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Email Bulletin 1 – June 2006

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to send you this first email bulletin on our developments and plans for the Ageing Well Research Network. We are aiming to send out this regular alert to members on a monthly basis so if you have items that you wish to be included please do not hesitate to forward them to us.

Tribute to Gary Andrews:

We wish to acknowledge the very significant contribution that Professor Gary Andrews made to the development of ageing research in Australia, including our Research Network. He was an inspirational leader who was critical in keeping us closely connected with developments in the rest of the world. We understand that the next Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) newsletter will have tributes to Gary (including one from Hal Kendig, Network Convenor). Tributes to Gary can also be found on the AAG website (<http://www.aag.asn.au>) and on that for the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (<http://www.iaagg.com.br>).

State Hub Activities:

A very successful symposium was held in Brisbane on 27 April 2006 with around 80 researchers, service providers, and consumer and government representatives in attendance. The 30 presentations on the day covered a wide range of ageing related research topics including aged and community care, active ageing, cognition, cross-cultural issues, financial and workforce issues, education and technology, the built environment, injury prevention and biomolecular approaches. A summary of the proceedings is being prepared and will be available on our website in due course along with a summary of the feedback on the event provided by the participants.

Planning is underway for a Victorian State Hub event on 17 August 2006 from 1.00 - 4.30 PM. The forum will focus on "Enabling Access and Independence - Translating Ageing Research Evidence to Practice and Policy". Details on the event will be provided closer to the time. In the meantime, if you are a Victorian member interested in being involved please contact the Victorian State Convenor, Professor Colette Browning (colette.browning@med.monash.edu.au).

In addition, a State event is planned for Western Australia later in the year and members will be advised once the details are determined.

Building Ageing Research Colloquium:

The Building Ageing Research Capacity (BARC) "Policy and Practice on Ageing: Informed by Evidence" Colloquium is being convened on 4 - 5 July 2006 in Canberra. The national policy colloquium is being presented by the Australian Government – including Health and Ageing and other key departments – as well as our Research Network. On the second day of the colloquium, sessions are planned on four Strategic Priority Areas as well as the four Theme Areas of the Ageing Well Research Network. This will provide an outstanding opportunity for key researchers, policymakers and care providers to lay out the issues and options for action which the Network can use to move ahead in collaboration with other key organisations. Summaries of the proceedings will be placed on the Network website (www.ageingwell.edu.au) and we plan to take the directions identified at the colloquium further in state and national meetings.

Workshop on 'Multivariate analysis of change in longitudinal studies:

The Network, together with the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA), is sponsoring a workshop presented by Associate Professor Scott Hofer and Dr Lesa Hoffman from the Pennsylvania State University. The five-day workshop for 30 participants, from 10 – 14 July 2006, will be held at the Australian National University. The workshop will provide an overview of current statistical approaches to the analysis of longitudinal data. The presenters are international experts in this area and are experienced in running workshops.

Because of the high demand and limited places available participation was limited to Network Participants or their delegates and priority was determined on the basis of level of involvement in longitudinal research facilitated by the Network using data lodged with the Ageing Well Data Archive. All places have been filled with Participants coming from across the country. Discussions are currently underway to offer the course, or a derivative of it, in future years.

Postgraduate Student Scholarship Opportunity – University of Queensland:

An outstanding opportunity exists for a PhD or MPhil student to become part of a team conducting a study examining the effect of animal assisted therapy on persons with Alzheimer's Disease. The study is located at the University of Queensland and is jointly managed by the Centre for Companion Animal Health and the Australasian Centre on Ageing.

The successful applicant will need to have a keen interest in older adults and demonstrate excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Expertise in the management and welfare of dogs is also essential, as is a willingness to house and assist in the training of a therapy dog.

The successful applicant will be an experienced researcher with the ability to work autonomously and as part of a team; the willingness to learn new techniques; data entry proficiency and well developed organisational skills. They are seeking a committed person who is a self-starter with a demonstrated ability to bring projects to successful completion.

A generous stipend will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

Please supply an expression of interest in the first instance with a current curriculum vitae to Dr Deirdre McLaughlin at deirdre.mclaughlin@uq.edu.au.

International Journal in Health and Ageing Management:

A new on-line International Journal of Health and Ageing Management has been established by Academic Global Publications. The website for the journal is at <http://www.academicglobalpublications.com/ijham/index.htm>.

The aim of journal is to disseminate knowledge generated by academics, practitioners and researchers regarding management issues related to health, healthcare, ageing and aged care at societal, organizational and individual levels.

Ageing Well Research Network members are encouraged submit papers for publication. The journal is listed on the Commonwealth of Australia Department of Education, Science & Training (DEST) Register of Refereed Journals. If you have any questions regarding the on-line journal please contact Associate Professor Shankar Sankaran (shankar.sankaran@scu.edu.au).

Ageing related publications:

Congratulations to Network Associate Member Dr Heather Booth from the Australian National University who, along with Associate Professor Leonie Tickle from Macquarie University, won the Institute of Actuaries of Australia 2005 H.M. Jackson Prize for Excellence in Published Papers. A copy of the paper can be found at <http://demography.anu.edu.au/Publications/WorkingPapers/92.pdf>

Academy of the Social Sciences - Call for Workshop Proposals:

The workshop program of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia funds several workshops each year. They are calling for proposals for workshops commencing in 2007 and to be completed no later than 2008. Network members have been funded to present ageing-related workshops in previous years and members are encouraged to consider applying for funding in the current round.

Successful applicants will need to focus on addressing significant issues and ideas in the social sciences. ASSA Workshops are interdisciplinary and participants should be drawn from a range of social science disciplines.

Further details on the Workshop Program are available at <http://www.assa.edu.au/Workshop/call.htm>. Applicants should refer to the Academy Workshop Guidelines when preparing an application. These are available at <http://www.assa.edu.au/Workshop/guidelines.pdf>

Deadline: Proposals must reach the Secretariat by COB Friday 11 August 2006. The Workshop Committee will meet in October 2006 to consider proposals and applicants will be informed of the outcome soon after.

Upcoming Conferences:

The 3rd International Conference on Healthy Ageing and Longevity will be held at the Melbourne Convention Centre, Australia, 13 - 15 October 2006.

The primary aim of the Conference is to stimulate discussion, debate, collaboration and the exchange of ideas to create fertile ground for forward thinking and decision making as the baby-boom generation progresses through the age structure.

More information about the conference can be found at www.longevity-international.com.

The Australian Falls Prevention Conference will be held at the Sofitel Hotel in Brisbane from 5 - 7 November 2006. The conference will address the important issue of falls in older people. An information flyer is available at: <http://www.powmri.edu.au/AFP2006/announcement%20flyer.pdf>. **Note - the call for abstracts closes on 30 June 2006.**

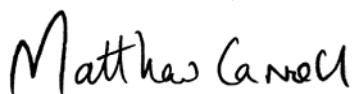
The Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA) Conference will be held at Darling Harbour, Sydney on 21 November 2006. The Conference is being organised by the University of Sydney, in association with the University of Queensland. Network Members are encouraged to visit the website for the Conference (www.chs.usyd.edu.au/era2006) and to pass on news of the event to Doctoral students and other colleagues. This is a great opportunity for Doctoral students to present their work and for academics and policymakers to hear directly from the up-and-coming generation of ageing-related researchers. **Note - the call for abstracts closes on 30 June 2006.**

If you would like further information or if you have any queries, please send an e-mail to era2006@chs.usyd.edu.au.

The 39th National Conference of the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) will be held at the Wesley Conference Centre in Sydney from 22 – 24 November 2006. The theme of this years conference will be "Diversity in Health", focussing on cultural, gender, health, and social diversity. More information about the conference can be found at www.aagconference2006.com.

That's all for this month.

With best wishes,



Matthew Carroll
Senior Project Officer

21 June 2006