

UK Age Research Forum Newsletter

Third edition

July 2008

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Showcase day

The UKARF showcase day will be held on 2nd October 2008. Full information is adjacent.

Portfolio analysis

Stage one of this project has begun. All Members will have received a questionnaire on Age Research within their organisation. Completed questionnaires should be returned to the Programme Manager by 7th July. Many thanks to those of you who have already responded. If there are any queries please contact the Programme Manager for assistance.

Dementia

Next meeting: 10th July

The Department of Health England has released a Dementia consultation paper for the development of a National Dementia Strategy. The UKARF Dementia group will be reviewing this consultation with the intention of producing a combined UKARF response to highlight the importance of research into Dementia.

Welcome!

This third edition of the UKARF Newsletter provides information on recent progress and looks forward to upcoming events and projects. We encourage all members to submit points of interest to the Programme Manager to be featured in the quarterly newsletter, and/or the website.

UKARF News

Showcasing Age Research: Co-ordinating for the future

The UKARF Showcase day is due to take place on **2nd October 2008** at the **Royal College of Physicians**, Regent's Park, London.

This event will be a unique opportunity to highlight the work of Forum members to the wider community. Full programme and registration details will appear on the website shortly.

Lifelong Health and Wellbeing Initiative

The Research Councils are providing the opportunity for UKARF Members to become involved in the Lifelong Health and Wellbeing Initiative. This provides an opportunity for a joint UKARF venture to have input on a major multi-disciplinary project. Preliminary engagement was discussed at a workshop on the 23rd June held at the MRC head offices. Members interested in participating will remain informed as this project progresses.

Workshop and conference dates:

- ◆ **OPAN/SPARC Annual Conference** 23rd July 2008, Swansea
A focus on ageing research in Wales. For further information, see page 3
- ◆ **Healthy Indoor Environments for an Ageing Population.** 23rd October 2008, London.
A One-Day Conference Organised by the UK Indoor Environments Group. Further information appears on page 4

If you have an event to be publicised in future newsletters, please [email](#) the Programme Manager

Members' News:

CARDI Ageing Research Website launched

This site houses the latest information, news and events on ageing research in Ireland (North and South). You will also be able to access a database of researchers and research centres, their interests and present research projects. It also provides online access to over 500 research publications and information on funding opportunities.

The Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland (CARDI) which been established to provide a mechanism for greater collaboration among age researchers, for wider dissemination of ageing research information and to advance a research agenda relevant to the needs of older people in Ireland (North and South).

If you would like to find out more about CARDI or its website please click www.cardi.ie



News from Thomas Pocklington Trust about getting research into practice

Thomas Pocklington Trust has published a Design Guide on housing for people with sight loss- the first comprehensive guidance to draw on extensive research with visually impaired people. This research was conducted for Pocklington by the Bartlett School, UCL (Prof Julienne Hanson) and The Centre for Inclusive Environments, Reading University(Dr Geoff Cook).

The UCL research, in two main studies on the housing and support needs of people with sight loss, was published by Pocklington in its Occasional Paper series as well as other articles. This covered interviews with hundreds of visually impaired people, of all ages. One study was co-funded by the Housing Corporation. The Reading University research, on lighting at home, was a series on studies including a large questionnaire survey, literature searches, and trials and evaluation of new lighting in Pocklington housing and care centres.

Few people are completely blind but some 2 million in the UK have sight loss that affects their everyday life. Whilst many older people have sight loss which is to a degree correctable, there are nonetheless over 13 million people over the age of 60, many of whose sight has diminished through the inevitable effects of ageing.

The guide is aimed at architects, designers, builders and others involved in housing, covering every aspect of making a home easier and safer to live in.

The Guide results from the research, having been based on findings and case studies from practical trials, and from the views of people with sight loss themselves, expressed through the research. Pocklington is continuing a programme of research and development on these themes, and welcomes research partners.

For more information see www.pocklington-trust.org.uk.

Dr Angela McCullagh
Research and Development Director
Thomas Pocklington Trust
June

2008

Growing Old in Wales: A Showcase of Ageing Research

Mynd yn Hŷn yng Nghymru: Arddangosfa o Waith Ymchwil i Heneiddio

On 23rd July 2008, at The Guildhall in Swansea, OPAN Cymru and SPARC will host a free full-day conference that focuses on ageing research in Wales and will showcase a wide range of recently completed and current work from across the disciplines. (Due to an overwhelming response, new registrations are not being accepted.)

This special event will highlight current contributions being made by scientists in Wales to improve the well-being of older people living in Wales and beyond. It is an event which has been designed to appeal to everyone - older people, carers, health professionals, social and housing services, those who work for charities and voluntary agencies, government, and many more including scientists from other fields not usually associated with ageing research.

It will present work from a wide range of fields, including why cells age, vision in later life, improving urban environments in run-down areas, caring for people with long-term needs, ageing well, disability prevention, older people's use of unfamiliar space in their environments, and a lot more. All of the presenters will have some very interesting stories to tell.

Guest speakers include:

Ms. Ruth Marks MBE, Commissioner for Older People in Wales

Mr. Steve Milsom, Director for Older People and Long Term Care, Welsh Assembly Government

Mrs. Gwenda Thomas AM, Deputy Minister for Social Services, Welsh Assembly Government

The full programme can be found at:

<http://www.sparc.ac.uk/workshops/2008-07-23-opan-sparc-workshop/programme.asp>

Questions? Contact Dr Kelly Fitzgerald, OPAN Coordinator k.g.fitzgerald@swansea.ac.uk or phone 01792 602048

Ageing research –Developments in Housing, Health and Technology

The Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland (CARDI) and the Strategic Promotion of Ageing Research Capacity (SPARC) joined forces to host a landmark event in Belfast on 10th June. This was the first time SPARC held an event in Ireland and over 90 delegates from a wide range of backgrounds had an opportunity to hear about the latest innovations and developments from researchers across the UK and Ireland. Presenters included staff from Queen's University Belfast, University of Ulster, Trinity College Dublin, University College London, Dundalk Institute of Technology, Loughborough University, University of Sterling among others. Themes covered included retirement villages, models of care which link ageing and place, a design audit tool for dementia, remodelling sheltered housing for extra care, use of IT to monitor health and the \$30million INTEL funded project on technology for independent living. A copy of the programme and the presentations are available to download from our websites www.sparc.ac.uk or www.cardi.ie



Wales Office of Research and Development for Health and Social Care (WORD) New Website launched:

www.wales.gov.uk/word

This Conference addresses the relationships between building design, the indoor environment and the health and well-being of older people.

Topics include:

- Individual susceptibility;
- Policy development;
- Thermal comfort;
- Climate Change;
- Lighting;
- Current research issues.

The Conference will conclude with a summary discussion session

For more information on the conference programme, please contact:

Ms Isabella Myers:
Isabella.Myers@hpa.org.uk

Healthy Indoor Environments for an Ageing Population

A One-Day Conference Organised by the **UK Indoor Environments Group**

Date: 23rd October 2008

Venue: London

Sponsored by the Health Protection Agency and the Department of Health

In Association with Help the Aged

Conference Fee: £50

(including refreshments and lunch)

To Register

Online registration available at:

<http://www.hpa-events.org.uk/UKIEG>

email: events@hpa.org.uk

Venue Details:

Department of Health, Skipton House, 80 London Road, London, SE1 6LH

The next UKARF Newsletter will be due out in September 2008

Please send any comments, or items you would like to appear to the Programme Manager:
Serena.Carville@hta.org.uk

For further information about UKARF, please visit the website: www.ukarf.org.uk