

Work-Package One

Summary Report from UK

Introduction

This summary report highlights the UK responses. The broad findings demonstrate a desire for scientists in the UK to consolidate rather than extend their current research areas and interests; yet work collaboratively with scientists from different research and scientific backgrounds and methodological approaches across the European Union within a new European Research Centre on Ageing. There was also strong desire for better support for all scientists to engage in interdisciplinary knowledge exchange with financial support for such activity. You are referred to the full report where you will find more detailed coverage.

Emerging themes

Question 1: Within each of the following key themes (Biogerontology; Social and Economic Resources; Environments of Ageing and Healthy Ageing) what are the three main research priorities for the next 10 years?

Responses can be summarised into three broad areas for each of the key themes and are presented in the list of recommendations.

Question 2: Are there any major research priorities outside of these themes? If so, what are they?

The responses to this question were wide-ranging and it is difficult to adequately summarise them. Nevertheless some important suggestions for future scientific enquiry were made and include 'Ageing in developing countries; Intergenerational issues' and 'Abuse, neglect and exploitation (includes mistreatment): human rights

violations of older people'. Yet it could be argued that these should be included within the last three key themes already identified.

Question 3: Which priorities, in your view, require European collaboration?

There is almost universal support for European collaboration across all the key themes.

Question 4: What infrastructures are necessary to deliver these priorities at a European level?

The answers received to this question can be split into two approaches. One maintains the *status quo*, the other offers a more visionary approach and calls for a 'European Institute on Ageing'.

Summary and recommendations

This final section presents our recommendations. For each of the key scientific themes are listed:

Biogerontology

1. Development of an understanding of the basic biology of healthy ageing.
2. The measurement and development of a scientific understanding of the determinants of healthy ageing at the level of the population.
3. Translating advances in the basic biological science of ageing into effective interventions to promote healthy ageing.

Social and Economic Resources

1. Socio-economic inequalities in later life and the inter- and intra-generational dynamics of income inequality over the life course.
2. Social and civic engagement, advocacy and the participation of older adults in social and public policy.
3. Investigations into the improvements in the 'quality' of older adults' lives through the application of scientifically derived instruments and use of new technologies (e.g. ITC).
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Environments of Ageing

1. The social and economic impact of assistive and other new technologies to the quality of older adults' lives.
2. Work environments, ageing and the quality of life and quality of care. This includes the study of workplace design and the impact of employment upon the current and future quality of life of older employees.
3. How to enhance quality of life and quality of care in the variety of environments in which older adults reside through the lens of improved spatial planning/city design and sustainability of design for all ages. Cognisance of the wider framework of global climatic change in this work is imperative.

Healthy Ageing

1. The development of scientifically based health promotion strategies These should include translational health advice; discussion on cognitive health; sexuality and physical expression in older life; falls prevention; healthy eating; exercise and the implications of obesity and sedentary lifestyles on health.
2. Interdisciplinary research on all aspects of mental health in old age.
3. Development of life-course approaches to healthy ageing.

When considering the infrastructure and how collaboration might occur it was clear from the responses that there was widespread support for a step change in the scale of organisation and maintenance of ageing research. The following pragmatic recommendations can be made in addition to the scientifically focussed ones listed above.

1. Adequate training of future researchers (at graduate and post graduate level) in the field (perhaps modelled upon the FLARE programme) to enable capacity building particularly among the new EU states.
2. The inclusion of scientists outside the specific fields of gerontology. Any Roadmap should encourage senior scientists from other disciplines and fields to engage in research on ageing in order to bring fresh ideas and methodologies.
3. Development of a multi-centred European Research Centre on Ageing (part funded by European Commission to develop 'blue skies' and policy related

scientific research into European ageing. This would mirror the highly successful US National Institute on Aging. This body would coordinate ageing research across EU27+ modelled upon the approach developed by the ERA-AGE

4. National and European political leadership and support is required focused upon the research priorities developed by FUTURAGE

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Responders

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