

Newsletter of the LRA Healthy Ageing

06/2018 | 28 September 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 Healthy Ageing



Bildquelle: LFV Healthy Ageing / pigurdesign Potsdam.

Next General Meeting in Berlin on 28 November 2018

The next General Meeting of the Leibniz Research Alliance Healthy Ageing this year will again take place as part of the annual Leibniz conference in Berlin. It is scheduled for Wednesday, 28 November

2018, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Steigenberger Hotel am Kanzleramt. Please mark this event in your calendar. The speakers will send out invitations in time.

Seventh issue of Healthy Ageing – Forschung aus erster Hand has been published, now with a wider scope

The seventh issue of Healthy Ageing – Forschung aus erster Hand comes out today. The magazine of the Leibniz Research Alliance (LRA) Healthy Ageing again showcases the newest research findings from its 21 member institutes. In response to the tremendous resonance, the magazine has taken on an even wider scope. The most recent issue not only covers the current research findings of the institutes but also presents information about the working groups in the alliance, individual scientists and events. The magazine is written for scientists whose interests extend beyond their own specialties to include gerontology and for readers interested in ageing and the demographic change. The articles reflect the broad interdisciplinary spectrum of the LRA Healthy Ageing, ranging from biomedical research on ageing to neurology, education research, spatial planning, and economics.

What you can read about in the seventh issue:

1. Old and healthy: New genes for longevity

Little is known about the genetic basis for a long life. Never the less, by conducting genetic comparisons of short-lived and long-lived rodents, researchers have been able to identify new genes that potentially influence longevity and healthy aging in mammals.

2. Air pollution: cognitive limitations in old age.

A study done in Düsseldorf shows that poor lung function is not just a risk factor for the reduction of cognitive capacity in old age. Evidently, there is also a direct correlation between air pollution and cognitive impairment.

3. Risk of heart attack and stroke in metabolically healthy, obese women

Obese women have an increased risk of cardiovascular disease even if they are considered to be metabolically healthy. In addition, women with normal weight are also at risk of experiencing cardiac infarction or stroke if they suffer from a metabolic disease such as diabetes or high blood pressure.

4. Physical exercise and the elderly

So many people become passive in old age precisely when there are no more professional demands, when the body is no longer so willing, and moving is becoming more and more difficult. This is a problem to be addressed not just by the elderly, but also by public health and, above all, the community.

5. Molecular switch against cancer and diabetes

If certain signal cascades in the body are not regulated properly, diseases such as cancer, obesity and diabetes can occur. Researchers from the Leibniz Research Institute for Molecular Pharmacology (FMP) in Berlin and the University of Geneva have discovered a new mechanism that can significantly influence these signal cascades and could be an important key to the future development of therapies for these diseases.

The online issue can be found › here. The printed version can be ordered from

Astrid van der Wall
Coordinator LRV Healthy Ageing
› healthyageing@leibniz-fli.de

Scientists of the LRA Healthy Ageing at the University of California, Berkeley

Scientists of the LRA Healthy Ageing represented the research alliance at an interdisciplinary meeting of ageing researchers in Berkeley on 17 August. The Center for Research and Education on Aging (CREA) at the UC Berkeley organized together with other UC Berkeley organizations dedicated in ageing

research a summit of ageing researchers in California. The participating disciplines were similar to the ones, which are working together in the LRA Healthy Ageing. George Brooks and Steve Garan from CREA invited scientists from biomedicine, adult education, social science and technologies to

discuss questions of ageing. From the FLI Helen Morrison, Alessandro Ori and Wilfried Briest took part and informed the participants about the work in the LRA Healthy Ageing. Helen Morrison, speaker of the research alliance, is optimistic that the international cooperation between CREA and the LRA Healthy Ageing will develop.

Helen Morrison and Alessandro Ori preparing the next meeting at the UC Berkeley/USA. Source: Wilfried Briest/ FLI



Tom Rosman is to replace Anne-Kathrin Mayer at ZPID

At the end of October Anne-Kathrin Mayer will be leaving the Leibniz Center for Psychology Information (ZPID) in Trier and the Leibniz Research Alliance. We regret her departure very much and wish to thank Dr. Mayer for her dedication to the Association since its founding in 2012. All of us here in the Alliance wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.



Dr. Tom Rosman, ZPID. Quelle: ZPID
› Website Dr. Tom Rosman

Das ZPID wird in Zukunft von Herrn Tom Rosman im ZPID will be represented in the LRA Healthy Ageing by Dr. Tom Rosman. Since August 2018 Dr. Rosman has headed the research area for Research Literacy and User-friendly Research Support at the Leibniz Center for Psychology Information (ZPID) in Trier. He received his doctorate in 2015 from the University of Trier for his dissertation on the measurement of information competency in university students. Holding a German Diplom degree in Psychology, he has focused his research on the topic of evidence-based thinking, research literacy and epistemic beliefs.

Connections to LRA Healthy Ageing and in particular to the focus groups on Health Literacy are present in his work on information literacy and evidence-based thinking. In August 2018 Dr. Rosman and Dr. Elisabeth Reichart jointly assumed leadership of the Health Literacy focus group.

1. Jena Aging Meeting (JAM) from September 6-8 in Jena

Around 200 researchers from 16 countries meet in Jena from September 6-8 at the international “Jena Aging Meeting” to discuss latest research results and developments in the field of aging research. The very first JAM is organized by the Leibniz

Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) together with the Leibniz Research Alliance “Healthy Ageing”.

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News and Findings on Ageing Research

More than just a DNA repair deficiency syndrome – impaired acetylation in Cockayne syndrome B

IUF – Leibniz Research Institute for Environmental Medicine 31 August 2018

By studying the skin phenotype of the hereditary disease Cockayne syndrome researchers at the IUF and HHU Düsseldorf have found a mechanism which can prevent the loss of subcutaneous fat, i.e. one of the cardinal symptoms of Cockayne syndrome. This study was now published in “Science Translational Medicine”.

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Numb, burning, tingling sensations in the feet: New biomarkers for inflammation identified as risk factors for neuropathy

DDZ German Diabetes Center, 24 August 2018

Polyneuropathy is one of the most common complications in diabetics. However, it can also occur with certain risk factors or diseases prior to the onset of diabetes. Initial symptoms often include pins-and-needles sensations in the feet. Although polyneuropathy is present in around 30% of diabetics, it often remains undiagnosed. Scientists at the German Diabetes Center in Düsseldorf in cooperation with colleagues from the Helmholtz Zentrum München (HMGU), both partners in the German Center for Diabetes research (DZD), have been able to show for the first time that six biomarkers of inflammation indicate the risk of polyneuropathy.

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Calls

DFG Modifies Its Scientific Networks Programme

DFG, 25 September 2018

At its meeting on 20 September 2018, the Joint Committee of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) approved modifications to its Scientific Networks Programme. Once limited to early career researchers, the programme is now open to researchers at all career stages. Networks generally consist of 10 to 20 individuals who seek to engage in multi-year scientific exchange and cooperation on a research topic area of their choice across locations to attain a specific outcome.

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DFG-RSF Cooperation: Possibility for Joint German-Russian Project Proposals in all Fields of Science

DFG, 11 September 2018

To facilitate the support of collaborative work between German and Russian research groups, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) and the Russian Science Foundation (RSF) have opened the possibility for joint German-Russian project proposals for the funding period 2020–2022 in all fields of science. Collaborations of research teams from both countries are invited to submit joint proposals.

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Priority Programme “Deciphering the mRNP code: RNA-bound Determinants of Post-transcriptional Gene Regulation” (SPP 1935)

DFG, 10 September 2018

In 2015, the Senate of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) established the Priority Programme “Deciphering the mRNP code: RNA-bound Determinants of Post-transcriptional Gene Regulation” (SPP 1935). The programme is designed to run for six years. The present call invites proposals for the second three-year funding period.

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Healthy diet for a healthy life (JPI HDHL)

BMBF, 23 August 2018

The increasing prevalence of overweight and diet-related diseases such as diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular disease pose new challenges to healthcare systems and society as a whole in terms of research and health policy. A healthy lifestyle with a balanced diet and sufficient physical exercise can significantly counteract disease, help maintain health and a sense of wellbeing, and prevent chronic disease.

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Life-long Health

BMBF 23 August 2018

Just like the onset and progression of disease, health is determined by very different factors. In addition to genetic makeup, health and how diseases can be managed are also affected by background, social status, gender, and the familial, occupational and social environments. Childhood, adolescence, adult life and old age each have their own characteristics. And because of this, general concepts of health promotion, prevention and healthcare do not have the same effects during each life phase or in different population groups.

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From Politics

DFG urges improvement of the approval procedures for animal experiments

DFG, 5 September 2018

Procedural problems endanger uniform standards for animal welfare and biomedical research in Germany /
Senate Commission statement

Since the revision of the German Animal Welfare Act in 2013, substantial problems have been seen in Germany regarding the approval procedures for animal experiments. These problems hinder the promotion of uniform standards for animal welfare and have negative consequences for biomedical research in Germany. This is the conclusion that has been reached by the DFG Standing Senate Commission on Animal Protection and Experimentation following a nation-wide survey and multiple discussion rounds with experts. In its statement the Senate Commission is therefore urging improvements in the implementation of the approval procedures for animal experiments and calling for collaborative efforts on the part of all stakeholders.

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DFG Statement on the Establishment of “cOAlition S” to Support Open Access

DFG, 4 September 2018

A number of European research funding organisations (cOAlition S) – with the support of the European Commission including the European Research Council (ERC) – have now agreed to require full and immediate open access to research publications resulting from their grants by the year 2020.

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Ageing Meetings

5-7 October, 2018, Nice/ France

[3rd International Conference on Aging and Disease \(2018 ICAD\)](#)

28-30 October 2018, Penang Island/Malaysia

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

11-13 November 2018, Dortmund

[› 4th international Lipidomics Forum](#)

3 December 2018, Novato/USA

[› Live better longer: A Celebration of 30 Years in Aging Research](#)

6-7 December 2018, Jena

› [Annual Meeting of the German Association for Aging Research \(DGfA\)](#)

20-22 February 2019, Berlin-Buch

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

15-18 April 2019, New Orleans/USA

› [Aging in America Conference](#)

30 May-2 June 2019, Burlingame/USA

› [American Aging Association: Translating Aging](#)

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