PROGRAMME
Research Priorities for Demography, Longevity and Genetics
December 1st, 2006
held at the Hilton Hotel, Salurner Strasse 15, 6010 Innsbruck, Austria

8.30   **Registration**

9:00   **Welcome**
Beatrix GRUBECK-LOEBENSTEIN, Innsbruck, A, Member of ERA-AGE network Steering Committee

Session 1 (Chair: Beatrix Grubeck-Loebenstein)

9:05   *Key note: The aging population, a European Problem*
Wolfgang LUTZ, Vienna, A

9:30   *LifeSpan: A project integrating research into development and ageing*
Rudi WESTENDORP, Leiden, NL, Coordinator of EU-Network of Excellence LifeSpan

9:45   *Combining biological and social data in population studies of aging – developing European biodemography of ageing*
Claudio FRANCESCHI, Bologna, I, Coordinator of EU-integrated project Genetics

10:00   *The ageing cellular power plant, how can it influence longevity?*
Heinz OSIEWACZ, Frankfurt, D, Coordinator of EU-integrated project MiMAGE

10:15   *Changes in the structure and function of cells, how do they affect lifespan?*
Brian CLARK, Aarhus, DK, Coordinator of EU-integrated project PROTEOMAGE

10:30   **Coffee Break**

Session 2 (Chair: Emanuele Scafato)

11:00   *European coordination of funding for ageing research*
Alan WALKER, Director of the European Research Area in Ageing, University of Sheffield, UK

11:15   *Developing effective multidisciplinarity in ageing research*
Tom KIRKWOOD, Institute for Ageing and Health, University of Newcastle, UK

11:30   *Choosing biogerontological research topics of industrial relevance*
Daniel ASSELINEAU, L'Oréal, Clichy, F

11:45   *How can present research initiatives in biogerontology bring maximal added value for Europe?*
Stathis GONOS, Athens, GR

12:00   **Lunch**

13:15   **Session 3: Working Groups on Developing Research Priorities**
1. *Demography: How can demography profit from biogerontology and vice versa?*
   (Chair: Dieter Ferring)
2. *Longevity: How can parameters which affect longevity be defined?*
   (Chair: Pidder Jansen-Dürr)
3. *Genetics: Genes or environment: which is the determinino factor to achieve healthy longevity?*
   (Chair: Claudio Franceschi)

15:00   **Coffee Break**

15:20   **Final Plenary**
16:20   **Conclusion**

DRAFT PROGRAMME

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The major goal of the workshop is to discuss how healthy longevity can be achieved in our society. In particular, we will focus on the question how genetics, biogerontology, social factors and environment may contribute to reach this goal and what impact bio- and social sciences have on demography. The working groups will try to define strategies what steps can be taken to reach the goal of healthy longevity. Doing this, they will focus on the question how better interaction between the different disciplines within aging research can be achieved.

Working group 1: Demography: How can demography profit from biogerontology and vice versa?

In this working group possible new ways of communication between demographers and biogerontologists will be discussed. The following specific questions will be addressed:

Subquestions:
(1)   Definition of research topics in which a close interaction between demographers and biogerontologists are of advantage.
(2)   Biogerontologists usually do not know much about methodological approaches and goals in demography and *vice versa*: How can this gap be bridged?
(3)   How can potential steps defined under (2) be implemented?
(4)   How can joint studies be funded?
(5)   Would a joint / central platform administering data bases accessible to both groups of scientists be a useful tool?

Working group 2: Longevity: How can parameters which affect longevity be defined?

In view of the present demographic development studies on how to reach healthy longevity are of great importance. It will be the goal of this working group to define parameters of potential importance to reach this goal and to discuss how interdisciplinary research projects on the subject can be designed.

Subquestions:
(1)   Definition of biological parameters of potential significance for longevity
(2)   Definition of social parameters of potential significance for longevity
(3)   Which age groups should be studied?
(4)   How can factors predicting healthy longevity be defined?
(5)   Are longitudinal studies a useful tool and how can they be organised using an interdisciplinary approach?
(6)   Would a platform for data collection and documentation be a good tool?

Working group 3: **Genetics: Genes or environment: which is the determining factor to achieve healthy longevity?**

This working group will focus on the role of genes vs. environment to determine healthy longevity. The following specific questions will be addressed:

Subquestions:

(1)   What is the impact of genes?

(2)   How useful are animal models to define longevity genes?

(3)   Definition of environmental factors which influence longevity

(4)   How can measures which change the environment of an individual overrule the influence of genes on longevity?

(5)   How can such measures be tested, what type of studies are needed?

(6)   Do we need gene banks for studies on healthy longevity?