



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF
RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

Session 6: Research Initiatives

- 6.1 Ageing, Health and Longevity Group
- 6.2 Early-Career Collaboration Grants

Session 6.1: Ageing, Longevity and Health Initiative

Lead	<i>Professor Angelique Chan (NUS)</i>
Executive summary for the period Sept 2022 to Sept 2023	<p>The University of Copenhagen hosted the Ageing, Longevity, and Health Research Conference (19/10/22 to 21/10/22). During the conference, both early career researchers (ECRs) and senior faculty from each IARU member university presented their work. In addition, the ECR network was launched. The ECR Network focuses on sharing knowledge and publications as well as building a communication platform within the network for career advice and opportunities. The ECR Network is planning two different initiatives to increase engagement among ECRs; IARU-ECR Network Quarterly Meetings, and public engagement initiatives through social media.</p> <p>The first ECRs meeting was held 02 February 2023. ECRs shared updates on projects discussed during the 2022 Copenhagen conference, recent publications, and workshops that may be of interest to others. The agenda for future meetings has been decided: Meetings will be an hour long, consisting of academic and career sharing and updates, followed by a 20-30 minute research presentation by an ECR. The current ECR leads are from University of Copenhagen, National University of Singapore, and the University of Oxford.</p> <p>The IARU-ALH steering committee met virtually on 8 February 2023. The ECR network was discussed and the issue of funding for the network was raised. This included funding for ECRs to physically attend the annual IARU-ALH conferences. Other topics discussed included follow up on the joint publication, the IARU-ALH conference format at the University of Tokyo to be held October 2023.</p> <p>At the 2022 Copenhagen conference, both senior and early career researchers began work on a joint publication, 'Successful ageing: a comprehensive mapping of the literature', led by Dr. Nicholas Cherbuin (ANU). This work is ongoing and the manuscript is nearing submission status to an internationally-refereed journal as of July 2023.</p> <p>A new member from ETH-Zurich joined the Copenhagen meeting, Professor Benedikt Helgason. His main research interests lie in the early detection of health risks and prevention.</p>
Items for decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding of Early Career Researchers Network set-up and for Early Career Researchers' travel to the annual IARU-ALH conference.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ALH initiative has also asked about setting up a website and social media channels. Do Senior Officers have any views on this? • Funding request below. 																		
<p>To assist the Senior Officers in understanding your group's work patterns and the goals you are hoping to achieve this year, we would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:</p>																			
<p>What specific topics does your group hope to address in the coming year?</p>	<p>The group's overall focus is on ageing and health from an interdisciplinary perspective involving basic biology, public health, social sciences, population health, medical decision-making, and translational research. The group intends to focus on research around healthy ageing, loneliness, and mobility.</p>																		
<p>Do you have projects that you hope to begin or continue? <i>(Please give details)</i></p>	<p>ANU is spearheading the development of a joint publication which involves both senior members of the group, as well as ECRs. In addition, NUS and the University of Oxford are working on a joint publication regarding living arrangements and health. The development of the ECR network will continue over the next few years.</p>																		
<p>How often do you plan to meet (approximately)?</p>	<p>We plan to meet at least once a year in person and once using a webinar format.</p>																		
<p>Funding to date</p>	<p><i>Summary of previous funding allocations</i></p> <table data-bbox="539 1196 1329 1854"> <tr> <td>USD 15,000 (2022)</td> <td>ALH Conference, Copenhagen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>USD 15,000 (2021)</td> <td>ALH Conference, Cambridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>USD 15,000 (2020)</td> <td>ALH Conference, Cape Town</td> </tr> <tr> <td>USD 11,506 (2019)</td> <td>ALH Conference, ANU</td> </tr> <tr> <td>USD 15,000 (2018)</td> <td>ALH Conference, NUS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>USD 13,004 (2017)</td> <td>ALH Conference, Oxford</td> </tr> <tr> <td>USD 14,600 (2016)</td> <td>ALH Conference, Tokyo</td> </tr> <tr> <td>USD 15,000 (2014)</td> <td>ALH Conference, Copenhagen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>USD 38,000 (2009)</td> <td>Project management salary, Oxford</td> </tr> </table>	USD 15,000 (2022)	ALH Conference, Copenhagen	USD 15,000 (2021)	ALH Conference, Cambridge	USD 15,000 (2020)	ALH Conference, Cape Town	USD 11,506 (2019)	ALH Conference, ANU	USD 15,000 (2018)	ALH Conference, NUS	USD 13,004 (2017)	ALH Conference, Oxford	USD 14,600 (2016)	ALH Conference, Tokyo	USD 15,000 (2014)	ALH Conference, Copenhagen	USD 38,000 (2009)	Project management salary, Oxford
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<p>Summary of previous updates</p>	<p>The IARU-ALH conference held in Copenhagen saw the launch of the Early Career Researchers (ECRs) Network and the development of a joint publication (led by ANU) that is almost completely drafted as of 31 July 2023. Although previously an</p>																		

	inactive partner, ETH-Zurich was represented in Copenhagen by Dr. Benedict Helgason. The steering committee agreed to involve Professor Jaco Hoffman as a representative for the University of Capetown. Professor Hoffman has agreed as of June 2023. The IARU-ALH 2023 conference is on-track to be held in Tokyo, 16-18 October 2023.
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Summary of Initiative's Activities

During 2023 the University of Tokyo will hold the IARU-ALH conference, "Longevity and wellbeing for a sustainable future and Society", 16-18 October. During this conference keynote speakers and Early Career Researchers (ECRs) will present their work. There will also be a meeting of the ECRs, and a separate meeting for the steering committee. The IARU-ALH network remains committed to the development of joint research collaborations. To date we have one joint publication and are currently working on a second joint publication. The steering committee reiterated interest in developing ECRs and supporting international collaborations. Two new members from IARU member universities joined the IARU-ALH programme; Professor Benedict Helgason (ETH-Zurich) and Professor Jaco Hoffman (University of Cape Town). The IARU-ALH steering committee also reiterated its commitment to inclusivity for the development of high impact research on ageing and health.

During 2022 the group was able to meet physically in Copenhagen for the annual IARU-ALH conference. As a result of the pandemic, both Early Career Researchers and senior faculty are well-versed in the use of zoom and are able to meet on zoom regularly for meetings and research collaborations.

The funds requested will be used to hold the 2024 physical meeting of senior faculty and early Career Researchers in Singapore. Additional funds have been requested to set up the Early Career Researchers Network. We will also use a portion of the funding requested to host a seminar/webinar for Early Career Researchers in 2024.

ALH Initiative: Funding Request Form 01

Project Name/Year:

IARU-ALH annual conference at Singapore in 2024.

Total Requested Amount & Breakdowns:

Item	Amount
Travel for Early Career researchers to attend the meeting	USD 15,000
Total Requested Amount	USD 15,000

*Please note that it is required to report how the approved funding is actually used and the outcomes later in the annual status report.

Other Financial Resources (if applicable):

Source	Item	Amount
Duke-NUS CARE fund	Transport, logistics, and IT	USD 5,000

Participants List (Please specify the lead by adding "Lead" next to the name):

University	Title/Position	Name
ANU	Associate Professor	Nicolas Cherbuin
ETH Zurich	Senior Scientist, PI, and Leader, Bone Pathologies and Treatment, Laboratory for Orthopaedic Technology at the Institute for Biomechanics	Benedikt Helgason
NUS	Associate Professor and Executive Director, Centre for Ageing Research and Education	Angelique Chan
PKU	Director, Institute of Population Research	Xiaoying Zheng
Berkeley	Director, CITRIS Health Initiative	David Lindeman
Cambridge	Principal Research Associate, Cambridge Public Health	Louise Lafortune
UCT	Honorary Professor, Institute of Ageing in Africa, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences	Jaco Hoffman
Copenhagen	Managing Director, Center for Healthy Ageing	Lene Juel Rasmussen
Oxford	Professor of Gerontology and Director, Institute of Population Ageing	Sarah Harper
UTokyo	Professor, Institute for Future Initiatives	Katsuya Iijima

*The list does not need to be complete in case not all participants are confirmed yet.

Details of the Project (background, purpose, expected outcomes, schedule, project's continuity, etc.):

The IARU-ALH annual conference is entitled "Living Well, Ageing Well: Health and Well-Being in Ageing Populations". It will be held in Singapore in 2024.

\$15,000 is requested for travel of Early Career Researchers to attend the annual conference. The conference will follow-on from productive conferences since 2016 and more recently hosted by Cape Town (2020), Cambridge (2021), Copenhagen (2022), and Tokyo (2023).

The conference will comprise of keynote addresses by invited speakers, paper presentations by graduate students, early career researchers and junior faculty as well as a plenary session. There will also be the ALH steering committee meeting and an early career researchers network meeting.

This will enable the successful continuation of graduate and early career training and development, and the collaborative research strands within the ALH theme.

ALH Initiative: Funding Request Form 02

Project Name/Year:

Development of Early Career Researchers network

Total Requested Amount & Breakdowns:

Item	Amount
Support to host website	USD 5,000
Support for 2024 seminar/webinar (Singapore)	USD 2,000
Total Requested Amount	USD 7,000

*Please note that it is required to report how the approved funding is actually used and the outcomes later in the annual status report.

Other Financial Resources (if applicable):

Participants List (Please specify the lead by adding "Lead" next to the name):

University	Title/Position	Name
ANU	Assistant Professor	Dr Erin Walsh
ETH Zurich	Early career researcher	(TBC)
NUS	PhD candidate	Vanessa Koh (Lead)
PKU	Early career researcher	(TBC)
Cambridge	PhD candidate	Sarah Assad
UCT	Early career researcher	(TBC)
Copenhagen	PhD candidate	Linn Gillberg
	PhD candidate	Li Zhi Quan (Lead)
Oxford	Research Fellow	Dr. Yanan Zhang (Lead)
UTokyo	PhD candidate	Suzuki Harono

*The list does not need to be complete in case not all participants are confirmed yet.

Details of the Project (background, purpose, expected outcomes, schedule, project's continuity, etc.):

The seminar/webinar will be hosted by the National University of Singapore. The purpose of the symposium/webinar will be to provide a platform for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) at each IARU member university to present individual and collaborative work that has been developed since the Copenhagen IARU ECRs meeting. The expected outcome is to ride on the momentum created during the Copenhagen meeting during which the ECRs held a half day brainstorming session on plans for the network. There will be further discussions at the October 2023 IARU conference in Tokyo which will ensure the development of an agenda for the seminar/webinar in 2024 (Singapore).

Session 6.2: Early-Career Collaboration Grants

For discussion and decision by the Senior Officers. Submitted by the Secretariat.

Background

At the 2022 meeting, the Senior Officers approved plans for an Early-Career Collaboration Grants scheme. The programme would help early-career academics by providing funds to meet the costs of a short-term research visit at another IARU university.

It was agreed that eight grants of US \$5,000 would be made available and would focus on current early-career researchers – those who are no longer postdoctoral researchers but who are still within 10 years of submitting their PhD. Full eligibility criteria are published on the IARU website: <https://iaru.ethz.ch/research-initiatives/early-career-collaboration-grants> .

Application and selection process

The Secretariat contacted all IARU Key Contacts to distribute the information about the grants programme and received 23 applications from 8 institutions. (ANU, CAM, NUS, OXF, UCB, UCT, UTOK and YALE). These applications were to another 8 institutions (ANU, NUS, OXF, PKU, UCB, UCPH, UTOK and YALE).

It had been decided that selection would not be linked to academic merit, as the Secretariat and Senior Officers are not well-equipped to make those judgements across a large number of disciplines. Instead, the selection could be randomised.

Due to the nature of the applications received, it was possible to select a candidate from every institution that had an applicant. The Secretariat were able to ensure that every host institution that had been applied to also received a candidate.

In future, selection may need to be truly randomised, depending on the type of applications.

Awardees

<i>Name</i>	<i>Home University</i>	<i>Host University</i>	<i>Subject</i>
Myra Abubakar	ANU	NUS	Cultural Studies
Kai Chen	YALE	UTOK	Epidemiology
Peng Ding	UCB	PKU	Statistics
Naosuke Mukoyama	UTOK	OXF	Politics and International Relations
Xin Peng	CAM	UCB	History of Art
Rosephine Rakotonirainy	UCT	UCPH	Statistics

Sheena Ramazanu	NUS	ANU	Global Public Health
Ramina Sotoudeh	OXF	YALE	Social Sciences/Genetics

Next steps

The 2023 grant-holders are due to complete their visits between October 2023 and October 2024. In order to transfer the funds to the candidates, it may be necessary to set up contracts with the home institutions so they can distribute the funding to the junior academics.

The Secretariat has already contacted Key Contacts about beginning this process and would be grateful for any support to make the administration as efficient as possible.

Items for Decision

- 1. Do SOs recommend that the Early-Careers Collaboration Grants should be offered again next year?**
- 2. Should there be any revisions to eligibility or the selection process for 2024?**
- 3. In 2022, the Presidents wanted to increase support for this scheme and recommended that the funding for the grants should be doubled for the first year to US \$40,000 for a maximum of 8 grants. Do SOs think that the 'normal' funding level of US \$20,000 should apply for 2024, or do they recommend a different amount?**