

### **Welcome to the CECo Older Adult Theme!**

The focus of our activity in the last few months has been upon establishing a core group of researchers within the five CECO universities (Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham and Southampton). We have also identified some key elements of the work of the Older Adult theme which we outline below.

We are aware that our consultation and communication with other academics and practitioners with an interest in this work, has not always been consistent. This Update is an attempt to overcome that and we hope to issue such an update two times a year.

### **Programmes of Research**

Following consultation events with members of the five CECO universities and our wider collaborators, we have identified initially two foci for research:

#### **Living alone in older age**

This focus arose from the shared interests of the academics and clinicians who initially met to discuss potential research ideas within the older adult theme. A number of potential projects have been identified within this theme. These include:

- a longitudinal study of older people's lives, when living alone at home towards the end of life,
- a narrative study of older people's experiences of living alone; and
- a study of stakeholders (family, neighbours, health and social care staff) perspectives on supporting older people living alone.

#### **End of life care in care homes**

This programme of work builds upon research already and currently being undertaken by members of the Theme group.

The elements identified within the foci are meant to be flexible and we are open to collaborations about a wide range of aspects of palliative and supportive care for older adults. We are also seeking within these research programmes to address issues that complement the other two CECO themes, namely the management of complex symptoms and the use of narratives as a research methodology and a supportive intervention.

### **Funding Opportunities**

#### **CECo scholarships**

The next round of CECO scholarships has just been announced. Full details can be found at

[http://www.ceco.org.uk/network/research\\_capacity/research\\_capacity.php](http://www.ceco.org.uk/network/research_capacity/research_capacity.php).

We would welcome contact from people interested in applying for a scholarship that relates to the older adults work. In the first instance please contact the Older Adult Theme leads or Fellows, see details at the end. We can then link you with your nearest CECO collaborative university to take this forward.

## Seminars

### ESRC Seminar Series: "Social and Psychological Aspects Of Dying In Old Age"

Information arising from the first two seminars in this series is now available on the CECo website. (See <http://www.ceco.org.uk/directory/tree.php?category=9>).

**November 1<sup>st</sup> 2007** Seminar 3 focuses on "Priorities for Older People Facing Death in Old Age". This is being held at the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Southampton. Further details can be found at: [http://www.ceco.org.uk/events/theme\\_events.php?t=1](http://www.ceco.org.uk/events/theme_events.php?t=1).

There are still be some places available.

**May 15<sup>th</sup> 2008** Seminar 4 of the ESRC seminar series focuses on "Planning for Death in Old Age". This seminar is being run in partnership with the Centre for the Older Person's Agenda based at Queen Margaret University, and we look forward to this joint event.

**Autumn 2008** – A conference that focuses on End of Life Decision Making is being arranged jointly between CECo and the Palliative Care Research Society. Further details to follow.

## Research Partners

We are establishing a forum for research partners, based in Lancaster. We are initially holding monthly events. These will have a twofold aim:

- To help researchers undertaking work around life-limiting illness and end of life care to develop and carry out research projects that are relevant and accessible to the general public
- To support interested research partners to develop ideas, plan research projects and seek research funding to carry them out

We will review the format of the initial 3 meetings at the end of the year before planning a further series for 2008.

If you have any research proposals under development, or funded and you would like to identify research partners willing to be involved in your particular study/proposal development, please contact Katherine Froggatt.

## Resources

### Palliative Care and Long Term Care Settings for Older People: Worldwide Resources

A resource database is being developed by Katherine Froggatt and Dr Katharina Heimerl, from the University of Klagenfurt, Vienna, Austria to enable knowledge and resources about the development of palliative care for long-term care settings to be shared worldwide. Please visit the website at:

<http://www.eolc-observatory.net/information/ltc/>

**For further information about the work of the Older Adult theme contact:**

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