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e-Mail Bulletin – November-December 2007

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to send you the November-December e-mail bulletin on our developments in the last 2 months 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 Population Research Strategies Theme activities
- [State & Central Hub Activities](#) Details of ASSA Workshop held jointly with the AAG
- [ERA Initiative](#) Follow-up from the recent Emerging Researchers in Ageing Conference and details of the 2008 Masterclass on 27-28 March
- [AAG Conference Update](#) Follow-up from the recent AAG National Conference
- [IAGG Paris 2009](#) Details of the call for submissions to the IAGG Paris 2009 conferences
- [Publications in Ageing](#) Call for papers to be submitted to the AJA plus details of recent publications
- [Research Opportunity](#) Details of a PhD scholarships &/or PhD Top-ups on at UQ
- [Research Funding](#) Details of the NHMRC Tracker service
- [Upcoming Conferences](#) Details of upcoming conferences and symposia

Research Theme activities:

Population Research Strategies – Judith Healy from the ANU has stepped down as the Convenor of the PRS Theme. We would like to thank Judith for her efforts over the last 2 years and look forward to her ongoing collaboration with the Network. Kaarin Anstey, also from the ANU, has agreed to step up from PRS Co-Convenor to become the new Convenor and to continue working with the Network to run methodological workshops and lead efforts to facilitate the development and use of longitudinal datasets.

The PRS Theme hosted a workshop on Household Modelling on 6 December 2007 at The Australian National University, led by Professor Zeng Yi (Duke University and Peking University) and Dr Zhenglian Wang (Duke University). The aims of the workshop were to provide training in the macrosimulation modelling of households with particular reference to households with elderly members and the availability of informal carers in the household. Participants were introduced to the concepts and methods and given hands-on training in the use of the specialist ProFamy software (which was developed by the workshop leaders). The workshop was attended by 15 people from the University of Sydney, Curtin University, The Australian National University, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

State and Central hub activities:

ASSA Workshop – The Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) and the Network co-sponsored an Academy of Social Sciences (ASSA) Workshop which was hosted by the Centre for Mental Health Research at the ANU on 5-6 December 2007. The workshop on “Theoretical, Empirical and Policy Inputs to Modelling Healthy Ageing” brought together 19 researchers and policy makers including investigators from a number of the recently funded “Ageing Well, Ageing Productively” projects.

The first day included a keynote by the AAG Gary Andrews Travelling Fellow Dr Karen Ritchie and presentations on the political economy, gene and environment risk factor interactions, and indigenous ageing. The second day of the workshop focused on discussion on extending the research paradigm and challenges and aspirations for the future. Copies of the background papers and presentations are available on the Network website at http://www.ageingwell.edu.au/links_resources_3.htm and a report on the workshop is being prepared and will be made available shortly.

Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA) Initiative

2007 Conference Update - The 6th national conference for Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA) was held in Adelaide on 20 November 2007. ERA 2007 was co-sponsored by Network, the Department of Health and Ageing, the University of Queensland and the Adelaide University's Healthy Ageing Research Cluster. Entitled "Defining Future Directions", this annual conference aimed at providing post-graduate students and emerging researchers with a forum for presenting new and innovative research in ageing. The program provided a diverse range on interest areas in ageing research including: cognition and ageing, elder abuse, palliative care, the ageing economy, physical activity and men and ageing. Two of the highlights this year included the key-note speaker Professor Julianne Cheek who challenged our thinking about 'what is old age' and the panel presentation on 'After the PhD', which fostered a lot of discussion.

The ERA conference increasingly attracts a wide forum of attendees, including academics, post-graduate students, emerging researchers, policy makers and service providers. This is the first year that the ERA conference has been held away from the east coast of Australia and it was pleasing to see over 80 participants attending from areas of Australia as well as some international participants from New Zealand, Indonesia, Thailand and Germany. In November 2008 ERA will be held in Fremantle, Perth. Information on the ERA 2007 conference is available at www.ageingwell.edu.au/era2007/ and information on the 2008 conference will be loaded when available.

ERA 2008 Masterclass - Applications are now open for the 2008 Emerging Researchers in Ageing Masterclass. The Masterclass will be held at the University of Queensland St Lucia Campus on Thursday and Friday **27-28 March 2008**, and confirmed PhD students whose research is in the field of ageing are invited to apply. The two-day program will include sessions with leading academics in the field of ageing from Australia and overseas. Sessions will focus on practical and methodological considerations for PhD students conducting research into ageing, as well as career development options and pathways, how to fund your research, how to promote your research in the media and how to publish your research in the ageing literature. The second day will commence with a networking breakfast which will feature a panel discussion with senior policy makers and leading academics in the field. The Masterclass will culminate with presentations of collaborative projects to be developed by student groups across the two days. A prize will be awarded for the best presentation.

The program is designed to maximise PhD students' opportunities to increase their research knowledge and skills, to develop greater understanding of the career pathways available in ageing research post-PhD (and provide useful information about how to access those career pathways), and to network with other emerging and established researchers in the field. There will be no attendance fee for successful applicants, and those who live more than 100 kms from the University of Queensland will be provided with bursaries to cover the cost of flights (where applicable) and accommodation. To submit your application for please complete the form online at www.uq.edu.au/aca/index.html?page=74239&pid=0. The **deadline** for applications is **Friday 18 January 2008**.

Australian Association of Gerontology Update

The 40th National AAG Conference was held in Adelaide from 21-23 November 2007. The theme of the conference was 'BeyOND 2007 Ageing: Evolution and Revolution.' The conference was very well attended with a wide range of topics across the 6 topic areas of place, people, practice, profession, policy and research. Highlights of the conference included the plenary presentations by Karen Ritchie, Graeme Hugo, and Sol Encel. Indigenous health was a key issue with the plenary session by Marj Tripp, the panel session on "Cultural Respect and Cultural Competence in Indigenous Aged Care" and a meeting of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders Ageing Committee.

The Network was well represented at the conference with the “Future Directions in Ageing Research – Showcasing the Successful AWAP Projects” session chaired by Mary Luszcz (SA Co-Convenor) along with the Network-sponsored closing address on “End of Life Issues: An International Perspective” by Colleen Cartwright. Copies of the presentations from the AWAP session and Colleen Cartwright’s closing address are available at www.ageingwell.edu.au/links_resources_3.htm

The 41st National AAG Conference will be held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle, Western Australia from **19-21 November 2008**. The theme of the 2008 conference will be Ageing Landscapes. The call for abstracts opens on 1 February 2008 and closes on 5 May 2008. For more information go to www.aagconference.com

The 19th IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics – call for submissions opens soon

The next World Congress will take place in Paris from 5-9 July 2009. The call for abstracts is expected to open in January and we encourage you to consider submitting abstracts for papers and/or symposia. Hal suggests that international collaborations are highly valued by the conference organisers so if you are considering submitting a proposal for a symposia your chances of having it accepted may be improved if there is no more than one paper from any country, including Australia. For more information please go to www.gerontologyparis2009.com/site/view8.php

Publications in ageing:

Call for papers to be submitted in the Australasian Journal on Ageing (AJA) – The AJA is the journal of the Australian Association of Gerontology, Australian Council on the Ageing, Aged and Community Services Australia, and Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine. It is a multi-disciplinary peer reviewed journal and the region's premier journal on ageing. The journal provides current evidence on priority issues in ageing related to Australia and New Zealand and increasingly to the Asia Pacific region. AJA publishes original work in any area of gerontology and geriatric medicine drawing out relevance for policy and practice to inform readers from a wide range of disciplines and professions. The Editors would like to encourage you to submit high quality methodologically rigorous papers to AJA. Currently we receive mainly full length (up to 3000 word) Research Articles, but have other categories including Brief Reports (up to 1500 words) and Reviews (up to 3000 words). Another important category is Innovations in Aged Care (up to 3000 words) which describe and evaluate an innovation and must be evidence based. The main page providing information about the journal is on the Blackwell website on www.blackwellpublishing.com/aja. AJA manuscripts are now submitted electronically through Manuscript Central. The key site for authors wanting to submit a manuscript is <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/aja>

Older Australians at a Glance - The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released the 4th edition of Older Australians at a Glance. This edition provides insights into the diversity of the older population of Australia, where they are living, what they are doing, how healthy they are and the services they are using. A copy of the media release and report is available at www.aihw.gov.au/publications/age/oag04/oag04.pdf

Challenges in health and health care for Australia – this report by Armstrong et al. was one of a series of papers relating to the recent Federal Election. The report argues that our health system is stretched by an ageing population, the growing burden of chronic illness, and the increasingly outmoded organisation of our health services. The report focuses on inequalities in health and the need for health care reform. A PDF of the article is available at www.mja.com.au/public/issues/187_09_051107/arm11047_fm.pdf

The coming crisis of Medicare: What the Intergenerational Reports should say, but don't, about health and ageing – This Centre for Independent Studies policy monograph by Jeremy Sammut outlines the combined impact of demographic trends toward ageing and the increasing costs of new high-tech medical technology on healthcare supply and demand in the future. A PDF of the monograph is available at http://www.cis.org.au/policy_monographs/pm79.pdf

Research Opportunities:

University of Queensland PhD Scholarship and/or PhD Top-Up Scholarship on Research in Dementia Care – UQ are seeking a PhD student to join a research group investigating ways to enhance the transition from home to residential care for people with dementia. The program of research will develop, implement and evaluate a new model of care that promotes a better transition to residential aged care facilities (RACF) for people with dementia, with the aim of improving their quality of life and decreasing the severity of caregiver burden. The successful applicant will investigate the effects of training programs focusing on learning/retention of functional information and/or facilitating communicative skills in people with dementia. The project is funded by the J.O. and J.R. Wicking Trust and involves a multidisciplinary and multi-institutional approach to research-in-action, policy development and innovative care models. The project rests on strong collaborative links among the researchers, the aged care sector, people with dementia and their caregivers.

Applicants should have a background in health sciences, psychology or a related field and should possess an Honours degree (Honours Class 1 or Class 2A). A 3-year scholarship (with possible 6 month extension) is available for UQ students. The tax-free stipend is valued at \$23,000 per annum. A top-up PhD scholarship is also available for applicants with an APA (or similar scholarship). This person will receive a tax-free stipend of \$5,000 per annum in addition to their APA for three years, with a possible 6 month extension. To discuss the role and obtain the details necessary to complete an application, please contact Professor Helen Chenery on h.chenery@uq.edu.au or telephone 07 3346 4679. Applications **close 11 January 2008** (Reference Number: HC 2007). Send applications to Professor Helen Chenery using the email above.

PhD Scholarship and PhD top-up Scholarship on Research in Alzheimer's Disease and Cognitive Ageing – UQ are seeking highly motivated PhD students to join a research group within the School of Medicine investigating clinical aspects of Alzheimer's disease and cognitive ageing. The positions are based at the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital. The successful applicants will have the opportunity to participate in one of several clinically-focused projects, including an NHMRC-funded project investigating factors associated with cognitive ageing in older women and an RBWH Research Foundation-funded project investigating predictors of behavioural and psychological symptoms in Alzheimer's disease.

Applicants should have a background in medicine, psychology, occupational therapy, clinical neuroscience, or a related field, and should possess a first class Honours degree or equivalent evidence of academic excellence and research potential. These scholarships are available for students of the University of Queensland. The full scholarship is for three years, contingent upon satisfactory progress, with a possible 6-month extension. The tax-free stipend is valued at \$25,000 per annum. In addition, a top-up PhD scholarship is available for applicants with an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) or similar scholarship. The top-up scholarship is a tax-free stipend of \$7,500 per annum for three years, with a possible 6-month extension. These scholarships are funded with the assistance of generous benefactors. To discuss these research opportunities, please contact Associate Professor Gerard Byrne on gerard.byrne@uq.edu.au or telephone 07 3365 5148. The closing date for applications is **25 January 2008**.

Research funding:

NHMRC Tracker – The NHMRC Tracker is a fortnightly bulletin that keeps you up-to-date with the National Health and Medical Research Council's major activities and announcements. To subscribe to the tracker go to <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/site/subscribe.htm>. The latest edition of the tracker includes the following topics:

- 2009 timetable for NHMRC research grants and awards
- Redesign of NHMRC Grants Schemes
- NHMRC revamps Statistics Portal

Upcoming Conferences and Symposia:

The AARP Community 50+ Asia: Building the Future Together Conference will take place in Hawaii from **23-25 January 2008**. The Conference will bring together NGOs and partners concerned about a rapidly ageing Asia at the Ihilani Resort and Conference Center outside Honolulu to share strategies and practices for creating environments in which effective service, advocacy, and membership organisations for older citizens can be built and sustained. **Registration deadline is December 15, 2007**. Visit the conference website for more details: www.aarp.org/community50plus

IQPC's Ageing Population Policy & Planning Conference will take place at the Hotel Realm in Canberra from **19-20 February 2008** (with a pre-conference workshop on 18 February). The conference will explore the impact of the ageing baby boomer generation on Australian society. It is specifically designed for policy professionals committed to implementing ageing population policies which meet the needs of our ageing society. Early bird registration closes 22 December 2007. For more information or to register go to www.iqpc.com/au/ageingpopulationsummit

The AAG (NSW Division) Annual Regional Conference - Getting on with Life: Rehabilitation and chronic illness in old age will be held in the Function Centre at the University of Wollongong on **1-2 April 2008**. The conference is being run in collaboration with the Eastern Australia Dementia Training Study Centre and the Centre for Health Service Development at the University of Wollongong. **The call for abstracts closes on 16 January 2008**. Abstracts should be submitted to info@eastcoastconferences.com.au. For more information please call 02 6650 9800.

The 2008 ACSA National Community Care Conference will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre from **14-16 May 2008**. The Conference theme will be "Community Care: Magic & Myths: The reality and the potential". The conference registration brochure will be available in January 2008 at www.agedcare.org.au

IQPC's Redesigning Healthcare for the Ageing Population will take place at the Mercure Hotel in Brisbane from **20-21 May 2008** with pre and post-conference workshops. The conference will focus on how the healthcare industry can prepare for a large influx of elderly patients. For more information or to register go to www.iqpc.com/au/ageinghealth

The Annual Scientific Meeting of the International College of Geriatric Psychoneuropharmacology will be held at the UNSW Scientia Convention Centre from **3-6 September 2008**. Proposals for panels are due by 14 March 2008 with abstract submissions due by 2 June 2008 for the panel sessions and by 16 June 2008 for the posters. More information is available at www.icgp.org or by sending an email to icgp2008@unsw.edu.au

The 2008 National Dementia Research Forum will be held at the Sydney Masonic Centre on **18-19 September 2008**. This Forum will bring together researchers, service providers, policy makers and consumers in a series of plenaries, workshops, poster sessions, debates and more. A call for posters will go out in March and close in May. For updates, please go to www.dementia.unsw.edu.au

Conference reminders:

AARP Community 50+ Asia	23 – January '08	www.aarp.org/community50plus
Ageing Population Policy & Planning Conference	19 – 20 February '08	www.iqpc.com/au/ageingpopulationsummit
International Conference on Aging, Disability & Independence	20 – 23 February '08	www.icadi.php.ufl.edu
6 th World Congress on The Aging Male	21 24 February '08	www.kenes.com/aging-congress
World Congress of Health Professions	March '08	www.worldhealthcongress.org/
AAG (NSW) Getting on with Life	1 – 2 April '08	www.aag.asn.au
ACSA National Community Care Conference	14 – 16 May '08	www.agedcare.org.au
Redesigning Healthcare for the Ageing Population	20 – 21 May '08	www.iqpc.com/au/ageinghealth
International College of Geriatric Psychoneuropharmacology	3 – 6 September '08	www.icgp.org/mission.html
7 th Annual Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA) Conference	18 November '08	www.ageingwell.edu.au
41st National Aust Assoc of Gerontology Conference	19-21 November '08	www.aagconference.com
National Dementia Research Forum	18 – 19 September '08	www.dementia.unsw.edu.au
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

Network Operations:

We are pleased to announce that Donna McDaniel is the Network's new Office Manager. Please join us in welcoming Donna to the Network.

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

In addition to the above newsletters within Australia, there are many international newsletters that you may be interested in receiving. Links to the “Aging and Health” newsletter from the National Bureau of Economic Research in the US and the e-News from the International Federation on Ageing are provided below:

Aging and Health www.nber.org/subscribe.html#aginghealth
IFA e-News <http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1101901198311>

Best wishes for the festive season:

Finally, we would like to thank you all for working with us over the last year and wish you a very happy festive season. We look forward to coming back next year refreshed and ready to go.

That's all for the year!



Matthew Carroll
Program Manager
17 December 2007