

comprehensive anthropometric data of this type, especially for application during the advanced stages of product definition, the primary sources (included in the recommended further reading) such as 'AdultData' and 'Older AdultData', published by the UK Department of Industry, should be consulted.

Inevitably for first editions, the book contains minor editing errors. However, there is also room for substantive improvements in future editions. Besides the handful of examples mentioned in the introduction and the case study of the postal service kiosk in chapter 12, certainly it would not have been labouring the point to include, scattered among the other chapters, several more specific examples of inclusively designed products; particularly considering that, after all, this is intended as an introductory text for the uninitiated. International balance too could be improved upon. Although the case studies (in grey sidebars) in Chapters 2 and 3 are based on US product brands, the statistical information on populations and disabilities is drawn exclusively from European (in particular UK) data sources. Ironically, for a book on design, the visual presentation is let down noticeably by the mediocre quality of the photographic work.

These easily correctable shortcomings do not sufficiently detract from this book's important contribution to help put the record straight before industry decision makers, regarding the major economic and societal potential for the inclusive design approach in mainstream products.

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## ISG Business

### *Smart aging in Nagoya*

The 5<sup>th</sup> conference on Gerontechnology is to be held in Nagoya (Japan) May 24-27, 2004. Venue will be the Nagoya Congress Center. The Conference is organized by the Gerontechnology Group of the Japanese Ergonomic Society. The Conference is the first hosted by an Asian country. Japan is one of the most aged countries in the world and, in this sense, is a most appropriate place to hold this Conference. Nagoya locates in the central part of Japan and has excellent access from all over the world. The 2005 World

Exposition, AICHI (Main theme: Nature's Wisdom) will also be held in Nagoya from March 25 to September and can be visited.

Recognizing that a considerable part of older people are living in uncomfortable conditions due to illness or disabilities, aging with dignity and healthy and creative daily life should be ensured for every older person by the development of modern technologies. This drives the Organizing Committee to hold the Conference under the main theme of '*Technology for smart aging – for a long and happy life with health and self-esteem*'. Key notes, special symposia and sections with posters and free communications will address the following issues and both researchers and professionals are urged to give presentations on these topics.

- (i) Health and Self-Esteem
- (ii) Housing and Daily Living
- (iii) Mobility and Transportation
- (iv) Communication and Governance
- (v) Work Conditions and Workability
- (vi) Geriatrics and Dementia Care
- (vii) Leisure
- (viii) Robotics for Human Support
- (ix) Universal Design
- (x) Standards for the elderly and the disabled

### Abstracts.

Abstracts of up to 200 words prepared in Microsoft Word format should be submitted to Conference Secretariat not later than October 15, 2004 together with a registration form through the WEB site: <http://www2.convention.co.jp/5isg/>

### Full papers.

Authors will be notified of acceptance of their abstract by November 15, 2004. Proceedings manuscript of 4 pages for camera-ready copy is due to be prepared by Januari 15, 2005.

### Organization

#### Local committee

GeneralChair: Dr. Mitsuo NAGAMACHI  
Secretary-General: Dr. Kazuo YAMABA

#### Program committee

Chair: Dr. Ken SAGAWA  
Secretary: Dr. Kenji KURAKATA

Ken Sagawa

e-mail: [5isg@convention.co.jp](mailto:5isg@convention.co.jp)

### ISG Regional Representatives

To integrate international and national activities in Gerontechnology, to support the formation

of local chapters of the society, and to have a source of local news, the ISG has instituted regional representatives overseeing a population of at least 30 million persons. These officers may be contacted for collaborative research, joint organizing of events, or the regional members list. Regional representatives receive a free subscription to the journal for each 30 active ISG members in their region.

Two regional representatives have recently been appointed:

Region	Regional representative
Benelux countries	Ir. Jan A.M. Graafmans
Italy	Dario Bracco

The board of ISG is grateful for the enthusiasm of these first two representatives and expects that it will give a new impetus to both national and international gerontechnological activities.

Herman Bouma  
President of ISG

## World News

### AUSTRALIA: AUSTRALIAN AGEING RESEARCH AGENDA

The trend towards the structural ageing of populations in industrialised countries has been accepted and much expertise and effort has been devoted to researching the pertinent issues in each particular country. In order to provide a sound evidence base for policy makers and practitioners, a framework for an Australian Ageing Research Agenda has been established. Part of this framework is the Building Ageing Research Capacity (BARC) Project that includes the Ageing Research Online (ARO) web site that was launched in September 2003.

More info: [www.aro.gov.au](http://www.aro.gov.au)

### FRANCE: INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY ON NUTRITION AND AGING

The International Academy on Nutrition & Aging aims to contribute, in a practical way, to knowledge of problems concerning nutrition and aging and to the development of solutions through research, training programs and the spread of information.

The Academy is involved in the following areas: research, scientific publication and distribution, workshops, and training programs. Areas of activities include nutrition in relation to: needs of older people, prevention of

pathologies associated with aging, longevity, quality of aging, as well as causes and consequences of malnutrition, oral and enteral feeding, functional foods.

More info: [www.healthandage.com/html/min/iananda/index.htm](http://www.healthandage.com/html/min/iananda/index.htm)

### UKRAINE: THE 5<sup>TH</sup> UKRAINIAN SCIENTIFIC-PRACTICAL CONFERENCE ON OSTEOPOROSIS

Osteoporosis is a widely spread systemic disease of the skeleton, which is characterized by low bone mass and disturbances of the osseous tissue micro-architectonics, resulting in an increased bone breakage and growing risk of fractures. The last decade, this problem has become of special importance in view of two tightly interwoven demographic processes: a dramatic rise of the share of elderly and old individuals among the general population and, in particular, an increasing number of postmenopausal women. Bone fractures influence the morbidity and mortality rates considerably. According to WHO data, number of hospital-bed days for postmenopausal females with osteoporotic proximal femur segment fractures surpasses those of breast cancer, acute myocardial infarction, chronic lung diseases, diabetes mellitus, etc.

The January 13, 2000 was declared in the headquarters of the World Health Organisation in Geneva (Switzerland) as the beginning of a World Decade of the bone-muscular pathology (The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010). The WHO General Secretary Brundtland noted that, despite the fact that the bone-muscular system has more than 150 diseases and syndromes, the medico-social and economic burden for society is primarily associated with osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, low back pains, rheumatoid arthritis and bone/joints traumas. This decade's worldwide campaign has the aim of improving the life quality of individuals with bone and joint pathology as well as of encouraging research on the diagnostics, prevention and treatment of such conditions, and improving an education in this domain.

Osteoporosis management in Ukraine is very challenging. Inadequate nutrition, environmental contamination, social crisis, hypodynamia, etc., all of them have negative impacts on bone tissue structure and functioning. This is a multidisciplinary problem, and efforts of specialists of various disciplines should be consolidated in order to resolve it. Progressive bone mass loss, chronic bone pain syndrome, appearance of non-traumatic fractures of bones and worsening life quality of patients urge researchers to develop new methods for disease diagnostics,