

Going places with SPARC

During four very lively years SPARC has accumulated a considerable amount of information about ageing and especially about ageing-related research. At every opportunity it has made this information available through the SPARC website.

SPARC has funded 34 pump-priming projects each of which has generated fresh evidence about many issues of interest and concern to older people, their families and carers and those who work with and for them. It has organised a wide range of workshops which have attracted large numbers of professionals and older people as well as scientists, and it has published many items of news about developments in ageing research. In addition there have been regular bulletins on opportunities for accessing funds for research and advertisements for conferences and events organised by other organisations. All of this information can be found on the SPARC website. If you would like to find more about SPARC and the contribution being made by those who have been involved then please visit www.sparc.ac.uk

The SPARC website

The home page provides news items, information about future workshops, interviews with award holders and access to several further sections, of which the most important are:

SPARC projects – here you can find detailed information about each of the 34 projects funded by SPARC. We are still adding information about the projects, a few have yet to be completed, but eventually each will have an executive summary to add to the general information currently available, and some will have audio interviews with the award holder or a member of the research team.

Workshops – contains information about forthcoming events run by SPARC and other organisations. This section also has information about previous workshops. This contains an immensely rich archive of presentations made at these workshops. Nearly all presentations are included although some have been omitted either because

of commercial sensitivity or because they included data which was awaiting formal publication in refereed journals.

Funding – up to date information is given about opportunities for applying for funding to support research, fellowships, international travel and all those other activities which are essential to the lives of effective researchers. There is also a series of profiles of well-known and little-known organisations which fund research.

The Future

Although funding for SPARC will formally end in December 2008 its activities will be continued through other initiatives. The SPARC website will continue to provide information about relevant workshops and other activities in the world of ageing research. Every effort will be made to ensure that the momentum created by SPARC is maintained.

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SPARC Workshops

Between January 2005 and December 2008 SPARC will have run nearly 50 workshops and other events. Most of these have been designed to be attractive to all stakeholders with an interest in improving the quality of life and wellbeing of older people. Some have been designed specifically for scientists and a few just for SPARC award holders. The presentations made at nearly all the workshops are available on the SPARC website. To access the presentations, just go to the SPARC website www.sparc.ac.uk then find the workshop and its programme, where you will find the presentations.

If you want more information about a workshop, a presentation, or a presentation which is not available on the web, then contact either the presenter or a member of the SPARC secretariat who will be pleased to help. The SPARC workshops, collaborating organisations and venues are given opposite.

Funding Bodies



Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council



biotechnology and biological
sciences research council

National Workshops

- Maintaining Independence in Later Life**, February 2005, Brunel Institute for Bioengineering, Brunel University
- Integrating Research on Ageing**, March 2005, Bioengineering Unit, Strathclyde University
- Pharmacology and Ageing**, April 2005, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, London
- Living with Stroke**, June 2005, Centre for Health and Social Care Research, Sheffield Hallam University
- The Business Case for Ageing Research**, November 2005, Unilever R&D, Bedford
- The Biology and Business of Stroke**, December 2005, TVLSN, Reading University
- Research and Development in Long Term Care**, January 2006, CCC, The Guildhall London
- Design for Older People**, February 2006, Bugatti Institute, Coventry University
- The Chemistry of Ageing**, April 2006, Royal Society of Chemistry, London
- Research for a Better Age**, October 2006, Help the Aged & Brighton University, Eastbourne
- Transport and Older People**, October 2006, Institute for Transport Studies, Leeds University
- Dementia and Cognitive impairment**, November 2006, Eli Lilly & TVLSN, Windlesham
- Old and Active: Maintaining the older person's health, activity and employment**, February 2007, LARCI, Birmingham
- Ageing Research and Occupational Therapy**, March 2007, College of Occupational Therapists, London
- Radical Chemistry and Biology**, March 2007, Royal Society of Chemistry, Glasgow University
- A Walk a Day Keeps a Fall at Bay**, June 2007, Camden Active Health Team, Camden Centre
- Research for a Better Age**, August 2007, Help the Aged, Penzance
- Research for a Better Age**, August 2007, Help the Aged, Hexham
- New Technologies for Support and Care**, September 2007, BSG Conference, Sheffield Hallam University
- Older People on the Move**, September 2007, Help the Aged, Reading University
- Understanding the Ageing Brain**, September 2007, CSLB, Cambridge University
- Health, Workplace Design and the Older Worker**, January 2008, TAEN & Help the Aged, London
- Promoting Independence through New Technology**, March 2008, School of Systems Engineering, Reading University
- Rehabilitation in Ageing: Regaining Function and Action**, April 2008, Department of Psychology, Birmingham University

Outdoors – a step too far? Older People and Mobility, May 2008, SURFACE, Salford University

Housing, Health and Technology for Older People: Policy and Practice, June 2008, CARDI, Belfast

Technologies for Health, Rehabilitation and Self Management of Long Term Conditions, June 2008, BIME, Bath University

Growing Old in Wales: A Showcase of Ageing Research, July 2008, OPAN Cymru, Swansea

Older People Going Places, September 2008, BA Festival, Liverpool

Design Research and its Applications for Ageing Populations, November 2008, Glasgow School of Art

(Dis)ability and Interdependence in Later Life, December 2008, CARDI, Dublin

International Workshops

Towards the Integrative Biology of Premature Ageing, October 2005, BBSRC, Brighton University

Accessibility in Europe: UK/EU Experts, May 2006, BRE, Watford

Transatlantic Collaboration and Young Grant Holders in Ageing, June 2006, American Aging Association, Boston, USA

Ageing: Is it all Bad News? July 2006, ESOF & Royal Society of Chemistry, Munich, Germany

Anglo-Japanese Werner's Syndrome Consortium, March 2007, Tokyo, Japan

Canada meets UK on Design and Technology for Quality of Life in Old Age, June 2007, FICCDAT, Toronto, Canada

UK meets Canada: Opportunities for Collaboration, January 2008, Royal College of Art, London

Trans-Atlantic Awareness and Collaboration in Aging Research, June 2008, American Aging Association, Boulder, USA

Special Workshops for Researchers

Award Holders' Workshop, March 2006, Reading University

Proposal Writing Workshop, November 2006, Brighton University

Award Holders' Workshop, January 2007, Reading University

Funding Opportunities in FP7, February 2007, British Council for Ageing, Birmingham University

Ageing and the Undergraduate Curriculum, May 2007, British Council for Ageing, Keele University

Introduction to the Media, December 2007, BBSRC, London

Funding Ageing Research, March 2008, NDA, London