

ROUND TABLE

C. M. GALAMBOS (Convenor, United States). *The evolving role of ISG chapters amid challenges managing non-profit member organizations*. *Gerontechnology* 2018;17(Suppl):202s; <https://doi.org/10.4017/gt.2018.17.s.197.00>

Participants H. KORT (Netherlands), G. GUTMAN (Canada), N. BIER (Canada), Y. HSU (Taiwan), H. KUENEMUND (Germany), Y-R PARK (Korea). **Issue** Non-profit member organizations face environmental, member, fiscal, and cultural challenges which require a leadership approach that is transformational, collaborative, and steeped in the cultural values of the organization¹. The International Society for Gerontechnology (ISG) is governed by an international board that oversees a diverse and increasingly geographically dispersed membership. Over time, chapters that represent cultural/linguistic and geographical areas have been established. To maximize the potential of this structural evolution requires each chapter to respond to its unique culture and values while respecting the organizational structure of the International Society for Gerontechnology (ISG)². **Content** Non-profit membership organizations are faced with a myriad of issues including a dearth of leadership, dependency on the voluntary nature of the organization, need to respond and interact with multiple stakeholders, and dependency on uncertain, limited access to resources, and fluctuating revenue streams^{1,3,4,5}. Steering organizations with these constraints requires leaders to be aware of their organization's values. It also requires a leadership style that is involved, purposeful, focused on membership needs, culturally sensitive, and future oriented⁵. **Structure** Chapter presidents share their perspectives on leading a chapter that is part of a larger organization, as well as how their leadership styles and approaches are shaped by chapter culture and membership and their vision for the future. Participants will have an opportunity to share their ideas on how to increase chapter responsiveness to member interests. **Conclusion** The ability to engage in collective leadership in which people collaborate and work in partnership within and across organizations and communities to develop innovative solutions is a vision shared by the founders of ISG^{2,4}. Through awareness of the unique contributions of chapters and their membership, ISG can create new synergies and under-take new possibilities which are responsive to the mission of increasing the global development of gerontechnology².

References

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*Address: Helen Bader School of School of Social Welfare, University of Wisconsin, Mil-waukee, U.S.A.;
E: galambos@uwm.edu*