

A CARDI-SPARC Workshop

Ageing research: opportunities and rewards

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C|A|R|D|I

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Opportunities



Brief History

Main Research Council Funding Streams for Ageing Research

- 1996 – the story begins
- 1998 onwards – EQUAL Initiative
 - Also GO, SAGE/ERA
- 2005 – 2012?– NDA
- 2005 – 2008 - SPARC



Current Funding Opportunities

- NDA
 - Final call (current)
- MRC led but all RCs
 - Lifelong Health and Well-being (July)
- EPSRC
 - Mental capacity (?)



Other Funding Streams

- EPSRC
 - Responsive mode
 - As a dimension in other programmes
 - For example, sustainability, crime,
 - Similarly for other research councils – specific and often narrow themes
- Other RCs
 - Responsive mode
- Charities
 - Many opportunities for small awards
- Government departments
 - Special themes – DH/NHS
 - for example, patient safety, telecare,



Major Requirements

- Often need to be
 - Multidisciplinary
 - Collaborative
 - For example, with health, housing or social services professionals, industry, charities etc
 - User-engaged
- Needs time and patience to develop useful links with relevant organisations



Rewards



Research into Practice

an example

- EPSRC EQUAL Initiative
 - Impact on regulation etc
 - British Standards, Building regulations, Housing Corporation requirements etc
 - Impact on practice
 - Design and best practice guides, education and training
 - Impact on older people
 - Direct benefits via the research programmes and take up by other organisation
- Other RCs
 - Similar successes



Careers in Research

- Considerable evidence of
 - Enhanced degree of satisfaction from working in the area
 - Intrinsic value of the work
 - Recognition by peers, nationally and internationally and even more significant by users of research
 - Opportunities for further involvement
 - Accelerated career progression
 - At all levels



The World we live in

- Research council investments
 - Large multidisciplinary programmes
 - Application orientated
 - Informed by government science priorities
 - Ageing one of the top priorities
- Ageing research
 - Largely untapped area, broad scope, many opportunities
 - Many issues for basic research lying just under the surface waiting to be discovered



So, what are the difficulties in getting involved with ageing research?

- Typical responses
 - No opportunities
 - Low prestige
 - No encouragement
 - The RAE
 - No track record
 - No contacts for collaboration

 - Not interested



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Misinformed

More meetings than ever
with policy makers

Self-starters only apply

Tired excuse

– presentation is all

Few have!

That's what CARDI is for!

Honesty is the best policy



What are the issues you face
with getting into/staying with
ageing research?

