John Mathers

Professor of Human Nutrition

Newcastle University

Why public consultations?

Written into each research council's mission

Explicit part of RCUK's new science in society strategy

Licence to operate

Specifically it can help to shape inputs e.g. to CSR 2007

Passes an important message to researchers

Why should scientists care?

Our survey says so!

Encouraging an environment of public support

More relevant science

Consultation steering group

Jane Gizbert
MRC Head of Communications

Professor Alan Irwin
BBSRC Bioscience for Society Strategy Panel, Liverpool University

Brigadier Michael Koe
MRC Advisory Group for Public Involvement, PSP Association

Professor Peter Lansley
EPSRC nomination, University of Reading

Dr Maggie Leggett
BBSRC Head of Public Engagement

Professor Janet Lord
BBSRC nomination, University of Birmingham

Professor John Mathers
MRC nomination, MRC Physiological Systems and Clinical Sciences Board , University of Newcastle

Ms Patience Purdy
National Council for Women

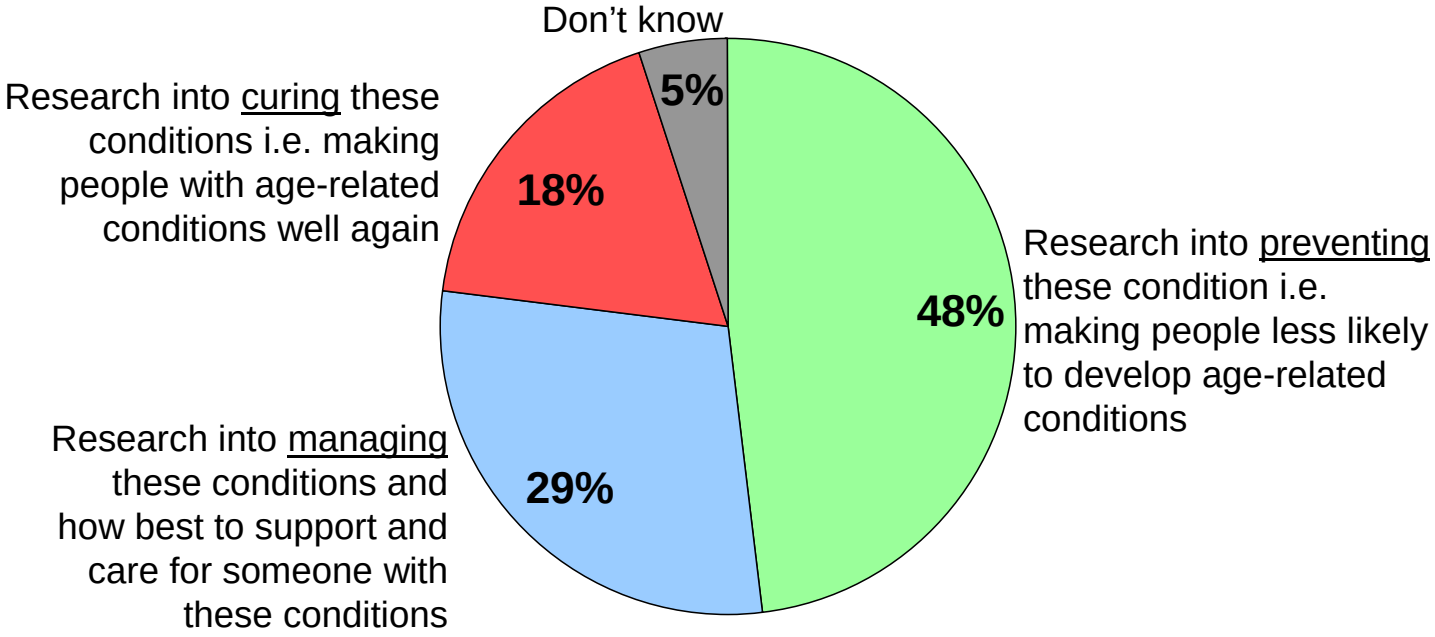
Professor Tony Schapira
MRC nomination, Royal Free & University College Medical School

Professor Alan Walker
ESRC nomination, University of Sheffield

‘Scientific’ outputs:

Priorities for research into ageing

Q When thinking about research into ageing, such as into age-related conditions and diseases, which ONE of the following areas is the most important to you personally?

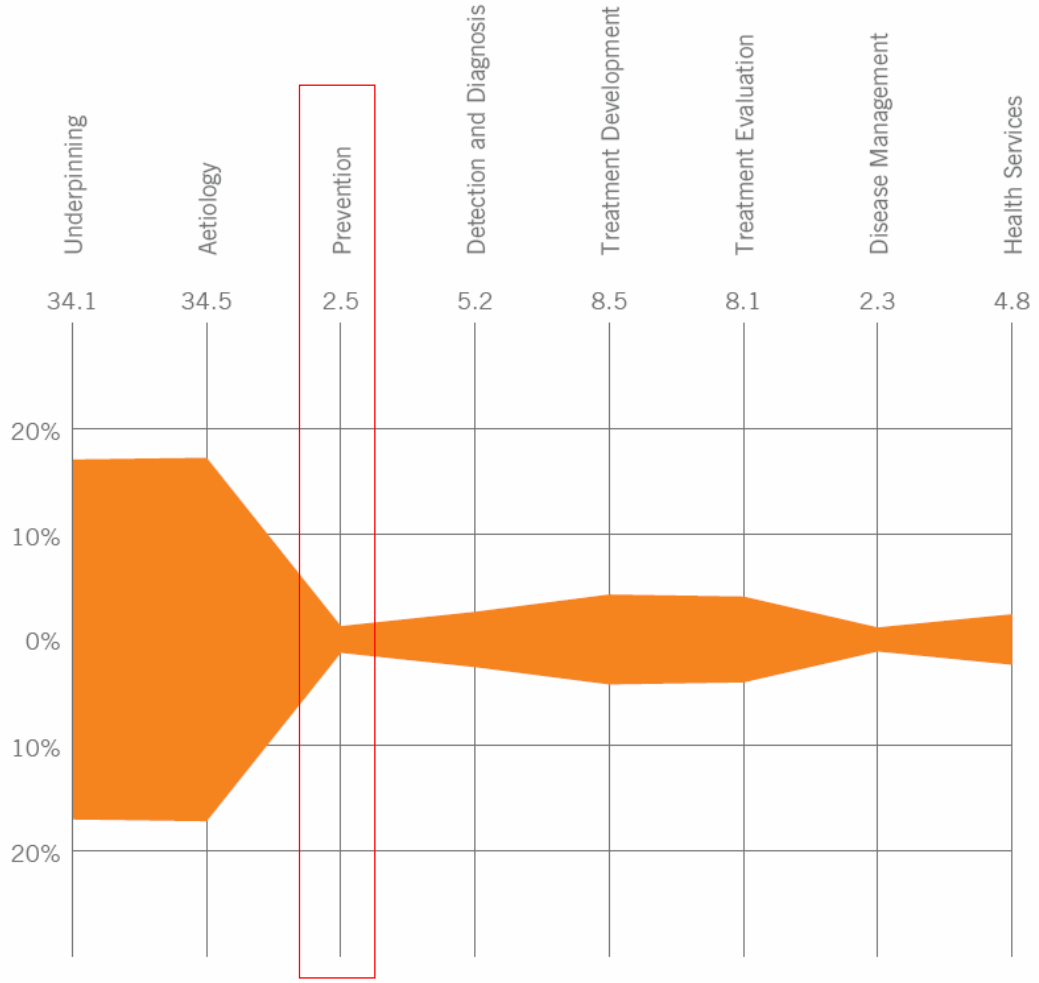


Base: 2,162 UK adults aged 15+, 25 – 30 May 2006

Source: Ipsos MORI

‘Scientific’ outputs:

UKCRC
UK Health
Research
Analysis
(2006)

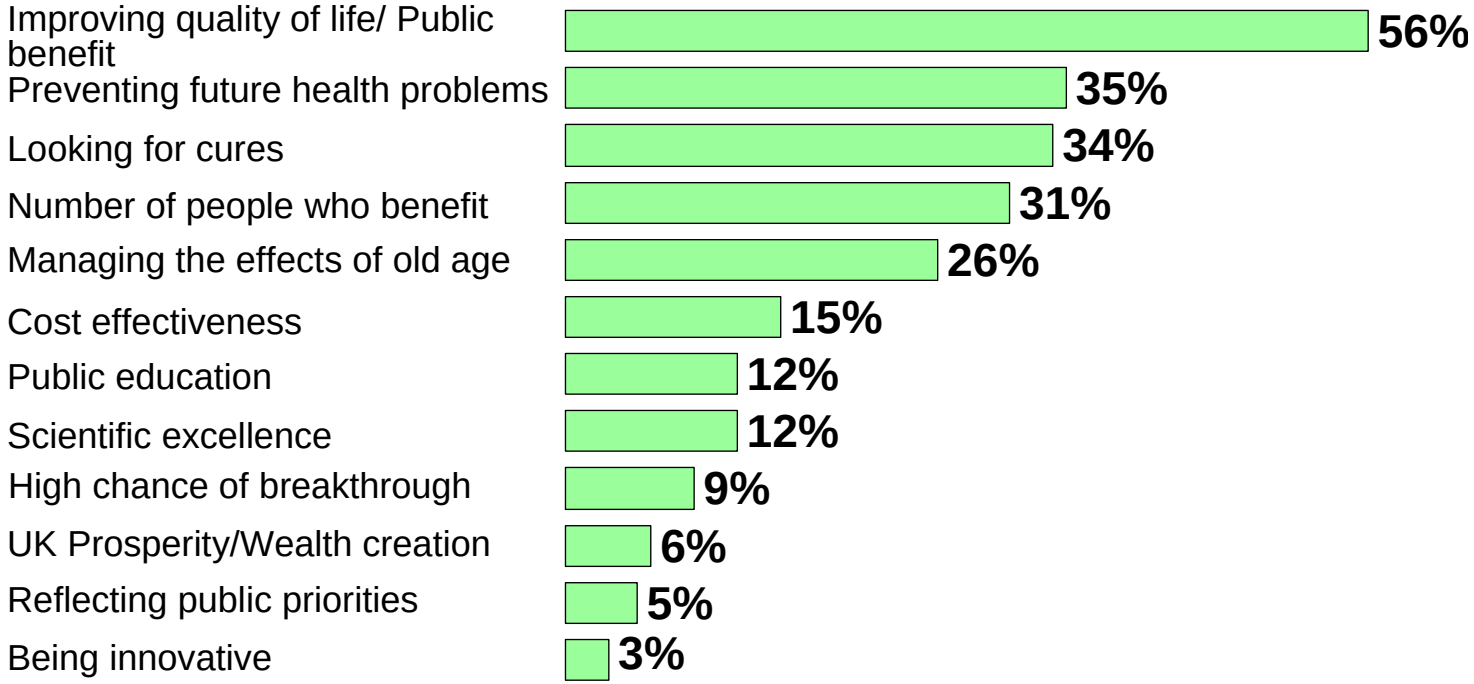


Data excludes R&D support for NHS providers funded by the UK Health Departments, core support costs (e.g. for the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute) and research taking place outside the UK.

‘Scientific’ outputs:

Factors for Funding Research into Ageing

Q Thinking now about research into ageing that is funded by taxpayers’ money – and by ‘research into ageing’ I mean the effects of ageing and how to cope with them - which two or three, if any, of these factors are the most important for deciding which research should be funded?



Base: 2,162 UK adults aged 15+, 25 – 30 May 2006

Source: Ipsos MORI

‘Scientific’ outputs:

RESEARCH COUNCILS UK

bbsrc biotechnology and biological sciences research council

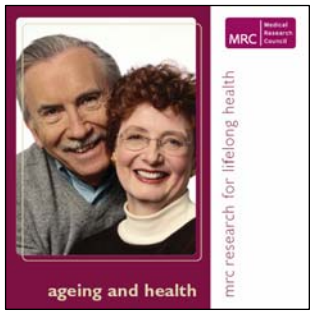
MRC Medical Research Council

User involvement

- not always appropriate or achievable across the board.
- Challenge of making involvement meaningful, particularly in basic areas.
- Bioscience for society panel (BBSRC), Advisory Group on Public Involvement (MRC)

‘Scientific’ outputs:

Raising awareness of ageing research



- Publications
- Parliamentary activity
- Dissemination events
- Websites