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Email Bulletin – October/November 2006

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a busy month for the Network so we have combined the October and November email bulletins. If you have items that you wish to be included in future bulletins please do not hesitate to forward them to us.

Tribute to Paul B Baltes

Professor Paul Baltes, Director of the Center of Lifespan Psychology at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin, Germany, passed away earlier this month. Paul's work focussed on advancing a lifespan view of human ontogenesis that considers behavioural and cognitive functioning from childhood into old age. The Network's main point of contact with Paul came through the Berlin Aging Study (BASE), which is a multidisciplinary investigation of old people aged 70 to over 100 years in former West Berlin which Paul Co-Chaired. A tribute to Paul's can be found at on the Max Planck Institute for Human Development website (www.mpib-berlin.mpg.de/en/aktuelles/baltes_obituary.html).

International Conference on Healthy Ageing and Longevity

The ICHAL conference, which took place from 13 - 15 October 2006, was attended by approximately 300 delegates and covered a wide range of topics including basic biological processes, interventions and psychosocial predictors of healthy ageing. Network members were strongly represented at the conference with Professors Helen Bartlett, Colette Browning, Julie Byles, Susan Dann, Hal Kendig, John McCallum and Linda Rosenman chairing sessions and other Network members presenting their research findings. Professors Bartlett, Byles, Browning and Kendig were also involved in the final plenary session on the top 10 tips for healthy ageing and longevity, a copy of which will be placed on the conference website (www.longevity-international.com) in due course.

Integrating the biomedical into psychosocial research on ageing

A joint workshop between the Ageing Well Research Network and the International Research Centre for Healthy Ageing and Longevity was held on 16 October 2006. The workshop was an initiative of the Network's Healthy Ageing Theme and Central Hub and brought together 9 international participants attending the ICHAL conference, 11 key Australian researchers from longitudinal studies of ageing and biomedical research in ageing, along with the ICHAL conference convenors, in order to discuss the focus on the two-way relationships between psychosocial and biological factors in healthy ageing and ways in which biological markers and measures can shed light on the changeable aspects of healthy ageing. The workshop focussed on the inclusion of biological materials and imaging in longitudinal research in terms of the potential uses and limitations of different approaches as well as possible research directions. It is envisaged that group will continue to meet in line with future ICHAL conferences and that the local researchers will meet more frequently in order to further the research possibilities. A summary of the workshop will be posted on the Network's website in due course.

Assistive Technologies and IT for managing health and disease in ageing communities - Socio-economic, public health and policy implications:

100 key researchers, policy-makers, IT industry representatives and ageing constituencies attended the above forum in Canberra on 26 October 2006, which was auspiced by the Ageing Well Research Network. The forum was convened by Professors Branko Celler (University of New South Wales) and Marc Budge (Australian National University) and is an outcome of the recent BARC Policy and Practice Colloquium where the need for technological innovations in aged care was identified as a key issue. The forum included an overview of developments in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia and included discussion of the research agenda and possible future directions. A summary of the forum will be posted on the Network's website in due course. Researchers interested in joining the Ageing and Technology Special Interest Group should contact Professor Branko Celler (b.celler@unsw.edu.au).

Legal Discrimination Against Same Sex Couples in Aged Care - Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) Inquiry:

Dr Jo Harrison from the University of South Australia has given evidence to the HREOC Inquiry into Discrimination and Same Sex Relationships regarding aged care and legal issues to do with access to financial and work-related entitlements. A discussion paper and detailed research paper which identifies Commonwealth laws that discriminate against same-sex couples, including in the aged care arena, is available at www.humanrights.gov.au/samesex, along with audio and text of all hearings.

NHMRC Dementia Research Grants Program Workshop – 27 November 2006:

A workshop on Policy Relevance and Methodology for potential applicants for the NHMRC Dementia Research Grants Program will be held in Adelaide on 27 November 2006. The workshop will provide practical advice and support to potential applicants to increase the quality and competitiveness of applications. 90 places are available. A registration form is available at www.nhmrc.gov.au/news/noticeboard/index.htm. Completed registrations should be emailed to senthilmathy.sripathy@nhmrc.gov.au or faxed to (02) 6217 9135 no later than 17 November 2006.

State Hub Activities:

Western Australia - the second symposium for Western Australia was held on Tuesday 3 October 2006. The symposium was attended by a broad range of research, policy and ageing constituencies and focused on the Independent Living and Social Participation (ILSP) Research Theme Area and used the issues and priorities identified at the recent BARC Policy and Practice Colloquium as a starting point to discuss issues and research possibilities. A number of potential research areas were identified and these will be developed further by the State Hub in collaboration with the ILSP Theme. Details of the symposium will be made available on the Network's website in due course.

Queensland – A workshop on “The Research Relationship with Older People: Promoting Good Practice” will be held on Friday 8 December from 8:30 am -12.00 pm. The workshop will include representatives from several key ageing constituencies, policy and research. Workshop participants will be invited to discuss the issues involved in conducting research with older people and identify strategies for promoting good practice. Guidelines will be prepared and finalised by a working group following the workshop and will be made available on the Network's website in due course.

Research Theme Activities:

Independent Living and Social participation – An Intergenerational Relations Research Workshop will be held from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm on Monday 20 November 2006 at the University of Queensland. The workshop will bring together key researchers in intergenerational relations to scope the issues and challenges, identify research strengths and gaps to formulate new questions and prioritise research areas with a view to developing proposals for funding. Professor Sarah Harper, Director of the Oxford Institute of Ageing, will be the guest speaker at the workshop.

Healthy Ageing – the Healthy Ageing Theme, in association with Monash Research for an Ageing Society (MonRAS), hosted a presentation by Professor S. Jay Olshanksy entitled “Human by design” on Thursday 12 October 2006. The presentation looked at the ageing process from an evolutionary and biological perspective and focussed on relatively recent changes in life expectancy and the implications of possible medical advances that would maximise life span. The presentation, attended by 30 researchers and ageing constituencies, was well received and was followed by a very lively discussion.

Preventive Healthcare and Strengthening Australia's Social and Economic Fabric – NHMRC funding announcement:

Professor Sue Richardson, Convenor of the Network's Productivity and Economic Security Theme and State Convenor for South Australia, is Chief Investigator on a project "Changing patterns of work: impacts on physical and mental health and the mediating role of resiliency and social capital" which will provide a detailed understanding of the impact of the changing forms of employment and unemployment on overall health.

In addition, Network Members Associate Professor Emily Banks and Professor Julie Byles are part of the research team lead by Professor Adrian Bauman that has been funded for a project on "Understanding the impact of social, economic and geographic disadvantage on the health of Australians in mid - later life: what are the opportunities for prevention?" that will build on the 45 and Up Study in NSW.

The Network would like to extend its congratulations to the investigators on the successful teams. Further details are available at www7.health.gov.au/nhmrc/funding/funded/outcomes/preventative.htm

Other Ageing-related Research Activities

Professors Len Gray, Mary Luszcz, and Helen Bartlett from the Network are part of a major program of research in the area of transition care to be undertaken by a consortium of universities, service providers and peak organisations over the next 5 years. This program is funded by the NHMRC's Health Services Research Program and is lead by Associate Professor Ian Cameron from the University of Sydney in collaboration with Flinders University and the University of Queensland. The program will explore a range of issues related to the implementation and impact of transition care and service integration models on older people and their carers. The research team would welcome any comments or input from those interested in the important area of Transition Care. Comments can be sent to Mary Luszcz at mary.luszcz@flinders.edu.au

Ageing-related Presentations:

The Eastern Australia Dementia Training Study Centre in Wollongong has been holding a series of guest lectures on dementia and there are two more lectures scheduled for this year. Associate Professor Victoria Traynor, Director of the Centre, will be giving a talk on "*Implementing Person Centred Dementia Care in Acute Settings*" **tomorrow** 16 November 2006 from 2:00 - 3:00 pm in the School of Nursing, Griffith University, Brisbane. The final lecture for the series will be given by Professor Wendy Moyle who will be talking about the "*Management of Disinhibited Sexual Behaviour in People with Dementia*" on 12 December 2006 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm in room 104, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences (Building 41), the University of Wollongong. More information on the lecture series and the Centre is available from Moira Miller on (02) 4221 4776/ 5927 or dementia@uow.edu.au

Australian Fellowship Positions:

The NHMRC is calling for applicants for the Australia Fellowship for Health and Medical Research which is for outstanding health and medical researchers across all disciplines and will consist of a one line budget of \$800,000 per annum for five years. Applications are invited from leading researchers both in Australia and around the world. Successful applicants will have leading international status in their fields and have proposed a research program of major impact and benefit to Australia. Applications for the first round of Australia Fellowships opened on 22 September 2006. Applications close 5.00 pm AEST 8 December 2006. The policy document and guide to applicants for the Australia Fellowship Scheme are available at www.nhmrc.gov.au/fellows/apply/granttype/career/index.htm

International Fellowship Positions:

Postdoctoral and predoctoral fellowship positions in gerontology are also available at the University of Southern California. Tuition, monthly stipends, health insurance and related expenses will be provided to qualified applicants. Postdoctoral trainees must have completed a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent degree. Predoctoral trainees must have been offered admission to their respective department through the University of Southern California Graduate School. More information on the fellowships and how to apply can be obtained from Linda Hall (lindah@usc.edu). Applications are due by 31 December 2006.

Senior Lecturer (Aged and Rehabilitation Care) Position – The University of Wollongong:

The School of Nursing, Midwifery & Indigenous Health is seeking to appoint a dynamic, motivated and qualified individual to the above continuing full time academic position. The successful candidate will build on the School's aged, rehabilitation and dementia care focus, further develop existing postgraduate programs and consolidate undergraduate teaching in these areas. For further information about this role, please go to <http://employment.uow.edu.au> or contact Associate Professor Victoria Traynor on (02) 4221 3471.

Conference Reminders:

The Australian Falls Prevention Conference	5 – 7 November '06	www.powmri.edu.au/AFP2006
The Ageing in New Zealand Conference	13 November '06	www.gerontology.org.nz
Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA) Conference	21 November '06	www.chs.usyd.edu.au/era2006
Australian Association of Gerontology Conference	22 – 24 November '06	www.aagconference2006.com
Carers NSW Conference	8 – 9 March '07	www.carersnsw.asn.au
2007 Alzheimer's Australia National Conference	29 May – 1 June '07	www.alzheimers2007conference.com.au
The 20 th Anniversary Cognitive Ageing Conference	12 – 15 July '07	www.cos.gatech.edu/cac/cac_du.htm

12 conference awards are available to assist current PhD students and recent post-doctoral researchers (≤ 5 -years post PhD) to attend the 20th Anniversary Cognitive Ageing Conference – Down Under (CAC-DU). These awards are valued at \$AUD500 and are sponsored by the Network and the Australian Psychological Society's *Psychology and Ageing Interest Group*. CAC-DU is the premier showcase for research on all aspects of cognitive ageing from normal cognitive changes to frank cognitive impairment. It includes behavioural studies, imaging and work in the field of social cognition. More information on the conference and the application process is available at www.cos.gatech.edu/cac/cac_du.htm

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
ARO newsletters www.aro.gov.au/newsletters/index.html

Central Hub News:

Finally, on a personal note, the Network would like to express its thanks to Maria Sangermano, our Administrative Officer, who is leaving us for greener pastures. Maria will be known to many of you and was instrumental to setting up the Network. We wish her well in her promotion to new position. If you know anybody who might be interested in stepping into Maria's shoes please direct them to go to www.usyd.edu.au/positions and search for position reference USYD/C45/90338.

That's all for this month.

With best wishes,



Matthew Carroll
Senior Project Officer

15 November 2006