

Preface

This volume is proof of the success of long-lasting and major efforts to foster cross-national and cross-disciplinary ageing research in Europe. All first authors were funded or have been invited to take part in the framework of the European 3-year postdoctoral fellowship programme FLARE, Future Leaders of Ageing Research in Europe, coordinated by the European Research Area in Ageing (ERA-AGE), led by Prof. Alan Walker and his team at the University of Sheffield, UK. The main features of the FLARE programme are to promote both geographical and disciplinary mobility. Consequently, the contributions in this unique volume on health and cognition in old age are themselves the result of successful cross-national and cross-disciplinary collaboration and come from an international set of authors working at research institutions in Europe, Israel, and the USA at the postdoctoral level and above. This volume summarises the findings of their research programmes in various fields of ageing research, all relating to health, cognition, and well-being in old age, from various disciplines including biomedicine, general medicine, gerontology, geriatrics, immunology, psychology, epidemiology, public health, social policy, sociology, education, medical ethics, philosophy, and humanities. The volume comprises four parts: biomedical factors in ageing (Part I), life course factors constituting later-life health and cognition (Part II), care and interventions to maintain and improve impaired health, cognition, and well-being in old age (Part III), and policy and practice approaches for healthy and active ageing (Part IV). Taken together, the contributions provide a comprehensive overview of current developments in research on health and cognition in old age. Editing this volume on research findings originated under the FLARE scheme has been an amazing interdisciplinary journey for us and made us even more respectful of the multiplicity of perspectives in research on health and cognition in old age.

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Health and Cognition in Old Age
From Biomedical and Life Course Factors to Policy and
Practice

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2014, XXI, 329 p. 18 illus., 5 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-06649-3