

## PROFESSIONAL NEWS

### Gerontechnology volumes 10 and 11

Volumes 10 and 11 consisted of 6 regular issues, one filled with conference proceedings, and one special issue commemorating the appointment of Professor-emeritus Herman Bouma as ISG Grandmaster. The issues were published between February 2011 and March 2013.

The journal received for these 2 volumes a total of 99 manuscripts. The acceptance rate was 33% for volume 10 and 36% for volume 11 (excluding the conference issue). Acceptance rate of the abstracts submitted for the conference issue, 11(2), was 85%. The 2012 conference in June and the new website launched January 2012 have resulted in a sizable increase in electronic readership. The 'conference effect' of the 2012 conference was larger (from 3.1 to 5.4) than that of the 2010 edition (from 2.0 to 3.1), which probably has to do with the increased website quality.

I am grateful to ICT-manager Michiel Brink PhD who developed the journal website with the Open Journal System (OJS) and supervised the implementation of the conference site with the Open Conference System (OCS), both systems being developed by the Simon Fraser University (Canada).

Abstract and manuscript handling of the conference was facilitated by these systems. Unfortunately this is not yet the case for the handling of the regular manuscripts for the journal.

Not only did the readership increase, it also diversified. The geographical distribution of the readers has almost tripled in 4 years' time from 53 countries in 2008 to 146 in 2012.

Notwithstanding the increase in geographic distribution, the majority of readers still originate from Europe, North-America and Asia. And even within these continents only a few countries are regular readers, notably in North and Central America where the USA takes the lead with 16% of all visits worldwide. In Asia only 3 nations (Japan, Taiwan and South Korea) account for 12% of all visits around the globe. Only in Europe are regular readers extended over a sizable number of countries. Here we find seven countries that showed in the mean at least 3 visits each day in 2012.

On the continents with relatively few readers, usually one country stands out. For Oceania this is Australia (92%); for South America this is Brazil with 85% of the visits from that continent. South-Africa is the leader in Africa (29%), followed by Egypt (13%) and Nigeria (12%). It is clear that the volumes 10 and 11 of the Gerontechnology journal have indeed fostered growth in readership and citation score, but we still have a long way to go before the gerontechnology approach is adopted world-wide in the scientific and engineering world.

Not only have the readership diversified, also the citation frequency more than doubled with an h-index of 8 in 2008 over 12 in 2010 to the current value of

19. However, there is still room for improvement. In the list of journals covering major parts of the gerontechnology field and established before 2001, we are still in the lowest quarter. In the next years we should double our h-index!

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### ISG-Master class of June 25-26, 2012

Two days before the opening of ISG\*ISARC2012 conference, a master class for next-generation scientists in gerontechnology took place at the campus of Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, The Netherlands. Students came from Denmark, Italy, The Netherlands and Poland. Master teachers included ISG-Grandmasters James L. Fozard PhD and Herman Bouma PhD, and the experienced gerontechnology masters Don G. Bouwhuis PhD, Neil Charness PhD, Alain Franco MD, Helianthe Kort PhD, and Anthea Tinker PhD.

Each student had brought an informative poster explaining his or her research or design in gerontechnology. After hanging the posters, installing internet connectivity for private tablets and PC of students and masters, and getting to know each other, the master class started the first day with a first assignment: explaining to fellow students and masters alike the methodology used and why it was chosen in each student project. Subsequently the students presented and discussed with the masters the theories they had chosen as foundation of their work. These discussions came in a more informal sphere during lunch where students and masters mixed. After lunch student projects were viewed in the so-called gerontechnology matrices of discipline versus impact, technology versus gerontology, and technology generation versus target population. This helped the students to better focus their chosen outlook towards the addressed population segment, as well as their scientific and engineering point of view.

Intermingled with the discussions of the presentations by the students where some lectures on research and design methods, gerontechnology theories, and the changing paradigm from cure to care. After each of these lectures the students were invited to optimize their chosen methodology and theories to underpin generalization of research results.

Somewhere in day 2 of the Master Class students and masters paired-off to have an in-depth discussion of individual posters. In this process each student received guidance from most of the masters. Issues discussed included: Where and when has your chosen method been validated? Which are the optimal conditions for its use? Which are the limits of its application? How did you capture the relevant literature on comparable projects?

Near the end of the master class both the student collective and the master collective evaluated all student projects to choose the best one. The masters

explained that the choice of the best project had to be based on scientific excellence of content, innovativeness, and the presentation of scientific information on the poster. In addition to these criteria, the contribution of the research to the gerontechnology discipline should be taken into account. To give an extra stimulus to the students the Herman Bouma Foundation for Gerontechnology presented an official award certificate and a book to the student with the best project, who was also invited to submit a student paper to Gerontechnology journal. The winner in this master class was Marianne Sinoo. She submitted a paper on visual functioning and visual comfort in care facilities for older adults. It is part of her thesis research on visual comfort for older adults in nursing homes.

The evaluation of this master class showed that students were pleased with the given presentations and given time for discussion with the masters. They also appreciated the possibility to be selected for the Herman Bouma Foundation for Gerontechnology award. Masters did notice that there is a learning curve for students who have participated in the master class more than once.

All participating students had the option to submit their (improved) poster as Last-Minute-Poster to the ISG\*ISARC2012 conference, see pages 55-56, 58-59 of issue 12(1).

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## **Sarah Wu, new subscription manager**

Starting in January 2013, Sarah Wu joined the ISG as the new Subscription Manager, taking over responsibilities from Anne-mie Sponselee. In her role, Sarah maintains the subscription database for both the society and the journal. In addition, she acts as a resource for ISG Board Members requiring additional information on subscriptions and Chapter membership. More recently with the formation of the North American Chapter of the ISG, Sarah has taken the post of Secretary where she will assist in facilitating chapter activities and initiatives. She is currently enrolled in Simon Fraser University's Masters of Arts in Gerontology Program. Her research interests lie in the areas of dementia care and long-term care facilities.

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## **Pertti Saariluoma PhD, new associate editor**

Pertti Saariluoma (born 1951, Stockholm) made his MA, and PhD in Turku University on human prob-

lem solving and expertise. He has studied, visited and worked in Oxford University, Carnegie-Mellon University, Cambridge University, Aberdeen University, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, as well as the University of Granada. In 1995, he was appointed as the first



professor of cognitive science in Finland to Helsinki University. Since 2001 he has been professor of Cognitive science in the University of Jyväskylä. Pertti Saariluoma has published 10 books on theory of science, user psychology, cognitive science and human-technology interaction as well as over scientific 150 papers. He has supervised 25 doctoral students. He has also had longer expert tasks at various ministries in Finland. He has been a member of the Committee of European Society for Cognitive Psychology and the Editor of Human Technology.

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## **Raymond H. Cuijpers PhD, new associate editor**

Raymond Cuijpers (male) graduated in Applied Physics at the Eindhoven University of Technology (NL) in 1996. He received his PhD in Physics of Man from Utrecht University in 2000. He did a postdoc on the role of shape perception on human visuo-motor control at Erasmus MC Rotterdam. In 2004 he did a second postdoc at the Radboud University Nijmegen in the context of the European FP6 project 'Joint Action Science and Technology (JAST)', where he studied cognitive models of joint action. Since 2008 he is assistant professor at the Eindhoven University of Technology (The Netherlands). He has been project coordinator of the European FP7 project 'Knowledgeable Service Robots for Aging (KSERA)' that was successfully completed in 2013. In this context he supervised one post-doctoral student and two PhD students, who studied how robots can autonomously interact with humans for helping older persons. In 2014 he became associate professor 'Cognitive robotics and Human-Robot interaction' at the Eindhoven University of Technology (NL).

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