



**Research on Ageing Using Bedrest Facilities:  
New Opportunities in the ELIPS Programme**  
24 April 2013, QinetiQ, Farnborough

**Programme**

Chair: Professor Ian MacDonal, University of Nottingham

10:00 Registration and Coffee

10:30 **ELIPS context and UK priorities**

*Andrew Kuh,  
UK Space Agency*

*Andrew will explain the background to the UK's decision to join ELIPS and the UK Space Agency's role in coordinating activities*

11:00 **BBSRC perspective**

*Sarah Plowman,  
BBSRC*

*Sarah will explain the support available from BBSRC, funding processes, its research remit and current priorities*

11:30 **ESA processes, past and future campaigns**

*Oliver Angerer,  
ESA*

*Oliver will outline the ELIPS programme, how bedrest fits into this, and ESA's processes for defining and selecting experiments*

12:00 **Case studies**

*Ian Macdonald, University  
of Nottingham;  
TBC*

*Case studies of past and current work using bedrest facilities provided by ESA – what are the practical challenges and benefits?*

13:00 Lunch

14:00 **Grants surgery**

*10 minute sessions with BBSRC, UK Space Agency and ESA representatives to discuss possible proposals, remits, collaborations etc. To assist with out scheduling, please book in advance by emailing [andrew.kuh@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.kuh@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk)*

16:00 Close



## Background

The UK's recent decision to subscribe to the European Space Agency's ELIPS (European Life and Physical Sciences) programme has opened the way for UK-based researchers to participate in this unique, cross-disciplinary programme, making use of a diverse range of facilities including centrifuges, parabolic flights and bedrest facilities. This meeting will examine the bedrest facilities: how they are managed, how ESA defines Announcements of Opportunity and selects experiments, and how UK researchers might get involved.

## Forthcoming ESA Campaigns

The next ESA Announcement of Opportunity for bedrest experiments will be released in September 2013 (TBC). This long duration (60 day) campaign will focus specifically on 'nutrient cocktails' interventions to the effects of longterm bedrest: A mix of anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant substances incl. Resveratrol, Vitamin E+C, Lycopene and Epigallocatechin, which may positively influence many of the mechanisms for bedrest deconditioning.

A different intervention will drive the second anticipated campaign: 'reactive jumps'. This is also anticipated to be a 60 day campaign, and will utilise the newly developed exercise device that allows jumps in spaceflight and bed rest conditions, targeting bone, muscle and coordination.

## Why Ageing

BBSRC invests in biological research on the normal ageing process, from molecular to whole organism studies and how this will help to inform a healthier old age for people. Research on the biology of ageing has been identified by BBSRC as one of the key areas of research which might benefit from the ELIPS programme. As a result of detailed discussions at a [workshop in September 2012](#), it was agreed that bedrest studies in particular could be an important tool for addressing questions related to health and wellbeing in an ageing population.

BBSRC will invest up to £3M to support UK researchers participating in ELIPS for research on ageing\*, and are working closely with the UK Space Agency to coordinate this.

## To Register

It is strongly recommended that researchers who may wish to apply for support from BBSRC for research on ageing conducted via the ELIPS programme attend this workshop. Not only will this represent an invaluable opportunity to hear about ESA and BBSRC's review procedures (and how they will be streamlined) but an excellent forum for networking with like-minded researchers.

Please email [andrew.kuh@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.kuh@ukspaceagency.bis.gsi.gov.uk) to register your interest.

*\*Please note that the UK component of applications submitted to ELIPS calls must fall within the [remit of BBSRC](#) and that UK applicants must be eligible for BBSRC research funding. Full details of eligibility conditions can be found in the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#)*