

March 2025

ART (Ageing Research Translation) of Healthy Ageing Network

Building the capacity to translate discoveries in ageing science to intervention studies in humans across the life course

Celebrating the Network's Achievements

We are incredibly grateful to UK Research and Innovation (BBSRC and MRC) for funding the ART of Healthy Ageing Network over the last 3 years. On 31st March this funding comes to an end and so we wanted to take the opportunity to thank the funders, our External Advisory Group and all of our Network members for their invaluable support and contributions.

By working together, we have:

- built a network of ~230 members with shared interests in translational ageing research from ~85 institutions with wide geographical coverage across the UK and beyond, representing multiple disciplines and all career stages
- grown a thriving community of early career researchers (ECR) keen to pursue interdisciplinary research on ageing
- devised and delivered a diverse portfolio of events, activities and funding initiatives that have:
 - brought people from different disciplines together to discuss their research on ageing, network and identify opportunities for collaboration
 - addressed the unmet development needs of our ECR community
- made significant progress towards identifying and assembling the essential building blocks for a translational platform for ageing

Bringing together a diverse and engaged community that works across traditional disciplinary boundaries



Training & supporting the next generation of interdisciplinary ageing researchers

Advocating for translational ageing research



Building the necessary ecosystem to deliver translational ageing research

Fostering international collaborations

Alongside our work to foster interdisciplinary collaborations on translational ageing research across the UK, we have also facilitated international collaborations. This has:

- created novel opportunities for the sharing of knowledge, skills and resources
- provided an international dimension to research capacity building
- maximised the reach and impact of the Network

Building on the success of the International Sarcopenia Translational Research Conference in 2023 which supported the Network's aims on internationalisation, Prof Rachel Cooper, represented the Network at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting in November 2024. This was followed by a research visit to University of California, San Francisco, supported by the Core Center for Musculoskeletal Biology and Medicine and California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute, where collaborative opportunities were explored.

In February 2025, we were delighted to welcome a group of international Professors of Geriatric Medicine to Newcastle. [Click here to read](#) more about this visit which included the exchange of insights on innovative ageing research and clinical practice.



Breaking down barriers to deliver translational ageing research across disciplines

Over the last 3 years we have actively recruited Network members from a broad range of disciplines as part of our commitment to promoting interdisciplinary ageing research. In doing this we have benefited from the fact that our Network Management Group represent multiple disciplines - epidemiology, exercise physiology, cell biology, trials of older people, Geriatric medicine and data science. In addition, we value established links to different learned societies including the British Geriatrics Society and the British Society for Research on Ageing.

Having assembled a network of people with shared interests in translational ageing research from different disciplines we devised events that specifically aimed to provide attendees with the opportunity to learn each other's languages. This included our ECR workshop *'The future of ageing research: building confidence in interdisciplinary collaboration'* and our 1-day event co-organised with the Rosetrees Physics of Medicine network, which promoted interdisciplinary research engagement between physical, biomedical and clinician scientists.

We also made interdisciplinary working an essential requirement of our pump-priming projects. Our online event showcasing these projects *'The future of ageing research: developing successful interdisciplinary collaborations'*, held in October 2024, was an opportunity for other Network members to hear the reflections of the pump-priming project PIs and learn from their experiences of interdisciplinary collaboration.

This work highlights that the barriers to interdisciplinary research can be overcome and that ageing researchers are keen for opportunities to equip themselves with the necessary skills to work together across disciplines.



Looking ahead - ways to keep in touch

Although current funding for the ART of Healthy Ageing Network has come to an end, we remain committed to working with you to drive forward advances in translational ageing research.

A summary of the Network's objectives and achievements can be found on [our website](#). You can also keep up to date on our latest research via the [AGE Research Group website](#) and the Ageing, Sarcopenia and Multimorbidity research theme of the [National Institute for Health and Care Research Newcastle Biomedical Research Centre](#).

When future opportunities to connect and collaborate arise we hope to be in touch. In the meantime, we recommend joining the [Dunhill Medical Trust Academy](#). This is a searchable portal of researchers and research-ready community organisations with an interest in age-related research. The Dunhill Medical Trust will be changing their name on 29 April 2025 so please watch out for the public announcement about this and their updated strategic priorities.

We also highly recommend keeping up to date with the work of [UKAgeNet](#) who share our vision of working across disciplines to deliver ageing research with impact.