

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)

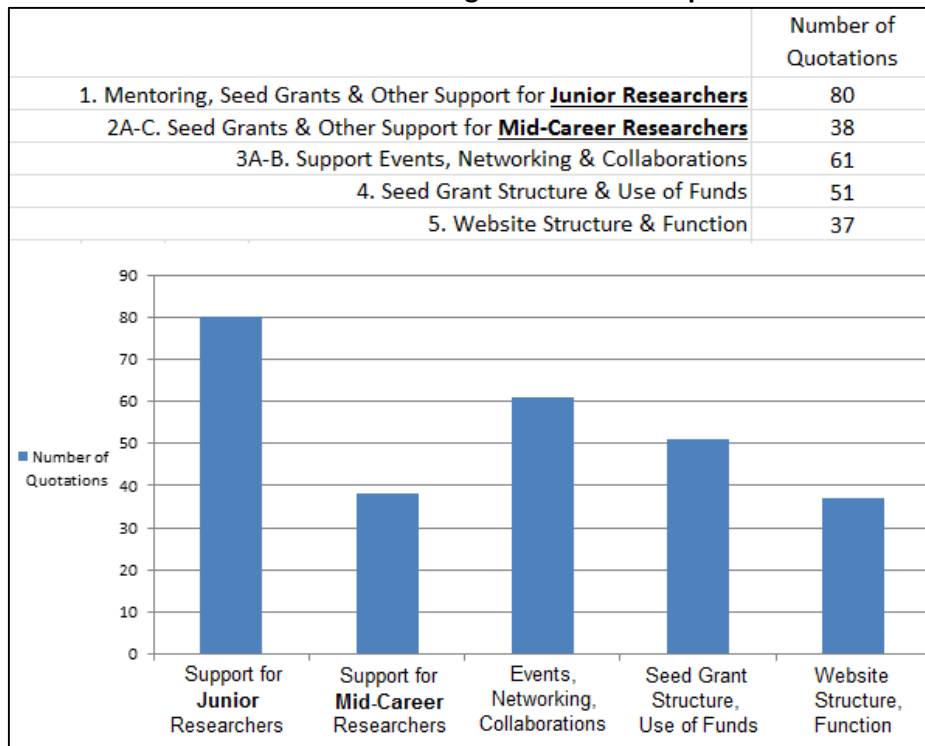
Office of Research - three staff members

*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



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”*