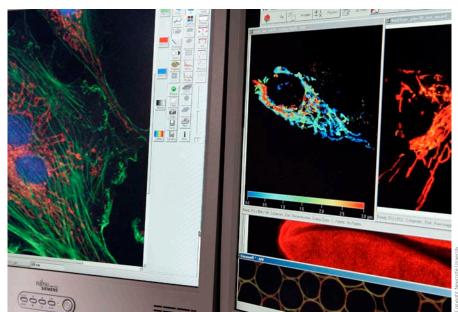


Newcastle University Institute for Ageing and Health

The Institute for Ageing and Health takes a multidisciplinary approach to improving the health of our ageing population. By supporting engagement with different groups, we are ensuring that our researchers work with business, the public and policy makers to produce real impacts from their research.

The Institute for Ageing and Health, Newcastle University is a multidisciplinary department that combines biological, medical, engineering and social science approaches to improving the health of our ageing population.

Our research ranges from fundamental studies of the deep mechanisms underpinning health (and how these become compromised during ageing) to identifying new interventions based on nutrition and exercise that might improve lifelong health and wellbeing. We pioneered the use of systems biology to



Visualising age-related damage in living cells

unravel the complexity of the processes causing ageing to occur.

Delivering Impact

During the competition period, we have:

- Improved awareness of impact amongst all staff and students, through specific training and novel processes including capture and celebration of success in generating impacts.
- Supported public engagement for research projects through our new VOICE North engagement panel, which involves interested members of the public in all stages.
- Supported researcher engagement with business and societal impact domains, through networks led by Professors of Practice and engagement professionals.
- Enhanced understanding of ageing-and-health issues amongst researchers, policy-makers and the public through new education, training, publicity and engagement.
- Boosted innovation through improved access by businesses to the capabilities and facilities of the Institute.

We have established a recognised centre of excellence within the University for delivery of impact. The mechanisms we have set up to promote and review impact are permanently embedded within the procedures of the Institute and have influenced our Faculty and the University as a whole. These mechanisms will endure and funds have been committed from the University and Faculty to this end. These include the establishment of a university-wide Changing Age Network and VOICE (Valuing our Intellectual Capital and Experience) North, a panel of several hundred people of all ages and backgrounds who are interested in aspects of ageing.



Seeking impact from the start

In spring 2009, in order to get early career researchers thinking more about impact, we targeted postgraduate students and post-doctoral researchers through a competition for the best 400-word "impact statement" on their research projects. This was extremely successful; some students wrote excellent submissions and all entries were displayed on the internal website. We repeated this exercise in spring 2010 with similarly impressive results. In September 2010 we followed up with a half-day workshop where 35 students engaged in peer review of each other's statements, and collectively produced guidelines for impact. We shared the success of this activity with the rest of our Faculty, which has implemented a similar exercise faculty-wide.



Students learning the facts of life and death

Changing Age - a societal challenge

We were successful in getting "Changing Age" adopted as the first of the university-wide Societal Challenge themes. Taking part in this initiative, which identifies themes of global importance, will contribute greatly to the scale and scope of impacts. The idea arose from discussions between the Institute and Vice-Chancellor in 2009 about how the research and teaching excellence of the Institute could have greater impact on the university as a whole, recognising that the challenges of population ageing have ramifications for almost all aspects of society. This enabled the development of a wide range of projects during 2010, including business, educational, policy-focused and cultural events, engaging with more than 150 businesses and several thousand individuals.



Making an impact with the launch of Changing Age

Contact

Professor Tom Kirkwood Institute for Ageing and Health Newcastle University Campus for Ageing and Vitality Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5PL, UK

Website: www.ncl.ac.uk/iah Email: tom.kirkwood@ncl.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0)191 248 1103





The BBSRC Excellence with Impact 2011 scheme ran from 2008 to 2010. It was developed to reward and esteem those university departments most active in embedding a culture that recognises and values the achievement of impact alongside excellent research.