



Convened by: The University of Sydney

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e-Mail Bulletin – July 2007

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to send you the July e-mail bulletin on our developments in the last month and plans for the Ageing Well Research Network. 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

Inside this issue (click on the links provided below):

- [Research Theme activities](#) Details of recent and upcoming activities
- [State & Central Hub activities](#) Details of the upcoming Grandparents in Parenting Roles workshop and recipients of Network awards at the recent CAC-DU conference
- [Internet resources](#) Details of the new 'Gerontology Arena' website
- [Scholarship opportunity](#) Details of a scholarship opportunity at the University of Sydney
- [Upcoming symposia](#) Details of upcoming the symposia relating to dementia

Research Theme activities:

Healthy Ageing – The Healthy Ageing Theme sponsored a workshop on longitudinal studies exploring the health of men and women as they age as part of the “Mars and Venus: Does Gender Matter in Ageing?” Special Conference held in Newcastle on 9-10 July 2007. The conference, hosted by the University of Newcastle’s Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing and the Australian Association of Gerontology (NSW Division and Hunter Chapter), was well attended with 85 participants from across the country and overseas. The conference included a series of Network-sponsored plenary addresses, concurrent sessions and a range of workshops on the second day. The Network-sponsored workshop on longitudinal studies was also well attended with 30 participants including the lead investigators from key longitudinal studies in Australia. The Central Hub of the Network was pleased to sponsor the visit by Dr Gita Mishra from the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing, University College London who gave a keynote address at the conference. A summary of the conference will be published in the Medical Journal of Australia and summaries of the conference and the longitudinal workshop and copies of keynote presentations will be made available on the network website in due course.

Mary Luszcz and Dr Cameron Camp convened a network sponsored workshop, Behavioural Interventions for Dementia, in Adelaide on 24 July 2007. The workshop was attended by nine people, from multiple disciplines. The aim of the workshop was to develop a multidisciplinary research collaboration with a view to seeking funding for a multi-site program in the long term. One of the early career researchers in attendance has expressed an interest in pursuing this as a PhD topic. As an outcome of this workshop, an idea for a potential pilot project in which persons with early stage dementia were trained to serve as volunteers to lead Montessori-based activity groups for persons with more advanced dementia is being assessed.

Independent Living and Social Participation – Helen Bartlett, ILSP Theme Convenor and Director of the Australasian Centre on Ageing (ACA) at the University of Queensland, will be convening a breakfast colloquium and workshop on *Legal Issues and Ageing in Australia* at Customs House on Wednesday **29 August 2007**. The day will be sponsored by ILSP Theme, the Queensland Public Trustee and the National Seniors Association. Prof Carolyn Sappideen (University of Western Sydney), A/Prof Cameron Stewart (Faculty of Law, Macquarie University), Prof Jill Wilson (Social Work & Applied Human Services,

University of Queensland), and Ms Sue Field (Public Trustee of NSW Fellow in Elder Law, University of Western Sydney), will speak at the breakfast colloquium on substitute decision-making, elder abuse and access to legal services. The purpose of the subsequent ILSP Theme workshop is to generate a research agenda on Legal Issues and Ageing in Australia, and a number of academics from both gerontology and law have been invited to attend. The workshop will include presentations by Scott McDougall (Caxton Legal Centre), Brian Herd (Carne Reidy Herd Lawyers), and Prof Jeff Giddings (Griffith University School of Law). The breakfast colloquium runs from 7.15am - 9.30am, and is open to all interested people. Registration for the breakfast colloquium is \$35.00, which includes breakfast, and bookings can be made via the website, <http://www.uq.edu.au/cfha/>

Independent Living and Social Participation and Healthy Ageing – following on from the research workshop on *Food and Independent Living for Later Life* that was held in Brisbane on the 26 June 2007, Dr Susan Feldman co-ordinated a teleconference between some of the participants from the workshop and Dr Gita Mishra from the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing, University College London. Dr Mishra provided valuable feedback and insights on the three projects which were developed in the workshop. In particular, Dr Mishra highlighted the opportunities for comparative studies with data that is available in the UK on nutrition and ageing.

Productivity and Economic Security – Sue Richardson, convenor of the PES Theme, will be chairing a panel session to identify and discuss the big questions about workforce ageing, at the 38th Australian Conference of Economics (ACE07) in Hobart from **24-26 September 2007** (for details on the conference see www.cdesign.com.au/ace07/). The PES is offering 2 conference attendance and travel grants for PhD students and early career researchers attending the ACE07 conference. If you would like to apply for a grant, please refer to the application guidelines and template available at www.ageingwell.edu.au/links_resources_2.htm

The PES also convened a forum in Sydney on 12 July 2007 on “Australia’s Demographic Challenges” as part of the Australian Social Policy Conference. The forum discussed the recently released Intergenerational Report II and included a panel session of key speakers including Phil Gallagher, Senior Executive Manager, Retirement and Income Modelling Unit, Commonwealth Treasury. A summary of the session will be made available on at www.ageingwell.edu.au/links_resources_2.htm shortly.

The PES Theme has also released an invitation for Network Participants to apply for funding for a Network supported Research Workshop (maximum of \$5,000) or a New Collaboration grant (maximum of \$20,000). The fundamental purpose of these grants is to make it possible for researchers from different disciplines and different locales to meet in order to generate multidisciplinary, ambitious research proposals. More information on these two programs will be provided in the “News” section of the Ageing Well website (www.ageingwell.edu.au/news_start.htm) shortly. Questions regarding the programs should be directed to Anna Lane on (08) 8201 22477 or anna.lane@flinders.edu.au.

State and Central hub activities:

Central – the Ageing Well Network and the ARC/NHMRC/ARACY Research Network: Future Generation are convening a workshop on *Grandparents in Parenting Roles* on **16 August 2007** from 3:00-5:00pm (AEST). The workshop will be run in parallel sessions across the county using Access Grid video link technology. This free workshop will include presentations on the issues to do with Grandparents in Parenting Roles from a range of perspectives. Bettina Cass (UNSW), Vicki Rundle (FaCSIA) and Lisa Langley (COTA (NSW)) will provide an overview of the area. The presentations will be followed by a discussion session aimed at targeting the key issues and research priorities in this area with a view to developing potential research projects and identifying people interested in taking these projects forward. This represents an ideal opportunity for members of both Research Networks to identify shared intergenerational research priorities. To register please email annad@aracy.org.au. For more information on Access Grid workshops see www.aracy.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Access_Grid_FAQs.

South Australia - Mary Luszcz and the Central Hub were pleased to award conference attendance prizes to the following early career researchers at the 20th Anniversary Cognitive Ageing Conference Down Under, Adelaide, 12-15 July.

Chandramallimka Basak	University of Illinois USA	Can older adults benefit from videogame training? Relationship among cognition, game performance & brain structure
Ilana Bennett	Georgetown University USA	Reading ability and implicit learning in healthy older adults
Julie Griffin	Cardiff University UK	Selective attention deficits in mild Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease: Stimulus selection or distraction?
Ellen Hogan	Washington University USA	Age differences in output monitoring performance: The role of perexposure to targets
Rui Mata	University of Michigan USA	Cognitive aging and adaptive strategy selection
Nathan Rose	Washington University USA	Perspective memory in a virtual week
Lesley Ross	University of Alabama USA	Speed processing training: How much is enough?
Melanie Zeintl	University of Zurich Switzerland	The role of proactive interference & verbal distractors in age-related performance in a recognition-based operation span task

Internet Resources:

Gerontology Arena – publishers Taylor and Frances have recently set up a new website, 'The Gerontology Arena' at www.gerontologyarena.com, detailing all of their academic books and journals in the subject area of Gerontology, Ageing and Dementia.

Scholarship Opportunity:

Postgraduate Scholarship in Healthcare Services for Older People – University of Sydney

Available for candidates with an Honours degree, or equivalent, in health related discipline to undertake research studies leading to a PhD in Healthcare Services for Older People. The project will investigate the effectiveness of transition care services for older people and is part of a NHMRC Program Grant in health services titled *Transition Care: Innovation and Evidence* (TIE). \$22,000 pa is available for up to 3 years and applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents or NZ citizens. The closing date for applications is **3 September 2007**. For more information contact Professor Ian Cameron on ianc@mail.usyd.edu.au or go to www.usyd.edu.au/ro/training/index.shtml (select 'Current research scholarships' and search under Research Scholarships in "Show Me" and by title in "Optional Keywords").

Upcoming Conferences and symposia:

Abuse of Older People Seminars: The Australian Association of Gerontology (NSW Division) and Aged & Community Services Association NSW & ACT are hosting two seminars on the Abuse of Older People. A seminar will be held on **10 August 2007 in Wollongong** from 9:00am to 4:00pm on at the Education Centre – Auditorium, Block C, Wollongong Hospital, Crown Street, Wollongong. The seminar will also be held on **31 August 2007 in Sydney** from 9:00am to 10:00pm in the Clinical Science Building, Concord Hospital, Hospital Road, Concord. The symposium will address the compulsory reporting requirements in residential aged care for sexual and physical assault, and educational strategies for staff. The seminar will also provide an understanding of how to recognise and respond to abuse and will make this an invaluable day for anyone working with older people. For more information or to register please contact annat@agedservices.asn.au

Reminder - The Dementia Collaborative Research Centres will be offering their first National **The HISA Aged Care Informatics Workshop** will be held in Brisbane on **Monday 20 August** as part of the International Medical Informatics Conference (Medinfo 2007). Keynote speakers at the workshop include Eric Dishman, Chair of CAST and Steve Outtrim (founder of Sausage Software). Registration for just the one-day workshop is possible. For details go to www.medinfo2007.org

The next Eastern Australia Dementia Training and Study Centre (EADTSC) Guest Lecture will take place on **22 August 2007**. Professor Rhonda Nay, Director, Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care, La Trobe University, will present a lecture on "Should people with dementia receive acute hospital care when resources are already stretched to the limit". The lecture will be held in the Auditorium, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Wollongong from 4:15-5:30pm. Details of lectures for the rest of 2007 can be found at <http://dementia.uow.edu.au/events.html>

Dementia Research Forum in Sydney from **17-18 September 2007**. This unique conference will bring together researchers, clinicians, service providers and consumers. The guest speaker, Professor Ken Rockwood, is one of the foremost researchers and clinicians in the world and is being sponsored by Alzheimer's Australia. Other plenary speakers include Professor Jenny Abbey, Professor Henry Brodaty and Professor Marc Budge. For a copy of the program and registration go to www.dementia.unsw.edu.au/DCRCweb.nsf/page/Forumu

The Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care (ACEBAC) 2007 Conference will be held at La Trobe University from **26 – 28 September 2007**. This conference will bring together experts to focus on identifying and developing issues and guidelines for quality improvements in relation to the care of older Australians specifically and older people in society generally. Keynote speakers are: Professor Mike Nolan – Professor of Gerontological Nursing, The University of Sheffield, UK; Associate Professor Stephen Hall – Rheumatologist, Cabrini Medical Centre; Professor Joseph Ibrahim – Director of Aged Care Medicine, Peninsula Health. For all information in relation to the conference and the program, please visit go to www.scs hosting.com.au/acebac/

The ACT Intergenerational Forum: Ageing in the 21st Century will be held at the Canberra Southern Cross Club on **30 October 2007** from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. It is being organised by the ACT Student Branch of the Australian Association of Gerontology and has the support of the ACT Office for Ageing, Connecting the Over 50s Throughout Australia (COTA), National Seniors and the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing (MACA). The forum will include: research presentations from PhD students at Canberra universities; a keynote address from Dr Clive Hamilton (Director of the Australia Institute); and two public discussion forums on ageing issues. For more information go to <http://actintergenerationalforum.org/outline.html>

Conference reminders:

Dementia Research Forum	17 – 18 September '07	www.dementia.unsw.edu.au
Regional Congress of Gerontology & Geriatrics	22 – 25 October '07	www.aog2007.org
ACT Intergenerational Forum	30 October '07	http://actintergenerationalforum.org/
APS Psychology and Ageing Interest Group	1 – 3 November '07	www.groups.psychology.org.au
Geriation National Conference	11 – 12 November '07	www.geriation.com.au/conference
New Zealand Association of Gerontology Conference	12 – 16 November '07	www.gerontology.org.nz
6 th Emerging Researchers in Australia (ERA) Conference	20 November '07	www.ageingwell.edu.au/era2007/
The 40 th National Aust. Association of Gerontology Conference	21 – 23 November '07	www.aagconference.com
World Congress of Health Professions	March '08	www.worldhealthcongress.org/
IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics	5 – 9 July '09	www.gerontologyparis2009.com

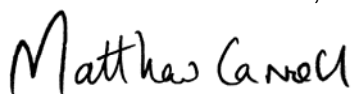
General reminder – Stay in Touch:

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/aro/NewsletterFiles/ARO%20Newsletter%20June%202007.pdf

Network News:

That's all for last month,



Matthew Carroll
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8 August 2007