

G. MOUNTAIN, P. LANSLEY. *KT-EQUAL: Bringing ageing and disability research into practice. Gerontechnology 2010;9(2):233; doi:10.4017/gt.2010.09.02.270.00* **Purpose** This paper describes the current and planned activities and outputs of the KT-EQUAL Consortium. These include workshops for all-comers and events for specific groups including early stage researchers; lobbying to get the needs of older and disabled people heard by those in a position to influence policy; and workshop monographs, journal series and targeted materials for certain audiences - for example design practitioners. The question of how to promote an international dimension despite the challenges of a restricted budget will also be addressed. These activities will be set in the context of current UK policy which is demanding that the impact of research is demonstrated. Through the presentation we also aim to attract further members and stimulate ideas for further activities. **Method** The UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) have, since 1997, invested significantly in research to benefit older people through their EQUAL (Extending Quality of Life) initiative. This has placed the needs of older and disabled people at the core of activity and funded a number of single and consortium based projects. It has also included a network (EQUAL) which commenced for three years from 1997 and a second network from 2001 (SPARC - Strategic Planning for Ageing Research Capacity) which has just finished. The EPSRC are now funding a consortium across seven UK universities to ensure that the benefits of their research investment are received by industry and by practice and also that the ideas for future research are obtained from an ever widening community of stakeholders including older people. The Consortium leaders are also expected to be instrumental in the knowledge transfer process through attendance at key policy and research events concerned with older people. This consortium 'KT-EQUAL' (Knowledge Transfer and Exchange for Extending Quality of Life) is funded for four years.

## References

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