Recent Developments in Housing, Health and Technology for Older People: Policy and Practice
Welcome

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SPARC - a community led initiative

• 2005 – 2008
• Challenges status-quo in ageing research
• Getting researchers closer to end users
  – Workshops
    • For all-comers
  – Advocacy
  – Pump-priming awards
• EPSRC & BBSRC
  – modest funding
Planned Workshops - from June 2008

• Technologies for Health, Rehabilitation and Self Management of Long Term Conditions (Bath) – June
• Frailty (Brighton) - July
• Cell Senescence (Oxford) - July
• Growing Old in Wales (Swansea) - July
• BA Festival of Science (Liverpool) - September
• Inclusive Design (Glasgow) - November
• Showcase Scotland - ?
Advocacy

• Making the case that:
  – older people are important
  – ageing research can and is making a difference

• Lobbying

• Developing a good track record
  – Some MPs do listen!
    • Two questions in Parliament on, Ageing Research and Older Workers
  – Ministers do listen (but Civil Servants don’t!)
    » Royal Patronage
    » HRH The Princess Royal participated in Ageing Research and Occupational Therapy: building partnerships, creating opportunities
Capacity building
pump-priming awards

• Small awards scheme for newcomers to ageing research

• 185 proposals total value £5.7m were considered in Summer 2005 & Spring 2006

• 34 were funded at total value £1.25m
  – for superior scientific excellence and capacity building!
From furniture design to stem cells

• Projects
  – Furniture design, Smart homes, Adaptations to the home
  – Better recovery from hip fracture
  – Design of the workplace for older people
  – Better packaging
  – Safer more friendly streets
  – Computers that are easier to use
  – Assisting local government with transport planning
  – Keeping your car and driving safely
  – Regaining speech after stroke
  – Understanding automated telephone messages
  – Ageing eyes, Stepping safely, Following moving objects
  – Activity, Exercise, Nutrition in later life
  – Oxidative stress, Ageing cells, Stem cells, Lots of biology!
The 34 award holders
Today

• A unique experience
  – Lectures
  – Briefings
  – Lots of Networking
    • academics, practitioners, older people

•Designed to bring together
  – everyone
  – CARDI and SPARC
Thanks!

- Today’s Presenters
- The Chairs
- Our Generous Host and Partner
- You, the Participants

www.sparc.ac.uk
The ultimate aim