

Newsletter of the LRA Healthy Ageing

05/2018 | 06 August 2018

Attached please find the current news regarding the LRA Healthy Ageing and research on ageing, information on projects, networks, collaborations and events.

Best regards,
Astrid van der Wall



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News from the LRA Healthy Ageing



Source: LRA Healthy Ageing / pigurdesign Potsdam.

Exhibition in the Wissenschaftsetage Potsdam

As of August 24, 2018, the Leibniz Research Alliance Healthy Ageing will be represented in a four-week-long poster exhibit in the Wissenschaftsetage Potsdam. Focusing on the interdisciplinary nature of healthy ageing and the many facets of this phenomenon, this exhibition accompanies a Wissenschaftsetage lecture series on the topic of healthy ageing and staying healthy. Seven biomedical institutes of the Research Alliance will participate in the exhibit. Sixteen posters dealing with different topics guide visitors through the inexorable process of biological ageing. The topics

are as diverse as the Research Alliance itself and range from memory research, the lung as it ages, and calorie restriction in old age to nutrition and diabetes in the elderly.

The density of excellent science and research in and around Potsdam, Germany, provides fertile ground for the association proWissen Potsdam, founded in 2004, which sees its mission in the promotion of science and research, communicating science to the general public and expanding a network of universities, scientific institutes, the business

sector, culture, politics, city government and citizens in Potsdam and Brandenburg. ProWissen Potsdam e.V. is located in the Wissenschaftsetage (WIS) at:

WIS | Wissenschaftsetage im Bildungsforum
Am Kanal 47 | 14467 Potsdam, Germany
Admission is free
Exhibit dates: August 27 – Sept. 24, 2018
Mon.-Fri. 10:00 - 18:00 | Sat. 10:00 - 14:00

› Wissenschaftsetage Potsdam

New Publication in the ARL: Planning for healthy cities

Healthy living conditions are of central importance for the sustainable development of liveable cities. On this subject a working group of the Academy for Spatial Planning and Research (ARL) on “Planning for healthy urban regions” discussed, condensed and advanced the state of knowledge on planning and urban health in research and practice.

This research report addresses fundamental terms and concepts, historical lines of development and new integrative perspectives on the relations between health, space and intervention. Strategic approaches to promote public health and liveability in cities and their actual implementation through

planning instruments are then discussed on this basis. The thematic focus thereby ranges from substantial questions on environmental justice, to participative and cooperative procedures, to concrete instruments like sectoral plans on health. Furthermore, health promotion is related to selected fields of action of spatial planning, such as climate adaptation and the development of urban green and blue spaces, and sports and leisure areas in cities. Different options for action are presented in order to interlink the different policy fields of health promotion, prevention and spatial planning.

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News and findings on Ageing Research

Groundbreaking discovery in telomere research:

Length is not a significant measure

Australisch-Neuseeländischer Hochschulverbund / Institut Ranke-Heinemann, 30 Juli 2018

It has been previously assumed that telomere length is predictive for diseases such as cancer or diabetes. According to new research findings from Sydney, Australia, it is not length that is significant but the structure of the DNA segments. Further studies will now investigate the extent to which human health correlates with telomere health.

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Important ageing mechanism in fish model *Nothobranchius furzeri* revealed

University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, 30 Juli 2018

Nothobranchius furzeri, the African Killifish, is the perfect model organism for research of ageing processes because of its short lifespan, apparent signs of ageing and a sequenced genome. Thus, researchers from the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna and the Medical University of Vienna were able to show that histone deacetylases, which are important for cell cycle regulation are produced less in ageing fish. In parallel, the team confirmed this ageing mechanism in mice. The identification of epigenetic and thus, reversible changes could be a loophole to develop active compounds antagonizing the ageing process.

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A molecular switch may serve as new target point for cancer and diabetes therapies

FMP Leibniz-Forschungsinstitut für Molekulare Pharmakologie 13 August 2018

If certain signaling cascades are misregulated, diseases like cancer, obesity and diabetes may occur. A mechanism recently discovered by scientists at the Leibniz- Forschungsinstitut für Molekulare Pharmakologie (FMP) in Berlin and at the University of Geneva has a crucial influence on such signaling cascades and may be an important key for the future development of therapies against these diseases. The results of the study have just been published in the prestigious scientific journal 'Molecular Cell'.

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Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow at FLI

FLI Leibniz Institute on Aging - Fritz Lipmann Institute, 13 August 2018

Ukrainian cell biologist Dr. Yuliya Kurlishchuk has received a research fellowship for postdocs from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. With this funding, she is now a guest at the Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) in Jena for the next two years. She is going to investigate the regenerative capacity of cells in the research group “Transcriptional Control of Tissue Homeostasis” of Dr. Björn von Eyss.

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NutriAct Family Study: Nutrition, socio-cultural background and relationships

DIfE German Institute of Human Nutrition Potsdam-Rehbrück, 6 August 2018

Even prior to birth, a person’s family sets the course for later eating habits. But what happens if the cards are reshuffled? Can partners exert sustained influence on people’s food choices? To answer these questions the DIfE together with the University of Potsdam, the Charité Hospital in Berlin and the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine initiated the online NutriAct Family Study in October 2016. The interdisciplinary team has now published information on its design, method and first study phase in the BMC Public Health Journal.

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Aggressive tumors - New regulator in breast cancer cells discovered

FLI Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute, 6 August 2018

Triple-negative breast cancer is a particularly aggressive form of breast cancer. Here, important receptors are missing, which often serve as targets for treatments. Thus, these tumors are unlikely to respond to current therapies. Researchers from the Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) in Jena now identified the protein TRPS1, which is commonly overexpressed in these tumors. When TRPS1 is down-regulated, tumor growth decreases whereas survival rates increase. This is a possible therapeutic approach for the treatment of this aggressive form of breast cancer. The results have now been published in the journal Nature Communications.

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Back-to-back: Current Studies on the Longevity of Naked Mole-Rats

FLI Leibniz Institute on Aging - Fritz Lipmann Institute, 2 August 2018

Naked mole-rats can live considerably longer than other rodents like mouse, rat or guinea pig. This makes them outliers among mammals, just as humans with their maximum lifespan of about 120 years. The identification of genetic and molecular characteristics that distinguish long-lived from short-lived species enables the identification of naturally evolved mechanisms to a long and healthy life. Researchers of the Leibniz Institute on Aging - Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) together with colleagues of other research institutions now published two back-to-back studies on the longevity of naked mole-rats in the journal BMC Biology.

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Ageing Meetings

8-10 August 2018, Toronto/Canada:

[› International Federation on Ageing: 14th Global Conference on Ageing - Towards a Decade of Healthy Ageing](#)

6-8 September 2018, Jena/Germany:

[› Jena Aging Meeting](#)

6-8 September 2018, Cologne/Germany:

[› Gerontologie und Geriatrie Kongress 2018: Vielfalt des Alterns, biomedizinische und psychosoziale Herausforderungen](#)

19-21 September 2018, Heidelberg/Germany:

[› 6th Annual Conference of the German Stem Cell Network \(GSCN\)](#)

23-25 September 2018, Sitges/Spain

[› Cell Symposia: Aging and Metabolism](#)

28-30 October 2018, Penang Island/Malaysia

› [2nd International Health & Wealth Conference/Global Aging Challenge](#)

20-21 February 2019, Berlin-Buch/Germany

› [3rd International Symposium Healthy Ageing](#)

15-18 April 2019, New Orleans/USA

› [Aging in America Conference](#)

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