



AUSTRALIAN
ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY



Issue 4: June 2008

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Welcome to the fourth edition of the AAG e-newsletter!

In this edition, Anna Howe (AAG Victoria) outlines her experiences at the 2020 Summit and what we might do as members of the AAG to ensure that ageing issues get on to future policy agendas. Founding AAG member Prof Arthur Everitt's contributions and dedication to the field of ageing research is honoured this month with a Distinguished Achievement Award by the American Aging Association, whilst there is also a brief report on the outcomes of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia workshop on the 'Theoretical, Empirical and Policy Inputs to Modelling Healthy Ageing', which was co-sponsored by AAG. In other national news, the Federal Ageing Minister Justine Elliot recently appointed Noeline Brown, Logie Award-winning actor and comedian, as Australia's first Ambassador for Ageing. Ms Brown, who turns 70 this October, will promote positive and active ageing within the community, as well as being a spokesperson for older Australians and a direct connection to federal government.

Each of the state divisions report on their recent activities, including how a seminar on 'Vulnerability in Ageing' attracted 70 attendees for the Tasmanian Division and a report on the 'Getting On With Life, Rehabilitation and Chronic Illness in Old Age' Regional Conference' in Wollongong from the NSW Division/Hunter Chapter. There is a report and photos from the two-day Emerging Researchers in Ageing Master Class, held by the ARC/ NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well, as well as some insight into 'life after the PhD' in student space.

Finally, there are a few reminders about conference and grant deadlines. Emerging researchers in ageing please note that the closing date for the 2008 RM Gibson Research Grant applications is June 30; we encourage you to visit the AAG website or contact the Secretariat for further information and application forms. Although the abstract submission date for our next national conference, 'Ageing Landscapes' (Fremantle in November) has passed, please note registrations are open at <http://www.aagconference.com/>. Finally, AAG has been invited to make a submission to a House of Representatives inquiry into "Better Support For Carers" – any AAG members interested and willing to participate in writing this submission are strongly encouraged to contact the AAG Secretariat urgently, as the closing date is 4 July.



National Activities

Australia 2020, Ageing 2020 and Ageing Australia 2020

A report from Anna Howe, AAG Victoria

The rate at which Australia's population is ageing will peak in 2020, but critical ageing issues did not feature in the priority themes and big ideas identified at Australia 2020, the Summit held in Parliament House in Canberra on April 19-20, 2008. Visit www.Australia2020.gov.au to read the final Communiqué and other reports on the Summit.

Looking back on the view from the twin peaks of ageing in 2020 and Australia 2020, we have to ask why, despite the best efforts of the seven 'ageing' participants in the health stream at the 2020 Summit, ageing issues failed to rate and what we might do as members of the AAG to ensure that ageing issues do get on to future policy agendas.

Approaching the Summit

We were alerted to the steep climb ahead by the Background Paper circulated for the stream charged with coming up with ideas for a Long Term Health Strategy for Australia. Population ageing was mentioned once, as a factor generating future demand for health care, but there was no discussion of these implications, or how they were being addressed now or could be addressed in the future.

Knowing that there was going to be strong competition to get issues on the agenda, Cathy Yelland, President of the Australian Association of Geriatric Medicine and I liaised with our colleagues to consolidate a set of ageing priorities. AAG members were invited to submit their priorities, and 2020 submissions from a number of not-for-profit agencies and peak bodies were also taken into account. Seven priorities were consistently identified:

1. Making ageing and aged care a priority in a National Health and Aged Care Strategy for the future, addressing attitudes towards older people as users of health and aged care services and recognising disadvantage as well as diversity in ageing.
2. Promoting active and healthy ageing.
3. Enhancing access to assistive technology.
4. Extending the scope of aged care in a long term national health and aged care strategy, by recognising the changing roles of aged care providers and realising their potential capacity to deliver a wider range of services, to fill gaps and extending the range of services. Workforce development is an essential part of this priority.
5. Implementing measures to ensure sufficient and sustainable funding.
6. Involving stakeholders in policy development.
7. Advancing dementia care services and research.

You can read the full paper detailing these priorities at http://www.aag.asn.au/filelib/2020_Health_Priorities_for_Ageing_and_Aged_Care.pdf

At the Summit

There were around 100 participants in the Health Stream, and for two sessions, we broke into groups to discuss five subtopics. We had been asked to nominate our preferred topic and the 'ageing' participants spread themselves across the groups:



Cathy Yelland, Mike Rungie - Healthy living, prevention and public health stream
Hal Kendig - Research and research translation
Allan Pidgeon, Lynne Pezullo - Workforce, service delivery and resource allocation
Anna Howe - Health inequalities
Kaarin Anstey - Emerging health challenges

Levering Ageing Priorities on to the 2020 Big Ideas for Health

A prerequisite for achieving our top ageing priority, to broaden the national health strategy to include aged care, was a shift in attitudes that would accord older people equitable access to all segments of the health system as well as aged care services. The outcomes of Australia 2020 indicate that this attitudinal shift has yet to occur and that ageing is still not integral to thinking about the Australian health system. So to these ends, can we leverage ageing issues on to the big ideas for health that were identified at 2020?

The leading idea that came out of the Health Stream was a Health Equalities Commission. Closing the 17 year gap in life expectancy between indigenous Australians and the rest of the population rightly takes first priority, but disparities in life expectancy in the rest of the population also warrant attention. Currently, 25% of men die before age 60 while the 25% who live longest die after age 85, a gap of 25 years. Women do better overall: more than 40% die at age 85 or older, but 11% still die before age 60. So while more of us are reaching old age, not all of us are, and premature deaths are the product of the underlying inequalities and disadvantages that the proposed Commission is charged with addressing.

Reorienting the health care system to prevention and health promotion, the second top idea, will bring returns across the whole population in the long term. But the biggest gains in individual well-being and population health and in savings to the health care system, by 2020 will come from reducing the effects of chronic disease and disability that all too often accompany ageing. Another big idea closely related to health promotion, to make healthy food choices easy, focused on combating childhood obesity, but these choices have an equally important part to play in addressing chronic illness at older ages, particularly diabetes.

Dementia did get a mention in the top idea for promoting research and translating research into commercial and clinical benefits, along with the development of a bionic eye. The bionic eye might deliver 2020 vision by 2020, but high quality cataract surgery is already available in Australia. Problems of access however mean that rates of cataract surgery are well below the level of need, leaving many older people to suffer unnecessarily from vision impairment due to cataract, and associated risks such as falls.

Another top idea, for decision making and resource allocation to be based on evidence, is especially pertinent to the AAG and its interest in promoting research to inform evidence-based policy. Many of us have contributed to reviews and investigations over recent years to inform the development of the new strategy for community care, but few of these reports have been released in more than summary form. The Way Forward, released in August 2004, has by now become the way stalled. Despite Departmental assurances that the findings of these various reports have been taken into account in decisions made so far, wider discussion has been hampered by lack of access to the full evidence. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing, Jane Halton, who built her career through positions in the Aged and Community Care Division of DoHA, and who sat through all sessions of the health stream, could demonstrate that the call for evidence based policy, has not fallen on deaf ears by releasing all these reports in full.

The newest big idea in the health stream was for an ASEAN-style health organisation to advance Australia's role in tackling health concerns in the Asia-Pacific region. While the primary focus was on new epidemic diseases such as SARS and bird flu, the disease transition associated with rapid demographic ageing in the region also warrants attention. Such a body could well be a vehicle through which the AAG could pursue



greater regional involvement, including reviving the proposal put to AusAid some years ago by the ANU's Dr Judith Healy for an Asia-Oceania Observatory on Ageing, similar to the European Observatory that has made very effective contributions to research and policy development across the expanded European Union.

What Can We Learn from Australia 2020 for Ageing 2020?

I am sure that my fellow ageing participants found 2020 an exciting and worthwhile experience in itself. It will prove even more worthwhile if it prompts some serious reflection on why ageing failed to capture the attention of others at 2020, and what the AAG can do to lever ageing priorities on to the broad policy agenda through other opportunities that arise. My own reflections bring three strategies to mind.

First, we need to match the timeframe of our thinking to the timeframes presented by different opportunities for policy input. While 2020 set a medium rather long term timeline, the rate of population ageing will reach its peak in 2020. A set of clear timelines need to be set for the sequence of actions that have to be taken if we are to be prepared for the 2020 ageing peak.

Second, 2020 highlighted the value of crystallising debate around a few 'big ideas'. There was ready recognition that the 2020 'big ideas' did not stand alone, nor were they new, but they did focus attention. If the ageing participants came away from 2020 with double vision and a sense of *déjà vu*, it could be because of the 2001 Myer Foundation exercise '2020: A vision for aged care in Australia'. Rather than yet again searching for new 'big ideas', we could well revisit that and other policy reports with a view to consolidating the many proposals put forward then and since around a few 'big ideas' as a means of refocusing and revitalising policy debate.

Third, 2020 was only one of many opportunities for engaging in policy development. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has recently established a Ministerial Committee on Ageing, and as Minister for Ageing, Justine Elliot, sat in on the 2020 health stream, it can be hoped that the absence of reference to ageing issues in the Summit Report does not escape her notice and that she will be prompted to re-establish a Ministerial Advisory Committee with a wide representation. The AAG is likely to be represented on such an advisory body, and it is timely for us to review how we can develop the 'big ideas' that we want our representative to take to the national policy agenda.

Ageing Well

Also attending the 2020 summit, was AAG member, Prof Hal Kendig. Prof Kendig said it was a unique opportunity for those of us who attended from Sydney University to provide real input into directions for government policy. For the full article, go to: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/news/84.html?newscategoryId=1&newsstoryid=2252>"<http://www.usyd.edu.au/news/84.html?newscategoryId=1&newsstoryid=2252>

Distinguished Achievement Award

Prof Arthur Everitt is a founding member of the New South Wales association of Gerontology which was formed in 1962 and the AAG in 1964. He was awarded the status of 'fellow' by the Gerontological Society of America in 1977 and by AAG in 2001. He served as NSW president in 1967-1969, secretary in 1962-1965 and AAG secretary between 1985-1986. Prof Everitt is a 'life' member of the AAG.

Prof Everitt while a doctoral student in 1954 began studying the pituitary gland in ageing and longevity. He worked tirelessly for many years contributing to his initial findings which were considered ahead of their time and became the basis for discoveries made decades later. He suggested that there were factors produced by the pituitary that were involved in the rate of aging of several diverse physiological systems. Indeed, he was correct! The implications of his research were far-reaching - factors similar



to those produced in the mammalian pituitary, have been identified in lower species (yeast, nematodes and flies) and shown to play major roles in longevity assurance.

This evidence suggests significant evolutionary conservation of longevity mechanisms. Even after 'retirement', Dr. Everitt has continued to be actively engaged and dedicated to gerontological research! For these reasons, among others, the American Aging Association has chosen to acknowledge and honour Prof Everitt's contributions and dedication to the field of aging research. Prof Everitt will be presented with the 2008 Distinguished Achievement Award on Monday, 2 June at the 3rd Annual Meeting 'The Role of Genes, Environment and Chance in Determining Aging' in Boulder Colorado.

At the age of 83 Prof Everitt continues to be an inspiration and role model to young biomedical researchers in ageing at the Centre for Education and Research on Ageing at the University of Sydney and enjoys and active ageing lifestyle.



Arthur Everitt and Professor David Le Couteur

Karen Robinson, AAG Executive Officer

Theoretical, Empirical and Policy Inputs to Modelling Healthy Ageing

This Academy of Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA) workshop titled 'Theoretical, Empirical and Policy Inputs to Modelling Healthy Ageing' was co-sponsored by the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) and the ARC-NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well (RNAW), and hosted by the Centre for Mental Health Research at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra on 5-6 December 2007. Workshop co-conveners were Associate Professors Laurie Buys and Kaarin Anstey. Nineteen researchers and policy makers from diverse backgrounds participated with the aim to advance multidisciplinary understanding of ageing. Presentations were given across three major themes of ageing research; 'ageing and the political economy', 'risk factor interaction: genes and environment' and, 'indigenous ageing'. Karen Ritchie opened the workshop with a keynote address highlighting the changing models of gene and environment interactions. She outlined the historical changes in perspective from the 19th Century tabula rasa of environmental determinism, through to the Quantitative Trait Loci (QTL) approach informed by the Human Genome Project. The full report by A/Prof Laurie Buys and A/Prof Kaarin Anstey can be accessed via the following website:

<http://www.assa.edu.au/Publications/Dialogue/dial12008%20-pt2.pdf>

AAG Student Committee - Academic Advisor Appointment – on hold

The expression of interest for an Academic Advisor to the AAG Student Committee has currently been placed on hold. The National Executive would like to thank those who have expressed interest in taking on this position. Any queries regarding this matter may be directed to enquiries@aag.asn.au.

IAGG - Collaborative Centres

The International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) informed the AAG that they are establishing a program of IAGG collaborative centres, which will be instrumental in the organisation of regional and world congresses, to create an avenue for communicating policy, research and opinions. The AAG is the permanent contact for Australian Collaborative centres.

Potential AAG/IAGG collaborating centres were identified via the web, through canvassing our membership,



AAG 'Alert's, E-newsletters and discussions at our National Council meetings. All nominations were then processed through the national executive. To be considered the centre was required to meet the following criteria:

1. The centre must have current IAGG membership (obtained by Centre Director/Nominated Representative being a financial member of AAG).
2. The centre must have achieved a minimum of 5 outcomes related to ageing over the past three years (outcomes can include reports, presentations, papers, journal articles etc.).

The AAG endorsed the following centres as members of the AAG-IAGG International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics Collaborating Centre (AAG-IAGG-CC):

1. Healthy Ageing Research Cluster (HARC);
2. Health & Ageing Research Unit (HARU);
3. Research Centre for Gender, Health and Ageing;
4. Centre for Education & Research on Ageing (CERA);
5. National Ageing Research Institute (NARI);
6. Western Australian Centre for Health and Ageing (WACHA);
7. Dementia Collaborative Research Centre;
8. Institute for Sustainable Resources, Queensland University of Technology;
9. Australasian Centre on Ageing;
10. Monash Research for an Ageing Society (MonRAS);
11. Centre for Ageing and Pastoral Studies (CAPS);
12. Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care (ACEBAC);
13. Centre for Mental Health Research;
14. Ageing Research Centre; and
15. Aged Services Learning and Research Collaboration (ASLaRC).

Respecting Patient Choices

The National Reference Group (NRG) for the Respecting Patient Choices Advance Care Planning (ACP) program meets twice yearly in Melbourne at The Austin Hospital.

The team at Austin Health have commenced a randomised controlled trial of ACP for patients aged 80 yrs and over admitted to general medicine, cardiology and respiratory medicine wards. So far 280 people have been recruited into the study. Results should be available at the end of the year.

The project is also developing an e-learning package. They will be hosting an Inaugural International Advance Care Planning Conference in Melbourne in March 2009.

RPC, in consultation with the NRG, is developing a 3 year communication and marketing strategy. A key component of this strategy is for RPC to work with like-minded organisations to promote and strengthen ACP.

Their website is www.respectingpatientchoices.org.au. The site provides ACP information with a drop-down list for state-specific information and a short video explaining the concept. The newsletter can also be downloaded.

Anne Meller attends as the AAG representative and can be contacted for comments and issues that members may wish to raise, or for hard copies of the newsletter to be mailed out. Contact details: Anne.meller@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au; Ph: (02) 9382 2984



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AAG 41st National Conference



The 41st National Conference is being held at the Esplanade Hotel Fremantle in Perth Western Australia. The conference is preceded by the 7th National Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA) Conference: 'Shaping Research Landscapes', on Tuesday 18 November 2008. The AAG conference registrations open from 6.00 pm, Tuesday 18th and a welcome reception is being held at 'Little Creatures' from 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm, together with ERA delegates. This year's Gary Andrews Address is being given by Dr William Mann.

Gary Andrews Address Technology, Mobility, Design and Injury Prevention

Dr William Mann

*OTR, PhD Chair of Occupational Therapy and Director of PhD Program in
'Rehabilitation Science at University of Florida*

William Mann, OTR, Ph.D. is Distinguished Professor and Chair of Occupational Therapy and Director of the Ph.D. Program in Rehabilitation Science at the University of Florida. Dr Mann also directs the National Older Drivers Research and Training Center, and has served as the Principal Investigator for the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) on Aging since 1991, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Previously, he was a professor at the University at Buffalo for 25 years. His current work focuses on home monitoring and communications technologies (tele-health, tele-homecare), and older driver assessment and rehabilitation. Dr. Mann has authored more than 125 articles and book chapters on aging and independence in the past 15 years, authored four books, and served as founder and co-editor of the journal *Technology and Disability* from 1990 to 2000. He has served as the Conference Chair for the International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence, last held in February 2006 in St. Petersburg, Florida, with over 500 participants from 32 countries. ICADI is scheduled next for February 20-23, 2008. Dr. Mann serves on the boards of the American Society on Aging and the Florida Council on aging. His work extends internationally to projects in Brazil and he is an honorary professor at the University of Sydney. Dr. Mann has over 35 years of experience in rehabilitation and community-based programs. His work over the past 20 years has focused on approaches to promoting independence with technology, including driving and smart technology for persons with disabilities. His projects span research, service and training, and he mentors 6 pre-doctoral students and 1 post doctoral fellow.

For more information on the conference please visit the following website:

<http://www.aagconference.com>



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**7th National Conference of
EMERGING RESEARCHERS IN AGEING
'Shaping Research Landscapes'
Tuesday 18 November 2008 - Perth
Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia**



Professional Doctorate and Masters Student's are invited to participate in the 7th National Conference of Emerging Researchers in Ageing. The benefits include; publishing your paper in a peer reviewed conference proceedings, the opportunity to present research findings to a diverse audience. All information regarding the conference can be located via the following website:

http://www.cra.curtin.edu.au/eduTrain/ERA_2008Conference/ERA_2008ConferenceIndex.html

KEY NOTE SPEAKER: Professor Judith Phillips

Presentation: 'Gerontological Research in a new ERA: a View from the UK'

Professor of Gerontology and Social Work & Head of the
School of Human Sciences Swansea University.

Judith is a member of the Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Ageing at Swansea University and Co-Director of the Older People and Ageing Research and Development Network in Wales. She is President Elect of the British Society of Gerontology. Her research interests are in social aspects of ageing, social work, social care, carers in employment, housing and retirement communities, intergenerational networks, care work and older offenders.

ERA 2008 Prizes

Best paper presentation by a:

- Doctoral student;
- Masters student;
- New researcher working in a research role; and
- Research student in ageing.

ABSTRACTS

Abstracts for ERA 2008 will be accepted until close of business Friday 25th July, 2008. For further details, please visit www.cra.curtin.edu.au



State Activities

ACT Division

A number of AAG members participated in an interdisciplinary forum on research in ageing and longevity held at the Australian National University on 24 April that attracted around 80 people. Sponsored by the ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well, it featured overviews of studies being undertaken at the university as well as two keynote speakers, Felicia Huppert from the Well-being Institute at Cambridge University spoke about and David Melzer from the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth.

ANU presenters included Pat Jalland on the challenges of writing what will be the first book about the history of old age in Australia, Marc Budge on protecting heart and minds and Kaarin Anstey on longitudinal research to address key questions about ageing well. Other speakers covered the demographic, economic and biological implications of ageing as well as technological developments. A poster session at the end enabled students in ageing research at the ANU to showcase their work.

Planning is underway for a student organised forum to highlight postgraduate research on ageing issues. To be held on 31 October, it follows on from a very successful inaugural event conducted by the student group in 2007.

Jill Miller - Newsletter rep

NSW Division/Hunter Chapter

Forums and Seminars

'Getting On With Life, Rehabilitation and Chronic Illness in Old Age' Regional Conference, Wollongong 1-2 April



(L-R) Paul Sadler & audience; AAG NSW Group; Audience; Anita Westera & Sharon Wall

Photos by Taylor Dong

145 participants attended from across disciplines and regions, including interstate. Keynote speakers included: Prof Stephen Lord, Frances Simmonds, Prof Pauline Chiarelli, Deborah England, Diana Aspinall and Renee Goossens; who all received excellent praise from the attending audience members.

Positive audience comments also included:



- Elaine White and Frances Dumont for their interactive, engaging and passionate workshop on incontinence 'Stemming the Rising Damp';
- Robert Sparrow for his outstanding and challenging presentation on the ethics of robotics 'In the hands of machines'; and
- Elsy Brammesan for her motivating and informative talk on intervention in residential care 'Where there is life there's HOPE?'

Wollongong participants expressed their pleasure in the conference being held in Wollongong. The need to keep the momentum going in the region was noted and that Sharon Wall has been a tower of strength along with Anita Westera, both of whom are former Executive Committee Members of the NSW Division.

Felicity Barr (NSW President) and the NSW Executive Committee noted their thanks to all involved, in particular Paul Sadler, Lisa Ralphs, Sharon Wall and Anthony Brown – who organised a successful 'Beyond the PhD' forum for postgraduate students attending the conference. 10 student scholarships were given out for the conference, mainly to undergraduates.



*(L-R) Day 2 stream B speakers; Day 2 Plenary Speakers 2; Day 1 PhD workshop; Day 1 Ian Cameron
Photos by Meredith Tavener*

University Prizes

Student prizes have been awarded at Charles Sturt and New England universities. Gerontology is no longer a separate course at Sydney University and is now a stream within the general program – as such, no nominations were made for Sydney. This shift towards gerontology being subsumed into general courses and for online provision catering largely to international students may necessitate a review of the prize strategy earlier than the intended 5-year review.

Hunter Chapter Activities

The Dick Gibson Oration to take place on 27 October 2008 will be given by Dr Peter Lipski (venue to be confirmed).

Prof Julie Byles (Chair & NSW President Elect) is keen to reinvigorate the membership and ensure that the AAG is meeting the needs of the members at all levels. The Chapter has commissioned work on a brochure to attract new members.

Traveling Scholar Professor Bill Mann

The NSW Division is planning a full day program in Newcastle on Friday 7 November, a similar program in Sydney, and a short visit to the Rehabilitation Studies Centre at Wollongong University on Wednesday-Thursday 12-13 November.



Rural Conference 2009

Broken Hill will be the site of the next rural conference, with the conference to be held at the Broken Hill Entertainment Centre on 1-2 April 2009 and the conference dinner at the Broken Hill Trades Hall. For this conference, we are looking at themes around the following issues:

- Ageing in remote Australia: the demographic and epidemiological issues, practical issues of treatment and transport; service innovations and local models of care; access and equity for rural and remote older adults; technology and ageing; ethical issues of rural ageing; safety, elder abuse and what it means for those living in the bush;
- Indigenous Ageing (building on the workshop to be held in Sydney in August by our national organisation);
- Workforce issues: stretching scarce resources across long distances; cross-disciplinary models; OH&S issues; undergraduate medical students and the Broken Hill rotation model in Aged Care; or
- Climate change and ageing: implications of changing climates for older people; drought, floods and the consequences for ageing rural workforces; sustainability and ageing in remote communities.

A working title which picks up these themes is 'Ageing in a Changing Environment', but we have not yet finalised our thinking and remain open to further suggestions. We will be working with our AAG colleagues in the SA/NT Division, the Broken Hill University Department of Rural Health and the Greater Western Area Health Service to develop the conference.

Upcoming events

Friday 15 August

Growing Old Well National Workshop

The Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Committee
Sydney

Thursday 28 August

9.30am – 3.30pm

Ethics and Technology in Ageing

Mary Jane Barker Rooms A&B, YWCA Sydney

4pm

Speakers include:

Annual General Meeting

Rob Sparrow (Monash University) and Linda Sparrow,
Branko Celler (UNSW), Colleen Cartwright, Wayne Hall
and Elizabeth Ozanne.

Themes:

Ethics of robotics and ageing, life extension technology,
and the human interface.

Registration fee:

\$50pp members and non-members

7-13 November

Travelling Scholar Professor Bill Mann

Various talks in Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong

For more details please contact the NSW State Executive Officer: Janet Gilchrist - Ph: 9767 7158; Email janetg@med.usyd.edu.au

Taylor Dong, Newsletter Representative, NSW Division



Queensland Division

Our upcoming event is a seminar on Quality of Life for older Australians across different settings in May. Other events scheduled for the remainder of this year, which include a trade display at the Falls Injury Prevention Collaborative Annual Falls Forum in August, Collen Geyer (director of mission, blue Care) as our guest speaker at the August AGM and Travelling Fellow Prof William Mann to speaker to us about Intersection of Engineering, Rehabilitation and Social Sciences" middle of November.

In addition to our Executive Committee, we have enjoyed the generous contribution of our student rep – Andrea Petriwskyj. The student section is very active this year, they had a great turnout for their welcoming dinner and towards the middle of the year, with their membership number doubled within 6 months. A student seminar session has been planned to give students practical tips with presentation skills for upcoming conferences and oral vivas. Future details will be posted on the web soon!

Stephanie Fu, President, QLD Division

Victorian Division

News

On Friday April 11th, with the support of the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI), we held a one day symposium entitled 'Creating environments for positive ageing'. Both delegates and presenters represented a wide range of disciplines and agencies. The Program was developed by Bridget Sutherland from our Executive, whose networks provided an exciting program of speakers. Jan Bruce from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) spoke about the MAV/COTA funded local government community based initiatives to create environments for positive ageing. Professor Rod McClure from MUARC, Monash University, argued for a rating system for extrinsic and intrinsic falls risk factors. Using a public health approach, he proposed that such a system might be influential in engaging a broader range of stakeholders in the area of falls prevention. Desleigh de Jonge from AHURI's Queensland Research Centre talked about findings from their recent qualitative research about why people choose to remain in their own homes. This work was part of a larger study program about home maintenance and modification services in Australia, available at www.ahuri.edu.au. Amelia Starr, National Convenor of the Australian Institute for Universal Design (ANUHD) (www.anuhd.org) discussed the Network's role in promoting design features to encourage socially sustainable development and discussed the three key domains of importance in design: social, economic and environmental. Noel Gately, VicUrban's Community Development Projects Manager, illustrated the use of these domains in the agency's Accessible Adaptable Housing Project. Rivkah Nissim and David Brant from the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCoSS) flagged their establishment of a Victorian Universal Housing Alliance and called for partners in the Alliance.

Kirsten Moore from the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) gave an overview of NARI's development and trialling of an environmental audit tool to support Victorian health services in the provision of older person friendly environments. Their work was funded by the Department of Human Services and further details can be found at www.nari.unimelb.edu.au. Cath Williams from the Independent Living Centre, Victoria provided insight to Yooralla's disability services and their place in an intergenerational approach to optimising the environment for positive ageing. Bridget Sutherland rounded off this engaging program by highlighting some future uses of smart technologies in the home environment.

Our April evening Forum discussed the Victorian Active Service Model (ASM) in Home and Community Care. Meg Henderson, Senior Program Adviser with the Department of Human Services' Aged Care Branch, provided useful feedback into an interesting debate from the floor about the innovative initiative and its implications for future service delivery. Around 0.25 million Victorians are HACC service users. The ASM



is a quality improvement initiative that promotes greater involvement of users in their care to increase their independence, using coordinated services. Its focus is on a person centred approach, restorative care, and the provision of more timely, flexible and responsive services that are capable of maximising the client's independence.

ASM is based on the premise that people have the potential to make gains in their wellbeing and that the HACC service system can improve its capacity to support this. National and international examples have provided promising results including an RCT in WA through Silver Chain, involving multi-disciplinary allied healthcare providers. Further information can be accessed at:

http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hacc/projects/asm_project.htm

Forthcoming events

The following events are planned for 2008. For more details contact the State Secretariat: Sue Hunt 8387 2614, email s.hunt@nari.unimelb.edu.au

Wednesday 18 June

Beyond Maturity Blues

Nick Tolhurst, beyondblue
St George's, Kew.

Friday 18 July

Regional Clinical Update Seminar

Multidisciplinary speakers
La Trobe Regional Hospital, Traralgon

Wednesday 20 August

AGM

Dr Jane Sims, Secretary, Victorian Division

SA/NT Division

The SA/NT division has had a quiet start to the year. For the committee this is a direct result of a very hectic schedule last year planning and producing the National Conference. Most of us felt the need to take a breath and start the year slowly. However things are now warming up!

Our first metropolitan seminar for the year has been planned for June the 24th: '**Contemporary approaches to managing pain for older people in residential and community care**'. There will be a panel of speakers including Prof. Jenny Abbey from QUT, Dr Deborah Mazindhu from Liverpool, UK and a medical practitioner from Palliative Care Services in Adelaide (TBA).

In September we have organised a very special breakfast seminar titled: '**Empowering Lives Through Technology**' which will showcase an SA rural town's initiative to be the first Australian pilot project based on USA's Jack York's 'It's Never Too Late' program. Jack York will be the keynote speaker at this seminar. More details to follow later in the year.

Our country seminar program continues to be a great success. So far this year Dr Bob Penhall has presented seminars for the AAG at the request of country ageing network in Clare, Wallaroo and the Murray Mallee. Topics have included depression and dementia, falls, osteoarthritis, and sexuality.

The SA/NT student representative has recently resigned, setting back the plans we were tentatively putting in place for our student members. However we are hoping to fill this position in the next month or so and get things back on track. Any nominations from SA/NT student members for the role would be welcome.

Cathy Lock, President, SA/NT Division



Tasmanian Division

The AAG Tasmania branch has produced a number of Educational Seminars this year. The most recent was on 13 March and we had some 70 in attendance. The topic was 'Vulnerability in Ageing' and Assoc Prof Gerry Naught talked about key concepts and current research looking at vulnerability in ageing. Ms Anita Smith then outlined the role of the Tas Guardianship Board with some case examples highlighting current concerns and policy implications of these concerns. Ms Pauline Marsh then spoke about a Tasmanian report completed last year on vulnerability in community care clients.

The next session will be Palliative Care on 9 July with Professor Michael Ashby as the key speaker. The final session for the year will examine 'The normal aging process'.

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 5 June with the committee planning ahead for the state conference in Tasmania for 2010.

Dr Rob Thornton, Vice-President, Tasmanian Division

Western Australian Division

Conference Preparation

Planning for the AAG National Conference and the National Emerging Researchers in Ageing Conference, both to be held here in November, is in full swing. Preparations continue to run smoothly.

Other Planned Activities

The AGM will be held at Grace Vaughan House on Wednesday 20 August (members only) and will be followed by a talk from Dr Michelle Reid.

Clinical Neuropsychologist at Fremantle Older Adult Mental Health Service titled 'The Role of Clinical Psychology in the Medical Treatment of the Aged'.

Members and non-members will be welcome to attend. More details from WA secretary Julie Borninkhof: jborninkhof@rkdgp.com.au

There is also a breakfast to be held in conjunction with Geriaction (WA) at Matilda Bay on June 5th (speaker to be confirmed), once more, details are available from Julie: jborninkhof@rkdgp.com.au

Finally, Dr Barbara Horner will be speaking at the Geriaction AGM on July 29 and AAG members are most welcome to attend her talk.

Student Space

Things are becoming quite exciting for students and early researchers (SERs) of the Western Australian AAG branch. With the upcoming AAG conference being held in Fremantle, now has never been a better time to be part of the AAG.

The last two months have been rather quiet as no doubt most SERs were busy preparing their abstracts submissions for the AAG conference. A small casual networking opportunity was organised on a beautiful Saturday morning in March, where SERs caught up for a coffee and a chat on the foreshore of the Swan River.



As previously advertised, the Student Research Forum on Ageing will be held on Tuesday 27th May. Organised in collaboration with the Centre for Research on Ageing and Geriatrics WA, this fantastic event features a presentation by Professor Duncan Boldy titled 'Supervising students – the good, the bad & the unpredictable?' The event promises to be a great and highly relevant opportunity for students and emerging researchers from all areas of ageing to meet and discuss their research in a supportive setting. Established researchers and academics, industry workers, and consumers have also been invited to come along to participate in discussions on emerging ageing research. The event will be reported on in full in the next newsletter.

Another event will occur on Tuesday 10th June, 2008, 6-9pm and is a Casual Networking Opportunity. Following on from the Student Research Forum on Ageing, any member of the AAG (or anyone wanting to become a member) is invited to sample the fine beverages at Little Creatures (40 Mews Rd, Fremantle). Located very close to the venue of this year's AAG conference, this casual networking opportunity is a great chance for students and emerging researchers to catch up with each other and other AAG members. This is your opportunity to relax and chat freely about your research with like-minded people. Contact Jason Fox, your AAG Student Rep for WA at deepestgreen@mac.com to register your interest (or just to say hello, and give recommendations for future events). All are welcome to come along at any time from 6-9pm for what will surely be a warm, jocular and conducive occasion!

What's On?

5 June 2008, 6-9 pm

Joint AAG and Geriatrics Breakfast

Speaker to be confirmed.

At the Matilda Bay Hotel, 3, Hackett Drive, Crawley

Information from: Julie Borninkhof jborninkhof@rkdgp.com.au

20 August 2008

AGM and presentation by Dr Michelle Reid

Clinical Neuropsychologist at Fremantle Older Adult Mental Health Service
'The Role of Clinical Psychology in the Medical Treatment of the Aged'

At Grace Vaughan House, 227 Stubbs Terrace, Shenton Park.

Members only for the meeting, all welcome for the presentation.

Information from: Julie Borninkhof jborninkhof@rkdgp.com.au

10 June 2008, 6-9 pm

Casual Networking Opportunity for Students

At Little Creatures, 40 Mews Rd, Fremantle.

Information from: Jason Fox at deepestgreen@mac.com

18 November 2008

Emerging Researchers in Ageing National Conference

At Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle Western Australia

Information from:

http://www.cra.curtin.edu.au/eduTrain/ERA_2008Conference/ERA_2008ConferenceIndex.html

19-21 November 2008

National Australian Association of Gerontology Conference

At Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle Western Australia

Information from www.aagconference.com

Chris Toye, Newsletter Rep. WA Division



Student Space

Life After PhD – Natalie de Morton's Post doc Story

The new Department of Physiotherapy at Monash University, Victoria celebrated the graduation of its first PhD graduate in December 2007. Dr Natalie de Morton, an AAG member, completed her thesis titled 'Measuring mobility and the effects of exercise for older acute medical patients'. Natalie recently presented the findings from her doctoral research at the AAG regional NSW conference in Wollongong in April 2008.

The research from Natalie's thesis resulted in the development of the DEMMI, an instrument that measures physical mobility of older people. It provides valid assessment of mobility whether people are bed bound or jogging. It has been developed and tested using the 'Rasch model'. Its timely arrival enables us to accurately monitor the physical health of older adults along the spectrum to full physical health replacing outdated models that assume reduced ability in older people. This instrument is quick and easy to use and interpret and supports and advances a modern approach of encouraging full physical ability across the lifespan. It has been incorporated into usual hospital care in several Australian hospitals and validation studies are now being conducted interstate and overseas. Plans are in place with international collaborators to translate the DEMMI into other languages in 2008.

Natalie has been recently awarded an NH&MRC Australian Clinical Training Fellowship. She has a passion for clinical research and as a result had decided by mid way through her PhD candidature that she would like to apply for a post doctoral fellowship. Applications for NH&MRC post doctoral fellowships close around June/July each year, for fellowships to commence the following year. Natalie plans to commence her fellowship at the completion of her semester one teaching commitments in 2008. This will provide Natalie with a salary for 4 years to continue her research predominantly in the areas of aged care, exercise for older people and outcome measurement.

Article written by:

Dr Natalie de Morton, Senior Lecturer, Department of Physiotherapy at Monash University - Peninsula Campus, Frankston, Victoria, 3199. E-mail: natalie.demorton@med.monash.edu.au



Natalie De Morton at her graduation ceremony

After the PhD Workshop

On 1 April 2008 the NSW Student Section helped organise a special student event for the AAG NSW regional conference, 'Getting on with Life - Rehabilitation and Chronic Illness in Old Age' at the University of Wollongong.

The workshop was based on the plenary session of the same name held at the 2007 Emerging Researchers in Ageing Conference in Adelaide. Prof. Patrick Crookes, Dean, Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences, and Head of the School of Nursing, Midwifery & Indigenous Health at University of Wollongong, chaired the session. The panel of recent PhD graduates consisted of Alison Wicks, Matt Carroll and Chris Shanley, all of whom shared their experiences of life during and after their PhD. I'm very grateful to the panel and chair for being so generous with their time and sharing their experiences. I'd also like to thank Tim Henwood from University of Queensland for sharing with me the resources he developed in organising the original workshop for ERA 07.



The workshop was a very lively affair with everyone in the audience participating, asking questions and sharing their views. The informal feedback after the session indicated that everyone present found it to be a very worthwhile experience.

The workshop was widely marketed through the AAG student network and the University of Wollongong. There were however only 10 students at the session. Despite what I consider to be a successful event, I would be very reluctant to organise a similar event as part of future conferences. We were not successful in attracting the number of students to the conference or the seminar as we had hoped. I suspect this seminar is much better suited to be part of a conference made up predominantly of postgraduate students (such as ERA).

Anthony Brown, AAG NSW Student Representative



Emerging Researchers in Ageing Master Class

Recently the ARC/ NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well held the two-day 'Emerging Researchers in Ageing Master Class' in Brisbane, QLD, on 27-28 March 2008. Convened by Professor Helen Bartlett, the Class provided an excellent opportunity for PhD students to increase their research knowledge and skills and to develop greater understanding of the career pathways available in ageing research post-PhD.

A number of AAG student members attended, along with over 30 other PhD students from a variety of fields of ageing studies. The list of speakers included many AAG members, including Professor Bartlett, and our President, Associate Professor Laurie Buys, and students enjoyed interactive sessions which included creating a vision for an ageing policy agenda, using statistical and demographic data on ageing, building research networks, locating funding and getting your research on the policy agenda. Attendees also worked on collaborative projects which they presented to the group, the best three of which were judged and awarded prizes by the Network. Prizes were also given by COTA Over-50s for six research papers prepared by attendees.

Overall, attendees reported that the Master Class was an exciting and valuable event which provided a unique opportunity for learning and for forging a stronger place for emerging researchers in developing research and policy agendas. Importantly, the Class also provided the opportunity for students to network with other PhD students from a broad range of disciplines as well as leading researchers in the field from across the country.

The strong interest in the workshop highlights the demand for this sort of activity and it is expected that further Master Classes and targeted workshops will be held in the future. Activities such as the Master Class, the ERA conferences and the work of the AAG Student Section will ensure the future of ageing research in Australia.

Article by:

1. *Andrea Petriwskyi, AAG QLD Division Student Rep*
2. *Xiao Jing Yang, AAG VIC Division Student Rep*
3. *Sharon Andrews AAG TAS Division Student Rep*
4. *Matthew Carroll, Program Manager, ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well*



Group photo from the Emerging Researchers in Ageing Master Class, University of Queensland, 27th and 28th March 2008. Photo sent in by Linda Peach, Network Research Officer, ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well.



Gerontology News

New Publication – Understanding Younger Onset Dementia

Lack of awareness of younger onset dementia among doctors and other health professionals is a major problem and greatly contributes to diagnosis in younger people often being even longer and more protracted than for older people. Diagnosis can take several years, causing individuals, their families and carers a great deal of anxiety. There are over 10,000 people in Australia with younger onset dementia.

To help change this situation Alzheimer's Australia commissioned the Melbourne Neuropsychiatry Centre to prepare the publication Understanding Younger Onset Dementia.

The aim of this new publication is to improve awareness of younger onset dementia among doctors and other health professionals, and reduce serious delays in obtaining an accurate diagnosis. The publication provides complex information about younger onset dementia in an accessible form, which summarises aspects of the various dementias that occur in adults under 65 years of age.

In younger people, where dementia is less common, symptoms such as social withdrawal, memory loss, personality changes and mood swings are often initially attributed to:

- Stress e.g. due to marital breakdown;
- Menopause; and
- Depression or another mental health disorder.

Delays in diagnosis may delay treatment, affect disease progression and reduce time available for legal, financial and care planning. Younger people with dementia are more likely to rapidly decline through the stages of dementia than older people, and as a result may not live as long as older people diagnosed with the condition. Increased awareness of younger onset dementia within the health sector and the community is critical for diagnosis of the condition in Australia to improve.

The publication is available for free download from www.alzheimers.org.au. Hard copies can also be purchased for \$7.50 each by calling (02) 6254 4233, emailing admin@alzheimers.org.au or downloading an order form from the website.

To read an article on the potential causes of young-onset dementia, click this link:
<http://healthorbit.ca/NewsDetailfwd.asp?opt=1&nltid=077150408>

ARC Funding to Commence 2009

The last available 2008 ARC funding is listed below.

1. Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects funding commencing 2009
 - Rules have been released
 - Proposals open 4th week of June 2008
2. ARC Federation Fellowships funding commencing July 2009
 - Rules are released 4th week of August 2008
 - Proposals open 2nd week of October 2008
3. Linkage Projects: (Round 2) funding commencing July 2009
 - Rules have been released
 - Proposals open 2nd week of October 2008

Further information can be found on the following website:

<http://www.arc.gov.au/applicants/default.htm>



Workforce Audit Reveals Challenges for Rural Health

A recent audit conducted by the Department of Health and Ageing of Australia's rural and regional health workforce, included incentives for doctors and other rural workforce policies. The results of the workforce audit can be located at:

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/work-res-rurauud

Aged & Community Services Australia



NATIONAL COMMUNITY CARE CONFERENCE

Community Care Magic & Myths the reality and the potential



The National Community Care Conference 2008 'Magic & Myths the reality and the potential, was recently held 14th – 16th of May at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre. A new workshop: Developing a Community Care Research Agenda was attended by approximately 30 enthusiastic research minds of the community care sector.

Research is necessary to support service development and to inform policy and program management. Presentations by ACSA, AAG, Research Network in Ageing Well and Baptcare were well received. The interactive session was a constant buzz with total audience participation all wanting to share their ideas for what should become the Community Care Research Agenda (CCRA) of the future.

ACSA, AAG and the Research Network in Ageing Well have formed an alliance to collaborate on an ongoing program of work aimed at developing the CCRA. This workshop was the perfect opportunity for practitioners and researchers to voice their issues and discuss realities in an open forum.

National Institute of Clinical Studies (NCIS) Fellowships 2008

The National Health & Medical Research Centre (NHMRC) awarded ten National Institute of Clinical Studies (NCIS) Fellowships which will help improve the use of evidence in key health areas. One successful nominee Dr Nicholas Waldron from WA is an advanced trainee in Geriatric medicine and will use his fellowship to undertake an implementation project aiming to prevent further falls in older people presenting to the emergency department. Media releases on all successful nominees are available on the NICS website:

www.nhmrc.gov.au/ncis



Upcoming Events

AAG/IAGG events

AAG 41st National Conference – 'Ageing Landscapes'

Date: Wednesday 19 to Friday 21 November 2008

Venue: Esplanade Hotel, Freemantle

The 2008 conference will provide opportunities to explore the changing and evolving 'Ageing Landscape'.

First call for abstracts is now open until 5 May 2008

For further information or queries, please contact East Coast Conferences:

Phone: 1300 368 783 (612) 6650 9800; Email: aag@eastcoastconferences.com.au

Website: www.aagconference.com

AAG Inaugural National Workshop

Growing Old Well: A life cycle approach for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

This is a unique opportunity to bring together Indigenous peoples, service providers and policy makers working towards finding answers to key questions around Aboriginal longevity. Includes life cycles risks and protective factors for healthy ageing in Indigenous peoples with a focus on translating conclusions into action.

Date: Friday 15 August 2008

Venue: Ed,imd Blacket Building, Prince of Wales Hospital

Registration: Sandra Forster, 02 9382 4259; Sandra.Foster@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

19th IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics - Paris 2009

Dates: 5-9 July 2009

Venue: Paris, France

Key dates:

January 2008	Call for Abstracts
	Opening of Online Early Registration & Hotel Booking
15 June 2008	Deadline for symposia submission
July 2008	Technical Guide & information for sponsors & exhibitors available
January 2009	Late Registration
June 2009	Publication of the Final Programme
July 5 – 9, 2009	19th IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics

Please visit this web page for the complete instructions for abstract submission:

http://www.gerontologyparis2009.com/nv/abstract_submission/index.php

For further information: website <http://www.gerontologyparis2009.com/>

Other Events

June 2008

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2008, Building Knowledge & Networks to Address Elder Abuse: Pathways to Human Rights

Dates: 16 & 17 June 2008

Venue: Government Conference Centre, 2 Rideau St, Ottawa, ONTARIO, CANADA.

Website: www.iagg.com.br



July 2008

11th International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders

Dates: 26-31 July 2008

Venue: Chicago, IL, USA

Website: <http://www.alz.org/icad/overview.asp>

August 2008

3rd International Academy on Nutrition and Ageing Meeting

Dates: 1-2 August 2008

Venue: Santa Ana Pueblo, NM, USA

Website: <http://www.serdi-fr.com/ABQ.htm>

Centre for Ageing and Pastoral Studies, 4th National Conference, Ageing and Spirituality: A Diversity of Faiths and Cultures

Date: 17-20 August 2008

Venue: Rydges Eagle Hawk Resort, Federal Highway, Sutton, NSW

For further information: Ph: 02 6273 8551; caps@csu.edu.au; www.centreforageing.org.au

September 2008

European Union Geriatric Medicine Society, 5th Congress, Geriatric medicine in a time of generational shift

Dates: 3-6 September 2008

Venue: COPENHAGEN

For Further Information: <http://www.eugms2008.org/>

8th Annual Scientific Meeting: International College of Geriatric Psychoneuropharmacology (ICGP) Sydney 2008 - 'Protecting and Repairing the Ageing Brain'

Dates: Wednesday 3 September – Saturday 6 September 2008

Venue: Scientia Convention Centre at the University of New South Wales, Sydney

For more information: www.icgp.org or email: icgp2008@unsw.edu.au

European Union Geriatric Medicine Society, 5th Congress, Geriatric medicine in a time of generational shift

Dates: 3-6 September 2008

Venue: Copenhagen

For Further information: <http://www.eugms2008.org/>

ANZSGM Annual Scientific Meeting

Dates: 8-10 September 2008

Venue: Crown Hotel Complex, Melbourne

Contact: Emma Waygood 02 9431 8636; emma@conferenceaction.com.au; www.anzsgm.org

The 2008 National Dementia Research Forum

Date: 18-19 September 2008

Venue: Sydney Masonic Centre

For updates, please go to www.dementia.unsw.edu.au



ACSA 08 Aged Care in the Fastlane

Date: 28 September – 1 October 2008

Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre

www.agedcare.org.au

October 2008

ANZFP 3rd Australian and New Zealand – Falls Prevention Conference

Date: 12–14 October 2008

Venue: Grand Hyatt, Melbourne

For more information: www.anzfpconference.com

Ageing Community Conference

Date: November 20 and 21, 2008

Venue: WatersEdge, Sydney

Contact: Melora Stern

For more information: www.halledit.com.au/conferences/ageing/2007

November 2008

Asia Pacific Geriatric Conference

Date: 13–16 November 2008

Venue: Discovery Kartika Plaza Hotel, Bali, INDONESIA

Plenary Lecture 1: Novel Therapeutic Dementia Option

Plenary Lecture 2: The Role of Vaccination and Immunomodulator in the Prevention and Management Infection in the Elderly

Phone/Fax: +62-21 314 66 33; Email: apgc@pharma-pro.com or isma@pharma-pro.com

Website: www.apgcbali.com

7th National Conference of Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA) 'Shaping Research Landscapes'

Date: Tuesday 18 November, 2008

Venue: Esplanade Hotel, Freemantle

Abstracts for ERA 2008 will be accepted until close of business Friday 25th July, 2008. For further details, please visit http://www.cra.curtin.edu.au/eduTrain/ERA_2008Conference/ERA_2008ConferenceIndex.html

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Phone: 1300 368 783 (612) 6650 9800; Email: aag@eastcoastconferences.com.au

Website: www.aagconference.com



Positions Vacant

Position available – Conference Secretary

2011 Asia/Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics (Melbourne)

The Australian Association of Gerontology won the bid to host the 2011 Regional Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in Melbourne Australia. To coordinate activities for the Australian Association of Gerontology to lead up to a successful conference in October 2011, a Conference Secretary is required. The Conference Secretary will have both regional and conference organisational roles. The Conference Secretary will work closely with the Conference Chairperson (Professor Keith Hill), the National and Local Conference Organising Committees, and the Conference Organisers.

This position also involves a role on the Executive for the Asia/Oceania Regional committee of the IAGG:

The Regional Congress Secretary will join the Regional Executive of the Asia/Oceania Regional Executive Committee from the time of the IAGG conference in Paris in July 2009. The Regional Congress Secretary will assume the role of Secretary of the Regional Executive of the Asia/Oceania Regional Executive Committee after the Melbourne congress, for a period of four years.

To submit an expression of interest in the position, please submit (1) brief CV, and (2) a summary (less than 300 words) describing relevant experience (including any previous conference organising roles, and any activities within the South-East Asia region), and any other factors that would support your application for this position. Please forward applications by Friday June 20, to AAG National Secretariat, (Donna Bennett), Suite 154, 236 Hyperdome, LOGANHOLME QLD 4129. Email: enquiries@aag.asn.au

PhD and Research Assistant Opportunities

For ARC Industry Linkage Project

Introducing Computer-based Documentation to Residential Aged Care: A Multi-method Evaluation of Success

This Australian Research Council funded research project with five aged care industry partner organisations is now offering the following positions:

PhD Scholarship (Australian Postgraduate Scholarship)

Position Description: an Australian Postgraduate Scholarship (Industry) is available for a PhD student to investigate the issues related to information technology adoption and benefits realisation in residential aged care.

Research Assistant (Level 5 Step 1)

Position Description: a research assistant is required to carry out the daily operation for the research project on evaluating the processes and outcomes of introducing electronic nursing documentation systems into residential aged care facilities. This person will be responsible for liaising with all of the stakeholders in the project. He/She will carry out literature reviews, data collection, data analysis and research reporting.

Further information regarding the project can be obtained by contacting the Chief Investigator Dr Ping Yu (02) 4221 5412 or email: ping@uow.edu.au

Web: <http://www.uow.edu.au/~ping>