

### Transfer of Ageing Knowledge and Myths

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Outline

Introduction

WHO model of knowledge transfer/translation
Necessity of KT

Knowledge of ageing and its transfer/translation
Ageing research is interdisciplinary and a social and political activity
Knowledge and myths
Integrated KT

Concluding remarks
Effectiveness of KT
Back to basics
Implications



#### **Abstract**

"Ageing" is a socially constructed representation of apparent neural-biological and psycho-social changes in advanced age. The construction is open to the influence of not only science, but also folklores, religions, the fear of death, and the politics of "Who should care for the aged amongst us?" Knowledge of what ageing is and what it should be is highly contestable and often mixed with myths. Although ageing research has been relatively successful in "debunking" some of the older myths, it has the potential of creating inadvertently new myths of its own. The present talk addresses some of the modern myths and the need for a broader and more critical approach to the transfer of ageing knowledge.

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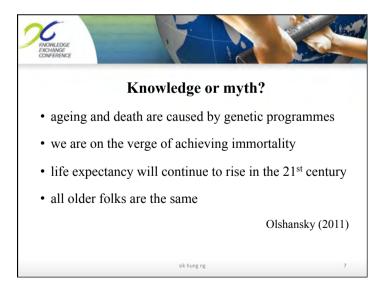


# Knowledge transfer (or knowledge translation more broadly)

Knowledge Translation is defined as "The synthesis, exchange, and application of knowledge by relevant stakeholders to accelerate the benefits of global and local innovation in strengthening health systems and improving people's health."

World Health Organization







### Ageing research

Interdisciplinary: bio/medical sciences, behavioural/social sciences, humanities.

Social: researchers are members of scientific and scholarly communities, these communities set standards of inquiry and evaluate knowledge claims, researchers are trained into the communities, work in and identify with them.

Political: researchers compete for resources and fame, form alliances, and have ideological and vested interests in particular theories that may mirror conflicts in the wider society.

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## Knowledge or myth? (cont'd)

- To be old is to be sick
- You can't teach an old dog new tricks
- The horse is out of the barn
- The secret to successful ageing is to choose your parents wisely
- The lights may be on, but the voltage is low
- The elderly don't pull their own weight

Rowe & Kahn (1998)

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