

WAGT – World Academy for Gerontechnology

Académie Internationale de Gérontechnologie World Academy for Gerontechnology (WAGT)

At the initiative of Alain A. Franco, Herman Bouma (Netherlands), Johanna E.M.H. van Bronswijk (Netherlands), Anthea M. Tinker (United Kingdom), James Fozard (United States) and Alain A. Franco (France) met in Nice, on September 27, 2016, one day before the start of ISG2016, to constitute the 'Académie Internationale de Gérontechnologie', or in English 'World Academy for Gerontechnology' (WAGT) (Figure 1).

WAGT is affiliated with the International Society for Gerontechnology (ISG) and defends the values of ISG. Its president is a member of the Board of Directors of the ISG.

WAGT has chosen as its main aim the promotion of gerontechnology knowledge and skills by:

- High level teaching in research, design, engineering and innovation;
- Promoting high quality methodology and publications; and
- An active lobbying towards academic, national and international authorities able to foster teaching and dissemination of gerontechnology knowledge and skills.

WAGT's first policy plan is in the making but will contain elements such as:

- Yearly master classes alternatively at WAGT headquarters in Nice, and associated with ISG World Conferences;
- Building an Open Access Teaching Library;
- Investigating the options of e-learning, including MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses).

WAGT will have three categories of individual members:

- Masters:* experienced teachers of gerontechnology to be nominated by the Board of Directors and appointed by the General Assembly of WAGT;
- Grand Masters:* ISG Grandmasters of Gerontechnology who are also appointed by the General Assembly of WAGT; and
- Associated Members:* persons active in the field of gerontechnology or supporting its aims

may request to be appointed as an associated WAGT member by WAGT General Assembly.

WAGT's first Board of Directors includes:

Alain A. Franco (France), President and Grandmaster,
Johanna E.M.H. van Bronswijk (Netherlands), General Secretary and Grandmaster,
Guillaume Sacco (France), Treasurer and Associated WAGT Member,
Herman Bouma (Netherlands), Member and Grandmaster,
James L Fozard (USA), Member and Grandmaster,
Vappu T. Taipale (Finland), Member and Grandmaster,
Anthea Tinker (United Kingdom), Member and WAGT Master.

WAGT is an association under the French law of July 1, 1901 and the decree of August 16, 1901, created September 27, 2016. The Statutes have been deposited at the Préfecture des Alpes Maritimes in Nice (France) October 20, 2016. Publication in the Journal officiel de la république française (JORF) is expected in a few weeks.

WAGT has its administrative seat at the 27Delvalle Building, located in Nice (France), provided by the administration of Nice municipality.

Johanna E.M.H. van Bronswijk, WAGT General Secretary

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Figure 1. In 27Delvalle Building after constituting WAGT (from left to right): James L. Fozard, Anthea M. Tinker, Alain A. Franco, Johanna E.M.H. van Bronswijk and Herman Bouma (Photo by Guillaume Sacco)