



SPARC

Strategic Promotion of Ageing Research Capacity

A special programme funded by EPSRC and BBSRC

Third ANNUAL Report 2007-2008

Workshops

Advocacy

Awards



Ageing Brain: Cambridge, September 2007

www.sparc.ac.uk

Background

Objectives

This is the third Annual Report on SPARC (Strategic Promotion of Ageing Research Capacity).

SPARC has two primary objectives:

Capacity Building

- Facilitating the development of the capacity of the UK science base to undertake engineering, design and biologically-orientated ageing-related research.
- Initiating closer links between individuals who undertake, or seek to undertake, ageing research activities with the support of BBSRC and EPSRC.
- Providing financial support for small scale projects to academics who wish to establish themselves in ageing-related research.

Integrated networking

- Networking and supporting interdisciplinary areas of ageing research such that their value to the national research effort as a whole is both maximised and communicated.
- Strengthening the relationship between the research community and research end-users including the great variety of organisations which support older people.
- Contributing to the creation of a coherent, accessible and internationally competitive UK ageing research programme that meets the needs of older people, and is valued by policy-makers, practitioners and other relevant stakeholders



UK meets Canada: Networking

Activities

SPARC is pursuing its objectives through three principal activities:

- A series of national **workshops** and some international workshops which variously showcase the latest research and developments to all stakeholders and bring together leading scientists to exchange ideas and discuss new avenues for research.
- Vigorous **advocacy** of the value of ageing research, and need for it, to those who influence and make policy.
- The development and operation of a **small awards scheme** to pump-prime the work of newcomers to ageing research.

Resources

SPARC is funded by EPSRC and BBSRC, managed by a secretariat of two teams comprising a director and coordinator, based at the Universities of Reading and Brighton, supported by a part-time publicity officer based at Reading. They are advised by a committee of experts with an independent Chair, and with representatives of relevant NGOs and Research Councils. The members of the secretariat and the Advisory Committee are given in Appendix 1.

SPARC had an initial research grant of £1.4m with funding divided between the three principal activities, but during the second year this was supplemented with a further £0.4m. A large portion of the funds, £1.3m, is allocated to the small awards scheme. The awards have been distributed as a result of competitive research proposals made by researchers from universities across the UK. Because SPARC is time-limited these small projects have to be completed before the end of SPARC to allow the success of SPARC to be properly judged.

Although the SPARC grant was designed to support the secretariat for three years, careful husbandry of resources are enabling it to operate for four years. This additional period is enabling SPARC to run more workshops and to accommodate those projects which have experienced delays.

The Third Year

SPARC was announced in October 2004 and launched on 1st January 2005 although confirmation of funding was not received until 1st April 2005. The first annual report covered a 14 month period from 1st January 2005 to 28th February 2006, the second covered 13 months from 1st March 2006 to 31st March 2007 to link with the annual funding cycle, and this third Annual Report covers a 12 month period from 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008.

Maintaining Momentum

In its first year SPARC created a widespread awareness of its activities, thus attracting high quality proposals to its awards scheme, the participation of all user groups in its workshops and a position of influence with policy makers. During that period: the awards scheme was established, leading to 13 SPARC awards; nine workshops were held; and a useful rapport developed with policy makers, leading to a parliamentary question about ageing research. In that first year SPARC enjoyed considerable encouragement from researchers and practitioners with an interest in ageing. The second year built on that goodwill so as to make further awards, provide a range of workshops designed to appeal to different stakeholders in ageing, and ensure that the skills, knowledge, enthusiasm and optimism of SPARC was available to those who make and influence policy makers. During the second year, 21 further awards were made, 14 workshops held, links with government departments and charities strengthened and a further parliamentary question, on science funding, initiated.

The third year has been one of consolidation. With 34 projects in progress attention has centred on supporting the award holders, mounting workshops and achieving higher levels of advocacy of ageing research and its benefits for older people.



Research for a Better Age: Making a Point

Staffing

Over the year there have been some changes in the Secretariat. Dr Nicky Henson has joined in June 2007 as coordinator based in the Brighton Office, taking over from Dr Alison Willows who had acted as temporary part-time coordinator for several months. Dr Lucy Chappell joined in November 2007 as SPARC Publicity Officer based in the Reading Office. This is a joint appointment with the University's Communications Office.

Membership

SPARC membership quite simply involves an individual registering their interest in SPARC activities so that they can receive email messages about forthcoming events and other activities as well as news items. After a 200% rise in members in the second year numbers have stabilised with approaching 1600 members. About 500 people joined during the year, but about 200 have left usually because their email addresses are no longer recognised. There have been only a handful of withdrawals. The membership of SPARC reflects a very broad range of interests and backgrounds. Over half of the members are professionals and older people with no strong link to the academic world except for SPARC.



May 2007: Celebrating progress

Workshops

Thirteen workshops were held during the year, mostly in collaboration with other organisations. As in previous years the style of the workshops varied so as to appeal to different stakeholders.

There were three all-comers workshops (*Understanding the Ageing Brain; Health, Workplace Design and the Older Worker; and, Promoting Independence through New Technology*), and four workshops designed to appeal particularly to older people and those who work with them (*A Walk a Day Keeps a Fall at Bay; Older People on the Move; and two entitled Research for a Better Age*).

One workshop supported the development of teaching of ageing within university courses (*Ageing and the Undergraduate Curriculum*) and another supported those wishing to undertake ageing research (*Funding Ageing Research*). Two workshops took place within major conferences, at the Festival of International Conferences on Caring, Disability, Ageing and Technology in Toronto (*Canada meets UK on Design and Technology for Quality of Life in Old Age*), and at the BSG conference in Sheffield (*New Technology for Support and Care*). Finally, The BBSRC Media Office ran a Media training workshop (*Introduction to the Media*) specifically for SPARC award holders and their team members and there was a small invitation-only workshop following-on from the workshop held in Canada (*UK meets Canada*).

Workshops 2007-2008

- **Ageing and the Undergraduate Curriculum**, 24th May 2007, British Council for Ageing, Host: Keele University
- **A Walk a Day Keeps a Fall at Bay**, 26th June 2007, Host: London Borough of Camden
- **Canada meets UK on Design and Technology for Quality of Life in Old Age**, 17th June 2007, Host: FICCDAT, Toronto
- **Research for a Better Age**, 10th August 2007, with *Help the Aged*, held in Penzance
- **Research for a Better Age**, 31st August 2007, with *Help the Aged*, held in Hexham
- **New Technologies for Support and Care**, 6th September 2007, Host: BSG Conference, held at Sheffield Hallam University
- **Older People on the Move**, 19th September 2007, with *Help the Aged*, Host: Reading University.
- **Understanding the Ageing Brain**, 26th September 2007, Host: CSLB, Cambridge University
- **Introduction to the Media**, 18th December 2007, Host: BBSRC, London
- **UK Meets Canada**, 11th January 2008, Host: RCA
- **Health, Workplace Design and the Older Worker**, 22nd January 2008, with *TAEN/Help the Aged*, London
- **Promoting Independence through New Technology**, 5th March 2008, Host: Reading University
- **Funding Ageing Research (NDA)** 7th March 2008, with NDA & BBSRC, Host: Imperial College



A Walk a Day Keeps a Fall at Bay :
Mayoral Exercises

Participants

The number of participants and their distribution across different stakeholder groups reflects the differing nature of the events. Several workshops were designed to attract large numbers of older people and other non-academic stakeholders, and were successful in doing so, especially the workshop on Falls held in conjunction with Camden Active Health Team.

However, the workshops for which SPARC is most appreciated and which contribute to its fundamental mission are those which achieve a balance of interests across scientists, professionals and older people. Whilst there has been a deliberate attempt to support the research community through workshops which would either appeal largely to those who make their living as academics or scientists (for example, on education) or would not be accessible to more general audiences (for example, workshops within major conferences), during the year three workshops were particularly successful in achieving a balanced audience (these were on the ageing brain, the older worker, and promoting independence).

Although participation in SPARC workshops have increased, especially from non-academics, the last 18 months has seen a decline in the level of participation of industry. Also despite major efforts to attract interest, the participation of representatives of central government has remained low.

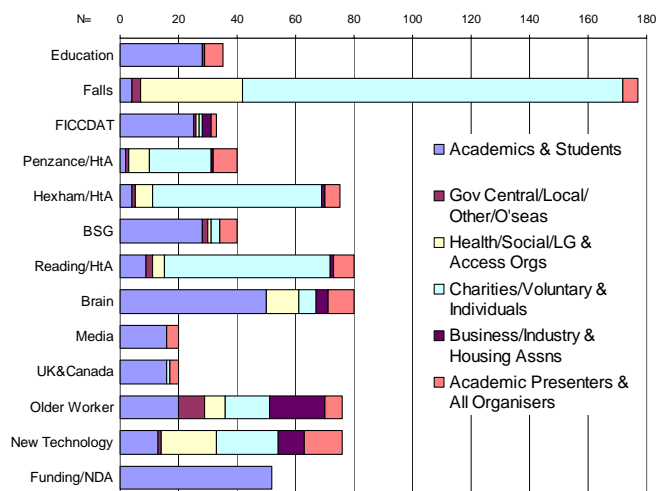


Figure 1: Number of participants at each of the year's workshops

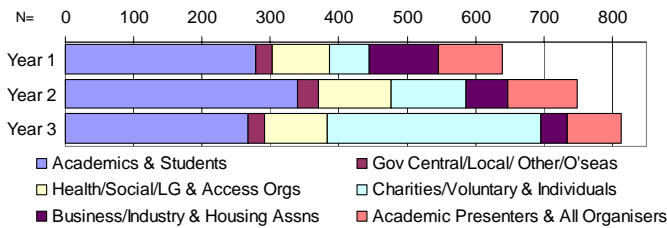


Figure 2: Total number of participants at workshops in the first three years

Feedback

Written feedback from the workshops has continued to be consistently positive with opinions expressed in earlier years being reinforced, especially for the general all-comers workshops:

- a relaxed yet structured environment for the presentation of material which can be quite technical but because of the mixture of presentations is not over-burdensome for those who are not specialists; serious, informed but not overly-academic;
- plenty of opportunity for networking with what is usually considered to be a refreshing and unusual range of participants; this is assisted by extensive advance information about those participants, permission to add emails and an individual's key interests on the Attendance Sheet on the day and, latterly, colour coded name badges;
- professionally organised events with a sensitivity for the needs of all stakeholders and the requirements of specific participants (which can be quite demanding);
- a valuable focus on the needs of particular interest groups (for example, construction firms, local authorities, occupational therapists).

The feedback from those workshops which have been principally for older people has been extremely positive, especially in their appreciation of the endeavours of young scientists and recognition of the professionalism of the more mature researchers. However feedback has not been without criticism of presentation skills, especially of some of the less experienced scientists, and of some of the venues. Even though we take great care to ensure that these are accessible and, where possible, provide public address equipment, the standards of some university facilities and hotels fall short of those which might be expected by those attending public events. Previous annual reports have noted that although the vast majority of participants recognise the shoe-

string nature of the workshops, that hosts have limited resources and that speakers give their time freely, meeting the quite reasonable expectations of some participants would outstrip SPARC's resources.

Throughout the life of SPARC there have been frequent requests to expand the number and size of workshops. For many individuals, large conferences are unsatisfactory meeting places, too expensive, and often populated by "the same faces and same rhetoric as ten years ago". SPARC's response has been to organise many more workshops than originally planned, although the number has been limited by its resources. Even so these have been very thinly spread across ageing issues, because of the breadth of SPARC's remit.

We are pleased that the value of the approach taken by SPARC, of developing workshops in response to the suggestions and offers from stakeholders in ageing, and designing workshops with broad appeal is generally recognised as having made a significant contribution to the development of ageing research in the UK. As a consequence, the SPARC approach, a development of that established through the EQUAL Network, will form a key element of EPSRC's knowledge transfer programme for ageing research (KT-EQUAL) which will commence in late 2008, although this will not be undertaken by SPARC.



A Walk a Day Keeps a Fall at Bay: Dance Demonstration

Finally, endorsement of SPARC's approach to public engagement through all-comers workshops and networking received a ringing endorsement from John Hutton, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills. In an address on Science and Society to the RSA in January he challenged university researchers and scientists to develop a much stronger commitment to communicating their work outside of the comfortable circle of fellow scientists.

A summary of the feedback for all SPARC workshops, excluding the BSG conference, Media and UK meets Canada workshops, is given in Figures 3 to 6.

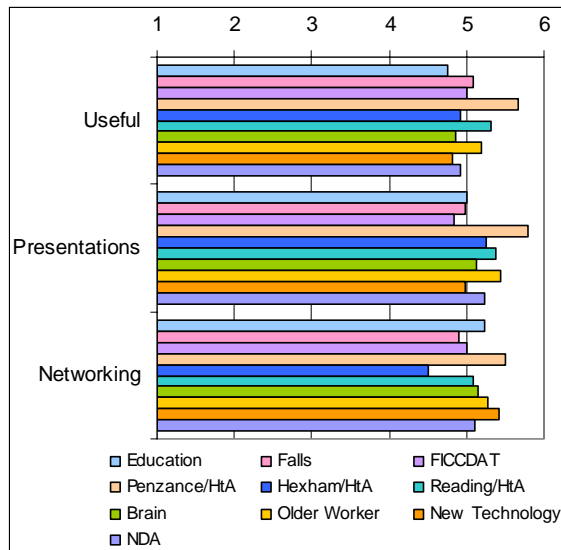


Figure 3: Participants' evaluation of the year's workshops (average scores 1 – very poor, 2 – poor, 3 – unsure, 4 – good, 5 – very good, 6 - excellent)

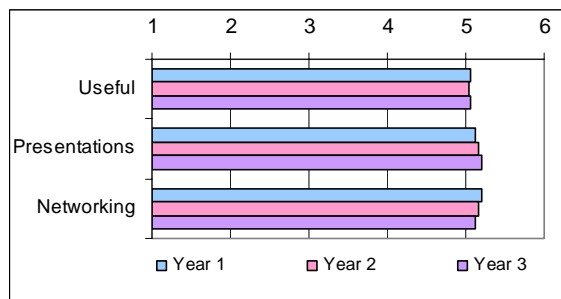


Figure 4: Participants' evaluation of workshops in each of first three years (average scores)

Reflections

Previously we have reported that SPARC appealed to disparate interests and motivations, linked by an underlying concern, desire and even anxiety to hear about the latest developments and challenges and to keep up to date. The range of interests covered by SPARC is considerable and it is impossible to meet all of these in a single workshop. Thus attempts are made to ensure that each workshop has a clear focus so as to avoid misunderstandings about the content and culture of an event. There has been a clear distinction between workshops primarily for researchers, those primarily for older people and those for all-comers. SPARC was developed particularly to provide all-comers workshops but the other types are vital to strengthening the research community.

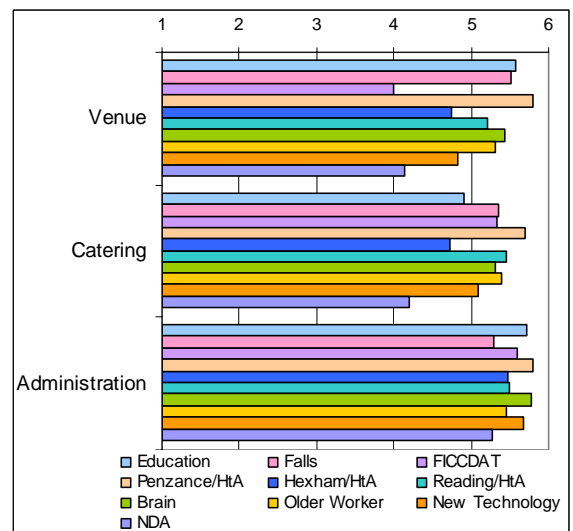


Figure 5: Participants' evaluation of the year's workshops: Organisational aspects (average scores)

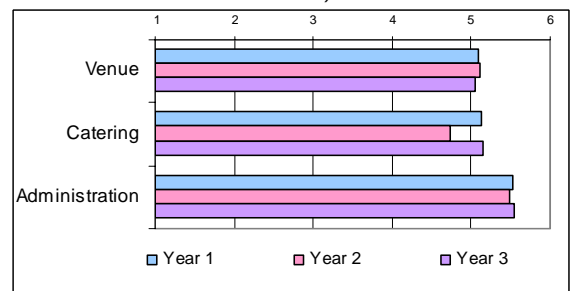


Figure 6: Participants' evaluation of workshops in each of first three years: Organisational aspects (average scores)

The philosophy of collaborating with those who earnestly wish to host workshops in their own areas of interest, and for which manifestly there is demand, works well. Mounting workshops in areas which the Directors might think will be of interest, following a belief in "take this it will be good for you", would be less appealing. Thus, recognising that SPARC's strength comes from the enthusiasm and commitment of its members remains an important driver of SPARC's success.

In the remaining nine months of SPARC there will be plenty of workshops and hopefully there will be similar workshops available through KT-EQUAL. This final period will not be without some excitement, and will include workshops on rehabilitation, and inclusive design, as well as SPARC being a major element in the BA Festival of Science. During this final period we will ensure that by the end of SPARC all 34 projects will have been showcased at least once at a SPARC workshop.

Some forthcoming workshops

- **Rehabilitation in Ageing: Regaining Function and Action**, 7th April 2008, Host: Birmingham University
- **A Step too Far**, 14th May 2008, Host: Salford University
- **Special Session at 2008 AAA Conference The Role of Genes, Environment and Chance in Determining Aging**, 30th May- 3rd June 2008, with BBSRC, IRU & NIA, Boulder, Colorado
- **Housing, Health and Technology**, 10th June 2008, Host: CARDI
- **Technologies for Health**, 30th June 2008, Host: Bath University
- **Integrative Biology of Replicative Senescence**, 7th-8th July 2008, with BBSRC, NIA & RiA, Host: Oriel College Oxford.
- **The Biology of Frailty**, 17th-18th July 2008, with BSRA, Host: University of Brighton.
- **Older People Going Places**, 9th-11th September 2008, Host: BA-Festival of Science, Liverpool
- **Older People and Inclusive Design**, 12th-13th November 2008, Host: Glasgow School of Art

And show case events in Wales with OPAN in July and hopefully in Scotland in the Autumn



Ageing Brain : Avidly Networking

Advocacy

Every opportunity is taken to promote the case that older people can greatly benefit from research which is concerned with understanding their needs and wellbeing. The important contribution which is being made by SPARC is recognised by many of those who know about its activities. However, because it is small and operates from the 'bottom-up' it does not fit within the convenient parameters of 'top-down' policy-driven programmes. Rather it cuts across them. So, policy makers remain curious as to what such a minnow of a research programme can contribute and suspicious about its reputation for achieving more than much larger ageing research programmes. As a result, SPARC has redoubled its efforts to ensure that those who influence and make policy relating to older people are aware of the work being carried out by the SPARC award holders.

During the summer 40 members of parliament in both houses, were provided with information about SPARC, resulting in a flurry of correspondence and subsequent meetings

with MPs. The most recent was with Paul Burstow, MP for Sutton Cheam, who has particular interest in the care of people with dementia. In addition, all relevant government departments were contacted, with offers of briefings and workshops on SPARC projects. This resulted in a positive reply from DH, with a request for information about whether SPARC could offer any information about the *self-management of chronic conditions*. The response incorporated suggestions and information based on the work of nearly half of the SPARC award holders. Also SPARC has submitted evidence to Dame Carol Black's review for DH and DWP on the *health of the working population* and has briefed the Advisory Board for this review.



Extolling the virtues of SPARC to Paul Burstow, MP

However, it is with disappointment that we report that although it is the lead government department for older peoples issues, despite many approaches, the DWP has shown little interest in the work of SPARC, even though there are pioneering SPARC projects on issues which directly effect the health, efficiency and abilities of the older worker.

This lack of interest in SPARC at the policy level of government departments echoes the situation which led to the establishment of SPARC. At that level, older people are not a priority and that there is precious little interest, despite the ageing population being a government 'grand challenge'. Given this situation it is as well that SPARC has chosen to shape its activities by working with those organisations and individuals who really are concerned about the needs of older people and directly with older people. Through this it has established good relationships with government, including parts of DH, but from the 'bottom-up'.

For example, over the last nine months there has been an increasing rapport with CSIP (Care Services Improvement Partnership).

This has involved attendance at meetings, and providing briefings and lectures, often involving practitioners operating at the sharp-end of caring with older people with dementia. The relationships developed through the secretariat have been shared widely with members of the research community in an effort to ensure that those directing regional operations of CSIP are aware of the work taking place in their local universities.

Advocacy has taken many other forms, including many presentations at conferences, several talks to older people's clubs, a number of radio interviews and press briefings.

Presentations

Presentations about SPARC have been made at conferences, seminars and workshops organised by amongst others, I'DGO, BSG, EPSRC, CSIP, DH, DWP, IBMC, ProteomAge as well as by several universities and community groups. Special briefings on SPARC have been given to the directors and staff of, for example, DH, DWP, MRC, AHRC, ACF, NESTA as well as to several charities with interests in ageing. Detailed discussions have been held with those who are leading ageing research in Canada, USA, Japan, Australia, Hong Kong and Ireland with a view to closer collaboration with researchers in those countries. Members of the secretariat have attended many conferences and workshops including those organised by ILC, Housing 21, BRE, RCA, RSA, King's Fund, the Daiwa Foundation, NDA, ESRC and regional and local health and social services organisations.

The promotion of ageing research has also led Peter Lansley, Director, to be involved with the commissioning panels for the MRC-led *Lifelong Health and Wellbeing Research Centres* and for EPSRC *EQUAL* projects, and advising research committees of several charities concerned with ageing research. He is a member of UKARF (*UK Ageing Research Forum*), has been involved with the development of *KT-EQUAL* and played a key role in encouraging the NDA programme to mount a Sand Pit, a week-long think tank, for which he suggested the theme of *Life in the Kitchen*, although curiously this was subsequently moderated to the *New Dynamics of Nutrition*.

Because of its close affinity to SPARC, he has also continued to take a close interest in work emanating from the EPSRC Sand Pit *Taking Care to the Patient* which he directed in the previous year.

In North America Richard Faragher, Director, has been intimately involved with negotiations concerning a BBSRC-National Institutes of Aging programme on in North America and with developing links with the American Aging Association and American Foundation for Aging Research, and pursuing opportunities in Europe, for funding and research links (for example ProteomAge and LINK-AGE);

One-to-one advocacy has involved much correspondence, mostly with ministers, MPs and civil servants and especially on the topic of the older worker. Lord Sutherland continues to give considerable encouragement as do other members of the upper house.

The Press

Until recently there has been little to present about the achievements of SPARC as projects were in progress and there was a reluctance to spend time making promises about what SPARC intended to do. In recent months, however, there have been more opportunities to showcase the work supported through SPARC awards and to highlight the contribution being made by the community which SPARC is building. The first major opportunity was offered by the workshop on the Older Worker held in conjunction with TAEN and Help the Aged. With the recruitment of Lucy Chappell as Publicity Officer we were able to enjoy full engagement with the press, through press notices, media briefings and follow-up activities. In the year to come raising the profile in this way will become increasingly important. We have also been able to link journalists with SPARC award holders leading to, for example, the work of Professor Lorraine Tyler being featured in the Sunday Times in early January.



The Older Worker: one-to-one Press interviews

Brochures and Posters

Last year an easy-to-read, eight page accessible information brochure about SPARC was produced outlining all SPARC activities, especially the SPARC projects. This has been very well received. It has added credibility to SPARC's reputation of being committed to communicating to all stakeholders in ageing research. Equally valuable have been the lively and informative posters which describe each of the SPARC projects, produced last year. To these are being added the executive summaries of each project taking the format established for the brochure.



Awards Scheme

A central feature of SPARC is its awards scheme. The scheme had two calls for proposals attracting 189 submissions of which 34 were funded. Most projects were completed between mid 2007 and early 2008, so the last few months have seen a steady flow of final reports. These reports are rigorously reviewed and discussed by the SPARC Advisory committee before being 'signed-off'.

During the course of their SPARC awards, award holders and their team members have participated in SPARC workshops, as well as Award Holders' Workshops. All will make a presentation on their work to at least one SPARC workshop or similar event. Each team is also provided with editorial support in the production and dissemination of an executive summary of their final reports; has assistance with producing posters about their work; and has had the opportunity to participate in international activities. All but a few have had some form of mentoring arrangement or advisory group. As the projects have developed so there have been more opportunities for the research teams to take the platform at workshops and other events.

The development of the executive summaries for each project is a significant venture. The aim is to produce summaries which capture the interest and are comprehensible to a wide range of stakeholders. These summaries are being disseminated in a variety of ways, where possible linked to workshops, and widely publicised to the press and key stakeholders in older people's issues.

It is unusual for a research council project to have the resources to undertake this type of dissemination activity. Thus, this activity is being viewed with great interest and enthusiasm by the research community, users of research and the research councils.

Website



The SPARC website, developed by Daniel Guth, has become a frequently visited and key resource. It receives over 1000 hits on a quiet day and over 4000 hits a day following a news item or workshop announcement. Major revisions to the website have been widely appreciated, especially for the increased ease of navigation. The secretariat has benefited greatly from developments to assist the posting of details of workshops, news items and funding opportunities.



Ageing Brain: Networking

The Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee has met on seven occasions since the commencement of SPARC, twice during the year under report, on 15th May 2007 and 19th February 2008. In addition to general SPARC business both meetings have been particularly involved with reviewing final reports on SPARC projects. Although the core membership of the Committee has not changed, there have been a number of changes in research council representation as detailed in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1. Advisory Committee and the Secretariat

SPARC Directors:

Professor Peter Lansley, *University of Reading (PI)*
Dr Richard Faragher, *University of Brighton*

Non-Academic Members

Mrs Elizabeth Mills OBE, *Eminence Grise Consulting - Chair of the Committee*
Dr Lorna Layward, *Research into Ageing/Help the Aged - Deputy Chair of the Committee*
Dr Elizabeth White, *British Association of Occupational Therapists/College of Occupational Therapists*
Professor Janet Askham, *Special Adviser to the Department of Health on Older People's Use of Services; Director of Research, Picker Institute Europe*

Research Council Representatives

Dr Lesley Heppell, *Head, Animal Sciences Branch, Science and Technology Group, BBSRC*
Dr Louisa Jenkin, *Healthy Organism Strategy, BBSRC (from May 2007)*
Dr Andrew Clark, *Associate Programme Manager, Medical Engineering and Ageing Research, EPSRC (until December 2007)*
Dr Matthew Davis, *Engineering Programme, EPSRC (from January 2008)*

SPARC Coordinators:

Ms Verity Smith, *University of Reading*
Dr Nicky Hewson, *University of Brighton (from June 2007)*, Dr Alison Willows *(until June 2007)*

SPARC Publicity Officer:

Dr Lucy Chappell, *University of Reading (from November 2007)*

Academic Members

Dr Deborah Dunn-Walters, *Department of Immunobiology, GKT Medical School, KCL*
Dr Sian Henson, *Department of Immunology and Molecular Pathology, University College London*
Professor Bernie Conway, *Bioengineering Unit, University of Strathclyde*
Professor David Kipling, *Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, Cardiff University*
Dr Constantinos Maganaris, *Centre for Biophysical and Clinical Research into Human Movement, Manchester Metropolitan University*
Professor Kevin Morgan, *Department of Human Sciences, Loughborough University*
Professor Marcus Ormerod, *SURFACE Inclusive Design Research Centre, School of Construction and Property Management, Salford University*

Appendix 2: SPARC Awards Call 1

| Principal Investigator | Institution | Project Title | Months - Award | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|----------------|---------|
| | | | Months | Award |
| Mr Philip Astley | South Bank | Integrating the technological and social models of later life in the maintenance and adaptation of private housing: a feasibility study of knowledge management information and visualisation systems | 12 | £30,500 |
| Dr Mark Bagley | Cardiff | Chemical tool for ageing research | 12 | £35,959 |
| Mr Mike Bradley | Middlesex | An investigation into the advanced technology desires, needs and requirements of older drivers | 18 | £55,500 |
| Dr Richard Hartley | Glasgow | EPR, oxidative stress and ageing | 18 | £58,534 |
| Dr Katrin Jennert-Burston | Brighton | A proteomics approach to understanding age-related changes in neuronal function | 18 | £53,920 |
| Dr Matthew Lancaster | Leeds | Ageing, exercise and gender: complex interactions and outcomes for all muscles | 12 | £25,500 |
| Dr Shaun Lawson | Lincoln | Multimodal augmented reality to support ageing in place | 12 | £28,994 |
| Dr Gregory Marsden | Leeds | Transport and older people: integrating transport planning tools with users needs | 9 | £24,963 |
| Dr Charles Musselwhite | Bournemouth | Prolonging safe driving behaviour through technology: attitudes of older drivers | 14 | £27,691 |
| Prof Richard Neale | Glamorgan | Design and community regeneration: Investigating personal safety concerns in socio-economically deprived communities in South Wales | 9 | £28,640 |
| Dr Elizabeth Ostler | Brighton | Chemical analysis of ageing tissue in <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> | 18 | £58,820 |
| Dr Fiona Wylie | Cardiff | Evaluating the role of p38 MAP kinase in the accelerated ageing of WS fibroblasts | 12 | £39,992 |
| Dr Alaster Yoxall | Sheffield | The 'inclusive engineering' approach: enhanced data gathering for an optimum diameter for ease of opening | 6 | £17,048 |

Appendix 3: SPARC Awards Call 2

| Principal Investigator | Institution | Project Title | Months | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--|--------|---------|
| | | | - | Award |
| Dr Sarah Aldred | Birmingham | Lipoprotein Oxidation in Ageing | 12 | £29,148 |
| Dr Ilaria Bellantuono | Sheffield | Gene expression profiling to understand stem cell ageing | 10 | £28,288 |
| Professor Peter Buckle | Surrey | Understanding the design of the workplace for the older worker | 12 | £36,357 |
| Professor Paul Chamberlain | SHU | Design and the Home | 12 | £23,178 |
| Dr Richard Ferguson | Strathclyde | Temperature and velocity interactions in neuromuscular function during locomotion in older people | 12 | £51,322 |
| Dr Dianne Ford | Newcastle | The molecular basis of the beneficial effects of calorie restriction on ageing: DNA methylation influenced by Sirt1-mediated histone deacetylation | 8 | £44,682 |
| Dr Tom Freeman | Cardiff | Age, eye movement and motion perception | 12 | £37,229 |
| Professor Alistair Gibb | Loughborough | Ageing in construction workers | 12 | £33,073 |
| Dr Mark Hollands | Birmingham | The contribution of visuomotor decline to falls in older adults during adaptive locomotion | 12 | £51,472 |
| Miss Faustina Hwang | Reading | Improving computer interaction for older users: an investigation of dynamic on-screen targets | 12 | £42,703 |
| Professor Zoe Kourtzi | Birmingham | In search of bio-markers for cognitive ageing in the human brain | 12 | £29,961 |
| Dr Gladys Onambele-Pearson | MMU | Optimisation of skeletal muscle responses and quality of life to exercise in people over 60 years old: healthy diet vs dietary supplementation | 12 | £28,245 |
| Dr Donald Palmer | RVC | Unnatural ageing of killer cells | 12 | £36,765 |
| Dr Avril Thomson | Strathclyde | Designer relevant bio-mechanical data : Packages opening in an older adult population | 12 | £56,587 |
| Dr Andrew Trafford | Manchester | An investigative approach to define a role for endothelial nitric oxide synthase in the vascular biology of ageing and consequences for cardiac function | 12 | £32,695 |
| Professor Lorraine Tyler | Cambridge | Investigating the neural underpinnings of word-finding problems across the life span | 12 | £40,022 |
| Dr Christos Vasilakis | Westminster | Developing capacity for evaluating proposed policies in the care for older patients through computer simulations | 12 | £38,838 |
| Professor Paul Winyard | Exeter | Application of high-throughput assays of oxidative stress to studies of the role of common genetic variation in healthy human ageing | 12 | £56,851 |
| Dr Maria Klara Wolters | Edinburgh | What makes synthetic speech difficult to understand for older people? The contribution of auditory ageing | 6 | £17,775 |
| Dr Ian Michael Wormstone | UEA | Age-related signalling capacities of the human lens | 12 | £50,083 |
| Dr Panayiotis Zaphiris | City | Mathematical Modelling of Age Related Differences in Web Browsing | 12 | £26,600 |