

ISG BUSINESS

Appointments and elections

The ISG General Assembly appointed Professor Mitsuo Nagamachi PhD, organizer of the Nagoya Conference and inventor of Kansei Engineering as Honorary Member, and Professor James Leonard Fozard PhD, Co-founder of the domain of Gerontechnology and Master teacher in all ISG master classes, as the first Grandmaster of Gerontechnology.

The new ISG Board was formed with the ISG members G. Anerdi (Italy), E.H. Aspes (Norway), M.M. Bekker*, Treasurer (Netherlands), D. Bracco (Italy), M. Brink (Netherlands), J.E.M.H. van Bronswijk*^o, Vice-President (Netherlands), S. Czaja (USA), P. Dario (Italy), F. Franchimon*, Secretary-General (Netherlands), A. Franco*, President (France), F.J.M. van Gassel*^o, Secretary of the Next Conference (Netherlands), G. Gutman* (Canada), R.M. Gutmann (Argentina), H.S.M. Kort (Netherlands), P. Mallea (France), P.S. Nair (Botswana), C. Oppenauer-Meerskraut (Austria), A. Peine (Netherlands), A. Sixsmith*, Vice-President (Canada), G. Tegart (Australia), A. Tinker (UK), J. Tyrrell (France), H. Umemuro (Japan), H-W. Wahl (Germany), K-M. Wang (Taiwan), and P. Wright (UK). A * identifies the members of the ISG Executive Committee; while ^o denotes the organizers of the next conference.

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At the start of the 10th volume

The year 2010 was a conference year with a successful world event in Vancouver (Canada). Two of the four issues of volume 9 are related to this conference; the abstracts are in issue 2, while a grandmaster-issue in honor of James L. Fozard appeared as issue 3.

Diffusion and impact

While the readership of the electronic version in 2009 originated from 76 different countries, in 2010 researchers, designers and policy makers of 88 different countries showed interest. At the same time the average number of readers / hour grew from 2.0 (2009) to 3.1 (2010). The Hirsch h-index of impact¹ also increased from 8 (2008), to 9 (2009) and 12 (2010). Diffusion is most extensive in Europe and North America (Figure 1). Almost 30% of the readers of the digital version had bookmarked the journal link and may be considered regular readers. Another 20% arrived from the home page of the ISG, while more than 40% found Gerontechnology with the aid of Google.

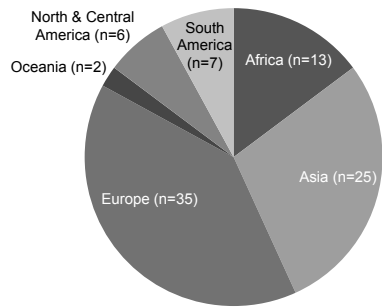


Figure 1. Geographic distribution of the countries with readers of the e-version of Gerontechnology during the year 2010

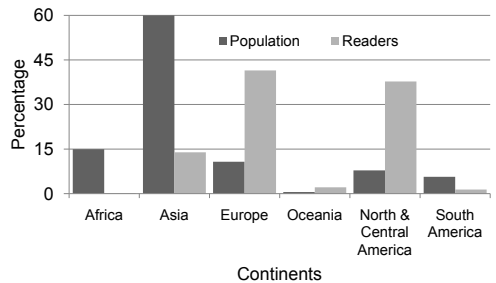


Figure 2. Distribution over the continents of the population (mid-2010) and readers of the electronic version of Gerontechnology in 2010

Although Gerontechnology has recently been included in the Scopus database², there is still a long way to go. When comparing population size³ and number of readers on different continents (Figure 2), it is clear that diffusion lags behind severely in Africa and Asia, and to a lesser extent in South America. Other journals with at least five cited publications in the gerontechnology domain surpass Gerontechnology. Examples are IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Magazine (Hirsch $h=61$), Applied Ergonomics ($h=60$), Human Factors ($h=54$), and Educational Gerontology ($h=41$). On the other hand the number of cited articles in these journals that concern the gerontechnology domain is comparatively small, 12 for the IEEE journal and 8 for the others (Publish-or-Perish search of October 14, 2010⁴). With 101 cited gerontechnology publications, our journal is still the main source of new gerontechnology knowledge.

Manuscript handling

I am grateful to all associate editors who made our growth in impact and diffusion possible. Diane Feeney Mahoney (Geriatric nursing) came to strengthen the college of associate editors, while Lauren E. Storck resigned. Peer review has been completed of 42 manuscripts (excluding abstracts) of

which 45% was rejected. I am grateful to the peer reviewers who supported the editors: J. Berentsen, J. Arnott, J. Boger, W.R. Boot, C. Cutaia, M. Dyson, I. Hagen, J. van Hoof, M. Hough, S.H. Kurniawan, Kyoung Yun Kim, N. Lahmann, E. Marelli, A. McLaughlin, C. Mayhorn, A. Money, H-H. Nap, A. Newell, R. Pak, A. Pandya, M. Powers, R. Ros Mar, J. Rossiter, I. Ruoppila, P. Topo, and G. van der Vloed.

The Open Journal System⁵ has been chosen for handling manuscripts in the future. Implementation will probably take most of the year 2011.

I wish you interesting reading in this new Gerontechnology volume!

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The 5th ISG Gerontechnology Master Class

From May 27 to May 30, 2010, 36 emerging researchers from around the world gathered in beautiful Vancouver, Canada for the 5th Gerontechnology Master Class in conjunction with the International Society for Gerontechnology (ISG) 7th World Conference. Post-doctoral and graduate scholars representing universities in Canada, France, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States presented research posters for assessment by eight international experts (masters) in gerontechnology. The masters imparted their current research and future trends in gerontechnology through lectures and discussion. Posters were evaluated based on criteria for scientific excellence, innovation, user involvement, policy relevance, and visual appeal. Poster awards went to: Chi Zhang (Simon Fraser University, Burnaby),



'Intelligent agent-based elderly assisted living'; Gail Knight (Royal College of Art, London), 'Designing out environmental barriers to public toilet provision for an aging population'; and Dana Kolach (University of Manitoba, Winnipeg), 'Parking aids: New technology assisting older drivers'. These winners may elaborate their poster into a short manuscript for publication in Gerontechnology. Master class participants (students) shared knowledge, experiences, and passion for research in gerontechnology. These opportunities to network and collaborate with one's colleagues internationally, as well as to learn from world-renowned masters in the field, strengthen our individual abilities to positively impact society on a global scale through progressive research in gerontechnology.

Special acknowledgment: I would like to sincerely thank the master class participants for contributing to this summary, namely, Claudine Auger, Johanna L.H. Birkland, Bertrand Boudin, Michiel Brink, Julie A. Brown, Jared Clarke, Cathy Dalton, Minako Hosono, Tuck-Voon How, Jessica G. Huber, S. Lynn Jansen, Gail Knight, Rock Leung, Delyana Miller, Sigrid N.W. Vorrink, Victoria Young, and Chi Zhang.

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Human rights of older persons

Why discussing human rights of older persons? Do human rights not apply to all persons, young and old? Theoretically this is true, but daily reality differs. ISG, through its affiliation with IAGG (International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics) takes part in the 'International Coalition on Rights of Older People', a coalition of eight Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): Age UK, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Global Action on Aging (GAA), HelpAge International, International Association of Gerontology-

gy and Geriatrics (IAGG), International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing (IAHSA), International Federation on Ageing (IFA), and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA).

During the 49th session of the United Nations' Commission for Social Development (New York, February 2011), the International Coalition on Rights of Older People has organized a side-event under the title 'Putting older persons' poverty on the human rights agenda', an issue that is seldom studied in gerontechnology, although robust, mass-produced technology can do much to lessen the burden of poverty. The public side-event consisted of lectures, discussions, and a summary as a basis for the way forward.

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2012 Conference in the Land of the Innovator

In the last week of June of the European Year for Active Aging 2012 the next world conference of the International Society for Gerontechnology will take place in Eindhoven, Netherlands, in the Land of the Innovator, the local name of the campus of Eindhoven University of Technology. The ISG appointed Professor Johanna E.M.H. van Bronswijk PhD in the conference chair. She decided to cooperate with Professor Ger J. Maas MSc to combine the 2012 conferences of the ISG (International Society for Gerontechnology) and the ISARC (International Symposium for Automation and Robotics in Construction). ISARC's mother association, IAARC, is the premier global organization dedicated to the advancement of Automation and Robotics in Construction, including civil and building engineering, machine automation, robotics applications to construction, information technologies, planning, logistics, etc. Its endeavor in automation and robotics has an extensive overlap with the research problems seen in gerontechnology.

ISG*ISARC2012 is the name given to this special collaboration that aims at work, leisure and robotics for the aging to answer the question "Who is afraid of aging?" Frans J.M. van Gassel is the secretary of the combined conference, as well as the Secretary-General of ISARC.

During the three conference days (Wednesday to Friday) there will be keynotes, leading edge technology events, symposia, oral sessions, exhibitions, and virtual site visits at the GeronTechnoPlatform. Both a master class for

young scientists and the IAARC academy are planned for two days before the conference.

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PROFESSIONAL NEWS

2012 European year for active ageing

After a successful public consultation, the European Commission released a proposal to designate 2012 as the 'European Year for Active Ageing', which the European Parliament and Council are expected to endorse by May 2011. The proposed EY Active Ageing 2012 will aim at mobilizing policy makers and stakeholders at European, national, regional and local level in order to increase older people's contribution in society in working longer, acting as volunteers and staying healthy and independent longer.

EY Active Ageing 2012 objectives include:

(i) To raise general awareness of the value of active ageing in order to highlight the useful contribution older persons make to society and the economy;

(ii) To stimulate debate and develop mutual learning, to identify and disseminate good practice and to encourage cooperation and synergies;

(iii) To offer a framework for commitment to enable Member States and stakeholders at all levels to develop policies through specific activities and to commit to specific objectives related to active ageing.

EY Active Ageing 2012 invites stakeholders at all levels to commit to activities and objectives in the run-up year 2011 so that tangible results can be presented in 2012. The European Commission will set up before the summer of 2011 the website of the EY2012 to document commitments and achievements. The commitments can relate to many areas and take different forms, such as public debate or events to raise awareness, taking stock of situation and obstacles, or developing an active ageing strategy. Examples for commitments include national governments raising employment rates of older workers, fostering senior entrepreneurship, or promoting access of older people to education and ICT. Local and regional authorities could join the Age-friendly City Program of WHO, or increase opportunities for senior volunteering. Companies and social partners, on the other hand, are requested to introduce age management strategies, and adapt working conditions to the needs of older workers.

EY Active Ageing 2012 is building on a number of existing EU programs and activities, such as Active ageing in employment (European Social Fund, Microcredit Facility), Active ageing through social participation (Grundtvig program for adult education, European Year of Volunteering 2011), Healthy ageing and autonomous living (Research Framework and Ambient Assistant Living Program, European Regional Development Fund, Action Plan on Urban Mobility).

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iKop: International exchange of research and practice in e-Health

During the International Society for Gerontechnology 7th World Conference (May 2010) in Vancouver, the kick-off has taken place of the project of iKop, the International exchange of research and practice in e-Health. Within the next decade, the number of professional- and family carers will be insufficient to deal with the increasing demand for care. The shortage on the labor market for health care professionals becomes evident by the time the demand for care exceeds the supply¹. In order to find solutions to make the supply of care services sufficient and fitting to the demand for care, researchers, professionals, and business administrations, all in the domain of health care, work together with SMEs in the iKOP project.



iKop kick-off meeting in Vancouver, Canada, May 2010; from left to right: Yvonne Schikhof (R-UAS), Jacqueline Dijkstra (U-UAS), Helianthe S.M. Kort, iKop coordinator, Antony Sterns (Creative Action LLC, a USA SME), Madj Alwan (CAST), and Herman Bouma (ISG)

The consortium consists of the International Society for Gerontechnology (ISG), Utrecht University of Applied Sciences (U-UAS), Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences (R-UAS), the Smart Homes Foundation, and the Center for Aging Services Technologies (CAST). Other academic networks involved include those of the IAGG (International Association for Gerontology and Geriatrics). SMEs included are those of the network of the Smart Homes Foundation, as well as one SME from the USA. Questions currently posed by SMEs may be categorized in issues concerning: (i) home automation systems, (ii) financing and reimbursement, and (iii) the use of websites.

These organizations work together to transfer research findings on the use of innovative telehealth and telecare services to the industry. The goal of the project is to provide older adults with the options to keep functioning independently and to age-in-place.

The central question of the project reads: which criteria are to be fulfilled in order to enable e-Health services to (i) be understandable for professionals, (ii) be used by older adults, (iii) lessen the burden of care, and (iv) enable people to remain living in their own home?

During the project period (under)graduate students, lecturers and researchers of U-UAS, R-UAS and Simon Fraser University will study the questions posed.

First results were presented at the 'Domotics and Smart Living' event (Eindhoven, November 2010) that was organized by the Smart Homes Foundation.

Final results are scheduled to be presented at ISG*ISARC2012 in June 2012, in Eindhoven.

The project is still open for other SMEs.

Acknowledgement

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