

Welcome to ISG's 11th World Conference of Gerontechnology

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W.D. KEARNS, G.M. GUTMAN. Welcome to ISG's 11th World Conference of Gerontechnology. Gerontechnology 2018;17(Suppl):1s;https://doi.org/10.4017/gt.2018.17.s.001.00. Under the theme 'Evolving Designs for Our Future Selves' 160+ presentations concerned with the application of technology to the preservation and improvement of quality of life for older adults who are seeking to age well while maximizing independence.

Keywords: aging-in-place, aging and technology, state-of-the-art of gerontechnology

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the International Society for Gerontechnology's 11th World Conference taking place in St. Petersburg, Florida, USA, May 7-11, 2018. The theme of our conference is 'Evolving Designs for Our Future Selves'. This theme acknowledges Roger Coleman's¹ seminal contribution to the field of Gerontechnology and the realization that the rapid pace of change in technology is presenting new opportunities for improving the health and wellbeing of older adults in revolutionary ways. For example, until recently installing an artificial intelligence in a residence to control the home's basic functions, and to have it converse in a moderately intelligent manner with its occupants was the stuff of science fiction. Such functionality is now available in the form of Amazon's Echo² and Google Home³ to anyone with computer network access and a modest budget. The implications for improving quality of life and delaying institutionalization are significant for older adults in all nations, and we firmly contend these impacts can be magnified and sharpened through the application of Gerontechnology principles and proper scientific evaluation leading to greater improvements in design. Indeed, attendees to ISG World Conferences gain a variety of perspectives on the evolving technologies under development for older adults, including, but not limited to, those of engineers, health and social care providers, social workers, psychologists and sociologists; perspectives of immense value when designing technologies for a rapidly evolving landscape. In many ways the landscape has changed to one in which we are awash in technology opportunities for older adults worldwide, but the quality of these technologies could be so much better if their designers would listen and learn from Gerontechnologists.

This issue of Gerontechnology provides abstracts of the scientific program of the 11th World Conference (n=160). It serves as a permanent record of the individuals and groups who presented at the conference, their ideas, and the state-of-the art of the field of gerontechnology in 2018.

References

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