counteract, as much as possible, any age-related declines with relevance for driving.

In conclusion, my synopsis of this book should have clearly demonstrated that it is very valuable, capitalizing on the expertise and discussions of an impressive list of excellent contributors. The book presents a multidisciplinary, differentiated, and critical synthesis of a wide range of the latest scientific findings on mobility in old age, and undoubtedly provides a most important contribution to the field. In addition, all chapters and comments are written such that they are also useful for readers from applied areas. Obviously, the book's substance is based on mobility from the vantage point of American culture, and it would be an interesting task to systematically contrast this culture, for instance, with European and Asiatic cultural issues related to autonomy and mobility. Some of this analysis may be accomplished by comparing the contributions included in this special issue of Gerontechnology with the insights and messages reported in this highly recommendable volume.

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NEWS IN SHORT

USA -
Gerontechnology 2002, November 9-12
Brief Program Summary for Gerontechnology 2002 is available at http://www.psy.fsu.edu/~isg/schedule.htm. It features invited speakers from across the globe, invited symposia, and both paper and poster presentations. The official language of the conference is English. From 8:00 H to 18:00 H the delegates may exchange ideas and discuss opinions during the formal sessions in the Wyndham Miami Beach Hotel Convention Rooms in Miami Beach, Florida, USA. Fine weather and a beautiful environment provide the opportunity for infor-

mal gatherings in addition. An official banquet has been scheduled also. Registration costs for the whole 4-day congress is US$495. However, students and seniors pay only US$150. Web registration is possible at, and alternatively a form may be downloaded to be completed and faxed, see http://www.psy.fsu.edu/~isg/conference.htm. Lets meet in Miami Beach!

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Japan - AIST Research Forum on Gerontechnology
To follow-up the International Workshop on Gerontechnology held on March, 2001 in Tsukuba, Japan[1], a research forum entitled 'Towards new development and expectation in Gerontechnology' was held on 4th December, 2001 in Tokyo. The forum was organized by Institute for Human Science and Biomedical Engineering of AIST in Japan (the former National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, NIBH) as a part of their new activity of the reorganized AIST (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology), and was attended by about 100 people.
Scope. The aim of the forum was to discuss the applied aspects of Gerontechnology paying special attention to some actual situations such as transportation, work environment, housing, daily life, industrial products, and so forth, which were missing in the discussion from the former International workshop. The forum started with a keynote lecture by the AIST senior researcher, Yasuo Kuchinomachi. Subsequently two sessions took place. The first one concerned research presentations of ongoing projects related to Gerontechnology in Human Science and Biomedical Engineering in AIST (6 papers). The second consisted of a symposium on applied aspects of Gerontechnology where a total of 8 speakers from various fields, such as government, universities, research institutions, companies (housing, automobile, construction, electric appliances) were invited to

present their perspectives and examples on how usefully and how effectively the concept and scientific knowledge in Gerontechnology are incorporated in their fields.

Symposium. In his invited talk in the symposium, Mr. Masafumi Ohki of the Japanese Government stressed a need for government support to the industrial field to develop the concept of Gerontechnology or Universal Design in their products especially for Information Technology Goods, and also a need to establish a standard database of human functions of older persons which should be fundamentally referred to for appropriate designing of any product or environment for older persons. Dr. Kazuaki Iwata addressed Gerontechnology as a product innovation factor in this aged society, and for this a further development of technology, such as modeling (products, human, processes), simulation/virtual reality, data processing, would be needed. From a survey on the life style of older persons, Prof. Akihiro Hotta reported that new technology should be developed to realize a variety of life styles for the individual older person. Finally for the work environment, Prof. Mitsuo Nagamachi proposed a concept of "job-redesign for older persons" which means appropriate kinds of work and work styles must be considered and supplied to older workers of different ages.

Discussions. Discussions followed these invited talks where appointed discussers were invited from companies and commented on what is being done in their companies and what shall be done in the future under the concept of Gerontechnology together with their expectations for Gerontechnology. One discussion was heated on how we can accommodate the two different ideas such as Universal Design and Personal Fit. Universal Design aims to fit all people of different age and sex as much as possible. On the other hand the Personal Fit requires only one best fit that does not necessarily mean to fit others. In fact, both concepts are needed practically on a case-by-case basis. Generally

speaking, the concept of Universal Design is more important in the design of the public appliances, and the concept of Personal Fit is more important in the design of the personal products such as clothes or shoes. In the discussion, the solution for harmonizing both concepts at the same time was not clarified yet, but there were many useful opinions raised for future consideration.

The Future. This forum was originally intended to discuss the future of Gerontechnology, because it is now a quite good time after about 15 years of development of 1st generation Gerontechnology to consider the 2nd generation with a new leading concept at this very beginning of the new century. Unfortunately this issue was left for future discussion because of limited time in the forum.

Reference
1. Bouma H, Sagawa K. Gerontechnology Workshop in Japan. Gerontechnology 2001;1(1):70-72

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Europe - IDEAL
The French VECTORAT project (Valorization of Experience) set up by MCC Mobilités , the Finnish KOVO Finnish project (Value of the Experienced) managed by Adulta, and the Irish TRED project (Training Responses to Address Equality and Diversity) managed by Trainers Network, decided to join forces, and call their consortium IDEAL, encompassing International Diversity management Experimentation training and Age discrimination in Labour practices. It concerns age discrimination in diversity management. French researchers and the majority of the Finish colleagues focus on age discrimination and tools for age management. One of the Finish subproject aims at reskilling 50+ consultants in the domain of computing knowledge. The advantages of including age management in diversity management include (i) avoidance

of the increasing age stigmatization in human resources management and management attitudes, and (ii) anticipating to labour force shortage by helping to change age discrimination and early retirement practices. This is in accordance with EC social and economic policy recommendations. Together the partners obtained financial support from the European Commission under the Age Discrimination and EQUAL program.

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Europe - Design for All

The Commission of the European Communities has mandated the European standardisation organisations to outline the measures to be taken in order to facilitate the Design for All concept in standardisation. Accessibility for all is gaining higher understanding in all society, including the standardisation world. The Design for All concept is a central element in this context. This new approach will affect a wide range of standardisation work. This is the theme for a conference taking place in Copenhagen on 9 September 2002. Focus will be put on elderly and disability aspects, but you will also be informed about close-related activities concerning Information Communication Technology, Child safety and Product information. Please find an invitation/registration page, which is available at www.ds.dk/930. One of the key documents, CEN/CENELEC Guide 6 'Guidelines to address the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities when developing standards', is available without charge at www.cenorm.be/boss/help/whatsnew.htm.

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FORTHCOMING

Calendar of Events
July 15 - 20, 2002
8th International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs Johannes Kepler University of Linz, Linz, Austria (ICCHP 2002)
Organizer: prof. Harry J. Murphy BA MSc EdD Info: www.icchp.at/

July 20 - 25, 2002
8th International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Stockholm, Sweden
Organizer: Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, Inc., USA
Info: www.alz.org/internationalconference/respite.htm

July 21-25, 2002
7th International Congress on Low Vision (Vision 2002)
Göteborg, Sweden
Organizer: International Society for Low-vision, Research and Rehabilitation ISLRR
Info: www.congrex.com/vision2002/

September 9, 2002
Design for All in standardisation
Copenhagen, Denmark
Organizer: The European Standardisation Organisations - CEN, CENELEC, ETSI
Info: www.ds.dk/930

September 13-14, 2002
32nd meeting of the Walking Aid Working Group (ISO/TC 173/WG 1), including members of CEN/TC 293/WG 1, International University of Health and Welfare, Kitakanemaru, Otawara-shi, Tochigi-ken, Japan
Organizer: ISO/CEN
Info: prof. Shigeru TANAKA PhD, e-mail: s-tanaka@iuhw.ac.jp

September 22-25, 2002
Gerontechnology event, European Congress