



## THE BERLIN AGING STUDIES

### BASE II - Follow-Up and Extension

Almost 20 years after the start of BASE I (see below), current and future cohorts of elderly people are no longer represented adequately in the sample. For this reason, in 2008 we initiated the follow-up and extension of the Berlin Aging Study on the basis of a multi-disciplinary, longitudinal approach combining the socio-economic and biological dimensions of aging. The focus is on socio-economic, cognitive, medical, and genetic data. The first wave (including the preparation of the second wave of SOEP assessment) is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). In BASE II, the Socio-Economic Panel cooperates with the Max Planck Institute for Human Development (coordinator), the Research Group on Geriatrics at the Charité Berlin, and the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics.

#### Complement Sample of the SOEP

- About 1,100 young and 1,100 older adults are assessed “like in SOEP” as a related study
- This results in a multi-dimensional socio-economic measurement of phenotypes that goes beyond what had been measured in BASE I
- BASE II participants can be analyzed in comparison to the representative SOEP data set

#### Physical and Genetic Assessment

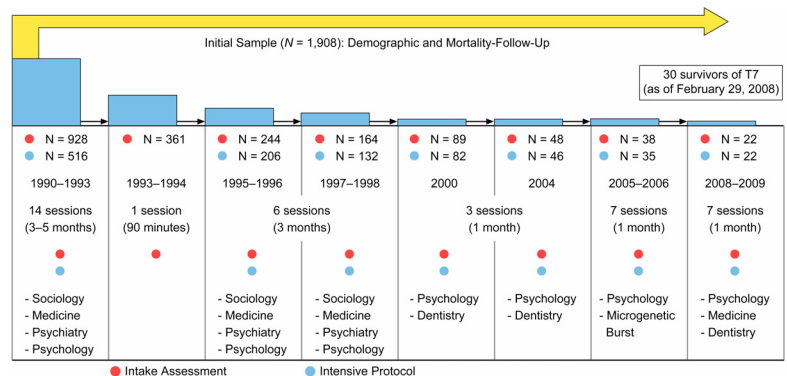
- In addition to the SOEP interview, participants will undergo medical screening in regard to clinical health, functional capacity, subjective health, and well-being
- Furthermore, a genome wide association analysis assessing 950,000 single nucleotide polymorphisms will be performed for an initial sample of 1,000 participants

#### Creating a Unique Longitudinal Survey

- By integrating the participants into the SOEP as a “related study” or part of an “innovation sample” and adding medical and genetic screenings, BASE II establishes the basis for a new longitudinal and multi-disciplinary Berlin Aging Study
- BASE II includes a group of young adults which, in contrast to BASE I, allows the prospective study of the influence of early and middle adulthood on developmental paths in old age

### BASE I: The Original Berlin Aging Study

The original **Berlin Aging Study (BASE I)** is a multidisciplinary investigation of old people aged 70 to over 100 years who lived in the former West Berlin. From 1990–1993, a core sample of 516 individuals stratified by age and sex was examined in 14 sessions covering mental and physical health, psychological functioning, as well as social and economic conditions. The study has been continued as a longitudinal study, and surviving participants have been reexamined up to seven times. Mortality information is updated at regular intervals. As of March 2007, 85% (n = 439) of the original sample were no longer alive. A further measurement occasion (T8) is currently taking place. In 2008, 22 participants were re-examined: After an Intake Assessment enriched by psychiatry measures (in two sessions), two sessions covered repeats of psychological measures, and two sessions repeated medical measures (including a detailed anamnesis and examination). In 2009 one further session is being carried out repeating the dental examination.



**Figure: Longitudinal Design of BASE**

Baltes, P. B., & Mayer, K. U. (Eds.). (1999). *The Berlin Aging Study: Aging from 70 to 100*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Lindenberger, U., Smith, J., Mayer, K. U., & Baltes, P. B. (Hrsg.). (forthcoming). *Die Berliner Altersstudie (expanded 3rd edition)*. Berlin: Akademie Verlag.

#### Recent BASE Publications (Selection)

Lindenberger, U., & Ghisletta, P. (2009). Cognitive and sensory declines in old age: Gauging the evidence for a common cause. *Psychology and Aging*, 24, 1-16.

Gerstorf, D., Ram, N., Röcke, C., Lindenberger, U., & Smith, J. (2008). Decline in life satisfaction in old age: Longitudinal evidence for links to distance-to-death. *Psychology and Aging*, 23, 154-168.

Kleinspehn-Ammerlahn, A., Kotter-Grühn, D., & Smith, J. (2008). Self-perceptions of aging: Do subjective age and satisfaction with aging change during old age? *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 63B, P377-P385.

Kunzmann, U. (2008). Differential age trajectories of positive and negative affect: Further evidence from the Berlin Aging Study. *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 63B, P261-P270.

Rapp, M. A., Gerstorf, D., Helmchen, H., & Smith, J. (2008). Depression predicts mortality in the young old, but not in the oldest old: Results from the Berlin Aging Study. *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 16, 844-852.

Schindler, I., & Staudinger, U. M. (2008). Obligatory and optional personal life investments in old and very old age: Validation and functional relations. *Motivation and Emotion*, 32, 23-36.

Fiori, K. L., Smith, J., & Antonucci, T. C. (2007). Social network types among older adults: A multidimensional approach. *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 62B, P322-P330.



[www.base-berlin.mpg.de](http://www.base-berlin.mpg.de)