

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

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May 2010**CARDI Latest Updates****Call 3 applications update**

CARDI is delighted with the high level of interest in Call 3 of its grants programme. The deadline for initial proposals has now passed and feedback has been given to all lead applicants. Only people who made initial proposals can submit full applications - by noon on Monday 24 May 2010. CARDI is offering up to €100,000 for research projects that will improve the lives of older people across the Island of Ireland. CALL 3 encouraged applicants to concentrate proposals on priority issues relating to ageing and older people in Ireland. The full terms of reference for Call 3 are available at www.cardi.ie/grantprogramme.

[Early career workshop bursaries announced](#)

CARDI is pleased to announce that it will be giving bursaries to three early career researchers to attend a workshop run by Professor Alan Walker of the New Dynamics of Ageing (NDA) on Monday 5 July 2010. The recipients are: Donna Brown from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust; Attracta Lafferty from the National Centre for the Protection of Older People, University College Dublin and Annalisa Setti from Trinity College Dublin.

Research Update

CARDI, the Institute of Public Health and University College Cork have recently joined together to undertake a piece of research reviewing variations in health expectancy across Ireland – North and South. This project takes place within the context of international debate on increasing life expectancy and compression of morbidity. A report will be available later in 2010. If you would like further details please email info@cardi.ie

Forthcoming Publications

Theories of ageing: approaches to welfare and public policy and practice in Ireland – North and South.

This forthcoming discussion paper is intended to stimulate discussion on the evidence base required for developing policy and services.

CARDI Events

Becoming Visible: Older People as Active Participants in the Community and in Long-term Care Settings

CARDI is leading a session for early career researchers or those new to ageing research at the second annual conference organised by the Social Policy and Ageing Research Centre (SPARC), Trinity College Dublin and the Changing Ageing Partnership (CAP), Queens University Belfast. The event will take place at Dublin Castle on the 16th and 17th November. For further information on abstract submission, registration details and form please email ageing.research@tcd.ie

CARDI Online

Tell us what you think:

CARDI is always working to improve the quality and relevancy of its website for its users. To help make the website better for you we would appreciate if you could take a few minutes to fill out our short feedback survey. [Please click here to start](#)

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

CARDI also has a regularly updated blog looking at ageing issues at www.cardi.ie/blogs

Send us your news and events:

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

CARDI workshop video now available online

Queen's University Belfast hosted the 4th Living Knowledge conference last August which provided an opportunity for policy makers, academics and community organisations to consider current practice and future opportunities in the area of research partnerships. CARDI chaired a session at the event entitled "Emerging Models of Knowledge Exchange: Planning for Demographic Change". [You can watch an interview with Frank Kee, Queen's University Belfast, who attended the session here](#)

Get connected:

Follow CARDI on Twitter

Keep up to date with the latest news on ageing research and connect with national and international organisations and people engaged in ageing research and active ageing projects by following CARDI on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/CARDItweets>

Become a fan of CARDI on Facebook by clicking [here](#)

Start a discussion with CARDI on Linked In

CARDI aims to bring together researchers, policy makers, practitioners and voluntary and community groups in a **Linked In group** in order to facilitate discussion and sharing of information relating to ageing research, policy and practice. You can join the group by clicking [here](#)

Ageing Research Updates

[EU countries join forces on ageing research](#)

The first pan-European 'joint programming research initiative' was announced in Stockholm earlier this month. It will tackle Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases and is the first of the new European Union (EU) Joint Programming initiatives which are designed to address what are called 'grand challenges' facing EU society in the coming years. The EU hopes to maximise its potential to confront challenges such as Europe's ageing population from publicly funded research by bringing together the funding bodies, the researchers, the existing research evidence, and sharing tools, techniques and other resources amongst member states more efficiently.

[Researchers find course of disability at end of life unpredictable](#)

Despite the importance of functional independence to older people and their families, little is known about the course of disability at the end of life. A study in the April issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine* reports for most conditions leading to death, the course of disability in the year before death does not follow a predictable pattern. The study from the Yale University School of Medicine found that there is a high level of disability in the last month of life, yet found that 50% of subjects were not disabled 12 months before death.

[UK Researchers discover gene involved in ageing and lifespan](#)

Scientists at the University of Birmingham funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) have discovered that a gene strongly involved in determining the rate of ageing and average lifespan. The gene, DAF-16, is part of a group of genes that drive the biological processes involved in ageing, immunity and responses to physical or environmental stresses. The research in Birmingham is now moving on to look at the way in which the newly discovered gene coordinates a complex network of genes in order to balance the differing needs of an individual's immune system over time. It is hoped the research will reveal new information about the ageing process.

[Obesity gene can make you vulnerable to Alzheimer's](#)

Researchers say a variant of an obesity gene, carried by 46% of Western Europeans, also reduces brain volume, raising carriers' risk of Alzheimer's. People with a specific variant of the fat mass and obesity gene, or FTO gene, have brain deficits that could make them more vulnerable to the mind-robbing disease.

[Arthritis breakthrough offers hope to thousands of sufferers](#)

A simple blood test could lead to a "new era" of tailored therapy for rheumatoid arthritis. Research from the University of Newcastle has shown patients with certain immune system antibodies are more likely to respond to an advanced form of treatment. Eighty per cent of patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are believed to have one of the two antibodies. Trial results presented show they have a good chance of being helped by the "biologic" drug rituximab, also known as MabThera, which targets the immune system. The researchers claimed that this breakthrough would

allow for more targeted, early treatment of RA for some sufferers and may prevent the onset of irreversible damage from the condition.

Ageing Policy Updates

[Dame Joan Bakewell quits as Older People's "Tsar"](#)

Dame Bakewell was appointed Voice of Older People in England by Harriet Harman in 2008, in order to listen to the views of the elderly and raise their concerns with the authorities but now she has decided to give up this unpaid post. She will instead ask ministers to create a more powerful post of Older People's Commissioner for England. Wales already has a [Commissioner for Older People](#) with statutory powers while [Northern Ireland is in the process of appointing one](#).

[Pensioners' campaign demonstrates the power of the 'grey vote'](#)

Politicians were warned not to ignore the "grey vote" at the launch of the *Pensioners' Manifesto* in Belfast earlier this month. The pensioners' election campaign aims to harness the power of the 'grey vote' in the lead up to the general election. It is the first non-political election campaign in Northern Ireland and includes an election roadshow where older people can quiz politicians and hear what they have to offer. The campaign is supported by Age NI, Age Sector Platform, Irish Congress of Trade Unions (NI) and National Pensioners' Convention (NI).

[Decision on "farm pensions" reversed](#)

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs in the Republic of Ireland recently reversed a decision to withdraw pensions from some farm spouses. Mr Ó Cuív announced that he was rescinding the decision to withdraw or reduce contributory pensions to farm women who had paid PRSI retrospectively. The announcement followed a review by his officials and legal advice from the Attorney General. This decision will be backdated to the date on which State Pensions were withdrawn or reduced and all arrears due will be paid. The move was welcomed by the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA).

[National Positive Ageing Strategy Consultation Roadshow Continues](#)

The National Positive Ageing Strategy consultation roadshow is continued around the Republic of Ireland this month. The roadshow, announced by The Minister for Older People and Health Promotion, Áine Brady TD in February, aims to hear at first hand the views of older people on issues that affect them. These meetings are part of the government's work to develop the National Positive Ageing Strategy which is a long-term plan for making Ireland a better place in which to grow older. The next meetings will be in Newcastle West, Co Limerick on Tuesday 4 May; in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin on Monday 17 May; in Dundalk, Co Louth on 24 May (venue to be confirmed). Members of the public who require further information can contact: National Positive Ageing Strategy, tel: (01) 635 3057 or e-mail: positiveageing@health.gov.ie

[Age by itself not a major predictor of exclusion in Ireland](#)

Growing older in Ireland does not necessarily mean greater social exclusion or lower levels of well-being and satisfaction with life according to two recently published studies. The studies published by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions indicate that low incomes, deprivation and unemployment are potent factors in determining how well people feel and how socially connected they believe they are.

Research and Policy Publications

Reshaping of Paternal Grandparent-Grandchild Relations

The Social Policy and Ageing Research Centre, Trinity College, Dublin recently published the findings of a study examining the affect of separation on intergenerational relationships. Based on a qualitative study of 31 grandparents, it highlights how separation in the middle generation can result in an erosion of trust and quality of paternal grandparent-grandchild relationships. The findings suggest that the actions of paternal grandparents can potentially have important future implications not only for the grandparent-grandchild relationship, but also the relationship trajectories of their adult son and child in the post-separation family.

Where next for pensions? How do we encourage people to save?

The International Longevity Centre in the UK recently published a new policy paper 'Where next for pension reform? How can we encourage people to save? The paper outlines a number of priorities for a future government in the UK including: the need to support employers in providing advice to employees; the requirement to work with all stakeholders together to attack the continuing problem of pensioner poverty and to explore the case for extending matched saving either as an addition to or replacement for tax relief (up to a certain limit). The think-tank also calls for steps to be taken to deliver a 'decent' universal state pension and ensure individuals have access to impartial and accurate information and advice. The paper also calls for the abolition of the Default Retirement Age to remove a barrier to older people working longer.

The personalisation agenda: implications for the third sector

Personalisation, a term used for person-directed or consumer-directed care, is the concept of offering very different services to those that have been delivered in the past. The Third Sector Research Centre in England recently published a paper describing the major features of the personalisation agenda and the key research, policy and practice implications of this for the third sector.

Research for older people and those with a disability

Late last year, KT-EQUAL hosted a residential masterclass for 49 delegates in Manchester aimed at inspiring, supporting and training a new generation of researchers who are interested in improving the lives of older people and those with a disability. It has recently published findings and new training needs identified during the session that may help inform those embarking on research with older people.

Age by itself not a major predictor of exclusion in Ireland

Growing older in Ireland does not necessarily mean greater social exclusion or lower levels of well-being and satisfaction with life according to two recently published studies. The studies published by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions indicate that low incomes, deprivation and unemployment are potent factors in determining how well people feel and how socially connected they believe they are. Ageing itself does not seem to have a major role, as distinct from poverty and deprivation among older people. Both studies are based on the Second European Quality of Life Survey, which was carried out in 2007. However, the significantly changed economic environment since then may affect the relative position in the countries studied to the extent that it has affected them to varying degrees.

My Name is Not Dementia

Only 13 per cent of people believe a person with dementia can have a good quality of life at all stages of their condition according to a recent report commissioned by the Alzheimer's Society in the UK. The report, "My Name is Not Dementia", was compiled by the Mental Health Commission and

draws on the views of people with dementia including author Sir Terry Pratchett who has written a foreword for the report. The report lists ten criteria that people with dementia said were important for improving quality of life. It also found significant variations among people with ethnic backgrounds living in the community and people with severe dementia living in care homes. The Alzheimer's Society hopes to use these findings to develop a way to monitor quality of life for people with dementia which could be used to assess the success of policy and service provision.

[Telling the story of Hartfields: A new retirement village for the twenty-first century](#)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation recently published a report on the establishment of a "retirement village for the twenty-first century". The village in Hartlepool opened in 2008 and was developed by the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust in partnership with Hartlepool Borough Council and other local agencies. The report tracked key decisions made, and challenges faced, as the scheme developed and aims to illustrate the challenges and key learnings encountered throughout the project.

Events and Seminars

[Celebrating Creativity in old age](#)

Bealtaine, a month-long festival celebrating creativity in old age takes place this May in the Republic of Ireland. The festival coordinated by Age & Opportunity, the Irish national organisation working to promote greater participation by older people in society, and part funded by the Arts Council of Ireland includes exhibitions, nature walks, music, art and dance workshops and much more. The theme for this year's Bealtaine festival is 'have dreams and speak them without fear'. For more information go to www.bealtaine.ie.

[Introducing a New Resource to Researchers in Ageing](#)

A seminar taking place on Friday, 14th May, 10.30-13.00, will present an overview of the data that will become available from The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) in the upcoming months. TILDA will provide in-depth information on all the domains of older people's lives including their health, economic situation and social circumstances. The seminar will allow participants to identify key research questions, plan appropriate analysis strategies and collaborations and begin preparing applications to funding bodies. To reserve a seat, please email Jacinta O'Grady at jogrady@tcd.ie

[Consumption and later life: The emergence of the Third Age](#)

The Social Policy and Ageing Research Centre (SPARC) and the Living with Dementia Research Programme (LID), School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin will host a seminar examining the patterns of consumption of older people on May 18th 2010. Professor Paul Higgs, Professor of the Sociology of Ageing at University College London will use a recent study examining consumption patterns in retired households in Britain between 1968 and 2005 to illustrate the emergence of a new Third Age. He will discuss the implications this has for society and the economy. If you wish to book a place, please phone 01 896 2914/2442 or email ageing.research@tcd.ie

[Silver Surfers Day](#)

Silver Surfers' Day is the biggest, national campaign to promote use of digital technologies by older people. It is run by Digital Unite and was started in 2002. Silver Surfers' Day is its ninth glorious year and will take place on May 21st with free events to encourage older people to get online scheduled all across the UK and Northern Ireland. For more information go to www.silversurfers.digitalunite.com/

[Supporting Communities and Protecting Vulnerable Individuals In Society](#)

This Centre for Public Policy Seminars (CPPS) event brings together key figures from across sectors to debate how best to support vulnerable people and communities and particularly safeguard adults. It will take place at the Stormont Hotel, Belfast on May 20th, 2010. Speakers will include: Margaret Ritchie MLA, Minister for Social Development NI, Stuart Cuddy, Deputy Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Daniel Blake, Policy Development Manager, Action on Elder Abuse

[International Society for Gerontechnology 7th World Conference](#)

The International Society for Gerontechnology's 7th World Conference will be held in Vancouver, Canada, May 27-30, 2010. Internationally recognised experts in gerontechnology will share their knowledge and experience through lectures, symposia, workshops, papers and posters. Topics to be addressed will include rehabilitation engineering, robotics, telemonitoring, telecare, ICT, biomechanics and ergonomics, assistive technology, inclusive design and usability, smart homes and smart fabrics, sensor technology, and cognitive aging and computer games.

[Ironing Out the Wrinkles of Research Governance and Ethics](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (NI) and Northern Ireland Research and Quality Group will host a seminar entitled "Ironing Out the Wrinkles of Research Governance and Ethics". It will take place on Monday 21st June 2010, 2 - 4.30PM at Fern House, Antrim. Speakers will be: Dr Siobhan McGrath, Head of ORECNI, Paul Carlin, Research Governance Manager, South Eastern HSC Trust and Marina Lupari, PHD Student, UU; Head of Nursing- Research and Development (NHSCT). For further information or to book a place please contact: Gillian.mccorkell@westerntrust.hscni.net or telephone 028 71 345171 ext 216608

[Funding, Awards and Research Opportunities](#)

[Grey Matters- Public Engagement Society Awards](#)

The Wellcome Trust is offering funding for ambitious and creative projects that engage people with developments in biomedical science on a regional or national scale. The theme for this October's awards is "Grey matters: brain, mind and culture". The Awards are open to applicants from the UK and Republic of Ireland and are for amounts over £30,000 for up to three years. Applicants may include universities, arts agencies, biomedical researchers, health professionals, community groups and research institutes. The closing date for applications is 12 October 2010. [For further information please click here](#)

[HRB Cochrane Fellowships 2010](#)

The Health Research Board (HRB) in the Republic of Ireland recently announced a training fellowship scheme. The Cochrane Fellowships are open to individuals resident on the island of Ireland working in the health and social care area as health practitioners, researchers or policy makers. As intensive and continuous training will be provided as part of the Fellowship, applications are invited from those with no prior experience or training in conducting systematic reviews. [For further information please click here](#)

[Philip Poole-Wilson Seed Corn Fund to nurture new research ideas](#)

The Bupa foundation is calling for applications for this seed corn fund for exploratory/pilot research projects in any of the Foundation's areas of interest: surgery; preventive medicine and epidemiology; health information and communication between patients and health professionals; health at work and mental health of older people. The Seed Corn Fund has a total of £200,000 per annum to provide individual seed corn grants of up to £20,000 per proposal. The maximum award is £20,000 and it is expected that activities funded would be completed within a year. High priority will be given to applications from young and/or new researchers who have not previously been funded. The closing date for applications is 31 July 2010. Apply online at grants.bupafoundation.co.uk

Submit an Expression of Interest for FLARE 2

FLARE, the programme on ageing research funded by European Member States, will be launching a second round of funding in 2010. FLARE has two innovative features: part of the fellowship must be spent in another country and involve a cross-disciplinary collaboration. These novel features reflect the strong scientific consensus in ERA-AGE meetings on the need to develop a multi-disciplinary approach to ageing research and also a European networking in this area. Another key priority for both scientists and end users is the support of the next generation of researchers on ageing, hence the title, 'Future Leaders of Ageing Research in Europe' (FLARE). To submit an expression of interest email: a.kettle@sheffield.ac.uk. For further information <http://era-age.group.shef.ac.uk/news/30/>.

EULAR YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

European League Against Rheumatism is offering three awards of €5000 to young European researchers for important contributions in rheumatology. The competition is open to both scientists and clinicians. Eligible persons must be Europeans under the age of 35 and predominantly work in the field of rheumatology in a European centre. The award will only be granted once. To apply, send your complete application in electronic form to the EULAR Secretariat at caroline.pasche@eular.org. The closing date is the 1 March, 2011.

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:

Professor Davis Coakley
Co-Chair of CARDI
Professor Robert Stout
Co-Chair of CARDI
Owen Metcalfe
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