

eBulletin

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September 2011

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:

**CARDI Updates**

Register now for *Ageing Globally-Ageing Locally* Draft Programme now available

Just 2 days left for early bird registration for CARDI's international conference, *Ageing Globally-Ageing Locally*, taking place in Croke Park, Dublin, 2 & 3 November, 2011. The event will feature addresses by authorities on ageing, including Sir Michael Marmot, Prof Anne Martin-Matthews, Prof Alan Walker, and Prof Peter Passmore. Representatives from over 40 universities and over 30 NGOs from 16 countries will participate in this conference which will showcase the very latest in research on ageing and consider its consequences for societies worldwide. Further information on registration and the conference programme can be found at www.cardi.ie/conference2011. [Ageing Globally-Ageing Locally Draft Programme Register Now!](#)

A Wii bit of fun

Researchers at [Queen's University](http://www.qub.ac.uk) have developed special motion-controlled software which helps people with mobility problems to play the console games. In a [CARDI funded project](#), the team, led by [Dr Cathy Craig](#), are designing and testing computer games using [low-cost technology \(Nintendo Wii\)](#) to enable older people to master in a fun way new skills that will improve physical and mental well-being. **More information [available here](#)**

The Demography of Ageing and Official Statistics

CARDI was delighted to be involved with the organisation of the International Association of Official Statistics bi-annual conference which took place in Belfast on 17-19 August 2011. This conference was a satellite of the [2011 International Statistics Institute conference](#) and was organised locally by

the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), in association with CARDI and Queen's University, Belfast. Videos and Presentations will soon be available at:

www.nisra.gov.uk/IAOS2011.html.

[Read Paul McGill's blog on the conference here](#)

CARDI Publications

Focus on Transport and Health

The latest edition of CARDI's "Focus on" series examines international models of care for older people. It will be available on the [CARDI website](#).

Forthcoming

The role of telecare in supporting carer's of older people

Physical activity and mental health in ageing

CARDI Online

For all the latest news and publications on ageing research, policy and practice please log onto the CARDI website www.cardi.ie or follow us on Twitter @CARDItweets

Interested in research on ageing? Why not join CARDI's network on LinkedIn? [Sign up here](#)

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.

Ageing Research Updates

Ireland most efficient at improving mortality rate, claims study

Ireland is the most efficient country in the world at reducing mortality per euro spent on health, an international survey has found. A team of researchers at the [University of Bournemouth](#) measured GDP spending on health and the impact it had on the mortality rates from 1980 to 2005. The research was originally carried out to examine claims that the NHS was a worse system than the American model of privatised health care, which has been the subject of debate. The researchers measured the average death rate between 1979 and 1981 and then the death rates between 2003 and 2005.

[Read more here](#) from the Irish Times.

Closing in on a test for pre-symptom Alzheimer's

US researchers have found evidence that brain imaging, along with measurement of some specific brain metabolites, can help identify elderly people who seem cognitively normal but have early Alzheimer's disease. The researchers at the [Mayo Clinic](#) tested 311 normal older adults with proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy to look for abnormalities in certain brain metabolites that are considered biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease. One-third of the study participants had high levels of amyloid-beta plaque in their brains, which is typically found in Alzheimer's patients. The study suggests a possible approach to detecting the disease early, but many more studies remain to determine the reliability of such an approach. The study is published online in the journal [Neurology](#).

A lifetime of physical activity yields measurable benefits as we age

The benefits of physical activity accumulate across a lifetime, according to a new study published in the October issue of the [American Journal of Preventive Medicine](#). Researchers in England and Australia examined the associations of leisure time physical activity across adulthood with physical performance and strength in midlife in a group of British men and women followed since birth in March 1946. "Maintaining physical performance and muscle strength with age is important given that lower levels in older populations are associated with increased risk of subsequent health problems, loss of independence, and shorter survival times," commented lead investigator Rachel Cooper, PhD, [Medical Research Council \(MRC\) Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing](#). [Read more here](#) from Science Daily.

Clinical Trials Neglect the Elderly

A recent article in the New York Times highlighted some issues regarding clinical trials and older people claiming that they are often neglected or excluded from trials. In last month's [Journal of General Internal Medicine](#), a [University of Michigan team pointed to some systemic problems](#). Analysing more than 100 studies published during 2007 in prestigious medical journals, the researchers found that more than 20 percent excluded participants above a particular age. That actually represented considerable progress; a previous study of trials published from 1994 to 2006 found that 39 percent had excluded people over age 65. [Read more here](#) from the New York Times.

Chemotherapy strategy for elderly lung cancer patients questioned

French scientists have suggested that elderly patients with [non-small-cell lung cancer](#) (NSCLC) may benefit from a two-drug chemotherapy combination usually reserved for younger patients. In research [published](#) in [The Lancet](#), a team from the Hopitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg and Universite de Strasbourg concluded that patients over 70, who were treated with a two-drug platinum-based chemotherapy survived longer compared with those given a single drug therapy. The team saw more side effects in the group of 225 elderly NSCLC patients treated with both [carboplatin](#) and [paclitaxel](#) than in the control group of 226 similarly aged participants given either [vinorelbine](#) or [gemcitabine](#). [Read more here](#) from Press Association.

Alzheimer's Association International Conference 2011: Five Bio-markers Highlighted and Round-up of Notable Papers

More than 5,600 people attended the 11th annual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC, formerly ICAD) on 16-21 July 2011 in Paris. One of the most intensely debated issues was the use of bio-markers in diagnosis of the disease. The discussion indicates that the field as a whole has shifted away from focusing on AD as diagnosed in the clinic and is now embracing a broader, biological view, whereby the course of AD spans well across two decades of life. [Read more here](#) from the Alzheimer's Association.

Fifteen FLARE 2 Fellows awarded funding for post-doctoral research on ageing

Following a highly successful call for applications by the [European Research Area in Ageing](#), fifteen early-career post-doctoral researchers have been awarded funding for three years under the pioneering FLARE programme (Future Leaders of Ageing Research in Europe). **For more information on the activities of the FLARE Fellows, please visit the ERA-AGE 2 website**

Ageing Policy Updates

Age Sector Platform fight winter fuel cut

[Age Sector Platform](#) have launched a new campaign entitled 'Fight the Winter Fuel Cut'. This year, the UK Government decided to cut the Winter Fuel Payment by £50 for people aged 60 to 80, and by £100 for those aged over 80. The campaign, which is in opposition to the cut will allow older people across Northern Ireland to show their support by signing a petition which will then be presented to Government. The petition can be signed online at www.fightfuelcut.org or by phoning 028 9031 2089 to request a postcard.

Cuts to fuel and telephone allowances announced by ROI Minister for Social Protection

The ROI's Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, T.D., recently announced cuts in fuel and telephone allowances. The number of free units provided under the electricity and gas allowance will be reduced to the 2007 level. These measures will generate savings of €17 million in 2011 and €65 million annually. [Age Action criticised](#) the cuts, claiming they would hit vulnerable older people. Age Action was particularly concerned at the reduction in gas and electricity units to pensioners, at a cost of €96 per year. Spokesperson Eamon Timmins said, "Each winter in Ireland we have up to 2,000 excess winter deaths, many of whom are older people dying of cold-related illnesses... we are left to contemplate even greater hardship this coming winter."

Positive Ageing Week 23 September to 1 October 2011

Positive Ageing Week, organised by Age Action Ireland, is a festival which highlights the positive aspects of ageing and celebrates the contribution older people have made and continue to make to their communities. **If you are interested in organising an activity or event please contact 01-475 6989 or info@ageaction.ie for a Positive Ageing Week pack. Alternatively you can apply online - <http://www.ageaction.ie/positive-ageing-week>**

New palliative care hospital opens to public

More than 1,800 people have signed up for a tour of a new €60 million palliative care hospital in Cork before its official opening next month. The Health Service Executive is providing €17.5 million for the facility, and The Atlantic Philanthropies foundation is providing €10 million. The remainder, as well as much of the ongoing running costs, must come from the hospital's own fundraising efforts.

[More information available here](#)

Older Jobseekers Face Particular Challenges in the Labour Market UK

New research published by the UK's Department for Work and Pensions examines the experience of unemployment for older jobseekers. [The research](#) suggests that older newly redundant claimants have a number of key barriers to work that stem from having long work histories e.g. the lack of a CV, lack of job application experience and lack of familiarity with the modern labour market and with online job application procedures. [Read more here](#) from TAEN.

Concern as global health decline

Too many people around the world die prematurely due to causes that are potentially preventable, according to an expert on disease prevention who spoke recently at Dublin City University. "Death is inevitable," said [Prof Peter Boyle, who directs the International Prevention Research Institute in Lyon, France](#). "But premature death, death before the age of 70 – at least half of those deaths are avoidable in the sense they can be postponed for many years until after the age of 70 within the current knowledge that we have." He argued that co-ordination of public health policies and global co-operation can play a vital role in combating the current global decline in health. [Read more here from the Irish Times](#).

Quebec unveils guide to care of gay elderly people

The government of Quebec, Canada has unveiled a programme to guide carers in the treatment of elderly gay, lesbian and transgender people. It aims to protect those populations from homophobia and abuse of the elderly, Quebec officials said. A charter document calls for those caring for elderly homosexual people to ensure they receive equal treatment and do not suffer homophobia, to adopt a positive attitude toward homosexuality and trans-sexuality, and to take measures necessary to combat homophobia. Quebec's minister responsible for the elderly, Marguerite Blais, described the new programme as "a step in our struggle against homophobia and elder abuse". [Read more here from the BBC](#).

Research and Policy Publications

Growing Older In Urban Environments: Perspectives from Japan and the UK

This report from the [ILC-UK](#) examines the relationship between population ageing and urbanisation, based on the contrasting experiences of Japan and the UK. This topic was the subject of a major Symposium funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), held on March 29/30th in London in association with the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the International Longevity Centre (Japan/UK). **Read the full report here:** [Growing Older In Urban Environments: Perspectives from Japan and the UK](#)

Alzheimer's in the News: Fear and Fascination

Media depictions of Alzheimer's are varied and diverse but have a strong impact on how society and individuals view the disease and its sufferers. The NHS recently published a report on media portrayal of Alzheimer's disease. **To read the report please click the following link:** [Alzheimer's in the News: Fear and Fascination](#)

The Long-Term Care Workforce: Description and Perspectives

This research report by the [European Network of Economic Policy Research Institutes](#) provides a comparative analysis of the size and composition of the long-term care (LTC) workforce in four European countries – Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, and Poland. **Access the report at the following link:** [The Long-Term Care Workforce: Description and Perspectives](#)

Differences in life expectancy between those aged 20, 50 and 80

The UK Department for Work and Pensions recently released a report detailing life expectancy in 2011 and comparing the generations at 20, 50 and 80 years old. The data sees 20-year-olds three times more likely to reach 100 than their grandparents, and twice as likely as their parents. **The report is available at the following link: [Differences in life expectancy between those aged 20, 50 and 80 – in 2011 and at birth](#)**

Population Ageing and Individual Attitudes toward Immigration

In the face of rising old-age dependency ratios in industrialised countries, the loosening of immigration policies is discussed as an option to ensure sustainability of public social security systems. This paper studies the effect of individual age on immigration attitudes, using data from Germany and focusing particularly on attitudes of old people. **Read the full report at the following link: [Population Aging and Individual Attitudes toward Immigration](#)**

Incentives of Retirement Transition for Elderly Workers

This discussion paper from the [Institute for the Study of Labor](#) analyses the retirement pattern and the replacement rate observed in Ireland. **Read the report here: [Incentives of Retirement Transition for Elderly Workers: An Analysis of Actual and Simulated Replacement Rates in Ireland](#)**

For more research, policy and practice publications please visit: www.cardi.ie/directory

Events and Seminars

Irish Gerontology Society Conference

The 59th annual Irish Gerontology Society Conference will take place in the Aviva Stadium on the 9-10 September 2011 with Trinity College Dublin as 'virtual hosts'. **To attend the conference you must register online - [click here](#).**

Launch of Shine's Grow Young Research Report

In 2010, [Shine- Supporting People Affected by Mental Ill Health](#) embarked on a research project funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies called "Grow Young". This project was designed to research and develop a knowledge base on the mental health needs of the 50+ population in Ireland. This event 8 September will launch the research conducted on behalf of Shine by SOURCE, a voluntary group originating from Cluain Mhuire mental health services. **If you would like to attend this event please contact: dkavanagh@shineonline.ie or call 01-8601620.**

Launch of the Report of SVP's Older People's Commission

The Launch of the Report of SVP's Older People's Commission will take place at 11.30am on Wednesday, 7 September 2011, Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2. Please contact : **Patricia Timoney E: patriciat@svp.ie or T: 01 8299014.**

International Conference on Age-friendly Cities

The First International Conference on Age-friendly Cities, jointly hosted by The WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities, Ireland's Age-Friendly Counties Programme and the International Federation on Ageing, will take place in Dublin 28-30 September. The conference will bring together

a broad range of leaders and senior managers from existing members of the WHO Age-friendly Cities Global Network, CEOs and senior managers of municipal authorities including planners, architects and elected representatives interested in, or already championing an Age-friendly City initiative. For more information please visit: <http://www.afc-internationalconference.ie/>

Technology and Ageing

The [Centre for Affective Solutions for Ambient Living Awareness \(CASALA\)](#), at the [Dundalk Institute of Technology](#) is hosting a Technology & Ageing Workshop with Laurie Orlov on 15 September. Orlov is the founder of Aging in Place Technology Watch, a market research firm based in the U.S. that provides thought leadership, analysis, and guidance about technologies and related services that delight and empower older people, promoting the independence, autonomy and connectivity to age-in-the-place of their choice. **For more information on the workshop please visit:** www.casala.ie

UCD Frontiers in Poverty Research Summer School

The UCD Schools of Applied Social Science & Sociology & the Geary Institute are hosting a summer school in the area of poverty research. The course will introduce participants to cutting edge conceptual, methodological and policy debates. The school will take place from Monday 26 – Friday 30 September in the Geary Institute, UCD. **More information on the programme and how to apply can be found [here](#).** Please note that the application deadline is **Friday 9 September**.

Meeting the Grand Challenge of Ageing: the New European Research Agenda

This conference, taking place in Brussels on the 18 October, will launch the FUTURAGE Road Map, which will provide a European research agenda for ageing research for the next 10 years. The Road Map will be presented in the European Parliament at this conference hosted by the STOA Panel of MEPs. The Road Map is one of the major strategic European initiatives addressing the grand challenge of the ageing population. The event is aimed at European, Member State and regional ageing research stakeholders. **To register your interest please email futurage@sheffield.ac.uk or visit : www.futurage.group.shef.ac.uk**

Changing Images of Ageing – International Perspectives for a Future-Oriented Policy

The German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, will be hosting an international conference entitled “Changing Images of Ageing – International Perspectives for a Future-Oriented Policy on Senior Citizens and Generations” in Berlin on 12 December 2011. The conference addresses decision makers in the field of politics, administration and civil society who are active in the policy fields relating to senior citizens and generation issues, national and international stakeholders who report on ageing issues and also other experts with an interest in the field. More information: www.dza.de

For more events go to: www.cardi.ie/events

Funding, Awards, Tenders, Training Opportunities

Age Issues Training

Advice NI will host Advantage Age Issues training courses from September 2011. They are aimed at advisers, those working on age sector issues and those working within the subject areas. The courses include: [Age Awareness and Working with Older People](#); [An Introduction to Older](#)

[People's Benefits](#); [Understanding State Retirement Pension](#); [Health Rights and Services for Older People](#); [Community Care and Older People](#) and [Housing and Older People](#) **If you would like to book a place on any of the courses please contact emma@adviceni.net**

MRC Strategic Skills fellowships

The Medical Research Council (MRC) invites early career applications to the following MRC schemes: [Career development award in biostatistics](#); [Population health scientist fellowship](#); [Early career fellowship in economics of health](#). See the MRC website for more information on the [MRC Strategic Skills fellowships](#). The closing date is **6 October 2011**.

ESRC Future Research Leaders scheme

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) invites applications for its Future Research Leaders scheme. Interdisciplinary applications to these schemes must include research that requires training and application of methodologies of both the medical and social and economic sciences. Applications are particularly encouraged via the routes above in several joint MRC and ESRC priority areas: Understanding individual behaviour and informing interventions; Analysis of large or complex datasets (including mixed methods development); Lifelong health and wellbeing; Disease prevention and health promotion. The closing date for the [ESRC Future Research Leaders Scheme](#) is **15 September 2011**.

Devices for Dignity

The Devices for Dignity (D4D) programme is offering £30,000 to fund the development of promising new healthcare technologies for the benefit of patients with long-term medical conditions. D4D has identified unmet clinical needs in two major healthcare themes: Assistive Technologies and Renal Technologies. One winner per theme will be awarded £15,000. Entrants will be given the opportunity to work with D4D's national expert networks, resources and specialist clinicians to bridge the gap between initial concepts and securing grant funding and/or attracting early stage investment. The closing date for applications is 30 September 2011. D4D is funded under the NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) programme. **More information:** <http://www.devicesfordignity.org.uk/ucnc>

Paul B. Beeson Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award in Aging

The National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) are inviting applications for the Paul B. Beeson Patient-Oriented Research Award in Aging. The awards on offer are up to \$200,000 (direct costs) per year with no more than \$600,000 for three year awards; \$700,000 for four year awards; and \$800,000 for five year awards. **For more details go to: [Paul B. Beeson Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award in Aging \(K23\)](#) Deadline for applications: **October 27, 2011****

Chronic pain in older adults: National Institute on Aging

The [National Institute on Aging](#) invites applications its leveraging existing data or longitudinal studies to evaluate safety and effectiveness of pharmacological management of chronic pain in older adults (R03) grants. This funding opportunity announcement solicits projects that aim to leverage existing data or longitudinal studies in order to evaluate the safety and/or effectiveness of pharmacological management for chronic pain in older adults. Applications may be submitted by **domestic or foreign for-profit and non-profit organisations and public or private institutions.**

More information: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-12-006.html>

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.

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CARDI Steering Group

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

Our Steering Group Members are:

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