

## Presidential statement of our new ISG President

Dear members of the ISG, I am immensely proud to have been elected President of the Society at the General Assembly in Taiwan in June 2014. I am especially proud of this, because I am following on in the footsteps of such distinguished former Presidents in Vappu Taipale, Herman Bouma and Alain Franco. These are also exciting times to be involved in research in gerontechnology and, more than ever, the 'time is now' due to a number of converging factors:

- An increasing number of older adults;
- Seniors are becoming more tech-savvy;
- Pervasive computing and the 'internet of things' are now a reality;
- Health care technologies are 'the next big thing' with significant global investment;
- Alignment with national and international policies and priorities.

In my adopted country of Canada, the importance of this area of research and innovation has just been recognized by one of the biggest federal grants in Canadian history for the AGE-WELL Network of Centres of Excellence<sup>1</sup>, of which I am also proud to be Scientific Director along with my colleague Alex Mihailidis.

So the ISG has a fantastic opportunity to be the world leader in order to: (i) Encourage and support cutting-edge research in aging and technology, (ii) Strengthen international collaborations, (iii) Drive innovation for the benefit of seniors, and (iv) Look for ways to use our research to generate new products and services for businesses.

Our role is to make this happen and to build a research 'community' that will have an impact for years to come. Here are some of the key things we will be hoping to achieve over the next few years:

- Continue to support our excellent journal 'Gerontechnology' as the major outlet for research in the field of aging and technology;
- Increase membership worldwide, especially in areas that are currently underrepresented, such as Africa and South and Central America;
- Increase local activities through the regional chapters;
- Improve communications to our membership and the outside world through a revamped website and use of social media.

## References

1. [www.agewell-nce.ca](http://www.agewell-nce.ca); retrieved January 30, 2015  
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doi:10.4017/gt.2015.13.4.015.00

## Gerontoludic for fun!

The Gerontoludic Society ([www.gerontoludicsociety.com](http://www.gerontoludicsociety.com)) is a newly established international and multidisciplinary association of academics and professionals with a focus on technology in research and design of playful experiences, leisure activities, and interactive technologies

to support and enhance the well-being of older adults. The society was formed in November of 2014 and has the goal to promote innovative and high-quality research through open discussion, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and the dissemination of the work of its members. Activities in 2015 included a workshop on CHI Play 2015.

We welcome you to join the burgeoning group from academics and industry. Please visit [www.gerontoludicsociety.com](http://www.gerontoludicsociety.com) to become a member – which is free – and support the playfulness and well-being of our aging society!

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doi:10.4017/gt.2015.13.4.012.00

## ISG MASTER CLASS NICE

The first ISG Master Class in France took place April 1-3, 2014 at Nice. It was organized by the ISG Francophone Chapter in collaboration with CNR Santé, the French National Reference Center for health care and autonomy at home, and supported by IGAM (L'Institut de Gérontologie des Alpes Maritimes). Earlier, from 2006 to 2012, ISG Master Classes were mainly associated with



Eindhoven (Netherlands) and Nan Kai (Taiwan). The master class was attended by eight students from Nice, Sophia-Antipolis, Angers, Groningen and Utrecht, and taught by seven masters; from France: Alain A. Franco MD PhD (Nice), Jacques Demongeot MD PhD (Grenoble), Renaud David PhD (Nice), Gérard Cornet (Paris), from the Netherlands: Helianthe S.M. Kort PhD, Herman Bouma PhD, ISG Past president (Eindhoven), and Don Bouwhuis PhD (Eindhoven).

A bilingual (English and French) Master Class was an experiment, but one that had a good outcome.

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doi:10.4017/gt.2015.13.4.013.00