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January 2013

Supporting research to play a vital role in planning for an ageing population across the island of Ireland.

Our e-bulletin provides up-to-date information on ageing research including seminars, funding opportunities, latest research and innovation. More detailed information is available on our website www.cardi.ie

If you have a news story, event or publication relating to ageing please send it to us at news@cardi.ie Follow CARDI on:

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CARDI Updates

CARDI launches €100,000 grants call to promote active ageing

In December CARDI announced a new small grants programme to promote active and healthy ageing. It is offering up to €100,000 for research projects involving the use of existing data sources in Ireland, North and South. Applications are invited from individuals or groups from academic, non-profit and voluntary and community sectors. Applications are now open for CARDI’s Data Mining Grant Programme and the deadline for entries is 12.00 hours (noon) on Monday 4 February 2013. Full terms of reference and Application Form. More information contact: Paul McGill, Strategic Research Officer, CARDI. T: 00353(0) 867 904 158, E: paul@cardi.ie

European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations - where to next?

CARDI, Age NI and Age Action Ireland hosted a round table event on Friday 23 November at Jury’s Inn, Dublin on the above theme. Participants considered the learning from European Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity and discussed how lessons from the year may help inform future policy. Speakers included: Professor Tom Scharf, The Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, NUI Galway; Keelin McCarthy, Generations Together, Age Action Ireland and Vicki Titterington, Linking Generations Northern Ireland. Click here for a copy of the presentations.

British Geriatrics Society Spring meeting being held in Belfast 17-19 April 2013

CARDI will have a session at the British Geriatrics Society Spring meeting being held in Belfast 17th-19th April 2013. The annual meeting covers current clinical practice and recent research outcomes to a multi-disciplinary audiences. The session will include presentations from CARDI funded research projects. Day attendance is possible. If you would like to register for this meeting please go to www.bgs.org.uk
CARDI Publications

CARDI funded research: an overview

CARDI has recently published an overview of all completed research projects and networks funded under its grants programme. The supported research projects deal with a range of themes of concern to older people and policy makers: Care, Social inclusion, Health and Illness, Poverty, Physical Activity and Dementia. What they all had in common was the desire to better understand the issues and challenges facing us all as we age. The publication is available here.

CARDI Online

For all the latest news and publications on ageing research, policy and practice please log onto the CARDI website www.cardi.ie.

Get connected with CARDI:

Researchers can register at www.cardi.ie to post details including research and interests, and to post updates on their current research projects. Registered users will have their details added to the CARDI Directory of Researchers. They can also bookmark pages on the CARDI website for easy referencing and create their own personal reading list which they can access at any time as well as having the option to receive a daily digest of new content added to the website by email.

Ageing Research Updates

Healthy ageing communications campaign gets €1m in EU funding

A new campaign to focus on communicating health-related scientific research around ageing has been awarded €1m by the European Commission. The campaign will use film, social media and smartphone apps, with the aim of raising public awareness of current research into cognitive ageing and dementia. The campaign, A Sharing Approach to Promoting Science (ASAPS), will be co-ordinated by Dr Sabina Brennan of Trinity College Dublin's (TCD) Institute of Neuroscience in Dublin. Over the next two years the campaign will use a variety of media to communicate news about ageing research. Read more at Silicon Republic

Older People in Residential Care Settings

The National Centre for the Protection of Older People (NCPOP) hosted a report launch entitled ‘Older People in Residential Care Settings: Results of a National Survey of Staff-Resident Interactions and Conflicts’ on 6 December 2012. For full details on the report launch, including video presentations, full report, executive summary and presentation slides, please click on the following link http://www.ncpop.ie/httpwwwncppie_staff_interactions.

Smoking linked to accelerated mental decline

Smoking damages the brain and leads to accelerated mental decline, according to new research. Scientists analysed risk factor data for more than 8,000 older adults taking part in the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (Elsa). Tests of memory, planning and overall mental ability were carried out after four and eight years. The study showed that smoking consistently reduced all three performance measures after four years. Read more at Independent.ie
E-Health: Opportunities and Challenges

The challenges of getting more older people connected to e-health, a catchall term for digital practices related to health care, are many: lack of awareness; fear of computers and smartphones; problems with vision, hearing, cognition or manual dexterity; limited finances or learning options; and concerns about privacy. This article looks at some of the progress being made to meet these challenges. Read more at New York Times Blog New Old Age

Report on Medication Use and Cost Savings in the over 50s in Ireland

Researchers at The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) at Trinity College Dublin have published a new report on multiple medication use in adults aged over 50 in Ireland, examining rates of polypharmacy and opportunities for cost savings using generic and reference prices. The report is titled Polypharmacy in adults over 50 in Ireland: Opportunities for cost saving and improved healthcare. It can be downloaded from www.tcd.ie/tilda/publications/reports/

Ageing Policy Updates

Budget 2013 implications for older people

On Wednesday, 5 December, the government in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) announced Budget 2013, the fifth consecutive austerity budget. The target was to achieve €3.5 billion in reducing the deficit through tax increases and spending cuts. These changes will have a significant impact on all people and age groups, from young children through to those in retirement. The changes which will particularly affect the over 65s in ROI are listed in this article.

Bill proposed to scrap compulsory retirement age

As people are increasingly living longer in our societies the issue of retirement age has come into question. Recently, Senator Mary White introduced a proposal to the Irish Senate to amend the Employment Equality Act to make further provision for the promotion of equality by prohibiting the compulsory retirement age of 65. You can read a transcript of the debate here

Research and Policy Publications

Census 2011 Key Statistics for Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland’s 2011 Census - Key Statistics Report confirms a huge increase in the number of older people and a jump in their share of the total population. The number of people aged 65 and over has risen by more than 40,000 since the 2001 Census and is now well over a quarter of a million (263,720). The total population (all ages) in NI rose substantially by 7.5% in the last decade, but the number of older people increased a lot more, up 18.1%. Read article by Paul McGill here and to access the Key Statistics report click here www.nisra.gov.uk/Census/key_report_2011.pdf

Deprivation and its measurement in later life

A report from the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology suggests that many older people are experiencing real hardship during Ireland’s recession, but that this remains largely hidden from public view. This suggests caution is necessary when interpreting official statistics, which show deprivation and poverty rates for pensioner households to be at an all-time low. The research shows that poverty and deprivation continue to affect the lives of many older people in Ireland. While the value of state pensions has been maintained, a number of people who took part in the research were struggling to cope with the loss of other forms of support at a time when additional demands were being placed on their finances. A copy of the research report can be downloaded here.
Supplementary Pensions and the Income of Ireland’s Retirees

The objective of this report from TILDA is to explore (a) the incomes of retirees in Ireland and (b) the distribution of supplementary pensions among them, although clearly there is a close relationship between (a) and (b). The analysis focuses on (a) men who are now retired but who have worked for at least fifteen years and (b) women who are now retired but who have worked for at least ten years. It finds that the average income of male retirees is 58 per cent higher than that of female retirees. Much of this difference is driven by the fact that about half of the male retirees have supplementary pension compared to about a third of female retirees. In the case of both genders, factors such as education and having been a public sector worker are associated with having supplementary pensions. The report is available here.

Global Burden of Disease Study

The Global Burden of Disease Study is the largest ever systematic effort to describe the global distribution and causes of a wide array of major diseases, injuries, and health risk factors. The results show that infectious diseases, maternal and child illness, and malnutrition cause fewer deaths and less illness than they did twenty years ago. The report is available here: www.thelancet.com/themed/global-burden-of-disease

The UK Clinical Research Collaboration Health Research Analysis 2012

The second report of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) Health Research Analysis has now been published by the MRC. The report compiles information from the 12 largest public and charitable funders of medical research in the UK, including HSC R&D Division. The data relate to a “snapshot” of health research spend in 2009/10 and update the original report on 2004/05 spend. The report is available at the following link: www.mrc.ac.uk/Newspublications/Publications/EvaluationReports/index.htm

Events and Seminars

Alzheimer’s research conference

This conference will take place on 11 – 13 March in Europa Hotel, Belfast. It will focus on sharing the latest research findings and provide an opportunity to hear about progress being made on defeating dementia from across the field. The conference is open to everyone working on dementia. Registration for the conference will close on **22 February, 2013**. Click here for more information.

5th International Conference on Ageing and Spirituality

On 7-10 July 2013, a conference on ageing and spirituality will take place in Edinburgh. Organised by Faith in Older People in collaboration with the care provider MHA, the Conference will include a mixture of keynote speakers, workshops and papers following the themes of: Ageing Gifts, Ageing Changes, Ageing Hopes. Further details on the event can be found here.

Shaping our Age

Shaping our Age is an action research project with older people and seeks to find new ways for older people to improve their own well-being. The partnership between WRVS, the Centre for Citizen Participation at Brunel University and the Centre for Social Action at De Montfort University will hold a discussion on Friday 18 January 2013, 10.00am – 3.30pm at Church House Conference Centre, Dean’s Yard, Westminster, London, SW1P 3NZ. To confirm your attendance please email helen.peplow@wrvs.org.uk

The British Geriatrics Society (BGS) Spring Meeting – Belfast 2013

The British Geriatrics Society (BGS) is holding its Spring Meeting in Belfast from 17 – 19 April 2013. The BGS is the membership association for all healthcare professionals with a special interest in
older people. www.bgsevents.org for a copy of the latest programme and to register.

Ninth Annual Cochrane in Ireland Conference
The Ninth Annual Cochrane in Ireland Conference will be hosted by the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Queen’s University Belfast, on Friday 25 January 2013 in the Canada Room/Council Chamber from 9.15 am – 4.00 pm. The deadline for abstracts is 11 January 2013 and registration forms must be returned by 18 Jan 2013. For a registration form and full details on speakers and workshops please visit here.

BSG Annual Conference 2013- Oxford University - 11 - 13 September  2013
Please submit your symposium outlines by 1 February 2013. On 20th February BSG will announce the titles of each symposium and open up the call for abstracts. It must receive all abstracts by 1 April 2013. In the meantime, should you require any additional information please contact Angelika Kaiser at angelika.kaiser@ageing.ox.ac.uk. Conference website: www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/bsg

Public Health Annual Scientific Conference - 12 June 2013 – Belfast
This conference will focus on how public health innovations, research and practice are meeting the needs of older people. Details on the programme, call for abstracts and registration will be circulated shortly. For enquires contact finola.mcalarney@hscni.net or shauna.mccullagh@hscni.net

ESRI Research Seminar: "Heterogeneity in time preference among older households."

Funding, Awards, Tenders, Training Opportunities

Knowledge transfer funding
The Health & Social Care Research and Development Division of the Public Health Agency (HSC R&D Division) is offering funding under a Knowledge Transfer Scheme to aid the translation of research findings. The scheme is intended to support knowledge transfer that delivers practice, policy, social and/or economic benefits. The maximum award available is £100,000 and the maximum duration is 18 months. The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday 1 March 2013 at 4.00pm. www.publichealth.hscni.net/directorate-public-health/hsc-research-and-development

Two European Research Project calls
The EU Joint Programme - Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) is inviting calls for proposals from research teams across Europe to increase understanding of the factors that put people at risk of developing neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s and also to evaluate health and social care strategies for people living with these debilitating illnesses.

Two Joint Transnational Calls were launched on 10 December 2012 which will see over €25 million made available to applicants from over 20 countries. This investment is part of a series of annual JPND funding initiatives over the next three years, aimed at addressing priority areas identified in the JPND Research Strategy. Call 1: European research projects for the identification of genetic, epigenetic and environmental risk and protective factors for Neurodegenerative Diseases. Call 2: European research projects for the evaluation of health care policies, strategies and interventions for Neurodegenerative Diseases. Both calls are now open, with submission deadlines of March 19th (Call 1) and 21st (Call 2) 2013, respectively. Further detail on each Call is provided on the JPND website link below: www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu/initiatives/2012-joint-transnational-calls/open-calls/
European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing

The European Commission has identified active and healthy ageing as a major societal challenge common to all European countries, and an area which presents considerable potential for Europe to lead the world in providing innovative responses to this challenge. To learn more about the funding opportunities see link: http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=active-healthy-ageing

Please feel free to circulate the information within your organisation as appropriate. If you do not wish to receive this E-bulletin email info@cardi.ie and your details will be removed from our mailing list.

CARDI Staff Team

If you want to explore how to be involved in progressing ageing research or want to find out more about our work please contact our team.

CARDI staff are:

Roger O'Sullivan
Director

Paul Mc Gill
Strategic Research Officer

Nicola Donnelly
Communications Officer – New Media

Conor Breen
Policy Officer – Research Translation

CARDI Steering Group

CARDI has been developed by leaders from the ageing field across Ireland (North and South).

Our Steering Group Members are:

Professor Davis Coakley
Co-Chair of CARDI

Professor Robert Stout
Co-Chair of CARDI

Owen Metcalfe
Institute of Public Health

Anne O'Reilly
Age NI

Professor Eamon O'Shea
Irish Centre for Social Gerontology

Robin Webster
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Director of CARDI

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