Network for Aging Research (NAR) at the University of Waterloo:

Environmental Scan: Meetings with 59 faculty and staff at UWaterloo

**Applied Health Sciences (AHS)** - 30 researchers from three departments:
- Kinesiology
- Recreation and Leisure Studies
- School of Public Health and Health Systems (SPHHS)

**Arts** - four* researchers from two departments:
- Economics
- Psychology

**Engineering** - two researchers from one department:
- Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering

**Environment** - one researcher from one department:
- School of Planning

**Mathematics** - three researchers from two departments:
- Computer Science
- Statistics and Actuarial Science

**Science** - ten researchers from five departments:
- Biology
- Chemistry
- School of Optometry and Vision Science
- School of Pharmacy
- Physics and Astronomy

**School of Social Work** (Renison University College) - three researchers

**Theological Studies** (Conrad Grebel University College) - one researcher

**Librarians** - two researchers (one from AHS, and one from Renison University College)

**Office of Research** - three staff members
*Note: Although we only met with 4 Arts researchers in one-on-one or small group meeting settings, at least 5 additional Psychology researchers watched Steve’s presentation about the NAR at the kick-off luncheon for the Successful Aging speaker series.

**Coding and Summarizing the Notes from the Consultation Meetings**

- The Administrative Assistant for NAR read through all of the meeting minutes, and **created codes** based on the most frequent suggestions and feedback.
- These themes/topics are:
  1. Support for junior/emerging researchers (including mentoring, and other forms of support such as seed grants to use for data collection).
  2. Support for mid-career researchers.
  3. Support for events, networking and collaborations.
  4. Seed grant structure and potential uses of the seed grant funds.
  5. Website structure and function.
- Below, there is a bar graph based on the **content-coding**, which includes the number of ideas that were linked with a particular theme or topic.

Table 1. Overview of Five Main Coding Themes and Frequencies Within Each Theme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Number of Quotations</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Mentoring, Seed Grants &amp; Other Support for Junior Researchers</td>
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<td>2A-C. Seed Grants &amp; Other Support for Mid-Career Researchers</td>
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<td>3A-B. Support Events, Networking &amp; Collaborations</td>
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<td>5. Website Structure &amp; Function</td>
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Code 1: Mentoring, Seed Grants & Other Support for Junior Researchers

1A – Mentoring by mid-career or senior faculty
1B – Seed grant funding for junior faculty
1C – Other support for junior faculty
1D – Buyout for mid-career/senior faculty, or they volunteer their time to mentor

Representative quotes:
- “Identify the mentors available, and identify who needs a mentor, and find people whose research interests match well”
- “More than just a name added to a grant, because it would be much more useful to have a mentorship program”
- “My successes were due to strong mentoring in my early career. My mentors donated time to help me make good decisions and get opportunities”

Code 2: Seed Grants & Other Support for Mid-Career Researchers

2A – Grant writing assistance
2B – Seed grant funding
2C – Help setting up a research team

Representative quotes:
- “Make sure the mechanism does not leave out mid-career researchers, because they need support as well”
- “They have data, they have a team, they just need help getting it out the door”
Code 3: Support Events, Networking & Collaborations

3A – Potential events
3B – Networking & collaborations

Representative quotes:
- “A group of researchers can apply for a team grant in aging research, so you should bring people together for a big grant that they wouldn’t have been able to receive individually”
- “Have brown-bags, in house talks, group talks, workshops. Smaller commitments of time to get to know other researchers and form collaborations”

Code 4: Seed Grant Structure & Use of Funds

4A – Seed grant structure
4B – Distinguish from the Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative (CDPI)
4C – Funding for pilot data
4D – Funding for grant writing
4E – Funding for transportation or equipment
4F – Funding for RAs or grad students

Representative quotes:
- “We want to see things that are unique and aging-specific. We don’t want to just help the same project twice. We need a mechanism, something systematic”
- “Seed grant could be used for pilot data and travel, meeting with mentors”
Code 5: Website Structure & Function

5A – Researcher profiles
5B – News, events, awards, links to other websites
5C – Networking tool, hub

Representative quotes:
- “Bring people together – The website will be a good hub and networking tool”
- “Researcher profiles focused on aging research, highlight their expertise”

Code 6: Research Topics, divided by types of research

Research topics were divided into bench/basic research, applied research, and social/population-based research.

Code 7: Unique Quotes

Examples:
- “Supporting and highlighting the current research across campus at UWaterloo”
- “Managing expectations, and being realistic about current realities, how difficult it is to get a larger external grant”
- “Strengthen the ties with affiliated colleges, make sure they can be involved in the funding & seed grants”