

## LAUREN E. STORCK PHD, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Dr. Lauren E. Storck (PhD in Psychology) has a background in medical and clinical psychology, along with expertise in group dynamics, consults to communities and larger groups that provide service for aging populations, and services and products for people with differences (disabilities and chronic conditions). Using e-technologies for communications and for creative exchange online is one focus.



Formerly clinical faculty at Harvard Medical School, and psychologist with medical centers in New York, London, and Boston, she is now based in Maine (USA). She is affiliated faculty, Center on Aging, University of Maine, and president of a local caregivers charity. Rural health care, disability needs (especially hearing loss), and international exchange are some activities (e.g. she is chairperson of the International Committee for ALDA, an established association for empowerment of people with hearing loss).

Dr. Storck has published and presented several papers on the psychology of hearing loss, overcoming stigma, group analysis, and about socioeconomic dynamics of health, as well as about leadership and community development online. She participates in volunteer management of professional associations, on community health boards, editorial groups, and an ethics committee. For the ISG, she moderates the online forum open to all globally who are interested in gerontechnology. As an associate editor of Gerontechnology journal she will focus on manuscripts pertaining to psychology and group dynamics of accessibility and e-technologies.

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## NEXT WORLD CONFERENCE

The organization of the next ISG World Conference (ISG2010), under the theme 'Technologies for Health, Quality of Life, and Aging-in-Place' is well on schedule. Outstanding keynote speakers have confirmed their participation. Among these *John Beard*, MBBS, PhD, of the World Health Organization (Switzerland), the new Director of the Department of Ageing and Life Course at the World Health Organization, and founding investigator for 45 and Up, an ongoing Australian longitudinal study of 250,000 older adults. While in New York his research fo-

cused on urban health, demonstrating a clear link between the urban environment and depression, disability and obesity in older persons and he was actively involved in the Age-friendly Cities project.

A second keynote speaker will be Eric Dishman, who is an Intel Fellow, Digital Health Group and general manager and global director of product research and innovation, and co-founder and National Chair of the Center for Aging Services Technologies (CAST), co-director of the American Alzheimer Association's Technology Research for Independent Living and was instrumental in the establishment of its Everyday Technologies for Alzheimer's Care program. He has a Master's degree in speech communication and holds four patents.

Geoff Fernie, PhD, MIMechE, CEng, PEng, CCE of Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (Canada) will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> keynote speaker. He is vice-president, Research at Toronto Rehab where he is leading the development of one of the world's most advanced rehabilitation research facilities: iDAPT. He is also Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto with cross-appointments that include the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, the Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Science and the departments of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy.

Anthea Tinker, PhD, CBE of King's College, London (U.K.) will be the 4<sup>th</sup> keynote speaker. She has been Professor of Social Gerontology at King's College London since 1988 and has been a Consultant to the WHO, EU and OECD. She also chairs the College Research Ethics Committee, and has recently undertaken two large national studies of older people and the role of assistive technology and one on the prevalence of elder abuse.

In addition, the International Scientific Board (ISB) of ISG2010 has been formed with the following duties: (i) to help maintain the academic quality of the conference by providing suggestions and feedback on the conference program and act as peer reviewers for abstracts for oral presentations and posters, (ii) to promote the conference and act as ambassadors encouraging participation, and (iii) to contribute to the scientific program by submitting papers, proposing themes, potential speakers, panels, and organizing invited sessions and symposia.

Members of ISB originate from:

- *Africa*: P. S. Nair, Botswana; Chuks J. Mba, Ghana; U.O. Okoye, Nigeria;

- *the Americas*: Ramon Gutmann, Argentina; Luis Ramos, Brasil; Alex Kalache, Brazil; Ron Baecker, Canada; Alex Mihailidis, Canada; Margaret Campbell, USA; Neil Charness, USA; George Demeris, USA; James L. Fozard, USA; Sumi Helal, USA; Howard Wactlar, USA;

- *Australasia*: Elizabeth Karol, Australia; Jeffrey Soar, Australia; David R. Phillips, Hong Kong; Mitsuo Nagamachi, Japan; Ken Sagawa, Japan; Z. Zenn Bien, Korea; Kuo-Ming Wang, Taiwan;

- *Europe*: Alain A. Franco, France; Hans-Werner Wahl, Germany; Lawrence R. Normie, Israel; Herman Bouma, the Netherlands, Don Bouwhuis, the Netherlands, Elana Urdeneta, Spain; Gunnar Fagerberg, Sweden.

Please visit [www.sfu.ca/isg2010/](http://www.sfu.ca/isg2010/) to submit the abstract of your contribution.

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> GERONTECHNOPLATFORM IN PARIS

During the 19<sup>th</sup> IAGG World Congress on Gerontology and Geriatrics, in Paris (France), July 5-9, 2009, the 1<sup>st</sup> GerontechnoPlatform was held showing and demonstrating leading edge products and services for the ageing society. IAGG, the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, has member organizations in over 64 countries worldwide with a combined membership of over 45,100 professionals. It has consultative status with the United Nations and is a member of the Conference of Nongovernmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO). About 6,000 of IAGG's members visited the 19<sup>th</sup> IAGG World Congress.

The GerontechnoPlatform was located in a corner next to a busily used gangway to the poster sessions. A large number of delegates stopped near this corner to view the videos, or discuss gerontechnology issues with one of the gerontechnologists present. About 1800 visitors to the platform took one or more issues of Gerontechnology journal home.

Discussions in and around the platform made clear that especially the video presentations were effective in communicating new concepts that are on the edge of breaking through. In the ISG board meeting during the IAGG conference it was decided to accept the GerontechnoPlatform as a regular ISG activity to be included in our international world conferences, as well as in future IAGG congresses, the next one being planned for Seoul

in 2013. To this end IAGG has accepted the ISG as one of its standing committees.

To be eligible for presentation at the GerontechnoPlatform the presenters had first to submit a one-page abstract describing their product or service. Herman Bouma PhD and the undersigned evaluated the proposed product or service according to the following criteria: (i) proven useful for aging or aged persons, (ii) innovative, (iii) robust from the viewpoints of technology and the organizational context of its use, and (iv) with existing proof of collaborative design with end-user participation, or reliable data available from user tests<sup>1</sup>. This was clearly a new approach to the candidate-presenters from industry and university, and for this first GerontechnoPlatform these criteria could not always be applied fully. However, for the next GerontechnoPlatform at the 7<sup>th</sup> Gerontechnology World Conference in Vancouver (2010) evaluation will be stricter to make sure that indeed the most promising innovative concepts are included!

Abstracts and papers of the items included in the 1<sup>st</sup> GerontechnoPlatform may be found in Gerontechnology 8(2), as well as the current issue 8(3). The authors of each accepted abstract had sent in a poster, and most of them also a real-life or simulation video that was shown continuously on 10 different video screens. Some of the leading edge products and services were also demonstrated. However, it was clear that only the video presentations had a strong impact and should remain the focus of future GerontechnoPlatforms.

The successful concept of the GerontechnoPlatform has been conceived and developed by Alain Franco, our ISG president and vice-president of IAGG, and Patrick Mallea, both active in the newly erected French National Reference Center for Home Care and Autonomy<sup>2</sup>, whose mission is to give all the necessary information for solution development and diffusion to all actors of the home care value chain.

## References

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2. Mallea P, Franco A. French National Reference Center (CNR) for home care and autonomy. *Gerontechnology* 2009;8(3):184; doi:10.4017/gt.2009.08.03.012.00

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