Enabling people with dementia and their carers through the use of new technologies
From SPARC to KT-EQUAL

Peter Lansley
Professor of Construction Management
University of Reading, UK
Director, SPARC & KT-EQUAL
Something to celebrate?
Something to celebrate

Living well with dementia: A National Dementia Strategy

Putting People First

Exchanging Knowledge | Extending Quality Life
I'M SORRY
I HAVEN'T
A CLUE
SPARC

For the research community and its supporters in health, social and housing services, charities, voluntary agencies, local and central government, and amongst older and disabled people.....
SPARC - a community-led Initiative

• Focused on:
  – Encouraging new blood
• 2005 – 2008
• EPSRC & BBSRC - £1.75m
  – Design and engineering research
  – Biological research
  – All areas in between
• Three themes
  – Pump-priming awards
  – Workshops for all comers
  – Advocacy
• Involving all stakeholders in ageing
Pump-priming awards

• Small awards scheme for newcomers to ageing research

• 185 proposals total value £5.7m were considered in Summer 2005 & Spring 2006

• 34 were funded at total value £1.25m
  – for superior scientific excellence and capacity building
  – for more information see posters and www.sparc.ac.uk
From furniture design to stem cells

• Projects
  – Furniture design, Smart homes, Adaptations to the home
  – Better recovery from hip fracture
  – Design of the workplace for older people
  – Better packaging
  – Safer more friendly streets
  – Computers that are easier to use
  – Assisting local government with transport planning
  – Keeping your car and driving safely
  – Regaining speech after stroke
  – Understanding automated telephone messages
  – Ageing eyes, Stepping safely, Following moving objects
  – Activity, Exercise, Nutrition in later life
  – Oxidative stress, Ageing cells, Stem cells, Lots of biology!

• 6 – 18 months
• £17,000 - £60,000 and other support and opportunities
A new race of researchers?
From proposal to delivery

Strategic Promotion of Ageing Research Capacity

Improving Computer Interaction for Older Users: investigating dynamic on-screen targets
Faustina Hwang & Nitin Williams

Meeting the challenges of an ageing society

Strategic Promotion of Ageing Research Capacity

Workplace Design for the Older Worker
Peter Buckle, Valerie Woods, Ozan Ozgur & David Stubbs

Meeting the challenges of an ageing society
## Workshops – last six months
48 in total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Host</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number of participants (non-academic)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technologies for Health, Rehabilitation and Self Management of Long Term Conditions</td>
<td>BIME, Bath University</td>
<td>June 2008</td>
<td>79 (49%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing Old in Wales: A Showcase of Ageing Research</td>
<td>OPAN Cymru, Swansea</td>
<td>July 2008</td>
<td>130 (79%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older People Going Places</td>
<td>BA Festival, Liverpool</td>
<td>September 2008</td>
<td>115 (70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Research and its Applications for Ageing Populations</td>
<td>Glasgow School of Art</td>
<td>November 2008</td>
<td>72 (52%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ageing and Disability</td>
<td>National Disability Authority &amp; CARDI, Dublin</td>
<td>December 2008</td>
<td>107 (82%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Keeping good company
Keeping good company
Advocacy
Informing public policy

• Making the case that ageing research can and is making a difference
• Lobbying
• Developing a good track record
  – MPs do listen!
  • Two questions in Parliament on, Ageing Research and Older Workers
  – Ministers do listen
  – Royal Patronage
A new **face** for research?

Ageing research going places

Strategic Promotion of Ageing Research Capacity

Meeting the challenges of an ageing society

**SPARC**

**Ageing Research is on the Move**

Strategic Promotion of Ageing Research Capacity
What else?

• Website (4000 hits a day)
  – News Items
  – Proceedings of Workshops
  – Funding Guides
  – Forthcoming Events
Our community

- Membership
  - ever upwards
  - towards 2000
  - in last 6 months
    - Considerable increase in number of practitioners from the health professions
    - Major increase in social services professionals
    - Large increase in scientists
    - Even more since January!!!!
Our wider community

• Last weekend
  – Technology & dementia!
  – Bilateral workshops
  – Joint research
• December 2008 – SPARC has ended
• January 2009 – KT-EQUAL has landed!
  – Knowledge Transfer for Extending Quality Life
    • Workshops
    • Advocacy
    • Developing younger researchers
    • Dissemination, application, utilisation
    • Even closer to policy makers and practitioners
    • No pump-priming but encouraging others to write proposals
Staff

Gail Mountain - Principal Director
John Clarkson – Director
Peter Lansley – Continuity Director
Verity Smith – Continuity Co-ordinator
&
Leela Damodaran
Rachel McCrindle
Catharine Ward Thompson
Trevor Cox, Chris Eccleston
Several other coordinators
- to be appointed
Ageing Research Really does Matter!

To older people, society and a small dedicated band of researchers who want to make a difference
Today

- A unique experience
- A topical event - dementia
- An international event
  - Lectures
  - Briefings
  - Lots of Networking
    - academics, practitioners, older people
- Designed to bring everyone together
Thanks!

- Today’s Presenters
- The Chair
- You, the Participants

- And, of course, EPSRC
I hope that after today you will not respond in the same way as Humph!
Enabling people with dementia and their carers through the use of new technologies?