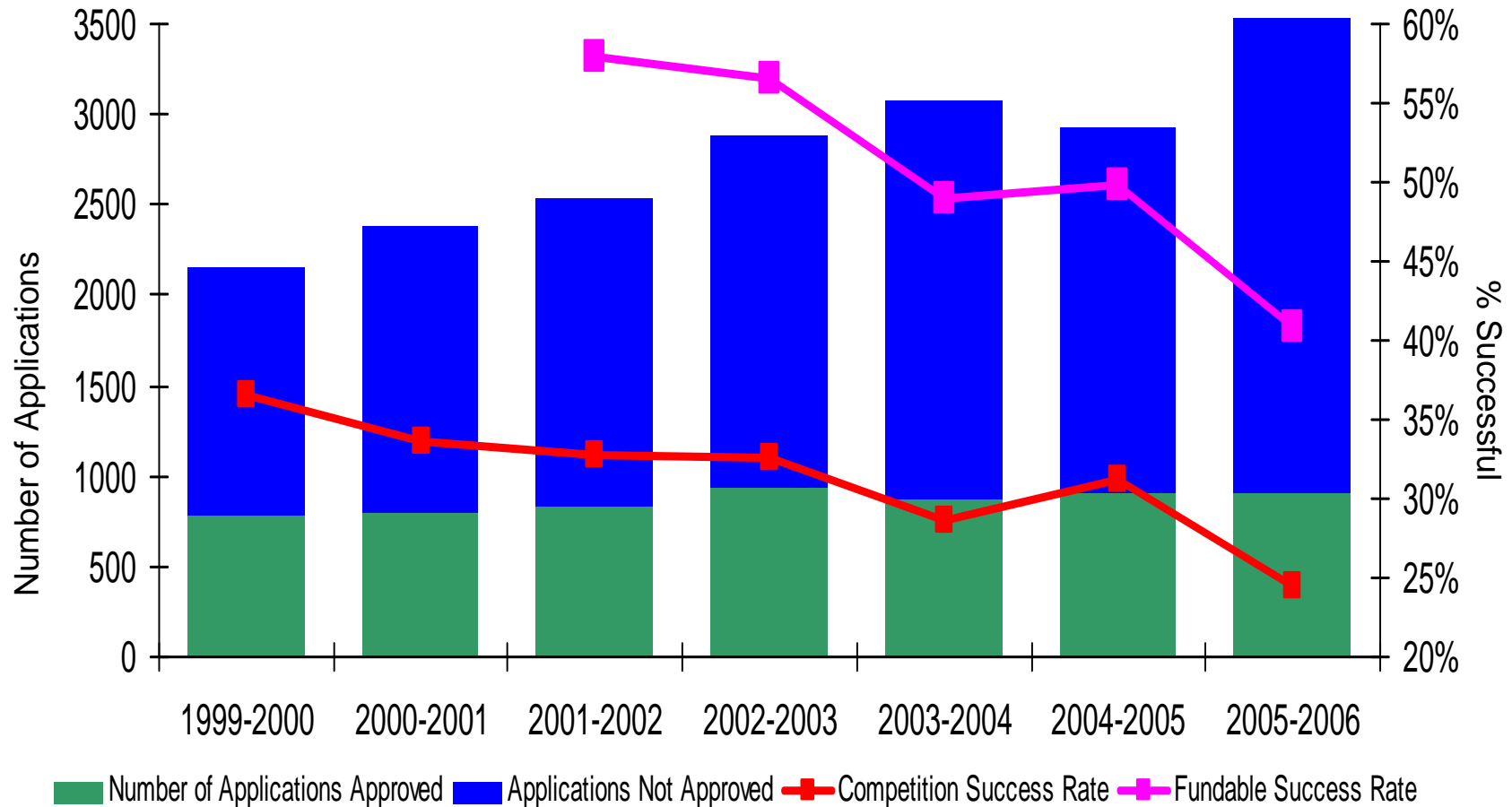
New applications/applicants

Applications do poorly the first time submitted (18%), but those that are resubmitted do much better (31%). **Keep trying! (Peer review works).**

Applications from those who have not applied to CIHR before do better (22%) than all first applications (18%), but not if the applicant hasn't been involved previously in a supporting role (14%). **Get your feet wet as a co-applicant!**

New applications from young investigators (<10 yrs from last degree) do as well as all new applications (23%). **No discrimination against youth.**

Application Pressure, Competition Success Rate, and Fundable Success Rate (for applications >3.5) for the OGP



Years represent fiscal year in which successful projects received their first payment.
Restrictions on applications begin in FY 2004-2005.



Electronic application and review

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL https://stage.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/portal/page?_pageid=36,1&_dad=portal&_schema. The page title is "rn_public". The main content area features the ResearchNet logo and a navigation menu with links for Home, FAQ, and Contact Us. A "Sign-In" section is prominent, containing the following text: "Please sign in below. If you do not already have a user name (e-mail address) and password, [click here](#) to register." Below this text are input fields for "e-Mail Address" and "Password", a "Forgot Password?" link, and a "Sign-In" button. A "System Messages" section follows, with a heading "MAC USERS PLEASE READ:" and the message: "This system does not support Internet Explorer 5.2 on the Mac OS. This system has been tested using Safari 1.2.1 and Netscape 7.0." A "System Maintenance" section is also visible at the bottom.

ResearchNet will provide a virtual meeting place for the research community, providing a single point of contact to share information, collaborate, and conduct business with funding organizations. ResearchNet's first service provides a secure web portal for the submission of applications and peer reviews, including the transmission and distribution of reviews to committee members and applicants.

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