

L.I. STENBERG. Attitudes of professionals in the field of elderly care towards technology. *Gerontechnology* 2016;15(suppl):140s; doi:10.4017/gt.2016.15.s.658.00 **Purpose** In order to utilize technology to its full potential in the care of the elderly, it is crucial to understand the attitudes of the professionals as well as what needs lay behind non-use. The purpose of this study was to pinpoint the impediments and opportunities regarding making better use of technology by professionals in the care of elderly people. **Method** The survey was carried out in 2014 via telephone interview: respondents included 320 professionals (96% female and 4% male, as the professionals in elderly care still today are predominantly female) working in the elderly care systems in both the public and private sector. The respondents worked in elderly home care, residential care homes and enhanced living facilities, as well as the units for patients with memory disorders. Fifty-six percent (56%) of the respondents were involved in practical caregiving, and 44% in managerial positions¹. **Results & Discussion** Professionals in elderly care consider technology as a valuable part of their work. Professionals are able to build the bridge between technology and care and are willing to implement new approaches to the care provision. They see that the use of technology in caregiving improves safety of the elderly (95%). With technology, the professionals believe that they can better cater to the needs of the elderly (90%), and also see improvements in the quality of care (80%)². Attention is required with regards to who is expected to implement technology in their work processes as currently, it is often the care workers with the least education³. Depending on the technology, respondents reported the technologies they use as being very useful (highest score was 93% for a customer information system; and the lowest score was 61% for recreational technologies). Those in managerial positions have a clearly more positive attitude. At the same time more than 50% of practical nurses reported having received inadequate education and would prefer additional training regarding technology². Many expectations are put on technology as a resource, but these can only become reality when professionals are properly trained to use and are familiar with technology⁴. To date, this is not the case.

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Address: Union of Senior Services, Helsinki, Finland;

E: Lea.Stenberg@valli.fi