

eBulletin

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

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December 2010**CARDI Updates****New CARDI Publication Gives Picture of Ageing Research in Ireland**

The portrayal of older people in advertising; the use of technology to enable older people to live independently; bridging the digital divide through intergenerational learning; and genetic susceptibility to Alzheimer's disease – these are just some of the topics related to ageing being investigated by researchers in Ireland, as documented in a new CARDI publication. The publication, 'A Picture of Ageing Research: Ireland, North and South', profiles major collaborative ageing research projects, a selection of ageing research work being carried out by the leading academic institutions in Ireland, North and South, and also includes details of projects funded under CARDI's Research Grants Programme.

It is available at: www.cardi.ie/publications/apictureofageingresearchirelandnorthandsouth. Hard copies of the publication may be requested by emailing info@cardi.ie or telephoning 0044-28-90690066.

Living Longer-Working Longer?

On Wednesday, 10th November 2010, CARDI hosted a seminar entitled '[Living Longer, Working Longer](#)'. It took place in conjunction with UK-based organisation [The Age and Employment Network \(TAEN\)](#), as part of CARDI's '[Older People and the Recession](#)' series. It explored issues such as the impact of an ageing population on Ireland's workforce, North and South; the reasons why some people retire early and others continue working; and the urgent need for research on older people's experiences in the workforce.

Presentations are available at: www.cardi.ie/publications/livinglongerworkinglongerpresentations

[An age old problem - where now for rural services?](#)

CARDI in association with the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, Irish Rural Link and Rural Community Network will also host a seminar on rural ageing on 9-10th December, 2010 at NUI Galway. This will be the final seminar in CARDI's '[Older People and the Recession](#)' series. **The keynote speaker at the event will be Norah Keating, Co-Director of Research on Aging, Policies and Practice, Department of Human Ecology, University of Alberta, Canada.** It will also feature presentations from two CARDI funded research projects concerned with ageing in the rural context from researchers at the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, NUIG and UCD. Issues examined will include the provision of services for older people, social isolation and transport in rural areas in the context of economic recession and budgetary cuts. **The full programme is available at:** [An age old problem - where now for rural services? Programme](#) **Further details and presentations will be available at** www.cardi.ie following the event.

For more information on this event please go to www.cardi.ie **or contact** info@cardi.ie **or telephone** 00 44 (0) 28 9069 0066.

Data mining small grantees to be announced in early 2011

CARDI's Data Mining Call is now closed and applications are currently being considered. The successful applicants will be announced in the early new year. A large number of applications were received for the programme which will be providing up to €80,000 to support research projects involving the collation and analysis of existing data from an all-Ireland perspective and summarising it into information relevant for policy or practice.

CARDI Events

Diary Date

Ageing Globally- Ageing Local: CARDI Conference 2011

CARDI will host a major international conference - Ageing Globally – Ageing Locally – in Dublin on the 2nd & 3rd November 2011. This conference will explore a number of issues including how different countries address the challenges and opportunities of population ageing, why global ageing matters to Ireland and how policy makers, business and service providers can best plan for changing demographics. Featuring international and national experts in the ageing research field it will promote the value and role of ageing-related research specifically for policy and practice. More details including speakers and programme will be available in early 2011 at www.cardi.ie

CARDI Publications

Theories of Ageing and Approaches to Welfare in Ireland, North and South

Prepared for CARDI by Dr. Maria Pierce and Dr. Virpi Timonen at the Social Policy and Ageing Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin. This discussion paper gives a detailed assessment of current theories of ageing. It discusses how ageing was previously, and is currently, viewed in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It also examines two major policy areas relevant to older people-pensions and long-term care-through the lenses of various social policy theories of ageing. It aims to draw attention to and encourage discussion on the relevance of theoretical debates on ageing for those stakeholders involved in the process of formulating and developing policies for

older people.

To access the full paper and summary paper please go to:

<http://www.cardi.ie/publications/theoriesofageingandapproachestowelfareinirelandnorthandsouth>

Focus On...

Each month CARDI's Focus article will take on a topical ageing related issue. The series will provide an evidence based analysis of key issues in ageing and ageing research stories making the news.

This month the focus is on Older People's Skills. You can read the article at: www.cardi.ie

CARDI Online

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

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

Becoming Visible: Engaging older people in decision-making

The [Social Policy and Ageing Research Centre \(SPARC\)](#), Trinity College Dublin and Northern Ireland's [Changing Ageing Partnership](#) co-hosted a conference on the 16th-17th November entitled *Becoming Visible: Older People as Active Participants in the Community and in Long-term Care Settings* at Dublin Castle. The conference focussed on older adult's important role in society and called for greater participation of older people in decision-making in communities and care-settings. Keynote speakers included Professor James Nazroo, University of Manchester; Maev-Anne Wren, journalist; Professor Marian Barnes, University of Brighton and Eleanor Edmond, Alzheimer Society of Ireland. All of the speakers at the conference underlined the importance of older people's participation in decision-making, especially in relation to policies and practices that directly impact their lives. **For more on the conference please follow this link:**

[Becoming Visible: Engaging older people in decision-making](#)

Measuring the effects of stress on the ageing process

A researcher examining links between psychological states and ageing is the first Irish recipient of a Branco Weiss award. Aoife O'Donovan is currently pursuing postdoctoral research in psychobiology at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), working at the intersection between psychology and immunology. Her work looks at connections between psychological states, such as stress or anxiety, and ageing processes that occur at a cellular or molecular level. The fellowship programme, which is funded by the Swiss entrepreneur and philanthropist Branco Weiss, who died recently, and administered by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, is particularly focused on interdisciplinary work. **For more on this story please follow this link: [Measuring the effects of stress on the ageing process: Irish Times](#)**

Age Restriction On Emergency Stroke Treatment Should Be Lifted

Thrombolysis (giving anti-clotting drugs within three hours of an acute stroke) is effective in patients aged 40 to 90 years and should not be restricted in elderly patients, as current guidelines advise, concludes a study recently published in the British Medical Journal. The study argues that effective treatments should not be withheld from older people in the absence of compelling data suggesting unacceptable risk or proved lack of benefit, especially as the proportion of older people is rapidly rising in developed countries. **The study is available at the following link: www.bmj.com/content/341/bmj.c6046**

£2m project to harness design and technology to help older people

The Technology Strategy Board and Design Council announce drive for innovative solutions to the challenges of the UK's ageing population. The programme is being run through the Technology Strategy Board's Assisted Living Innovation Platform (ALIP), which is responding to the challenge of the demographic shift – in essence promoting independent living and improved quality of life by making the technology better, cheaper, more desirable and more relevant. Further announcements launching the various elements of Independence Matters projects will be made in the coming weeks. **To find out more, visit:** www.designcouncil.org.uk/independencematters

Elderly may get two-year health boost from EU research initiative

A new EU research initiative hopes to add two healthy years to the lives of older people. It is part of a wider plan to boost innovation and tackle major challenges faced by society, said Irish commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn. Research into ageing was just one part of the Europe 2020 Strategy for Jobs and Growth approved by member states earlier this year, the commissioner said. In October, she launched the "Innovation Union" initiative to help make innovation an active part of each member state's development policy. It included plans to set up cross-community research partnerships, with the first to focus on "active and healthy ageing", Ms Geoghegan-Quinn said. This had the goal "of adding two healthy years to the lives of older people", she said. **For more on this story please follow this link:** [Elderly may get two-year health boost from EU research initiative: Irish Times](#)
Related story: [European Science Foundation calls for network to focus on the research into ageing](#)

Ageing Policy Updates

Northern Ireland population ageing faster than rest of UK

The [Annual Report of the Registrar General published by the Statistics and Research Agency \(NISRA\)](#) was published on 30th November, 2010. The report provides information on births, deaths, marriages, civil partnerships, adoptions and divorces registered in 2009. It finds that the Northern Ireland population is increasing in size and becoming older and this trend is set to continue. Over the next five decades Northern Ireland's population is projected to age faster than all the other United Kingdom countries. In light of this the report contains a special article entitled "[Northern Ireland: An Ageing Population](#)" written by NISRA.

Report of the Consultation Process on the National Positive Ageing Strategy

The Office for Older People in the Republic of Ireland recently published a Report of the Consultation Process on the National Positive Ageing Strategy. The report contains the views expressed during a series of nationwide consultative meetings and submissions made to the office in writing. **The report is available at the following link:** [Report of the Consultation Process on the National Positive Ageing Strategy](#)

New commissioner for older people in Northern Ireland backed

A new commissioner for older people in Northern Ireland will not be a toothless tiger, the Northern Ireland Assembly was told earlier this month as MLAs passed the latest stage of the required legislation. Junior Minister Robin Newton said that the role will have an extensive range of powers to investigate complaints and take legal action. Pensioners from across Northern Ireland were in the public gallery as the appointment of a commissioner to represent their rights moved a step closer. Mr Newton said "Establishing a commissioner here is a ground-breaking development" and that the process was "An example of the assembly working together along with the age sector and addressing issues that are important to those who make up the population of Northern Ireland." **For more on this story follow this link:** [Older people's commissioner for Northern Ireland backed: Press Association](#)

UN moves towards human rights convention on ageing

On November 16, 2010, the UN's Third Committee agreed to move forward on a path that will lead, if all goes well, to an eventual human rights convention on ageing. The UN General Assembly will consider this [Resolution on the "Follow-Up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing"](#) shortly.

More UK OAPs 'have no family carers' Rising levels of family breakdown are leaving increasing numbers of pensioners without children or spouses to care for them as they grow older, a UK report has warned. The report by the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) said the collapse of families was having a "ripple effect" throughout society which was now hitting the elderly. The report points out that the number of older people in the UK in need of care and support is expected to increase by 1.7 million over the next 20 years while the numbers with dementia could double by 2040. At the same time high rates of divorce and the collapse of long-standing relationships of couples living together, were weakening the bonds between pensioners and their adult children. **To read more on the story please follow this link:** [More UK OAPs 'have no family carers': Press Association](#)

Rural pensioners face higher costs, require more income to live A recent report by the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) on a Minimum Income Standard (MIS) for the UK, explores how needs and costs vary for rural households. One of the key findings suggests that pensioner couples need more income to live on in rural areas than pensioner couples in urban areas. In a rural town, the minimum income standard is 1% higher than urban areas, but in a village it is 19% higher and in a hamlet, 22% higher. The research shows that transport is the major factor in the additional cost of living – 60-100% of the additional costs in rural areas are due to transport. **To read the report please follow this link:** [A minimum income standard for rural households](#)

The future of pensions in the EU The European Commission recently organised a major EU conference on the future of pensions which gathered EU and national policy makers, researchers, social partners and civil society representatives to debate the adequacy and sustainability of pension systems through policies to encourage active and healthy ageing as well as sound public finances. This event also offered the opportunity to stakeholders to comment the Commission's Green Paper on Pensions. AGE Platform Europe (AGE) was one of the organisations to prepare a response. To access AGE full response to the Green Paper: http://www.age-platform.eu/images/stories/AGE_Response_to_GP_Pensions.pdf The results of this conference, as well as responses to the consultation launched by the Commission will provide input for drafting the upcoming White Paper on Pensions planned to be issued in the first half of 2011. **For more information, please visit the Commission's website at:** <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=839>

Research and Policy Publications

[Cognitive Impairment and Dementia: A Practical Guide to Daily Living for Family Caregivers](#)

The [Dementia Services Information and Development Centre](#) based at St. James's Hospital, Dublin recently launched a new booklet for family caregivers of people with dementia. The booklet has been written to provide practical information to family care-givers of people living at home with a cognitive impairment or a dementia and to help them better cope with the day-to-day choices and dilemmas they may confront. **To download the booklet please follow this link:** [Cognitive Impairment and Dementia: A Practical Guide to Daily Living for Family Caregivers](#)

Feeling the Pinch: One Year On

"Feeling the Pinch: One Year On", a qualitative report launched on the 23rd November 2010 by [Older & Bolder](#), illustrates the precarious financial position some older people are currently living in the Republic of Ireland. The research report prepared by Maura Boyle and Dr. Joe Larragy, National University of Ireland Maynooth, follows on from the 2009 report 'Feeling the Pinch' and revisits a sub set of the original respondents to gauge how older people are faring in the current climate of economic and political uncertainty. **To read the report please follow this link:** [Feeling the Pinch: One Year On](#)

Related story: [Advocacy groups warn of rise in poverty among elderly: Irish Times](#)

The National Study of Elder Abuse and Neglect The [National Centre for the Protection of Older People \(NCPPOP\)](#) in the Republic of Ireland launched a new report (8th November, 2010) entitled ***The National Study of Elder Abuse and Neglect*** based on research led by Dr Corina Naughton, UCD

and funded by the HSE. It focused on five forms of elder abuse: physical abuse, psychological abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. The study found that more than 18,000 older people have experienced some form of abuse or neglect since they turned 65. Financial abuse was the most commonly reported mistreatment, experienced by 1.3 per cent of respondents, followed by psychological abuse (1.2 per cent), physical abuse (0.5 per cent) and neglect (0.3 per cent). Sexual abuse was the least common form of abuse at 0.05 per cent. Those aged between 70 and 79 and those over 80 were twice as likely to experience abuse as those aged 65 to 69. **The report summary is available at the following link: [The National Study of Elder Abuse and Neglect](#)**

Healthcare Associated Infections and Antibiotic use in Long-Term Care Facilities Just under 4% of elderly residents in Irish long-term care facilities had a confirmed healthcare-associated infection, such as MRSA according to a new study. The HSE – Health Protection Surveillance Centre study highlighted the wide variation in the level of medical care among long-stay facilities. Of the 4,170 residents studied in 69 nursing homes and other long-stay centres, 3.6% had a confirmed healthcare-associated infection (HCAI) when physician diagnosis of infection was included as a criterion in all categories of infection. **The report is available at the following link: [Healthcare Associated Infections and Antibiotic use in Long-Term Care Facilities Nov 2010 ROI](#)**

An Age Old Problem: A review of care received by elderly patients undergoing surgery This report, published November 11 by the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcomes (NCEPOD), presents data from people over 80 years old who died within 30 days of operations done between April 1 and June 30, 2008. The report tells of how older patients who have undergone surgery are all too often left isolated, confused, cold, and in pain. Data for all aspects of care, from admission to death, were gathered by review of 820 case notes and around 2000 questionnaires completed by the doctors involved in the patients' care. Other data on hospital services were gathered from 280 organisational questionnaires. The patients were operated on in all hospitals in **England, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands**. **The report is available at the following link: [An Age Old Problem](#)**

The Golden Economy: Meeting the needs of the older consumer This new research, by David Sinclair of [ILC-UK](#), for Age UK, considers the market potential of the older consumer and highlights how companies can make more of this population. Older people are important to the market and the economy. In the UK, older people's spending reached an estimated £97 billion in 2008 (65 plus), around 15 per cent of the overall household expenditure. Those aged 50 or over spent £276 billion in 2008, making up around 44 per cent of the total family spending in the UK. Yet despite the size of the market, this report finds that for many, the private sector does not meet their needs. This is not just a story of poverty or a lack of income to buy products, but of a consumer marketplace which frequently fails to meet the needs of an ageing population. To read the report please follow this link: [The Golden Economy – The Consumer Marketplace in an Ageing Society: ILCUK](#)

The Forgotten Age: Understanding poverty and social exclusion in later life According a report by The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) in the UK poverty and social exclusion in later life remain unacceptably high. The report says that one in five pensioners in the UK lives below the official poverty line and says there are many more older people whose quality of life is far too low. This report claims the clearest example of this less quantifiable disadvantage is older people's experience of loneliness and exclusion. The report states: "What is at stake is life, not simply quality of life. Our society is also ageing rapidly: by the year 2024 one in five people will be of pensionable age. This phenomenon will bring with it new social and economic pressures. Unless these are handled promptly and efficiently, pensioner poverty and social exclusion in later life are likely to worsen." **To read the report please follow this link: [The Forgotten Age Understanding poverty and social exclusion in later life](#)**

Greatest increase in deaths each winter is in the elderly population According to UK National Statistics in the winter period (December to March) of 2009/10 there were an estimated 25,400 more deaths in England and Wales, compared with the average for the non-winter period. This was a decrease of 30 per cent compared with the number in the previous winter, but is slightly higher than the level seen in 2007/08. According to the report, females experience greater excess winter mortality than males: in 2009/10 there were 10,600 excess winter deaths in males and 14,800

excess winter deaths in females. The greatest increase in deaths each winter is in the elderly population. In the winter of 2009/10 there were 20,600 more deaths among those aged 75 and over, compared with levels in the non-winter period. In contrast, there were 4,900 excess winter deaths among those under the age of 75. **The report is available at the following link:**

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=574>

[The Effects of the Economic Crisis on the Older Population](#) This working paper, prepared by Michael Hurd and Susann Rohwedder from the [Michigan Retirement Research Center](#) studies the effects of the 2007-2009 recession on the US population age 55 and older. Households in and near retirement have suffered sizeable losses in assets as a result of the economic crisis. There are a number of ways in which households might respond: reduce spending and with that increase saving, work longer, and/or bequeath less. Using longitudinal data from the [Health and Retirement Study](#) and its supplemental surveys, the paper finds that all of these adjustments have been important. **To read the paper please follow this link: [The Effects of the Economic Crisis on the Older Population \(WP 2010-231\)](#)**

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

Events and Seminars

Living longer: should we try to live forever? The fourth seminar in the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded Seminar Series: *The 'New' Ageing Populations: Mapping identities, health, needs and responses across the lifecourse* will take place on Wednesday 26th January 2011 at King's College London. Entitled *Living longer: should we try to live forever?* it will feature presentations from Aubrey de Grey, Chief Scientific Officer, SENS Foundation and Bryan S Turner, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York. **This seminar is open to all but participants are asked to book a place in advance by emailing newagepop@kcl.ac.uk.**

Dementia: innovative approaches towards a better quality of life [KT-Equal](#) will a workshop on innovative approaches to dementia on 27th January, 2011 at Sheffield University. During the day participants will hear about the needs of people with dementia and their carers and about exciting research which is considering how needs might be met through technology and engineering. The workshop is aimed at a wide range of practitioners and policy makers, health and social care practitioners, employers, charitable and government bodies concerned with the needs of older and disabled people, as well as researchers and academics from engineering, biological, social science, medical and health care disciplines. Please follow the links for the provisional [programme](#) and [directions](#) to the venue. **For further information please contact:** Helen Haigh h.haigh@sheffield.ac.uk.

Introduction to multilevel modelling for longitudinal research The Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study Research Forum will host a two day introduction to multilevel (ML) modelling techniques for research using the ML-Win Software package on 10-11th January, 2011. The workshop will be presented by Dr Myles Gould, Lecturer in Human Geography, University of Leeds. His research interests are the geography of health and well-being (including health care); geographical applications of multilevel statistical models; geographical data analysis; use of GIS with the NHS; and epidemiological methods. **For more information and to book a place please email:** Sharon McKee at s.mckee@ulster.ac.uk

International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics VIIIth European Region Congress The International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics VIIIth European Region Congress, will take place in Bologna, Italy on 14 – 17th April 2011. This Congress will provide a unique opportunity for scientific interdisciplinary dialogue among researchers, practitioners and professionals working with older persons in a vast array of sciences: biological, biomedical, chemical, clinical, engineering, nursing, psychology, social sciences, public health and policy. The deadline for paper submissions

has been extended to the 11th January, 2010. For **more information please visit:** www.iaggbologna2011.com

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

Funding, Awards, Research and Training Opportunities

ESRC Knowledge Exchange Schemes Call

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) will soon be issuing a harmonised call for a range of Knowledge Exchange Schemes. The schemes will operate on a number of staggered 'closed date' calls per year. **For more information please visit:** www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk

Medical Research Council call for applications for a Centre of Excellence in Musculoskeletal Ageing Research Support

The Medical Research Council is calling for applications for a Centre of Excellence in Musculoskeletal Ageing Research Support. Funding of up to £2.5 million (on the basis of full economic costs (FEC) paid at approximately 67.5 per cent to reflect 50/50 collaborative funding between a research council and a charity) is available through this call, and the award will be made over five years to the successful team of applicants. **More information:** www.mrc.ac.uk

Wellcome Trust's flagship Four-year PhD Studentships: Applications now open Applications are now open for the Wellcome Trust's flagship Four-year PhD Studentships. The programmes aim to support the most promising students to undertake in-depth postgraduate research training. There are 27 programmes available, based in centres of excellence throughout the UK. These centres provide specialised training at the cutting edge of a wide range of important biomedical research areas, including neuroscience, immunology and infectious disease and genetics, statistics and epidemiology. **More information:** www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Funding-schemes/PhD-funding-and-undergraduate-opportunities/WTD004384.htm

Sir Halley Steward Fund call for research projects Applications are welcomed for research, feasibility, pilot studies or development projects that are likely to improve the conditions of a particular group of people, as well as having wider implications. Priority areas include: address the needs of elderly people and those of all ages who may be vulnerable or exploited. **For more information:** www.sirhalleystewart.org.uk/socpriority.html

Network for Studies on Pensions, Aging and Retirement: Economics of Ageing Grants

The [Network for Studies on Pensions, Aging and Retirement - Netspar, NL](http://www.netspar.nl) invites researchers in the field of the economics of ageing to apply for a grant. That maximum grant is €10,000. Ten grants are available this round. Proposals can be submitted by email to info@netspar.nl. The deadline for submission is **May 9, 2011**. **For more information:** <http://www.netspar.nl/>

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

CARDI Steering Group

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

team.

CARDI staff are:

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