

G. GUTMAN (convener). *ISG*INPEA Round Table: Gerontechnology as an elder abuse issue. Gerontechnology 2010;9(2):344*; doi:10.4017/gt.2010.09.02.299.00

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ISSUE Assistive devices are increasingly being touted as a major problem solver for the challenges in performing activities of daily living (ADLs and IADLs) that many older adults experience as a result of the sensory and physical changes that tend to accompany 'normal' aging. Other technologies are being marketed to healthy seniors and pre-retirees as ways of staying physically or cognitively fit and warding off the ravages of diseases such as Alzheimers. Still others are targeted to persons who are already physically or cognitively frail. Some of the devices and products may indeed be helpful but they may be priced beyond the means of the average older adult. One of the topics that will be addressed in this roundtable concerns the rights of older adults to access assistive devices and products that will enable them to remain healthy and independent and to age in place. On the other hand, some older adults are being 'oversold' technology or services in contracts that are legally 'unfair' and that border on or constitute financial abuse. Technology is also promoted as an aid to those who care for older adults. While the occupational health and safety of carers needs to be protected it is important that it not be at the expense of social interaction – for example, while robots may be able to perform some functions they are not a substitute for human contact. Another area of concern is the use of technology to monitor the quality of care that is provided. The issue here is that it may require installation of devices (e.g. surveillance cameras) that intrude on older persons right to privacy and/or that jeopardize the rights of care providers.

CONTENT This discussion will explore the intersection of the aging marketplace, the desire for appropriate new technologies and the legal implications for those who sell and use them as a means of promoting older adults' independence, as an aid to those who support older adults or as a way of preventing elder abuse or neglect. **STRUCTURE** Gloria Gutman, President of the International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) will address the issues from social gerontology and human rights perspectives, Laura Watts, Director of the Canadian Centre for Elder Law will discuss legal issues and safeguards, Mauro Colombo will discuss ICT issues and perspectives while Anneke van der Plaats will present examples from her 40+ years of geriatric practice. **CONCLUSION** This Round Table is designed to raise awareness of ways technology can contribute to elder abuse and neglect and lay the groundwork for future collaboration between ISG and INPEA to prevent this happening.

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