

Ageing Well National Science Challenge Newsletter #4

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Ageing Well NSC SNAP Event

The Ageing Well National Science Challenge is pleased to announce registration has opened for our national stakeholder-led event, which will be held at **Te Papa in Wellington on Wednesday, 14 September**.

The Stakeholders for Action research Partnership (SNAP) event aims to create opportunities for developing partnerships in stakeholder-led research. We will provide a participatory and interactive forum for those with an interest in, or influence over, ageing well in New Zealand. The SNAP event will also give you an opportunity to connect with our funded researchers, who will present an update of their research and will be involved in the day's discussions and debate.

We have structured the SNAP event across the five research strands of the Challenge and industry leaders will speak to each:

- Maintain wellness, independence and autonomy
- Promote social integration and engagement
- Value older people in all settings
- Reduce disability and the impact of disability

- Enhance age-friendly environments

Registration is free. [To register click here](#)

We are also providing a market place if you wish to showcase your organisation's ageing-related work. If you are interested in having a booth - for which there will be no charge - please [contact us](#) so we can discuss further.

We hope to see you there and look forward to your input in helping shape the next phase of the Challenge.

For further details of the SNAP Event, [click here](#)

Ageing Well NSC Governance Group Members honoured

The Ageing Well National Science Challenge is delighted that three of our Governance Group members have been recognised for their accomplishments. Two have received Queen's Birthday Honours, and one a prestigious appointment.

Dr Dianne McCarthy has been made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to science, business and women, as part of the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours.

[Marlborough scientist Dr Diane McCarthy becomes Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit](#)
(Stuff website)

Adrienne von Tunzelmann, recently appointed to the Governance Group, has been made a Companion of the Queen's Service Order for her services to governance and the community.

[Giving back to the community has been a focus](#) (NZ Herald website)

Dr Traci Houpapa has been appointed by the Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment Minister Steven Joyce to The Victoria University of Wellington Council.

[Victoria Chancellor welcomes appointment of influential leader to University Council](#) (Victoria University website)

Read more about our [Governance Group members](#).

Ageing Well NSC joins Science Challenge Collaboration with China

Ageing Well National Science Challenge has joined with Healthier Lives, and A Better Start NSC to lead a new research venture with China. The collaboration will focus on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and is called the *New Zealand-China Non-Communicable Diseases Collaboration Centre*.



A grant of \$1.25 million has been made by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's (MBIE) Catalyst Fund to establish this research collaboration centre. The Fund supports activities that leverage international science and innovation for New Zealand's benefit.

The Centre will focus on six themes:

- Diabetes and obesity
- Cardiovascular disease
- Cancer
- Rare inherited diseases
- Big health data
- Gene-environment factors

China's large population and comprehensive health data can help progress research into risk, prevention, and treatment of NCDs. New Zealand's public health and ethics expertise, and innovative research techniques, will provide insight into cost-effective approaches to manage the rapidly increasing medical burden in China.

Ageing Well Director, Professor David Baxter, commented that the collaboration brings another strength to achieving the Ageing Well vision to add life to years for all older New Zealanders.

"The scale of China offers many opportunities to assess strategies to reduce the degree of disability that NCDs contribute to, and to enhance the independence, engagement and living environment of our older people."

The collaboration currently encompasses 219 researchers in 26 institutions and expects to provide opportunities for researchers from across New Zealand.

- [New Zealand-China Research Collaboration Centres announced](#) (Government media release)
- [China-New Zealand health research centre funded](#) (University of Otago media release)
- [Healthier Lives National Science Challenge website](#)
- [Ageing Well National Science Challenge website](#)
- [A Better Start National Science Challenge website](#)

Ageing Well NSC first publication

Ageing Well National Science Challenge is delighted to celebrate the first of many publications expected from our research projects.

Professor Valery Feigin (AUT) and his team's work on stroke prevention has been published in the prestigious journal Lancet Neurology.

The research investigated data from 188 countries as part of a systematic review of the global burden of stroke and risk factors for the period 1990-2013.



The paper suggests that more than 90% of the stroke burden is attributable to modifiable risk factors and that controlling of behavioural and metabolic risk factors could avert more than three-quarters of the global stroke burden.

This research provides a valuable basis to explore effective approaches to reduce the impact of stroke in New Zealand.

Ageing Well congratulates Valery and his team.

Read the paper in Lancet:

[Global burden of stroke and risk factors in 188 countries, during 1990–2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013](#)

Valery Feigin is a member of our Science Leadership Team, read more about our leading researchers:

[Science Leadership team](#)

Connecting Māori researchers



Māori researchers have a new way to connect with the three health and wellbeing National Science Challenges.

Overcoming inequity is integral to the work of [A Better Start](#), [Healthier Lives](#) and [Ageing Well](#).

The new Te Tira Rangahau Hauora network will give Māori researchers a forum for collaborating on challenge and cross-challenge projects.

Organisers say the network is a practical way to apply [Vision Mātauranga](#) – the government policy framework that aims to unlock the potential of Māori knowledge, resources and people. It will also help to develop the Māori research sector, especially early career researchers.

For more information, contact:

Angus Macfarlane of A Better Start – angus.macfarlane@canterbury.ac.nz

Maui Hudson of Healthier Lives – maui@waikato.ac.nz

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National Science Challenge Newsletter

We have now changed the look of our newsletter. Please let us know what you think. We are also interested in any suggestions for ageing well-related content to include in future newsletters. If you have any suggestions, please get in touch by email to administrator.ageingwell@otago.ac.nz.



If you would like to unsubscribe from this mailing list, please contact administrator.ageingwell@otago.ac.nz