Welcome to the August edition of the AMI Newsletter. We have FIVE new research projects to promote this month. Firstly there is a project interested in the health and wellbeing of people caring for an older family member, friend, or neighbour (page 12), another interested in how the brain processes language (page 11), another trying to understand how you speak (page 13), another seeing if sleep can help you learn (page 9) and lastly, a study exploring preferences around time and money (page 10).

We also have some interesting follow up feature articles on Older Adults and Climate Change (page 2) complete with some helpful resources for further learning. This was a topic of interest to our readers so we are happy to respond with more information!

We hope you enjoy reading this edition. Please feel free to write to us with ideas for future articles or things you want to know more about. If you have any questions, please email them to ami@uq.edu.au. We are a free Newsletter and run on a small but passionate staff. Please excuse us if there are slight delays in replying to your emails.

ISSUE QUOTE:
It is all of our responsibility to leave this planet in better shape for the future generations than we found it.
~ Mike Huckabee
Older adults have been identified as a particularly vulnerable group when it comes to the impact of climate change. This is in part due to high rates of chronic disease compared to younger populations, limited access to healthcare and medication during a crisis, respiratory distress during temperature increases, poor diet and nutrition, reduced access to water, and higher poverty rates in some settings.

The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention highlighted there are environmental risks to health including weather (temperature extremes, storms, floods, wildfires, tornadoes, cyclones), exacerbated vector-borne disease, compromised agriculture (poor soil and food quality, plant diseases), compromised water quality, and decreased habitability of population centres because of sea-level rise, air pollution, violence, and conflict.

The infographic below highlights these factors.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Climate effects on health. 2014. cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects
Globally, around 15 per cent of the population are living with some kind of disability. An estimated 13 per cent of people worldwide are over the age of 60. More than 46 per cent of those who are over the age of 60 have a disability.

Additionally, common physiologic changes associated with aging make older adults particularly vulnerable to the effects of global climate change.

These changes include reduced ability to regulate body temperature, changes in sweating, reduced sense of thirst and awareness of dehydration, decreased cardiac reserve, decreased respiratory muscle strength and vital capacity, decreased immune response, reduced mobility, and cognitive changes.

The potential for a range of climate effects on older adults is broad and complex and includes temperature extremes, vector-borne illnesses, storms, financial loss, extended allergy seasons, pollution, and disasters. For example, extreme heat may result in heatstroke and extreme cold may lead to hypothermia.

Older adults’ vulnerabilities to climate change are exacerbated by poverty, polypharmacy (or extended lack of access to medication), and limited social networks. Older adults also face social risks associated with aging, including isolation, lack of family or social support, and poverty. Women living alone are most at risk.

Below are some resources designed to help older adults and/or carers prepare for climate change.

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<th>Organisation</th>
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<td>United Nations</td>
<td>Climate change toolkit</td>
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<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
<td>Emergency preparedness for older adults</td>
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Shella Callaham from Forbes published an article on the 19th March highlighting 7 reasons why you should hire an older adult employee. We loved the article so much we thought we would re-publish the reasons here!

1. **Overlooked Talent Pool.** Picking is ripe in the pool of qualified candidates with years of experience under their belts. If you need talent and someone who can pass the knowledge baton, this talent pool is where you want to look.

2. **Varied experiences.** The youngest boomers, for example, have been in the working world for about 35 years. In many cases, that means a variety of career experiences across a broad scope of opportunity brings a lot to the table. Older workers typically have an array of skills that includes specialties as well as generalizations. Ask a typical boomer how many versions of their resume they have to understand the breadth of their experience. Ask them for years of service in a particular field to understand depth. Both add value.

3. **Stay longer.** Data shows that older workers tend to stay longer with their employer. If you want to lower your turnover rate while increasing the level of experience this is a good way to do it.

4. **Flexible learning styles.** Older workers have already experienced profound changes in their working world—from typewriters to word processors to everything digital. They have learned via classroom and online. Their flexibility and adaptability keep them in the game because change is the status quo and they know it.

5. **Shorter learning curve.** Given their comfort with change and flexible learning styles, older workers adapt quickly to change, and that means learning anything related to business success—even (gasp) technology.

6. **Add valuable perspective.** Diverse teams yield better decisions. Including age as a diversity component lays the foundation for a rich exchange of information.

7. **Motivated to work.** Older workers are motivated to work for a variety of reasons, including the desire to stay in the game, share their knowledge and skills to make a positive impact and pad their retirement so as not to become a financial burden to the children. Doesn’t every company covet a motivated employee who is willing to go above and beyond?

You can read the original article [here](http://www.ami.group.uq.edu.au)
A Hospital Robot Helps Patients

This robot is called Moxi and is the product of Diligent Robotics which was launched in 2016 as part of a research grant from the National Science Foundation.

Moxi was trailed at a number of hospitals in Texas to try to assist in alleviating the overwhelming work burden of many of its nurses. Moxi’s aim was to complete many mundane tasks that would then allow the nursing staff to direct their talents and energy elsewhere into direct patient care.

The researchers were startled by the results of the trial. Although initially sceptical, nursing staff and patients alike became exceptionally fond of Moxi. Moxi followed the nursing staff for 150 hours to understand what their needs were and then the robot was chaperoned by researchers and engineers for further testing.

Finally after more fine-tuning, Moxi was allowed to participate in the trials that concluded earlier this year.

While there is some fear that robots may take jobs away from humans as automation increases, this is a great example of how robots can compliment rather than replace human jobs. Moxi became so popular that he was requested for photos and sometimes even received letters.

This sort of initiative could dramatically assist in a number of different settings e.g., aged care. For now, Moxi will continue to be trialled and evaluated in the hospital.

You can read more about this story here in an article by Katharine Schwab.
UQ’s Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences has announced two senior appointments to lead the Faculty’s Healthy Ageing Initiative.

Professor Laurie Buys has been appointed as the Director of the Healthy Ageing Initiative and will commence in the role on July 15. Professor Buys is currently Leader of the Infrastructure for Sustainable Communities theme in QUT’s Institute for Future Environments and was previously Director of the Centre for Social Change Research at the QUT Carseldine campus. She was responsible for bringing together researchers from diverse backgrounds to create transdisciplinary teams to deliver high impact outcomes for industry.

Professor Buys holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from West Virginia University, a MS in Rehabilitation from Southern Illinois University, and a PhD in Rehabilitation and a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology from the University of Northern Colorado.

She is a Fellow of the Australian Association of Gerontology as well as a former president of the Association. Professor Buys is the recipient of over $4.7 million in external research funding and the supervisor of more than 20 completed HDR students.

Nancy will lead the UQ Age Friendly University initiative, as a complement to her existing collaborations and international activities in healthy ageing.

Professor Pachana holds an undergraduate degree in psychology from Princeton, and MA and PhD degrees in psychology from Case Western University, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Executive Leadership from UQ. She is clinical gero-psychologist with an exceptional history of funding from the ARC and NHMRC and is a fellow of both the Australian Psychological Society and the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

Professor Pachana is presently co-leader of the Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners’ Ageing theme and is CIB on a currently short-listed ARC Centre of Excellence bid in the area of creative ageing.

Faculty Executive Dean Professor Bruce Abernethy said the appointments demonstrated the Faculty’s commitment to develop an integrated approach to healthy ageing across all Schools and Centres.

This initiative, which is supported by strategic funds from UQ Health Care, the Vice-Chancellor and the Faculty, will draw together research, HDR student training, coursework teaching, clinical engagement, and industry partnerships related to healthy ageing.
BDHP Ageing Theme Conference: Navigating the Ageing Journey

Are you interested in learning more about navigating the ageing journey? There are many points in the healthcare system where more information would be useful, whether you are seeking health-enhancing services for yourself or someone you are caring for. This event, sponsored by the Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners AGEING THEME covers what work is being done to make local hospital age-friendly, resources for caring for a loved one with dementia, and ways to keep yourself healthy and fit from mid-life on.

BDHP’s Ageing Theme involves a unique collaboration of senior administrators, clinicians, educators, researchers and consumers who are working together to make sure our health services can effectively respond to the challenges faced by older Australians, to best meet their needs.

In August, BDHP will host a conference in support of the Ageing theme: Navigating the Ageing Journey. This one-day conference will include an exciting line-up of Australian geriatric experts, who will be speaking on a range of topics including:
- Age-Friendly hospitals: The Future is Coming
- Dementia Caregiving: Resources and Opportunities
- Get Moving for a Healthy Life: UQ Healthy Living - providing assessments & interventions
- Your Hospital Rights: What you need to know about Capacity & Getting your Needs Met

Date: Friday 30 August, 2019

Time: 9.00am to 2.00pm

Location: Victoria Park Golf Course, 309 Herston Road, Herston

The Navigating the Ageing Journey conference is aimed at informing consumers of the clinical research activities of the BDHP Ageing Theme. This conference is an excellent opportunity and is free to attend -- refreshments (morning tea, lunch) will be provided.

PLEASE FORWARD THIS to interested health care consumers, or if you are a health care consumer interested in NAVIGATING THE AGEING JOURNEY, JOIN US for this FREE EVENT at Victoria Park.

Note NUMBERS LIMITED so sign up early to guarantee a spot

Register here
CarFreeMe driving cessation program and clinical trials for people living with dementia

If you or someone you know needs support, we are currently recruiting for participants (people living with dementia and their care partners/family member) to take part in our 'living with dementia and driving study', supported by the NHMRC. Brief details of the program are outlined below. Our current sites include South East Queensland (in person, or by telehealth delivery); and the ACT and Southern NSW (by telehealth). We aim to expand our trials to other areas of Queensland and Northern NSW; and by telehealth to other parts of Australia, so if you are interested please get in touch.

CarFreeMe is an education and support program that uses effective, research-based, client-centered methods to support people living with dementia. Our program supports the emotional and practical challenges that are faced by people living with dementia who must inevitably give up driving. Our trials are open to people living with dementia and their care partner/support person. Participants may be still driving and planning to stop in future or have stopped driving and are needing support to cope with the life changes, to find alternative means of transportation, and remain engaged in the community. The intervention includes seven modules which are usually delivered across seven weeks (approximately 1-1.5 hours each module) to participants in their own homes, by a registered health professional who is trained in CarFreeMe. Participants may elect to take part in one or more group sessions [depending upon preference and location]. There is no cost to participants. As part of the study, participants will take part in three assessments; pre- and post-intervention, and follow-up. Control group participants will receive the intervention after the wait period.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Project Coordinator: Donna Rooney, email: donna.rooney@uq.edu.au, telephone: 07 3365 6392; or CI Dr Theresa Scott email: theresa.scott@uq.edu.au telephone: 07 3443 2546.
Can sleep help you learn?

What is this study about?
Researchers at The University of Queensland are seeking volunteers to take part in a study investigating the effect of sleep on word learning. Knowledge from this project can help Speech Pathologists to better understand the optimal conditions for adults to learn new words and could potentially lead to better outcomes for adults with language difficulties after brain injury.

Who can participate?
We are seeking healthy adults aged between 60-85 years who have English as their primary language.

What does the study involve?
If you are eligible to participate, you will be asked to attend three sessions over a period of 24 hours at UQ’s St Lucia campus. The sessions will be in the morning and evening. During the sessions, you will complete some computerised language learning and memory tasks. You will also be asked to wear a movement sensor (an Actigraph accelerometer) during your participation, and provide information about your daily sleep patterns, exercise, and caffeine intake.

What will you receive?
By participating you can enter a prize draw to win one of two $100 Coles-Myer gift vouchers. Your individual results will also be available upon request.

Are you interested?
If you wish to take part in this research you can register online (go to: https://forms.gle/9RF7tqCPy3nvc14E8) or contact Emma via e.schimke@uq.edu.au or 0422 073 462 to find out more.
RESEARCH PROJECTS

Preferences Around Money and Time

UQ health economics researchers are looking for volunteers for a study that looks at the preferences around money and time among older adults.

As economists, we know a lot about decisions and the preferences of young people, but little about those of older adults. With increasing numbers of older adults in the population, we want to know more – out of scientific curiosity, but also to make better policies.

What’s involved?
The study involves filling out a survey that asks questions about you (such as your age, gender, well-being and health). We will also ask you some questions about receiving money at different times, such as “would you prefer to receive $16 today or $20 in 6 months?”
The survey takes approximately 40 minutes to complete.

What is the benefit?
To thank you for your time, two of your answers to the money questions are paid to you. The total amounts vary from about $20 to $40 – depending on the choices you make!
The main benefit of your participation is improving our understanding of how older adults make decisions.

Contact us:
To receive more information and to register, please contact the Lead Researcher, Dr Jonas Fooken, by email at econpreferences@uq.edu.au or phone 3346 4544.

This study is conducted by the Centre for the Business and Economics of Health (CBEH). More information on the project and some Frequently Asked Questions can be found at https://cbeh.centre.uq.edu.au/project/economic-decisions-older-adults.
Interested in how the brain processes language

The aim of this study is to investigate how stroke patients with communication impairment recover language function. We want to determine the best predictors of language improvement and treatment response in the critical phases of brain recovery following a stroke.

We are seeking healthy male and female participants between 55-85 years of age who are right handed, have English as a primary language, have no history of neurological disease, mental illness, or head trauma, nor have any metals present in the body which would be unsafe for an MRI scanner.

Participation in the research will involve one brain scanning (MRI) session, carried out at the Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF) at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, Herston. Prior to the scanning session, a brief telephone interview will be conducted to screen for project suitability. Eligible participants will then attend a scanning session at HIRF where they will be required to complete a functional MRI (fMRI) language task while in the scanner (approximately 1 hour). Participants will also be required to complete a few language activities prior to the scan (approximately 2 hours). A reimbursement of $30 for time and effort will be provided to all participants.

If you live in Brisbane and would be interested in finding out more about the study (or know of anyone who may) please contact a member of the PAPAR research team (Kim Garden or Kate O’Brien). Email PAPAR@cai.uq.edu.au Phone: (07) 3346 6110

Your interest in this important stroke research is much appreciated!
The health and wellbeing of people caring for an older family member, friend, or neighbour

Ethical approval: GU Ref No. 2019/481

Are you aged 18 years+, and currently providing regular, ongoing, unpaid care to a family member, friend, or neighbour over the age of 65 years?

If so, we invite you to take part in a one-off survey that seeks to better understand how providing such care might impact on your own health and wellbeing. As part of a PhD research project, this information will be used to help inform the development of a carer support program.

The survey takes around 30 minutes to complete, and is available online or via paper copy, with pre-paid return.

To access the online version, please click: https://prodsurvey.rcs.griffith.edu.au/CarerHealthSurvey

To request a hard-copy version, or to find out more about the study, please contact Jenny Murfield, the PhD student leading the study, or her research supervisor, Professor Wendy Moyle.

To request a paper copy of the survey, or find out more, contact:

Jenny Murfield
PhD Student
+61 (0) 7 373 57855
j.murfield@griffith.edu.au

Prof. Wendy Moyle
Research Supervisor
+61 (0) 7 373 55526
w.moyle@griffith.edu.au
The University of Queensland is looking for healthy people who would like to take part in a study using memory aids for prospective memory (remembering to do things in the future).

Research shows that as we get older, our memory naturally declines. Prospective memory is very important in everyday functioning and we need to find new strategies to help with this. This study is looking at the effect of a memory aid to help older adults to remember to do tasks in the future.

You may be eligible if you are aged 60-85 and have a mobile phone.

The study will include:

• Screening of your memory and thinking ability
• 10-day training for the use of a memory aid, using your mobile phone!
• A memory tip sheet at the end of the study

This study is free to take part in. In addition, all participants will be offered a $10 Coles/Myer gift voucher at the end of the study as a thank you for your time.

For more information please contact Patricia Macdonald at The University of Queensland on Phone 0421 995 244 or email at p.macdonald@uq.net.au

Help Us Understand How You Speak!

Take part in a 1.5hr study and add knowledge so that better aid may come to those with speaking difficulties.

If you are age 60 and over and interested please contact the details below.

UQ Neuropsychology Research Clinic
Email: j.cow@uq.net.au Ms. Jessica Chow
Tel: 0487 124 493 Mr. Julian Tan

www.ami.group.uq.edu.au
Participation would involve working with a team including health and technology people to help make technology personalised to your needs. It would involve up to 10 visits to your home to try out and give feedback about the technology.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions about the study - please contact Dr Jacki Liddle at the Florence Project at the University of Queensland on:

e-mail: j.liddle@uq.edu.au
phone: 07 3365 9765
Participate in short term memory training project

Have you ever wondered what is really happening with your memory as you age? Or if your memory is actually failing you? Maybe you are forgetting more often where you parked your car or put your keys. If yes, then this study will be of interest to you. I am studying the potential of a new short term memory training program in answering those questions, as well as teaching some basic memory skills that you can use in everyday life.

The aim of this study is to help you feel more secure about your memory and to be able to use it better. This study runs over five mornings (or afternoons) over a two-month period. We are currently looking for older adults aged 60+ who can commit the time to improve their memory. Having a smartphone is good but not essential. At this point of time we are only looking for older adults that have not been diagnosed with neurological disorder such as Dementia and Alzheimer’s and have unimpaired/corrected vision and hearing.

The training will be held at the University of Queensland and a certificate of completion will be provided once the training is completed.

Please contact me on 0425 207 506 or email me at h.jensenfielding@uq.edu.au for more information or if you would like to sign up.

Looking forward to hearing from you,
Sterling is a boy with a dream. His dream is to find a cure for Dementia. When Sterling was 3 years old his Grandmother was admitted into a nursing home with Dementia and since then he has always wanted to find a cure. Sterling is now an Ambassador for The Common Good at The Prince Charles Hospital. He highlights that dementia has an impact on everyone, even someone so young.

There is no cure for dementia. Right now, there are more than 44 million sufferers worldwide, and that number is expected to treble by 2050. The impact this will have on individuals, their families and our health system will be devastating.

Alzheimer’s Disease is the most common form of dementia, accounting for up to 70% of all dementias. In health, the brain relies on neurochemicals to send messages between nerves. One of the typical features of Alzheimer’s Disease is a decline in function of these chemical signals. The nerves and chemicals most vulnerable to these changes are in the memory forming parts of the brain.

The “Sterling’s Dream” Study
This study is led by Dr Eamonn Eeles, Geriatrician/Physician and Head of Research of Internal Medicine Services at TPCH. His team includes researchers from the Australian E-Health Research Centre, CSIRO and the Queensland Brain Institute.

By using innovative imaging the team will measure the chemical signals in the memory-forming part of the brain. They hope this study will help us better understand if there are certain brain characteristics in people who don’t have Alzheimer’s Disease which differ in people who have early stages of the disease. This information may also assist us in understanding which patients may respond better to treatments that are used in Alzheimer’s Disease and therefore help target management of this disease more effectively.

We are inviting people over 55 years of age who have Alzheimer’s Disease who can have an MRI to participate.

We are also inviting people over 55 years of age who don’t have Alzheimer’s Disease and can have an MRI. These people will be part of our control group.

Read more about our study

What will the participants be asked to do?
We will ask people who would like to participate to come to The Prince Charles Hospital for a clinical assessment, neuropsychology assessment and memory tests.

Participants will then be asked to undergo brain imaging using state of the art technology at the Herston Imaging Research Facility.

Travel costs will be met by the study. Refreshments will be provided.

How can you be invited to participate?
Phone the study Research Assistant, Anne Bucetti, on: (07) 3139-7208.
We are seeking volunteers to participate in a study to further develop an evaluation tool for home modification practice.

**What is the purpose of this study?**

Home modifications are a common service for older adults and people with a disability and have the potential to enhance independence, safety and well-being. Occupational therapists who provide home modifications however have few tools to guide their practice. The Dimensions of Home Measure provides a tool for therapists to understand their client’s experience of home and the impact of the modifications on their life. The development of this tool will provide therapists and home modification services with information to improve their practice and put the client’s needs and experience first.

**Who can participate?**

We are seeking people over 18 years who have some support (paid or unpaid) in their home or who use equipment or have had home modifications in their home.

This would include having help with cleaning, shopping, showering, using any equipment (wheelchair, walker, hoist) or having modifications such as grab rails, a ramp or lift installed.

**What does the study involve?**

Completing some background questions and the Dimensions of Home Measure online, over the phone or via mail, depending on your preference. It is expected this will take approximately 10-15 minutes.

**What will you receive?**

To thank you for your time, researchers will offer you the opportunity to go into a prize draw for one of five $100 gift vouchers.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary.

If you would like to participate online simply follow the link (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DOHMstudy) and complete the questionnaire.

If you would like to know more about the study or complete the questionnaire over the phone or have it mailed to you please contact Dr Tammy Aplin, email: t.aplin1@uq.edu.au or phone: 07 3365 2649
Are you living with dementia or caring for a family member with dementia?

We would like to know what you think about a program that researchers from the University of Queensland and elsewhere are undertaking to assist people living with dementia and family/care partners who provide care for them.

It is called the Tailored Activity Program-Australia (TAP-Australia) and involves 7-8 sessions with an Occupational Therapist working with a person with dementia and their family/care partner to enhance participation in enjoyable activities in their own home and improve their quality of life. It shows family/care partners strategies to communicate with people with dementia, respond to changes in behaviour, and can make everyday tasks a little easier.

The program is not available in Australia yet but we want to know if it might work here. We hope to provide it from late 2019.

For now, we would like to know what supports you think would be helpful and what you think about this program and whether you think it might be useful for people in your situation.

We will come to your house (or anywhere that suits you) at a time & place that is convenient for you.

The interview will take about 40 mins. There is no cost associated with talking to us, and there is no obligation to participate.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information about the project, please email Catherine Travers or Sandra Smith at: TAPdementia@uq.edu.au
**Knowledge and perceptions of living with dementia**

For this study we are very interested in community opinions, knowledge of, and attitudes toward living with a dementia. If you are aged over 18 years, and can spare 20 minutes for this important research we would love to hear from you.

Participation involves filling in an online questionnaire. Participants in this study are asked to provide responses to demographic questions and to several questions about your understandings and perceptions of living with a dementia or being close to someone living with a dementia. The questionnaire is anonymous and should take up to 20-30 minutes to complete.

Please click on the link below, if you wish to participate:
https://ugpsych.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e xKVSDTsN3YtcAB

Thank you in advance of your time and valued opinions.

If you are interested in knowing more about the study please contact Dr Theresa Scott at The University of Queensland’s School of Psychology email: theresa.scott@uq.edu.au Phone: 07 3443 2546

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**Driverless vehicles have been heralded as an easy solution to older person’s transport and mobility – what do you think?**

Our study is exploring knowledge and attitudes towards advanced technology and autonomous vehicles. Specifically, we are exploring the level of existing knowledge of, and attitudes toward driverless vehicles. There are still a lot of unanswered questions and we are interested in your opinions of these.

This study involves filling in an online questionnaire. The questionnaire is anonymous and should take up to 20-30 minutes to complete.

Please click on the link below, if you wish to participate:
https://ugpsych.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1K UifIeOn1k7glR

Thank you for your consideration of our study.

If you are interested in knowing more about the study please contact Dr Theresa Scott at email: theresa.scott@uq.edu.au Phone: 07 3443 2546

www.ami.group.uq.edu.au