



IN THIS ISSUE:

- UKARF Appointments
- Working group update
- Member's News
- Other news

MEMBER UPDATES

End of life care workshop

At the last UKARF meeting on 16th November, Members were informed about an National Cancer Research Institute / Wellcome Trust proposal to hold a workshop on End of Life Care - beyond cancer. If you are interested in finding out more, or being involved in the workshop, please email Serena: Serena.Carville@ukarf.org.uk

MEETING DATES

Full Forum:

6th May 2pm MRC
7th Oct 2pm MRC

Steering Group:

6th Jan 11am MRC

UKARF Appointments

Neil Hunt, Chief Executive of Alzheimer's Society, has been named as chairman of the UK Age Research Forum (UKARF), replacing Mike Lake.

Neil has been Chief Executive of Alzheimer's Society for more than six years. Prior to this he worked for many years in social care in London and Kent before joining the NSPCC where he became director of child protection. He was seconded to the civil service to work on a wide range of projects in the Home

Office and the Department of Education and Skills.

Neil says: 'I am delighted to have been elected as chairman of the UK Age Research Forum. The forum provides an excellent opportunity for key funders in the field of ageing research to come together, share their expertise and help shape the future of scientific study to benefit some of society's most vulnerable members. 'We are living in an aging population and it is vital that the



necessary money and expertise are available for research in this field to flourish.'

Neil encourages all members to contact him with their thoughts on the Forum going forward:

NHunt@alzheimers.org.uk

Elizabeth Mills, who has nearly 25 years experience in the age research sector, has been appointed as the new UKARF Steering Group chairman, tasked specifically with putting together a work plan and evaluation framework for the forum.

Elizabeth was chief executive of Research into Ageing in 2001



when the charity was merged with Help the Aged. As a consultant, her clients have included Friends of the Elderly, the

National Osteoporosis Society, Help the Aged and ATCare among others. She was honoured with an OBE for services to ageing research in 2002.

Elizabeth will be contacting all Members in person over the forthcoming month.

Working Groups

Industry/Commerce

The most recently formed working group is focussing on establishing an engagement with commercial sector funders of age research. Commercial partners were invited to a joint meeting on the 3rd November 2009. Representation included the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries, Association of British Healthcare Industries, Bio-industry Association, Prudential and Unilever. This initial meeting focussed on the commercial perspective of age research. Early feedback indicates that commercial partners would like to see this group widened and provide the opportunity for them to learn more about UKARF members research interests and the non-commercial funding environment.

As a result of this meeting, further discussions have been held with Phillips research who have expressed an interest in working more closely with charities. Serena will be following this up with the membership.

Priorities analysis

All data collected from members in the priorities analysis work has been compiled into summary tables to serve as an internal resource to inform on Members priorities, collaborations and resources. This was circulated prior to the 16th November main forum meeting and will be available on the website in due course.

It was agreed that this information would be updated on an annual basis, coordinated by Serena, but otherwise this group had achieved its aims and would be disbanded.

Dementia Working Group

The Ministerial Summit on Dementia Research took place in July this year and the group was pleased to hear that as a result a ministerial group focussing on dementia was going to be set up. Rebecca Wood expressed the UKARF dementia groups' wish to remain involved in this work when she met with Phil Hope earlier this year.

The group has widened its membership to include more regular attendance from DeNDRoN dementia clinical study group and their public health group. At the 16th November meeting Celia Davies from the NIHR gave a presentation on their funding schemes relevant to dementia and 'For Dementia' attended as observers. Terms of reference for the group are currently being drawn up.

Public Affairs

The public affair group met on the 9th November. Issues discussed included the need to re-develop the website, update the UKARF brochure and to begin planning the 2010 showcase day. Members' input on the showcase day content and format is welcomed, as are thoughts on what information the website should provide.

All groups terms of reference will be circulated shortly. New groups to be formed will be considered and recommendations will be sent to the membership. Any members with an interest in joining a group are encouraged to do so. Please email Serena.



Help the Aged and Age Concern



The Institute of Gerontology and the Age UK Group are delighted to announce that the 2010 David Hobman Annual lecture will be given by Dr Alexandre Sidorenko, UN Focal Point on Ageing

“Old age in a global environment: lessons from the UN programme on ageing”
Monday 25th January 2010
Great Hall Kings College London

Tea from 5.30pm, wine reception will follow the lecture

Alexandre Sidorenko joined the United Nations Secretariat in 1988. He has acted as UN Focal Point on Ageing; Chief of the United Nations Programme on Ageing (1993-2002); and Coordinator of the International year of Older Persons (1999). Recent specific areas of his professional work at the UN have included monitoring of the Madrid International Plan of Action on ageing and the development of evidence based policy on ageing.

All are very welcome to attend. Please confirm attendance with Gill Sargeant: gill.sargeant@helptheaged.org.uk

Healthcare Portfolio Day: Neurodegenerative Diseases



Call for Expressions of Interest

The EPSRC is organising a Portfolio Day focussing on Neurodegenerative Diseases on the 11 February 2010, giving researchers, stakeholders and users an opportunity to influence the direction of future research for EPSRC within this healthcare area.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/CallsForProposals/healthcareportfolio.htm>

Research into Ageing Grant round 2010



Research into Ageing (RiA) is pleased to announce that its 2010 grant round will open on 4 January. The focus will be on capacity building and applications will be invited for:

- RiA PhD Studentships
- RiA Research Fellowships (current Fellows may apply for follow-on Fellowships)
- Joint BGS/RiA Clinical Fellowships (one available; applicants must be clinically qualified, hold an NTN in Geriatric Medicine and be a member of the British Geriatrics Society)

RiA has not ceased support for Research Projects, New Investigator awards and Small Incontinence awards, but does not plan to offer these in the coming year. RiA will continue to welcome applications in any area of biomedical science relevant to ageing, and although the specific calls for proposals relating to incontinence and the ageing auditory system are not being repeated in 2010, applications in these fields are still encouraged.

Deadline for submission of Expressions of interest is 11 February, and full applications is 12 May. All funded awards will be expected to begin in or before the autumn academic term.

Further information and initial application forms will be available in the RiA website from 4 January:
<http://research.helptheaged.org.uk/research/default.htm>

Contacts: Libby Archer, RiA Research Manager, libby.archer@helptheaged.org.uk 020 8765 7616 or Charlie Ladyman, RiA Coordinator, charlotte.ladyman@helptheaged.org.uk 020 8765 7335

RiA has recently moved offices. Its new address is: Help the Aged and Age Concern, Astral House, 2nd floor, 1268 London Road, London, SW16 4ER



UK AGE
RESEARCH FORUM

Other News

The later lifecourse - short training opportunity

This innovative new master's level short course on ageing, will present a very broad overview of current research into the many different contexts that impact upon later life, including the value of learning. It will be relevant to researchers and others working in one area of ageing who wish to expand their understanding of other areas.

Issues under the following headings will be considered:

Lifecourse studies:

Longitudinal studies;

Narratives, reminiscences;

Developmental theories

Later Learning: Geragogy and critical geragogy; general

principles of teaching-

learning; formal vs. informal/

leisure learning, prior

educational experience;

Social and cultural contexts of ageing & older learning –

demographic; ethnic, cultural;

gender; social, political;

intergenerational;

Psychological contexts of

ageing & older learning -

cognitive studies; motivation

and goals; spirituality, values;

wisdom;

Health contexts of ageing &

older learning - health; care;

well-being.

Many resources will be provided around these and further topics, and you will be encouraged and helped to focus on your own particular interests.

The course starts with a weekend meeting at the Institute 27-28 February, 2010, where the key themes are

introduced and our guest speakers include:

Dr. Ricca Edmundson who will describe the humanist background to her new book: *Valuing Older People**;

Professor Richard Wiggins who will present his latest findings on labour market exit, volunteering, and caring.;

Dr, Sue Hallam who will discuss the benefits of taking up music in later life.

After the weekend, we will collaborate online for several weeks.

The fee is £688. Applications will close shortly.

Please contact

Anita Pincas for information
a.pincas@ioe.ac.uk

Academy of Social Sciences: Research Impact Conference

Conference on “Research Impact? It all depends on the users now” – 14th January 2010, London.

This important conference focuses on the key user engagement component of Research Impact. Tickets are £90 per head in the open category and £65 per head for Academicians and other concessions. For more information and registration information, please visit the Academy's website www.acss.org.uk

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 Summer 2010

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