

John Beard, MBBS PhD, is an Australian physician who initially worked in primary health care, including several years as medical officer for an Aboriginal Medical Service. From 1991 he held a wide range of senior public health and academic roles in Australia, followed by three years as Senior Epidemiologist with the New York Academy of Medicine in the USA. In January 2009 he was appointed Director of the recently established Department of Ageing and Life Course at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. He is a member of numerous international committees addressing the needs of older people including the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Ageing, and the Scientific Advisory Committee of *45 and Up* a longitudinal population based study of 250,000 Australians over the age of 45 years.



Dr Beard's involvement in the health of older adults began during his time as a clinician. Later, the public health group he led was responsible for developing and evaluating [Stay on Your Feet](#), a large community based programme to prevent falls in older adults. Dr Beard's research explores the social determinants of health. He is particularly interested in the complex relationship between the physical and social environment, physical activity, social engagement and the health of older people.

Selected Recent Publications

- Beard JR, Blaney S, Cerda M, Frye V, Lovasi G, Ompad D, Rundle A, Vlahov D. Environmental characteristics and disability in older adults. *Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*. (In Press)
- Barnett L, van Beurden E, Morgan P, Brooks L, Beard JR. Six year follow-up of students who participated in a school-based physical activity intervention: a longitudinal cohort study. *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*. (In Press)
- Barnett L, Morgan P, van Beurden E, Beard JR. Motor skill proficiency from childhood to adolescence according to gender. *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*. (In Press. Accepted Jan 2009)
- Barnett L, van Beurden E, Morgan P, Brooks L, Beard JR. Childhood Motor Skill Proficiency as a Predictor of Adolescent Physical Activity. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. In Press (Accepted July 2008)
- Beard JR, Cerdá M, Blaney S, Ahern J, Vlahov D, Galea S. Neighborhood characteristics and change in symptoms of depression in older residents of New York City. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2009;99(7):1308-1314. PMID: 19008519.
- Beard JR, Galea S, Vlahov D. Longitudinal population-based studies of affective disorders: where to from here? *BMC Psychiatry* 2008, 8:83 PMID: 18811958
- Beard JR, Tracy M, Vlahov D, Galea S. Trajectory and socioeconomic predictors of depression in a prospective study of residents of New York City *Annals of Epidemiology*. 2008;18 (3):235-43. PMID: 18083544
- Beard JR, Lincoln D, Donoghue D, Taylor D, Summerhayes R, Dunn TM, Earnest A, Morgan G. Socioeconomic and maternal determinants of small for gestational age births: patterns of increasing disparity. *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica* 2009;88 (5):575 – 583
- Beard JR, Earnest A, Morgan G, Chan H, Summerhayes R, Dunn TM, Tomaska Nola A, Ryan L. Socioeconomic disadvantage and mortality from acute coronary events: A spatiotemporal analysis. *Epidemiology* 2008;19 (3): 485–492 PMID: 18414088 (see Commentary: Graham P. Intelligent Smoothing Using Hierarchical Bayesian Models. *Epidemiology* 2008;19 (3): 493-495).
- Beard JR. New Approaches to Multilevel Analysis (Invited Commentary). *Journal of Urban Health*. 2009; 86 (2): 280 PMID: 18792784
- Beard JR, Tomaska N, Earnest A, Summerhayes R, Morgan G. Socioeconomic and cultural influences on rural health. *Australian Journal of Rural Health* (2009) 17, 10–15