

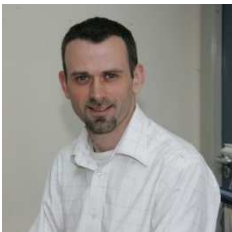
## Speaker biographies

### **Professor Eamon O'Shea** NUI Galway, Ireland



Eamon O'Shea is a personal Professor in the Discipline of Economics and formerly Director of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG) at the National University of Ireland Galway. He holds an MA from University College Dublin, an MSc from University of York and a PhD from University of Leicester. His research interests are focused on the economics of ageing, rural gerontology and dementia.

### **Dr Roger O'Sullivan** Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland (CARDI), Ireland



**Dr Roger O'Sullivan** is the Director of CARDI. He has worked in Queen's University Belfast and the regional rural organisation Rural Community Network. He was previously joint convener of the UK Funders Forum on Ageing, guest editor of the journal Quality in Ageing and Older Adults and rapporteur for the Ditchley Foundation's international conference on the Impact of Ageing on Developed Economies. Dr O'Sullivan has undertaken a wide range

of research on issues relating to older people including research for the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

### **Professor Alan Walker** University of Sheffield, UK



Dr Alan Walker is Professor of Social Policy and Social Gerontology at the University of Sheffield, UK. He has been researching and writing on aspects of ageing and social policy for over 30 years. He is currently Director of the New Dynamics of Ageing Programme ([www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk/](http://www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk/)) funded by the AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC and MRC and of the European Research Area in Ageing (<http://www.shef.ac.uk/era-age/>), and recently directed the FUTURAGE project to create the Road Map for European Ageing Research ([www.futurage.group.shef.ac.uk](http://www.futurage.group.shef.ac.uk/)).

Previously he directed the UK Growing Older Programme ([www.shef.ac.uk/uni/projects/gop/index.htm](http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/projects/gop/index.htm)) and the European Forum on Population Ageing ([www.shef.ac.uk/ageingresearch](http://www.shef.ac.uk/ageingresearch)). He also chaired the European Observatory on Ageing and Older People. He has published more than 20 books, 200 reports and 300 scientific papers. Recent books include Growing Older - Extending Quality Life (2004), Growing Older in Europe (2004) and Understanding Quality of Life in Old Age (2005) all published by McGraw Hill and Quality of Life in Old Age (2007), published

by Springer. In 2007 he was given Lifetime Achievement Awards by both the Social Policy Association and the British Society of Gerontology. In 2011 he was awarded the first IAGG European Region Medal for Advances in Gerontology and Geriatrics in the Social and Behavioural Sciences and was made a Fellow of the British Academy.

**Dr Amílcar Moreira**  
**Institute of Ageing - University of Lisbon, Portugal**



After completing a PhD in Social Policy at the University of Bath (in 2006), he joined the team that launched The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA), at Trinity College Dublin (Ireland). During this period he was also involved in the development of the ESF's Forward Look on 'Ageing, Health and Pensions in Europe'. Later, he received a grant from the Nordic Centre of Excellence "Reassessing the Nordic Welfare Model" (funded by NordForsk) to work on a cross-national project on activation reforms in Europe and the US, run at the Oslo University College, in Norway. Since May 2011, he is working as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences – University of Lisbon, where he is currently developing a research project on the 'Political Economy of Ageing Labour Markets'. In his research, he focuses on the interaction between social and employment policies in regulating the labour market participation of hard-to-employ groups, namely older workers and social assistance recipients. More recently, he has started to focus on welfare reform, the political economy of the welfare state and attitudes towards the welfare state. He has a particular interest in comparative social policy.

**Professor Marja Jylhä**  
**University of Tampere, Finland**



Marja Jylhä is a Professor of Gerontology at the University of Tampere and Director of the Gerontology Research Center that is a joint effort between the University of Tampere and the University of Jyväskylä. With a licentiate in medicine 1978, PhD. in medicine 1986 she has worked at the School of Public Health and Faculty of Medicine, University of Tampere since 1978. Her main research themes are: longevity, perceived health and functioning ability, old age as a stage in life and as an experience in its own right. She has been actively involved in European and international research networks in ageing for many years and is a regular visitor at the National Institute on Aging in the USA, meeting place for a worldwide researcher network. Most recently she served as chair of the Scientific Council for the FUTURAGE Project, which prepared the European road map for ageing research completed last October and is on the Scientific Advisory Board of a Joint Planning Initiative on population change and ageing entitled More Years, Better Lives.

**Professor Aurel Popa-Wagner**  
**Rostock Medical University, Germany**



1999–2004 Associate Professor of Neurobiology, Clinic of Neurology Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University, Greifswald.

2004-present Professor of Experimental Neurology at the Department of Neurology and Head of the Research Department Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University, Germany

Currently: Professor of Molecular Psychiatry, Dept Psychiatry, Rostock University Medical School

2009-present Professor of Biochemistry, UMF Craiova, Romania

Coordination activity

2010-present **Coordinator** of the platform “Molecular Imaging in Neuroscience” at the Medical Faculty, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University, Greifswald. **Coordinator** of two FP7 projects, one focused on “Molecular mechanisms underlying neurorehabilitation after brain injuries” and the other one on “Molecular imaging in aging and neural repair”

Research interest and expertise

The aim my group is to unravel cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying aging progression and its significance for brain diseases. The group has a long-standing interest in molecular mechanisms of brain remodelling in the aged rat brain. My group has studied the plasticity of the aging brain in response to stimuli for more than 15 years and to stroke injury in aged animals for the last 10 years. **Expertise:** aged animals models of cerebral ischemia; behavioral analysis; recording of EEG and various physiological parameters by telemetric measurements; MRI for small animals; immunohistochemical procedures, proteomics, genomics.

**M.A. Mone Spindler**



Mone Spindler is a sociologist and works at the International Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities (IZEW) and the Institute for Ethics and History of Medicine on the project “Discourse: Biogerontology”. Her involvement in the study of ageing started as a research assistant at the Institute for Social Infrastructure (ISIS) in Frankfurt a. M. on European projects on ageing. She started her PhD theses on anti-ageing medicine in Germany as a Marie Curie Training Fellow at the Sheffield Institute for Studies on Ageing (SISA) and finished it at the Graduate School Bioethics at the International Centre for Ethics in

the Sciences and Humanities (IZEW), University of Tuebingen. Her research interests are social scientific and ethical questions of ageing – particularly critical gerontology, biomedicalization of ageing and changing responsibilities for the management of age related health risks – and the interdisciplinary relation of empirical social sciences and normative ethics.

**Professor Carol Jagger**  
**Newcastle University, UK**



Carol Jagger is the AXA Professor of Epidemiology of Ageing in the Institute for Ageing and Health. Her research spans demography and epidemiology with a focus on mental and physical functioning in ageing and determinants of healthy active life expectancy, particularly through cohort studies of ageing: the Melton Mowbray studies and currently the MRC Cognitive Function and Ageing Study and the MRC Newcastle 85+ study. Within Europe she has led the Healthy Ageing and Wellbeing theme of the FUTURAGE project and she is a core partner of the Joint Action European health and Life Expectancy Information System (JA EHLEIS). Nationally she has advised the Office of National Statistics and the Scottish Public Health Observatory on Healthy Life Expectancy, has provided evidence on this to the government Works and Pensions Committee and the Health Committee and she sits on the Actuaries Mortality Research Steering Committee and the national Population Projections Expert Advisory Panel. Carol is a Chartered Scientist and a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health.

**Professor Mima Cattan**  
**Northumbria University, UK**



**Mima Cattan** is Professor in Public Health (knowledge translation) at Northumbria University, UK. She was previously Reader (Associate Professor) in Health Promotion (Healthy Ageing) and Co-Director of the Centre for Health Promotion Research at Leeds Metropolitan University. Her research focuses on the promotion of health, mental health and well-being in older people, the quality of life in marginalised older people, and the development of health promotion interventions to alleviate social isolation and loneliness in later life from a life course perspective. Together with Nordic colleagues she is currently exploring the links between social capital, loneliness and mental well-being in older people. Prof. Cattan has acted as expert advisor on several European projects on mental health promotion, and is a member of ROAMER, a European consortium to develop a comprehensive, consensus-based roadmap for mental health research in Europe. She has published extensively in the field, including several books and book chapters on mental health.