



UK Age Research Forum

ISSUE 6

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WORKING GROUPS

Industry/Commerce

A new working group has been formed to explore the possibility of engagement with the commercial sector. Commercial partners are currently being contacted to form a joint meeting to discuss how best to progress.

Priorities analysis

Responses from the second stage of the priorities analysis questionnaire are still being received. This includes information on priority areas funded by members, collaborations and resources. Once compiled the group will consider the next stages of work.

Dementia Working Group

The group is providing assistance to the planning of the Ministerial Summit on Dementia Research being held by the MRC and Department of Health. The next meeting is being held jointly with the Dementia and Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network (DeNDRoN) clinical studies group with the intention of investigating the possibility of forming a dementia consortium of researchers and funders.

Public Affairs

It has been agreed the showcase day subgroup will continue work as the 'external relations working group'. Meeting date tbc.

UKARF News

Steering Group

The current Chair of the Steering group, Joanne Knight is stepping down to go on maternity leave at the end of August. In the absence of a

volunteer from the UKARF Membership to take on this roll, it has been decided that a Steering Group Chair will be contracted on a 2 year basis for the equivalent of 2 days a

week to oversee development of strategy, operational plan and evaluation framework. Suggestions from Members of suitable candidates are welcomed.

Members are welcome to join any of the working groups or Steering group. Please contact Serena: Serena.Carville@ukarf.org.uk

Ministerial Summit on Dementia Research

21st July 2009

The Medical Research Council and Department of Health are hosting the Ministerial Summit on Dementia Research, which the Dementia Working Group have assisted in planning.

This Summit will bring together a wide range of experts to help shape the future direction of dementia research in the UK. It will aim to identify gaps in existing knowledge and prioritise new areas for research investment, in order to enhance current strategic activity in this

domain. All areas of research will be covered, from that designed to improve the quality of care services, or appraise specific interventions, to more basic work on the causes of dementia or on the possibility of cure.

In addition to helping to develop a more clearly prioritised research agenda, the Summit will also focus on better ways to support the current science base and sharpen its impact. Among other things, this may require greater coordination of research effort,

actions to increase the competitiveness of research bids and further steps to enhance the translation of research into effective practice.

The Summit is a working event and a summary report will capture the main areas of consensus emerging from its discussions. In this way, it will offer those who actively contribute a real opportunity to influence future strategy in this key area of scientific activity.

Member's News



The Government has created a new Department for Business, Innovation & Skills whose key role will be to build Britain's capabilities to compete in the global economy. The department has been created by merging BERR and DIUS.

The role of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is to help the UK, our businesses and people, to excel and thrive in the future world economy.

BIS leads the fight against the recession and will equip people and businesses with the capabilities Britain needs to compete in the future world economy.

BIS will help to promote open and competitive markets, proportionate regulation and encourage enterprise and business innovation.

We also need to improve the skills of the population and help them adapt to the specialist demands of a modern economy as well as create a fair society.

We will advocate world-class science and research through our universities and elsewhere and that it should be at the heart of an economy driven by the creation and exploitation of knowledge as much as enterprise, innovation and skills.

The creation of BIS brings all these things together for the first time, into a major new Department focusing them on supporting competitiveness, productivity, excellence and growth.

It also recognises Government's promise to take a strategic approach to ensure policies in these areas reinforce one another and work together to build Britain's industrial policy and competitive strength as set out in the Government's *New Industry, New Jobs* strategy. This was produced jointly by BERR and DIUS and published in April 2009.

The new Department will have an important role as champion of enterprise and innovation across the public, private and third sectors.

BIS is at the heart of the Government's efforts to build Britain's future economic competitiveness so that it is best placed to emerge strongly from the downturn.

Science and Innovation policy areas of the Department, with specific aims to: **Encourage innovation** in the UK.

Continue to invest in the UK's **world class science** base and develop strategies for commercialising more of that science.

More information can be found at: www.bis.gov.uk



The final round of commissioning of the NDA Programme has just been completed with the addition of 12 new Programme Grants. The applications for this call were of a very high quality and many top-rated ones were not funded. Also striking was the large number of multidisciplinary ones. As a result of the strong representation of the biological sciences and arts and humanities in this final round the Programme has achieved full coverage of all five of the participating Research Councils.



The Programme organised a highly successful workshop in London, on 19/20 May, on Ageing in China and UK: A Policy and Research Exchange. The workshop was the follow-on from a similar one in Beijing in October 2008. Both workshops were funded by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, ESRC and RCUK. Presentations from the workshop are now on the NDA website <http://newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk/>.

The Programme has an innovative collaboration agreement with the Canadian Institute on Aging, which links Canadian scientists to NDA projects, and a second call for proposals is now open.

What needs to change for older people to have a better life?

This key question will be addressed by a new Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) programme focussed on older people with high support needs.



Aim

JRF aims to influence policies and practice to ensure quality of life for the growing number of older people in the UK who need support.

What we are doing

JRF will commission a range of work as part of a five-year programme. This will result in clear, costed recommendations on how 'a better life' for older people with high support needs can be achieved now and in the future.

What it will involve

The programme will be split into four stands which will explore: what older people from diverse backgrounds want and value in life; how to improve older people's experience in care settings (in partnership with My Home Life); how housing with care can sustain older people who have/develop high support needs; and alternative, affordable approaches to support and housing.

Why JRF?

Through its research and experience as a housing and care provider, JRF recognises that policy and practice needs to focus more on older people who require a lot of support. This timely programme will ensure the stories, hopes and fears of this marginalised group are heard.

How much is JRF committing?

JRF is committing £1.5 million to this programme over five years (2009-2013). Calls for proposals will appear on our website (the Foundation does not accept speculative enquiries for funding).

For further information, email: abetterlife@jrf.org.uk



UK AGE
RESEARCH FORUM

CARDI

CARDI announces six grants for research to benefit older people

The Centre for Ageing Research and Development (CARDI) is delighted to announce the successful applicants for call 1 of its Research Grants Programme. The programme aims to promote north-south research partnerships that bring together different subject areas to look at issues affecting older people in new ways. The research should involve older people themselves and the findings will be designed to improve policies and services for them.

Professor Bob Stout, Queen's University Belfast, Co-chair of the grants panel, said:

"We were delighted to receive a very large number of applications. Clearly a lot of new contacts have been made between academics and representatives of the voluntary, public and private sectors on both sides of the border. These grants, worth almost €90,000, will serve as pump-priming money. This fits well with CARDI's wish to get all the partners together and stimulate research that will bring benefits to the daily lives of older people and ensure that both parts of Ireland are geared up to meet the needs of an ageing society."

Grant winners

Together the six grant winners cover a wide spectrum of research, reflecting the huge range of topics covered by ageing research.

For example, experts in psychology, physiotherapy, neuroscience, medicine and electrical engineering in Queen's, Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin will pool their expertise to examine how physical exercise can promote brain function and help people recover from neurological illness.

The Irish Centre for Social Gerontology and the Geography Department at the National University of Ireland Galway, with Queen's University Belfast, Rural Community Network and FORUM will establish a cross-border research network to explore healthy ageing in rural communities. The network will draw on interdisciplinary expertise in the areas of gerontology, economics, spatial planning, rural geography, social care, and public health.

The Dementia Service Information and Development Centre, Trinity College Dublin, Queen's, the University of Ulster and Quality Initiatives consultancy will examine the different standards of care that exist for older people in long-stay care and work with older people to draw up specific standards to meet the unique and

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Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland

complex end of life care needs of people with dementia.

University College Dublin, the University of Ulster and voluntary organisation Age Action Ireland will jointly investigate the transport needs of vulnerable older people, especially in rural areas and will make recommendations for improvements North and South of the border building on best practice internationally.

Trinity College Dublin, Queen's and PLACE, the Architecture and Built Environment Centre for Northern Ireland, and the National Disability Authority plan to build a larger partnership that will study how the urban environment, not just housing, can be accessed and used to the greatest possible extent by people of all ages.

The University of Ulster and Trinity School of Nursing will form a reference group of older people with intellectual disability and their carers and bring together professionals and policy makers. It hopes to develop an all-Ireland module on intellectual disability that will be part of a long-term study of older people.

CARDI is delighted to announce that Call 2 of CARDI Grants Programme is now open. Go to www.cardi.ie/grantprogramme for full details.

The UK Age Research Forum is a strategic partnership between government, research councils and charities that aims to make a positive difference to the lives of older people through research.

The next UKARF Newsletter will be due out in Autumn 2009

**Please send any items you would like to appear to the Programme Manager:
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