

EPSRC

Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council



Transport for Older People
26th October 2006

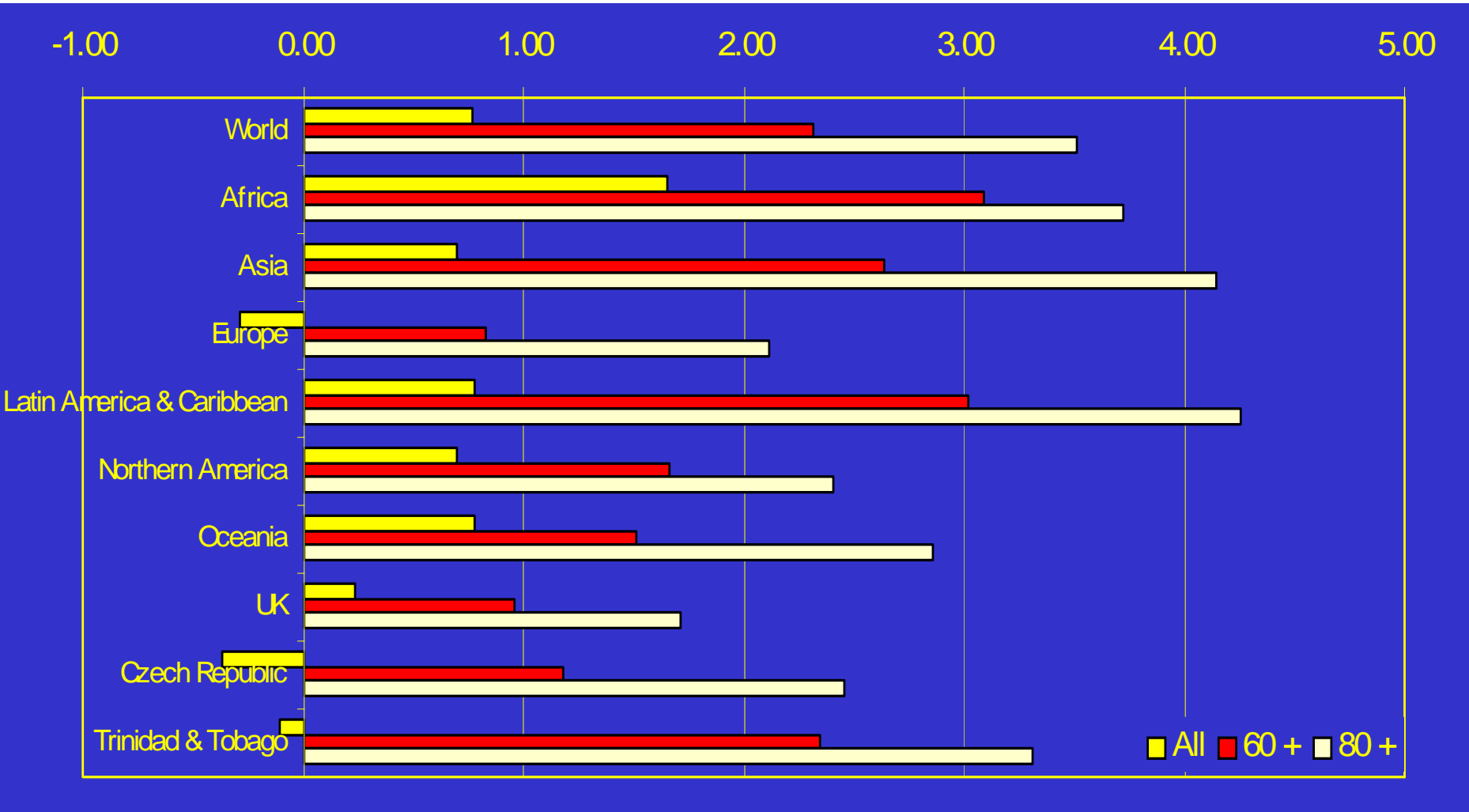


Welcome



The world is getting older

Annual Growth Rates %, 2000 – 2050, UN Estimates



Common conditions affecting people aged over 65

Arthritis	50%
Hypertension and heart disease	30%
Diabetes	11%
Hearing problems	32 %
Visual degeneration	26%
Mobility problems	35%
Dementia	5%



And many older people are disabled

Estimated percentage of disabled men and women and housing tenure, GB 1996/7

	Aged 70-79		Aged 80+	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
<i>All</i>	47%	47%	74%	77%
Social Renting	57%	57%	77%	82%

Ageing research since 1998 making a difference

- **Design and Engineering Research**

- assisting the professions - design, health, social services
- supporting those who commission buildings, transport systems and products
- aiding policy development – housing, transport
- improving regulations, standards and expectations

- **Biological Research**

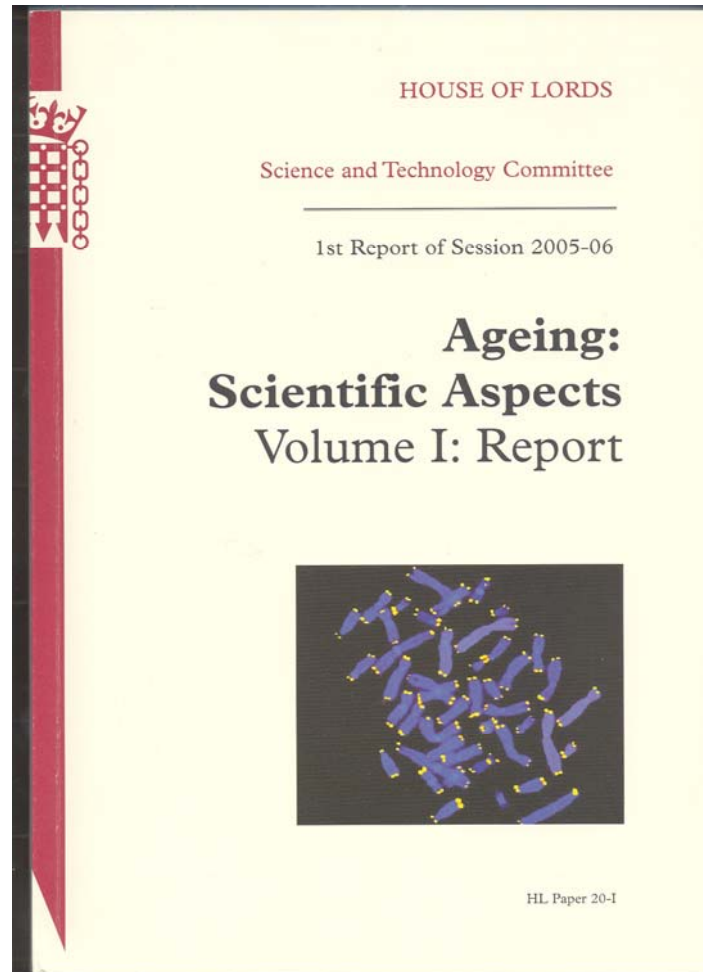
- pioneering a new understanding of ageing processes
- from new insights to new diagnoses
- new practices for medical and health professionals – clinicians to physiotherapists
- dramatic implications for healthy living and longevity



Ingredients of success

- Undertaking pioneering research
 - to enhance quality of life of older people
 - with major implications for policy and practice and
- Developing bubbly communities
 - excitement
 - commitment
 - quality
- *But*, unhappy environment since 2001
 - too much “old school” thinking at policy level
 - ageing seen as a medical or a societal problem not a design, engineering, environment or biological systems problem
 - disastrous “top-down” national policies
 - not enough new blood getting involved with ageing research

Their lordships complained





A new beginning

SPARC

Strategic Promotion of Ageing Research Capacity

For the research community and its supporters in health, social and housing services, charities, voluntary agencies, local and central government, and amongst older and disabled people....*



Touchstones for Success

- forget “top down” initiatives!
- Ageing research thrives
 - when older people, practitioners and researchers get together
 - on grassroots “bottom up” enthusiasm of researchers and their supporters to make a difference to the quality of life of older people

SPARC – three themes

- Networking through:
 - workshops
 - international activities
- Advocacy
- Capacity Building through:
 - small awards



Workshops

◆ Regular workshops

- ◆ 8 a year for 3 years
- ◆ up and down the country, some international
- ◆ hosted by the community
 - ◆ universities, firms, professional bodies, charities
- ◆ focused on
 - ◆ Biology, Design & Engineering,
 - ◆ Older People's Needs, Issues & Problems

◆ A platform for all-comers

- ◆ work of leading researchers on ageing
- ◆ research of newcomers
- ◆ perspectives of policy makers, practitioners and intermediaries
- ◆ experiences of end users – older people

Next workshops

- **For all-comers**
 - **Dementia and Cognitive impairment - new perspectives in research, practice and caring**
 - 29th November 2006, Eli Lilly, Windlesham, Surrey (waiting list)
 - **Joint workshop with LARCI “keeping active and getting out and about”**
 - 8th February 2007, Birmingham
 - **Joint workshop with the College of Occupational Therapists**
 - 20th March 2007, London
 - **Older People and the Internet**
 - Spring 2007 (tba), Middlesex University
 - **Others to follow** - we will keep you posted by email/web
- **For the research community**
 - **SPARC Proposal Writing Workshop**
 - 23rd November 2006, Cavendish Hotel, Eastbourne
 - **Award Holder's Workshop**
 - 11th January 2007, University of Reading



Advocacy

- Making the case that ageing research can and is making a difference
 - to improving the quality of life of older people
 - to the work of professionals who care for and provide services to older people
 - benefiting the public purse
- Lobbying
 - the media
 - policy makers
 - user representatives & intermediaries
 - internationally
- Can build on a good track record
 - Ministers and MPs do listen!
 - Margaret Hodge, Lord Sainsbury,.....
 - Very recently the Cabinet Office

Capacity building awards

- Small awards scheme for newcomers to ageing research
- 185 proposals total value £5.7m considered in Summer 2005 & Spring 2006
- **34 were funded total value £1.2m**
 - for superior scientific excellence and capacity building
 - for titles see flyer in your joining pack, for more information www.sparc.ac.uk



The 34 award holders



A propitious time for SPARC

- Heightened awareness
 - of the challenges of ageing and need for new ways forward
- Exciting contributions
 - of engineering and biological research to meeting these challenges
- House of Lords Inquiry - Scientific Aspects of Ageing Research
 - damned practically every government organisation concerned with older people's issues for lacking interest and poor organisation let alone any gumption
 - but SPARC is excepted – the bright spot



New opportunities for research -

- **Current examples**

- New Dynamics of Ageing (ESRC, EPSRC, BBSRC, MRC, AHRC)
- Future Intelligent Transport Systems (EPSRC, DTI)

- **Recent examples**

- Taking Care to the Patient (EPSRC)
- Sustainable Urban Environments (EPSRC and others)



Institute of Transport Studies Leeds University

- Significant role in many aspects of transport
- Formidable reputation for innovation, enterprise and creativity
- Very concerned with end users and engages many different agencies and stakeholders
- The first award holding organisation to step forward to support the mission of SPARC through the offer of this workshop with encouragement from its colleagues at Leeds Metropolitan University



Transport for Older People

- No spin, no promises of untold riches for researchers, firms or older people
- An honest reflection of the excitement and commitment to improving quality of life of older people through research and better practice - of the possibilities which science and good practice can offer
- There is a lot more going on than we can showcase
 - especially the problems of
 - accessing the transport system
 - moving between systems
 - the design of transport interchanges, and
 - special issues for visually impaired and hearing impaired older people

Our Organisers, Hosts and Supporters

Leeds University

*Presenters
and Chairmen*

Many Thanks

and to
EPSRC & BBSRC



Greg and Mima



Ann and Jenny and colleagues

Take a Bow