

Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing

Ageing Well in an Unequal World

At the Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing (MICRA) we undertake cross-disciplinary and collaborative research to address the challenges posed by our ageing populations across the world. Tremendous improvements in health and mortality and commensurate rapid population ageing are heralding great social change, and with it the realisation that wellbeing in later life is determined by many interacting factors from the biological to the social, the structural to the cultural, the historical to the institutional.

Recognising the complexities of ageing well has therefore become a global priority for policy makers, researchers, communities, families and individuals. Robust, meaningful research into ageing's many facets is urgently needed to understand what is happening, to promote ageing well across sectors and places, to inform policy, and to hold policy makers to account.

Ageing is a research priority for The University of Manchester, with more than 300 researchers actively engaged in research into ageing across the biological, medical, physical and social sciences, the arts and humanities.

Established in 2010, the Institute is especially renowned for our research into public health and care, biological mechanisms of ageing, ageing well in the face of complex morbidities, urban ageing, technology and ageing, work and retirement, and data science and analytics for an ageing population. Wider needs to understand ageing in a global context and unequal ageing in an unequal world underpin all our research programmes.

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The unique relationship between MICRA, Greater Manchester, and the people of Manchester is central to our global leadership in ageing research.

Professor Debora Price

Director, Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing

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Generating insight through supporting collaborative interdisciplinary research

MICRA researchers represent some of the world's foremost thinkers and scientists addressing the key questions as to how ageing affects our biology, society and health. Our affiliated researchers attract in the region of 50 new research grants each year, funded by diverse bodies including the National Institute for Health Research, UK Research and Innovation and the European Commission,

NHS Foundation Trusts, central and local government, foundations, trusts, charities and industry. Uniquely placed within the sector, we bring together academic researchers who address the unmet needs of an ageing population with organisations seeking to meet these needs, and civic institutions that might influence policy and/or practice to enable these changes.



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Pioneers in award-winning collaborative methodologies, we aim to embed contributions from older people and stakeholders into all stages of research, ensuring our work has meaning and societal relevance.

We are world leaders in research into the complexities of urban ageing, with our **Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group** working closely with the World Health Organization and the Global Network of over 800 Age-Friendly Cities and Communities to improve the lives of older people all over the world.

Research Highlights from among our research awards include:

Policy Research Unit Older People and Frailty

The Older People and Frailty Policy Research Unit is a five year National Institute for Health Research funded programme of research, in collaboration with the University of Newcastle, to help the Department of Health and Social Care to understand and respond to the future needs of the older population.



Skin lipids and microbiota in healthy ageing

The three-year UK Research and Innovation / Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council programme, Skin lipids and microbiotics in healthy ageing, is helping to understand how to intervene to keep older skin healthier for longer. As we age, skin grows thinner and becomes more susceptible to damage, infection and chronic wounds. If we can better understand the changes that skin goes through, we may be able to help promote healthy skin ageing.

Green Infrastructure and the Health and Wellbeing Influences on an Ageing Population (GHIA)

The multi-institution three-year Natural Environment Research Council / Arts and Humanities Research Council / Economic and Social Research Council programme, Green infrastructure and the health and wellbeing of an ageing population, investigates the value of urban green infrastructure in connection with the health and wellbeing of older people, and how interventions and specific 'greening projects' can be best used to support healthy ageing in urban areas.

Working with stakeholders

MICRA is situated in the heart of Manchester, the UK's first city and region to achieve World Health Organization (WHO) age-friendly status. We engage critically with stakeholders and policy makers at global, national, regional, city and community levels to deliver research with demonstrable policy impact.

Our biological, medical and social research into healthy ageing and living with complex comorbidities will enable people to live longer, healthier and socially connected lives in safe environments.

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A healthy later life is everyone's ambition. Our research draws on world-leading expertise from sociology to medicine, and engineering to architecture, to address the challenges and the opportunities of an ageing population.
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Professor Neil Pendleton

Deputy Director, Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing



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