GerontechnoPlatform

Concept The concept of GerontechnoPlatform was initiated in Paris IAGG 2009 (July) by ISG and CIU-Santé, as an exhibit financed by the French CNSA (Caisse Nationale de Solidarité pour l'autonomie). There were 10 wall-mounted flat screens, 1 room for live presentations and 23 posters. It was a great success with almost 2,000 visitors in 3 days (*Figure 1*). Proposals for inclusion in the GerontechnoPlatform are first assessed for their contribution to innovation, their robustness, their usefulness for aged and aging persons, and existing proof of collaborative design with user involvement. On November 11, 2009 the Executive Committee of the ISG appointed Patrick Malléa as chairperson of the GerontechnoPlatform. **Purpose** The main objective of the GerontechnoPlatform is to communicate and share knowledge and experience of products and services designed in the context of gerontechnology, with a focus on demonstrating in near-life or real-life conditions. It is a place for exchange between business, the health professions and academics, and is dedicated to recent design projects that need interactivity or demonstration to be fully understood[1]. In the mean time the concept has been further developed into a real-time event with demonstrations from all over the world channelled to one meeting place to overcome physical distance among stakeholder. **Method** Adobe Acrobat Connect Pro[2] is used for communication and this software is hosted on the server of the Medical Department of Nice University. Any remote participant with a Personal Computer and internet access can take part by going to: http://connect.unice.fr/gerontechnoplatform/. After acceptance by the administrator the required software is automatically downloaded on the PC of the participant. Demonstrators are scheduled and allowed by the administrator, visitors can view anytime. Typically, demonstrators will show the working of their product or service with the use of webcam, microphone and speakers, and at the same time can present pictures, schemes, graphs or real-time drawings. In addition documents or videos are shared between the demonstrator and any member of the audience. In addition to a modern web browser the remote participant needs to have Adobe Flash Player 8 or later installed. **Results & Discussion** In Vancouver at the ISG2010 conference, the GerontechnoPlatform demonstrations will mainly function as extra material to poster and free communications concerning smart homes, robotics and other interventions in the dwelling environment. Following each demonstration will be a short discussion on the merits and improvements of ISG GerontechnoPlatform.

References

1. Bronswijk JEMH van. 1st GerontechnoPlatform in Paris. Gerontechnology 2009;8(3):179; doi:10.4017/gt.2009.08.03.016.00
2. www.adobe.com/products/acrobatconnectpro/; retrieved March 2010

Figure 1. The 1st Gerontechnology in Paris, July 2009