
Science and technology

RR 2017/223

Aging Research Portfolio

The International Aging Research Portfolio

AgeingPortfolio.org

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

2011

URL: <http://agingportfolio.org/>

Last visited June 2017

Gratis

Keywords Information media, Grants, Fundraising, Aging (Biology)

Review DOI [10.1108/RR-06-2017-0147](https://doi.org/10.1108/RR-06-2017-0147)

The *Aging Research Portfolio* website, from the International Aging Research Portfolio, is a core resource for researchers looking for grants, but it includes news articles, announcements of aging and biotechnology events and videos for training and it provides directories for funding centres and research laboratories. Information is extracted from the National Institutes of Health (USA), European Commission, Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Medical Research Council (UK). Also included are *MEDLINE* publication abstracts under a license from the National Library of Medicine. Project searches uses controlled-vocabulary subject headings – from Ageing-Clock Theory to Zinc Metabolism. The total funding for one example, theories of aging, is US\$1,170,367,735 and includes about 9,000 projects. The first one listed is a study of ginkgo biloba extract, goldenseal extract and green tea extract in laboratory animals funded by the National Institutes of Health. Clicking on the project, it is easy to read about the project itself, its history, the relations between the funders and agencies doing the work and see the resulting publications. Searching for ginkgo, makes it is easy to create a chart that shows trends in funding for studies of this plant, with funded projects spiking in 2012.

Users could also start with the International Aging Research Portfolio Reporter for more general information. Three tabs here take the user to news, publications or events. News in mid-June included an article about Ayurveda (a contested health-care programme), a peer-reviewed journal article about

mitochondrial dysfunction and aging from researchers in Rome and an article about muscle stem cells from a blog. The publications are abstracts from PubMed with convenient linked contact forms. There were no events from this link, but going back to the homepage, it was easy to find many conferences by clicking on that tab and limited to topics that included public health, biotechnology, surgery and more (although not all the conference seemed directly to be of interest to researchers in the area of aging). Some of the conferences included those on aging and society, the socioeconomics of aging, healthcare without borders, etc. From the website's homepage, clicking on news retrieved about 200 articles from 2017 alone. These included pieces from blogs, articles from journals such as *Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News*. The intended audiences for these articles are everyone from popular readers to highly technical experts, as well as grant seekers. Information about projects and ideas that will be or have been funded are here.

Most researchers will turn to this resource for grants. A grant matcher allows the user to search by keyword: a vast array of topical categories, and an assortment of types of grants (from training to research centres, intramural research and even research construction programmes), country and funding year. A search with the keyword “gender” finds grants on late-life depression and hormone-related cancers amongst the hundreds of grants displayed. Clicking on the grants, descriptions of the investigator, the project, results and links too many similar projects are provided. All easily navigable! Whether the geriatrics researcher is an old hand or a newcomer, this database of grants is very valuable. Also included here are directories of funding agencies and research centres. Clicking on the agency allows the user to access the projects. For example, Mayo Clinic has hundreds of projects in process, including ones on aging bones, Alzheimer's and much more.

The training database archives hundreds of videos of lectures, conferences and intentional training videos. While most of these are not at all related to aging, some would be of interest to researchers in general (virtual clinical trials), but most of these would be only of interest to medical providers. Limiting the search to gerontology, only 12 videos from 2001 are found.

Besides being of utmost interest to researchers studying aging, this resource also serves researchers studying pattern recognition in aging research by looking at the grants dedicated

Reference Reviews

Volume 31 · Number 8 · 2017 · pp. 21–27

© Emerald Publishing Limited · ISSN 0950-4125



to specific problems, such as this article in *Cell Cycle*: Moskalev, AA, Aliper AM, Smit-McBride Z, Buzdin A, and Zhavoronkov A. “Genetics and epigenetics of aging and longevity”, *Cell Cycle*. 2014, vol. 13, no. 7, pp 1,063-1077.

Any libraries supporting gerontology, geriatrics or aging programmes where faculty and graduate students are conducting sponsored research need to make this resource available to their patrons.

Kellian Clink

Reference Librarian, Minnesota State University Mankato, Mankato, Minnesota, USA

RR 2017/224

The Bloomsbury Companion to Contemporary Philosophy of Medicine

Edited by James A. Marcum

Bloomsbury Academic
London and New York
2017

xii + 407 pp.

ISBN 978 1 4742 3300 2 (print); ISBN 978 1 4742 3302 6 (ePDF); ISBN 978 1 4742 3301 9 (ePub)

£140 \$172 (print); £130 \$151 (e-formats)

Keywords Philosophy, Twenty-first century, Health and medicine

Review DOI [10.1108/RR-06-2017-0139](https://doi.org/10.1108/RR-06-2017-0139)

We are all concerned about our health and our health care. As doctors and nurses, or as patients (and one becomes the other too), we may also be interested in the assumptions underlying health and healthcare: its funding and impact reflects the value society puts on it, the treatment of disease and pain is shaped by the state of clinical knowledge and those methodologies by means of which such knowledge is obtained, and definitions of the self and of moral agency inform ways in which physicians and patients often come together in making decisions. These ideas take us in the direction of the philosophy of medicine, and this is the concern of this new companion from Bloomsbury. Others in their developing reference series include philosophy of science and of mind, as well (relevant here) one on Heidegger.

The overall framework of the companion is simple enough – medicine as a science (e.g. it is rationalistic, empirical, evidence-based, uses randomized trials, is praxis) and as an art (e.g. patient- and person-centredness is important, personhood and the experience of illness and suffering should be factored into care, there can be over-medicalization). These tease through into evidence-based, person-centred

and value-based forms of medical practice and research, and part one (made up of two chapters on contemporary trends and on research problems and methods) identifies these. The focus is on “Western” medicine, and the contributing editor James Marcum (of Baylor University in the USA) flags exclusions like narrative, integrative and systems medicine which are omitted for reasons of space. After that come 12 chapters on Current Research and Future Directions. Contributors are international and some of their individual publications are noted in the references at the end of this review. Every essay, apart from one, is new to this work.

In a nutshell, medical and clinical practice and research throws up ontological, epistemological, and methodological challenges. This trio underlies much of the discussion, above all the overarching discussion of the paradigm shift from traditional evidence-based approaches to a wider repertoire of person-centred, phenomenological and narrative-based and values-based approaches. This has not meant that randomized trials with experimental and control groups, placebo testing, evidential evaluation of risk and causation (of illnesses for individuals and communities) have been sidelined: far from it, such things flourish – and must flourish – in modern medical care. However, a broad case is made for medical pluralism, and for an inclusive understanding of what the authors call “a causal mosaic”. Typically, then, we need to explain both the aetiology of a disease, in pathophysiology and psychiatry, and the narratological meanings patients have about conditions such as depression and in response to severe medical prognoses.

With this in mind, an essay on disease in the era of genomic and molecular medicine assesses how disease and non-disease have themselves been redefined by genetic research, how the patient as subject and as a member of society has been seen in new ways, and what the moral implications of knowing future possible risk might be. Similarly, in epidemiology, there has been a shift from monocausal to multifactorial explanation, and wider societal debate about medical issues such as lung cancer and obesity. Another essay reviews and recaps evidence-based medicine itself, again suggesting that at times reasoning can be mechanistic, and that ideas about risk, causation, validity, and benefit can be too narrow. Thought-provoking essays follow on the ways in which values-based approaches lead to improved healthcare in gender medicine (e.g. in de-medicalizing child-birth), help unpack crudely normative meanings to