*V.T. TAIPALE (convener). Round Table: The competencies of the gerontechnologist. Gerontechnology 2010;9(2):343;* doi:10.4017/gt.2010.09.02.314.00 **Participants:** *J.L. FOZARD (USA), H. BOUMA (NETHERLANDS),* and *P. MALLÉA (FRANCE)* **ISSUE** Researchers, engineers, clinician, and designers who work in the field of gerontechnology, obtained their formal education in one of the monodisciplines related to the field. After clarification of the position of gerontechnology in relation to gerontology and geriatrics, as well as technology in general[1-3], the need is felt to formulate the competencies of an effective professional gerontechnologist. **CONTENT** The knowledge base of a professional gerontechnologist may be viewed from different angles: from the constituting monodisciplines or as an interdiscipline. In all cases, insights and methods from more than one discipline cannot be missed, usually accomplished by means of collaboration between researchers from the different disciplines. The first view leads to a host of ranking competencies such as motivation, needs evaluation, decreasing horizon in time and place, changing person-environment interactions, acceptability of technologies, information ergonomics, functioning of older persons, user involvement, built environment requirements, diagnostics of restrictions, economics, financing of assistive products and services, and developing business models, of which a relevant subset has to be selected and followed up by involving suitable expertise. The interdisciplinary view has emerged from specific theories and methods such as technology generations and inclusive design[2]. Examples of both approaches can be found in some of the theses in the 3Gs Round Table[1]. First and foremost, the concept of combining sciences of human ageing and sciences of technology has to be acknowledged and mastered in practice. Second, implications for the target group have to establish as constant concern in those involved. **STRUCTURE** Each of the three experts will express their view on the subject in a short statement. The discussion that follows will focus on the different competencies and their role in the functioning of a gerontechnologist. **CONCLUSION** This round table will be a first step in the formulation of the minimum knowledge base of an effective professional gerontechnologist.

**Reference**

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