

INTRODUCTION

A multi-disciplinary conference, *Joining forces on mortality and longevity*, was held at the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh from 21 to 22 October 2009.

The conference followed on from the work of the Mortality Research Steering Group in developing a new model for working with others to better understand the state of knowledge in mortality and longevity, and directing the development of future research to provide a more robust foundation for advice to life offices, pension schemes and governments.

The objective of the conference was to advance research and awareness of research into mortality, engaging with a variety of disciplines in order to fill gaps in existing research and to scope out areas where further research will add value.

The conference brought together leading academics, researchers and practitioners in actuarial and medical science to consider, debate and share knowledge and has created a solid platform for research in this area. The conference reinforced the view that actuaries must link up with and understand the work of others as an input to their work and, crucially, to influence the direction of future research.

This supplement contains papers from authors that presented to the conference.