

Aging, Longevity and Health Initiative

Dr Louise Lafortune

Lead, Life Course & Ageing Research at Cambridge Public Health

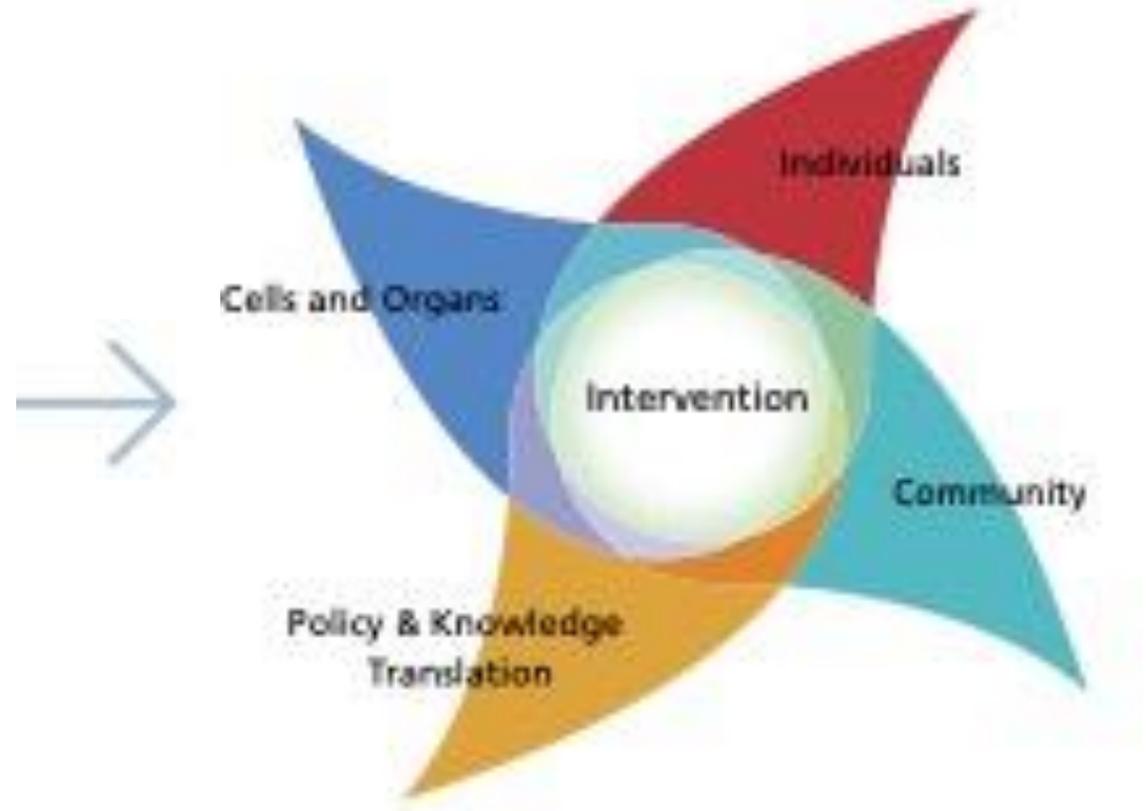
Chair, IARU ALH Initiative

ll394@medschl.cam.ac.uk

<http://www.iaruni.org/research-initiatives/aging>

Aging, Longevity and Health (ALH) Initiative

- **Partnership** – Increase engagement across IARU members and promote joint activities and funding opportunities
 - Steering Group / Conferences & workshops / Collaborations
 - Cross member affiliations
- **Research Excellence** – Provide novel insights and solutions to one of the greatest challenge and triumph of the 21st century
 - Interdisciplinary platform for research
 - Education and capacity building
 - Impact



Position Statement

Biomedicine
Hub

Commentary

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Societal Need for Interdisciplinary Ageing Research: An International Alliance of Research Universities “Ageing, Longevity and Health” Stream (IARU-ALH) Position Statement

Nicolas Cherbuin^a Katsuya Iijima^b Sebastiana Kalula^c Rahul Malhotra^d
Lene Juel Rasmussen^e Angeliqne Chan^{d,f} Louise Lafortune^g Sarah Harper^h
Xiaoying Zhengⁱ David Lindeman^j Erin Walsh^a Rafat Hussain^a
Richard Burns^a Maria Kristiansen^e Ikuko Sugawara^b Bokyung Son^b
Tomoki Tanaka^b Stefanie Buckner^g Jaco Hoffman^{c,h} Marc Combrinck^c

^aCentre for Research on Ageing, Health and Wellbeing, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, Australia; ^bInstitute of Gerontology, Institute for Future Initiatives, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan; ^cAlbertina and Walter Sisulu Institute of Ageing in Africa, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa; ^dDuke-National University of Singapore Medical School, Singapore, Singapore; ^eCenter for Healthy Aging, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark; ^fDepartment of Sociology, National University of Singapore, Singapore, Singapore; ^gCambridge Public Health, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK; ^hOxford Institute of Population Health, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK; ⁱInstitute of Population Research, Beijing University, Beijing, China; ^jCenter for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA

Keywords

Multidisciplinary research · Population ageing · Health · Challenges

Abstract

Ageing is a global concern with major social, health, and economic implications. While individual countries seek to develop responses to immediate, pressing needs, international attention and collaboration is required to most effectively address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities an ageing global population presents in the longer term. The Ageing, Longevity and Health stream of the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU-ALH) was built on a solid foundation of first-class interdisciplinary research and on

innovative outreach and communication centres. This interdisciplinary network conducts projects that span biology, medicine, social sciences, epidemiology, public health, policy, and demography, and actively engages with the public and other societal stakeholders. Here we posit that such international interdisciplinary networks are needed and uniquely placed to address major challenges related to health and ageing and ultimately will produce new understanding and knowledge to promote the awareness of healthy ageing and encourage societal change via novel, science-informed interventions. Global interdisciplinary research presents great potential and opportunities to accelerate our understanding of human ageing and to produce new, more effective solutions to a pressing, complex problem. However, more focused, strategic efforts and invest-

karger@karger.com
www.karger.com/bmh

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Nicolas Cherbuin
Centre for Research on Ageing, Health and Wellbeing
Australian National University
54 Mills Road, Canberra, ACT 2601 (Australia)
nicolas.cherbuin@anu.edu.au

Overarching aim

Identify equitable and sustainable solutions that will prevent health and ageing inequalities across the world

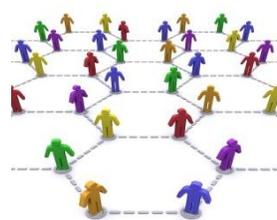
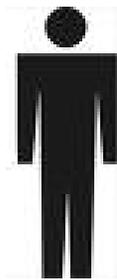
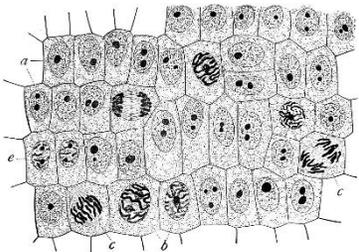
Focus on positive views of ageing

- Healthy Ageing
- Active Ageing
- Productive Ageing

Emerging themes

- Methodological challenges
- Comparative studies
- Engagement of older adults & publics
- Sustainability

Promoting a healthy, active and productive later life can work and add value at all stages of health and frailty *if* efforts are well targeted and delivered equitably



IARU examples

- Social isolation
- Walkability
- Social value of technology for ageing

Capacity Building

- Early Career Researchers conferences
 - Networking
 - Training
 - Publications
 - Collaboration opportunities
- Summer Programme (Copenhagen)
 - IARU members students
 - Academics contribution to teaching
 - *Early Career Research Network - Launch planned for Oct 2022 conference*

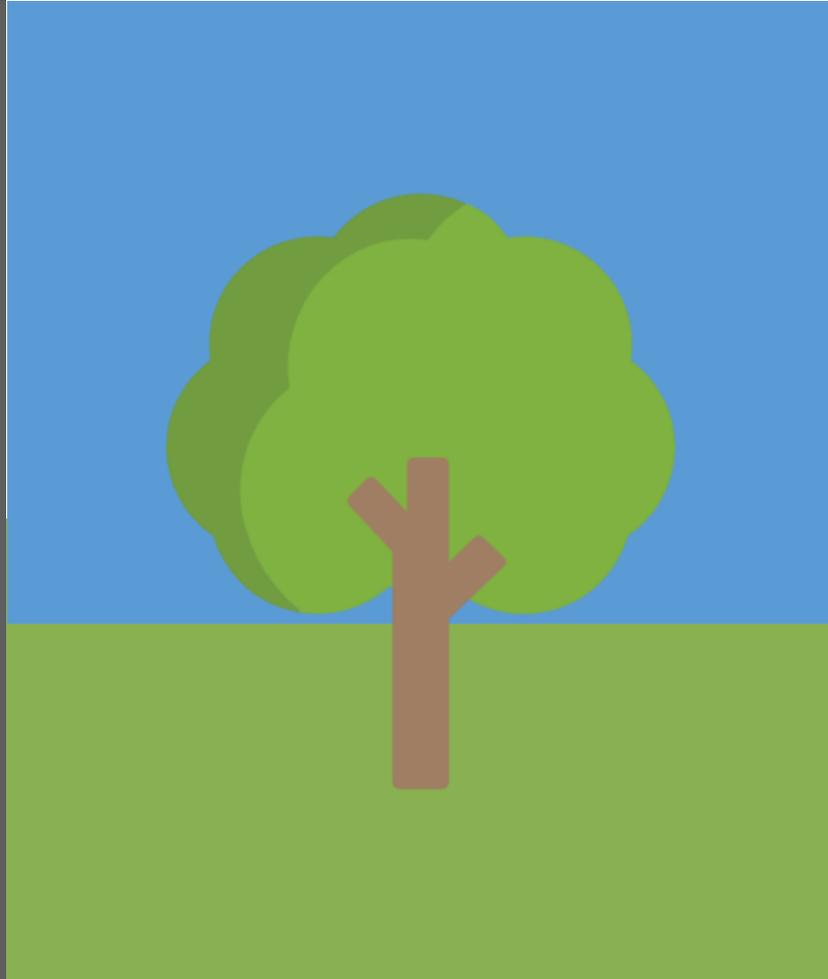
Sustainable Aging

- Online IARU course

Course administration
Claus Desler

Course
12-16 April 2021

Panum, Blegdamsvej 3b
2200 København N



- Supported directly by UCPH
- Speakers & students spanning 7 time zones
- Participation from universities & industry
- Exam and certificate of participation

All aspects of sustainability

- Decreased footprint
- Prevention rather than treatment
- Sustained behavioural change
- Increased ageing literacy

Impact

Stepping stones on the pathway to impact

To become an exemplar for impactful transdisciplinary research on ageing

- Numerous passed & ongoing collaborations – *building the case of what works*
- Joint publications and policy and research-oriented communication/dissemination activities – *a pipeline in development*
- Joint funding for projects & exchanges – *for various career stages*
 - Challenge to obtain funding for trans-border AND transdisciplinary research
- Repository of good practices on engaging older adults & societal partners in research – *ongoing discussion, with need for time & resources to progress*