

Ageing Research: a funder's perspective

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What types of research can help us to understand and mitigate the adverse impacts of ageing?

- Fundamental biology
- Understanding natural experiments
- Interventions / evaluations
- Social science / social care research
- Healthcare / health services research
- Clinical trials of new treatments

Particular challenges (methodologies)

Timescales:

Longitudinal research vs short-term funding

Disciplines:

Multiple disciplines without a culture of collaboration

Translation of fundamental research to policy or practice:

Paradigms not yet widely understood or used

Clinical Trials:

Recruiting older study participants

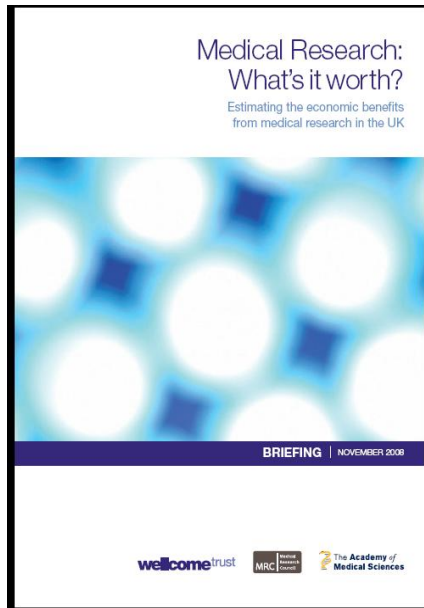
Particular challenges (money)

Pharmaceuticals industry and regulators:

Focus on specific illnesses rather than agents to maintain health

Funding:

Why should research be a priority during a recession?



..the health and GDP gains derived from UK public and charitable investment in cardiovascular disease research (over the period 1975 – 1992), is equivalent to an annual rate of return of around *39% (37% for mental health research)

* 30% in direct GDP and 9% indirectly via health gains

Solutions?

Consortium of funders

Research collaboration with governance structure and leadership

Programme of work instead of projects

Research brokerage role with practitioner and policy-maker communities

Embedded patient and public involvement