



Convened by: The University of Sydney

Major partners:

Australian National University
University of Queensland
Flinders University

Monash University
Curtin University of Technology
University of New South Wales

Postal address:

c/- CERA

Concord Hospital C25

Concord NSW 2139

Tel: 02 9767 8338 **Fax:** 02 9767 8339

Email: ageingnet@usyd.edu.au

Web: www.ageingwell.edu.au

e-Mail Bulletin – March-April 2008

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to send you the e-mail bulletin for March and April with details of recent and upcoming ageing related activities. If you have items that you wish to be included in future bulletins please do not hesitate to forward them to us. Please feel free to forward this bulletin on to anybody else who may be interested. If you have received this bulletin via secondary sources and would like to be added to the distribution list please e-mail your request to ageingnet@usyd.edu.au

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Network Activities

2007 Annual Report - A provisional copy of the 2007 Annual Report for the Network has been posted on our website at http://www.ageingwell.edu.au/about_net_annual_report.htm. The report provides information on the 2007 activities of the Network's Theme and State hubs as well as core activities and details of future directions for the Network. The report is currently under review by the ARC and the final approved version will be posted when available. 2007 was a busy year for the Network and we have big plans for 2008.

Emerging Researchers in Ageing Masterclass – On 27 - 28 March 2008, 36 of Australia's top PhD candidates in ageing research were hosted by the Ageing Well Network to attend the inaugural Masterclass for Emerging Researchers in Ageing, Building an emerging vision for ageing research in Australia, at the University of Queensland. The final delegates were selected from 120 applicants Australia-wide. They represented 14 different universities and ranged in age from 23 to 73 years.

Over the two days of the Masterclass, senior research academics and policy makers in ageing from around Australia facilitated sessions with the delegates, with the aim of building capacity for their future careers in ageing research. The Council of the Ageing (COTA) Over 50s sponsored six postgraduate research awards of \$500 each for Masterclass delegates and the winners are developing research reports for COTA to be published on the COTA Over 50s website. Delegates also worked on collaborative group projects over the two days of the Masterclass and the members of three of these groups were awarded prizes of \$400 and \$200 to attend and present at the Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA) conference to be held at Curtin University, WA on Tuesday 18 November 2008. These collaborative projects are currently being consolidated and developed into a proposal by a team from the Masterclass, to be submitted to the Federal Office for an Ageing Australia for consideration. Another major outcome of the Masterclass was the development of a submission for the forthcoming 2020 Summit, focusing on six key issues in ageing identified by delegates as being of prime importance to Australia.

The Masterclass was fully funded by the ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well and was hosted by the UQ Australasian Centre on Ageing, under the direction of Professor Helen Bartlett and coordinated by Linda Peach. The concept of the Masterclass was developed from the National Emerging Researchers in Ageing Survey conducted in 2005, the results of which indicated that PhD students in ageing needed more opportunities to network with other researchers in the field, greater access to information about developing their future careers and more national initiatives to develop an identity for ageing research (Bartlett, Underwood & Peach, 2007). The Masterclass sought to address these issues and by all reports, it achieved that aim. This was summed up in a personal communication from one delegate who stated, "I went in feeling like a student and came out feeling like a researcher." Similar feedback from both presenters and delegates highlights the importance of this event for building capacity among emerging researchers in ageing. As a result, moves are afoot to develop a second Masterclass later in the year, with the potential for it to become an annual event.

Photos of the event have been loaded on the web at www.uq.edu.au/cfha/index.html?page=74239&pid=0 and copies of session presentations are available at www.ageingwell.edu.au/links_web.htm#era (including a presentation on "Getting published in ageing research" which may be of interest).

Building the community care research agenda Workshop - Prof Hal Kendig, Ageing Well Network Convenor, will be co-chairing a workshop with Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) on **15 May 2008** as part of the ACSA National Community Care Conference will take place in Sydney from **14-16 May**. The workshop is the first step in an ongoing program of work between the Network and ACSA aimed at building the research agenda over the course of this year. The workshop will include presentations from researchers and service providers and will feature a discussion session where providers can raise their research priorities. More information on the workshop will be provided shortly and information on the conference is available at www.agedcare.org.au/Conferences/Upcoming-acsa-events.html

Follow up from the 2020 Summit:

Professors Kaarin Anstey, Ann Harding and Hal Kendig from our Network participated in the Productivity and Health streams of the Summit. The initial report on the Summit is available on the 2020 website at www.australia2020.gov.au/report/index.cfm. We encourage you to look at the draft priorities, especially the final version to be released in the next month which we expect to have more of a focus on ageing. We expect to draw on the content of the Summit in shaping the research agenda on ageing.

Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA) 2008 Conference

The Centre for Research on Ageing at Curtin University of Technology is pleased to invite PhD, Professional Doctorate and Masters students to participate in the 7th National Conference of Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA 2008) to be held on Tuesday **18 November 2008**. The conference also welcomes new researchers working within research roles in areas of ageing.

The Network continues to sponsor the ERA Conference as one of our core Network activities, including part-sponsorship of the keynote speaker in collaboration with the Centre for Research on Ageing and the Australian Association of Gerontology. The keynote speaker will be Professor Judith Phillips, Professor of Gerontology and Social Work & Head of the School of Human Sciences, Swansea University, UK. Professor Phillips will speak on "Gerontological Research in a new ERA: a View from the UK"

The **call for abstracts** is now open and abstracts will be accepted until close of business Friday **25 July 2008**. For further details, please visit www.cra.curtin.edu.au

Research training opportunities:

UQ Spatial Epidemiology Course Brisbane 2-4 July - A three-day hands-on course in Spatial Epidemiology is running from **2 - 4 July 2008** at The School of Population Health, University of Queensland. The course details are available at www.sph.uq.edu.au/News/Spatial_flyer.pdf. Any enquires can be directed to Dr Adrian Barnett by a.barnett@qut.edu.au (preferred) or on (07) 3138 6010.

ACSPRI 2008 Winter Program - ACSPRI has announced that the 2008 Winter Program is now open for registration at <http://www.acspri.org.au/winterprogram2008>. Week-long short courses will be held concurrently over two weeks at the Winter Program 2008 which will run at The University of Queensland, St. Lucia campus across 2 weeks from **23 June - 4 July 2008**. For more detail about the courses offered, associated costs and registration and payment details please go to the Program website <http://www.acspri.org.au/winterprogram2008>. The early bird closing date for these courses will be **12 May 2008**; places must be paid in full by this date to receive the discount.

Fresh Science 2008 - This year Fresh Science will be held in **June** in Melbourne. The event serves as a communications boot camp for early career researchers – getting their stories out to local, national and international media, and giving them essential communication skills.

16 early-career researchers will be selected for this event where they will receive media training and then present their work to the media, schools and the public. More information about Fresh Science, including the online nomination form, can be found at www.freshscience.org

The Fresh Scientists also have the chance to win a one-year subscription to NewScientist and a one-week internship with The Australian newspaper. The **closing date** for nominations is 5pm **Thursday 1 May 2008**.

Recent publications in ageing:

Understanding Younger Onset Dementia - Alzheimer's Australia has commissioned *Understanding Younger Onset Dementia*, a practice- and evidence-based publication summarising the neuropathology and characteristics of the different dementias occurring in younger adults under 65 years of age. This publication has been co-authored by staff from the Neuropsychiatry Centre at Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre. The publication was reviewed by John Hodges, Federation Fellow and Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology at the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, who is an international authority on younger onset dementias. The Alzheimer's Australia National Consumer Committee also reviewed the document.

Understanding Younger Onset Dementia is the latest publication in Alzheimer's Australia's 'Quality Dementia Care' series, and was made possible with funding from the Australian Government. The publication is available on the web at: www.alzheimers.org.au. Hard copies can also be purchased for \$7.50 from Alzheimer's Australia by phoning (02) 6254 4233 or by emailing admin@alzheimers.org.au.

The structure and distribution of household wealth in Australia: cohort differences and retirement issues – this Social Policy Research Paper was produced by Headey, Warren and Wooden. The paper analyses the 2002 Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) wealth module data to derive the following information: the structure and composition of household wealth and debt and whether this has changed in recent years; the distribution of wealth, including among and within age cohorts and between the most and least wealthy cohorts; retirement issues, focusing on the capacity of pre and post-retirement cohorts for self-funding during retirement; the wealth and debt levels of vulnerable groups in society, especially income support recipients and lone parents; and the main factors (demographic, educational, income related) that determine levels of wealth and debt. A copy of the paper is available at <http://www.facs.gov.au/research/prp33/sprp33.pdf>

The costs and benefits of using private housing as the 'home base' for care for older people: secondary data analysis - This AHURI report was produced by Bridge, Phibbs, Kendig, Mathews, and Cooper. The report outlines research into the relationships between the costs and benefits of using private housing as the 'home base' for care for older people. Residential care requires relocation to the institution but provides both housing and care to older persons, whereas home-based care means that care is brought to the older person within their own home. The absence of economic evaluations of care at home for older people in Australia is significant, given that policy and care arrangements vary substantially from country to country. The report is available for download from the AHURI website at www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/60313_fr

Internet Resources:

The following ageing related resource may be of interest:

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| Dementia CRC Newsletters | The DCRCs release a quarterly newsletter providing an update from each of the Centres. The newsletters can be found at http://www.dementia.unsw.edu.au/DCRCweb.nsf/page/newsletters |
| JNHA Newsletter | The Journal of Nutrition Health and Aging (JNHA) is the official journal of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG). The contents of the current issue can be found at www.serdi-fr.com/jnha/page.php |
| National HACC Forum 08 | The presentations and audio recordings from the Plenary and Workshop sessions at the HACC Forum are now available to view and download from www.haccforum08.com.au |

Please feel free to pass on the details of any other resources to ageingnet@usyd.edu.au

Research opportunity:

Senior Research Fellow – Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre - Applications are invited for appointment to this position, which will be offered on a full-time fixed-term basis for a period of 4 years. The Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre (WDREC) is based within the Menzies Research Institute which is the only biomedical research institute in Tasmania. The Senior Research Fellow will have overall responsibility for leading social health dementia research projects of the WDREC. Women are particularly encouraged to apply as the University is seeking to increase the number of women in senior academic and administrative positions

The appointment will be at Academic Level C and will have a total remuneration package of up to \$107,699 per annum (comprising salary within the range \$80,333 - \$92,050, plus 17% superannuation, with the option of an additional 3% salary loading in exchange for 14% instead of 17% superannuation).

For further information about the position, please contact Professor Andrew Robinson on telephone (03) 6226 4735 or Professor James Vickers, on telephone (03) 6226 4830 or email Andrew.robinson@utas.edu.au or James.Vickers@utas.edu.au. Further details on the position are available at http://jobs.admin.utas.edu.au/positions/pd_detail.aspx?PositionId=586. The closing date for applications is **19 May 2008**.

Research funding:

Enhancements to ARC funding schemes - On the 26 March 2008, Senator Kim Carr announced a number of enhancements to ARC funding schemes, including the promotion of international engagement in collaborative research. The media release is available at www.arc.gov.au/media/releases/media_26March08.htm

The ARC is currently exploring the opportunity to implement significant changes to the Linkage Projects scheme to take effect for applications in the current round. The ARC is expecting to shortly release an updated version of the Linkage Projects funding rules for funding commencing in 2009 (which will incorporate relevant changes).

University of Sydney: Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund- Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant

- The Grant will comprise an award of \$100,000 over 2 years (which could be used by the successful applicant over 3 years if that was more useful) for a research project in the field of Alzheimer's disease, where the aim of the project is to develop and/or assess new treatments for this condition. Applicants must be permanent members of staff of the University of Sydney or of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Joint applications for cooperative projects between permanent members of staff of both Universities will also be welcomed. For more information contact Sue Freedman-Levy (02) 9351 6558 or fax (02) 9351 6556 or email sueflevy@anatomy.usyd.edu.au. The **Closing Date is 30 May 2008**

Reminder re the Dementia Grants Program - As noted in the last bulletin, Alzheimer's Australia Research (AAR) has released the details of its 2008 Dementia Grants Program. Applications for Research, Travel and Post-doctoral Fellowship Grants will close on **28 April 2008**. Applications for the Postgraduate Scholarship Grant will open in September 2008. Application forms and further information can be found at www.alzheimers.org.au/content.cfm?topicid=250

Upcoming Conferences and Symposia:

2nd Alzheimer's & Parkinsons Disease Symposium will take place in Sydney **21 June 2008** at the Brain and Mind Research Institute. The symposium will look at novel strategies to dissect pathomechanisms in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease (with a focus on imaging techniques). More information is available at <http://www.bmri.org.au/>

Shaping Tomorrow Today – The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) 9th Global Conference on Ageing and Expo Ageing Design will take place in Montréal from **4-7 September 2008**. The early bird registration and abstract submission close on 30 April 2008. for more information, please go to www.ageingdesignmontreal.ca

The 3rd Australian and New Zealand Falls Prevention (ANZFP) Conference will take place in Melbourne from **12 – 14 October 2008**. Abstract submission and conference registration is **now open**. Further information is available on the conference website www.anzfpconference.com

The 19th IAGG World Congress of Gerontology & Geriatrics will take place in Paris from **5 - 9 July 2009**. The call for abstracts is now open and will close on **31 January 2009**. Key dates for the conference are:

31 January 2009	Deadline for submission
01 April 2008 - 31 March 2009	Review of submitted abstracts
Up to three months after submission	Decisions on abstracts sent to the organisers
April 2009	Final list of accepted abstracts published

For further information go to www.gerontologyparis2009.com/site/view8b.php?id=122

Conference reminders:

ACSA National Community Care Conference	14 – 16 May '08	www.agedcare.org.au
Forum for Research on Ageing and Longevity	24 April '08	http://cmhs.anu.edu.au/Events/index.php
Redesigning Healthcare for the Ageing Population	20 – 21 May '08	www.igpc.com/au/ageinghealth
Alzheimer Europe Conference	22 - 25 May '08	www.alzheimer-conference2008.org
ACSA NSW & ACT State Conference	11 – 13 June '08	www.agedservices.asn.au
International Dementia Conference	16 – 17 June '08	www.hammond.com.au/dsdc
Alzheimer's & Parkinsons Disease Symposium	21 June '08	www.bmri.org.au
Population Health Congress 2008	7 – 9 July '08	www.populationhealthcongress.org.au
International College of Geriatric Psychoneuropharmacology	3 – 6 September '08	www.icgp.org/mission.html
5th Congress of the European Union Geriatric Medicine Society	3 – 6 September '08	http://eugms2008.org
IFA 9 th Global Conference on Ageing – Montreal, Canada	4 – 7 September '08	www.ageingdesignmontreal.ca
Aust & New Z'land Society for Geriatric Med Scientific Meeting	8-10 September '08	www.asgm.org.au/
HORIBA-APRU Strategies for Aging in Place	8 – 12 September '08	http://gerontology.jp/conference08
National Dementia Research Forum	18 – 19 September '08	www.dementia.unsw.edu.au
ACSA 08 Aged Care in the fast lane	28 Sept – 1 Oct '08	www.agedcare.org.au
Australian and New Zealand Falls Prevention Conference	12 – 14 October '08	www.anzfpconference.com
Emerging Researchers in Ageing Conference	18 November '08	www.cra.curtin.edu.au
Aust Association of Gerontology Conference	19 – 21 November '08	www.aagconference.com
Gerontological Society of America	20 – 24 November '08	www.geron.org
IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics	5 – 9 July '09	www.gerontologyparis2009.com
13th Alzheimer's Australia Conference 2009	2 – 5 June '09	www.alzheimers.org.au

General reminder – Stay in Touch:

To stay in touch with the broad range of ageing-related activities in Australia we encourage you to go to the websites of the Australian Association of Gerontology and the Ageing Research Online. Links to the relevant sections are provided below:

AAG recent news	www.aag.asn.au/recent_news/about_news.htm
AAG national newsletters	www.aag.asn.au/publications/pub_newsletter.htm
ARO newsletters	www.aro.gov.au/newsletters/index.html

That's all for this month!

Matthew Carroll

Matthew Carroll
Program Manager
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