

ISG Activities 2008-2010

The domain of gerontechnology and the International Society for Gerontechnology saw a healthy growth between the international conferences in Pisa (2008) and Vancouver (2010).

The International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) invited the ISG to participate in its 19th quadrennial World Congress, held in Paris in July 2009. The IAGG is comprised of 73 national gerontology and geriatrics societies, with a combined membership of over 45,000. We accepted the invitation and were present with both a symposium and a GerontechnoPlatform. At the Council Meeting (General Assembly) of the IAGG our society was accepted as a Standing Committee, its category for enabling affiliation of other international organizations for mutual benefit. We immediately informed our chapters and gave them the name of the local gerontology/geriatrics association requesting that they invite them to their meetings, as well as organise activities with them. This is a way of integrating technology issues into the mainstream of gerontology, and at the same time our chapters obtaining a better understanding of gerontological issues.

This IAGG-ISG affiliation also brings us in contact with the United Nations. IAGG is one of the 3289 NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) with consultative status at UN's ECOSOC (The ECONomic and SOcial Council). With IAGG as sponsor the ISG is now included in the ECOSOC database, and additionally we will work towards independent accreditation with the UN's Departments of Public Information (DPI) and ECOSOC. Accredited organizations are allowed to participate, present written contributions and make statements to ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies.

Through its affiliation with IAGG, the ISG is also part of a joint statement on the strengthening the rights of older people worldwide. This statement was accepted by the United Nations after submission by IAGG, together with INPEA (www.inpea.net), IFA (www.ifa.fiv.org), ILC-US (www.ilcusa.org), IAHASA (www.iahsa.net), HelpAge International (www.helpage.org), GAA (www.globalaging.org), Age UK (www.ageconcern.org.uk) and AARP (aaa.aarpinternational.org), representing in total close to 50 million members of organisations concerned with the aging of society.

In addition to the journal, our biennial international conferences and chapter activities, something new arose: the GerontechnoPlatform as a means to share knowledge and experience with new products and services. Its first appearance was at the IAGG congress in Paris with 10 video screens, posters and demonstrations. It is being further developed for Vancouver and is now web-based. We encourage our chapters and the local IAGG members with whom they collaborate to use the GerontechnoPlatform approach in their conferences and meetings.

Of course, much more can be done, and the undersigned invite you to mail your ideas and suggestions for discussion by the Board, and possible implementation.

Alain Franco, ISG president

E: a.franco@gerontechnology.info

Jeroen Knies, ISG Secretary General

E: j.knies@gerontechnology.info

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