

The book provides a rich spectrum of ongoing activities and ongoing reflection on the interplay between developments in society stemming from demography and developments stemming from technology. Fascination by these two mainstreams in society, usually so far apart but here so close and intertwined, is radiated throughout this valuable volume that fortunately has now appeared.

Herman Bouma  
e-mail: [heebouma@xs4all.nl](mailto:heebouma@xs4all.nl)

---

## ISG BUSINESS

### **Fourth International Congress on Gerontechnology is a Success!**

The presentations were inspiring...the collegiality was pleasurable...the surroundings were beautiful...by all accounts the Fourth International Conference held in Miami in November 2002 was a great success!

One of the unique characteristics of the Gerontechnology Congress is its international flavor. There were 172 attendees at the congress representing: Brazil, Canada, England, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and 20 of the United States.

The scope of the topics covered at the congress illustrates the breadth of the topic of gerontechnology. This is exemplified by the keynote addresses as were published in the congress issue of this Journal, Gerontechnology 2(1): Life-Long Learning, Technology Based Caregiver Research, Aging and Technology in Brazil, Mobility and Safety, the Older Worker, Elderly and Computers, Assistive Technology, Global Networking Dynamics, and Smart Home Technology.

Gerontechnology is a multidisciplinary field focusing on effectiveness in creating technological environments for innovative and independent living and social partici-

pation in good health, comfort, and safety. An important function of ISG international congresses is to enable the exchange of ideas amongst people from different countries as well as across disciplines and work contexts. Attendees at the congress were employees of universities, national funding agencies, private industries, nursing homes, research centers, and medical facilities. These individuals represented the disciplines of architecture, computer science, engineering, ergonomics, gerontology, human factors, management, medicine, nursing, psychology, psychiatry, rehabilitation engineering, robotics, and telecommunications. These facets represent the essence of the International Society for Gerontechnology (ISG).

Tremendous efforts are required for a conference of this scope to be successful. We offer our thanks to all of the people who contributed in so many ways to this meeting including all of the presenters and attendees. Thanks especially to Darnella Campbell, Betty McGehee, and Tracy Bestor from the Florida State University Center for Professional Development. We especially appreciate the hard work of the student/research associate volunteers (you may remember these folks who were there to assist with audiovisual needs, session timing, and overall support). From Florida State University: Patricia Holley and Tiffany Jastrzembski; from the University of Miami: Trinidad Argüelles, Chin Chin Lee, and Mario Hernandez; and from Georgia Institute of Technology: Travis Bowles, Jamey Hickman, Anne McLaughlin, Tim Nichols, Rich Pak, Julian Sanchez, and Aideen Stronge. Also, thanks to Beth Charness for all her support (and feeding) of the Program Committee.

The conference sponsors also deserve our sincere appreciation: Florida State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Miami, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, the Herman Bouma Foundation for Gerontechnology, the

Alzheimer's Association, and the Center for Research and Education on Aging and Technology Enhancement (CREATE), which is funded by the National Institutes of Health (National Institute on Aging).

If you were unable to attend the meeting, we are sorry you missed it. However, you may view all of the abstracts and the full text of the keynote addresses in *Gerontechnology*, Volume 2(1). We recommend that you mark your calendars for May 24-27, 2005 for the Fifth International Congress on Gerontechnology, which will be held in Nagoya, Japan.

W. A. Rogers, N. Charness, A. D. Fisk, S. Czaja, Miami, USA  
e-mail: wr43@prism.gatech.edu

---

## **DRAFT –MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NOVEMBER 10, 2002, MIAMI, USA**

Present: 36 congress participants and board members from different countries.

Apologies: Secretary-general Jan Graafmans

### **1. Welcome**

President of ISG, Vappu Taipale opened the meeting at 18 pm and welcomed the participants. Marja Vaarama was elected as secretary for the meeting

### **2. Announcements**

Annelies van Bronswijk pointed out that the journal needs good papers. Membership fee 100€ includes journal subscription.

### **3. Reports**

*Executive board report:*

The international society for Gerontechnology has been presented at many congresses during the last period in EU, US and Japan. A seminar on mobility

has been organised.

*Publication committee*

The Newsletter has now been discharged. The journal is now the predominant media for ISG.

*Education*

Harriet Berthold said that a questionnaire has been mailed widely but only a little feedback has been received. The difficulty seems to be that the word "gerontechnology" is not very easy to define and people find it unclear. There is still a lot of activities in the field, although the word gerontechnology is not as such used.

*Finances*

Annelies gave a short overview. The society needs new members, and all should be active in recruiting of them.

*Research and development*

Marja Vaarama has studied the possibility to set up a specific data base on gerontechnology. Members were very positive but pointed out the big risks with such a task. Based on this feed-back it was decided to give up the idea of such a database. Some members told they did not get the questionnaire.

*3:rd conference*

Richard Pieper said that the publication has been produced. It was very hard to get the inputs from the authors. The problem for the conference was that there were a lot of competing conferences at the same time, still over 250 persons participated in the congress. The overall financial result was a deficit. The proceedings were sponsored. The conference as such was very successful. We could in the future have broader conferences, perhaps in co-operation with other committees.

*4:th conference*

Neil Charness told that the conference has been attended by some 161 people. The goal was to get 200, so there is an economical deficit, which will be covered by the

universities. The proceedings are published in the form of a special issue of the Journal of Gerontechnology. 6 keynote speakers, 6 symposia, 74 papers and 22 posters.

## Elections

Board: Annelies van Bronswijk as a new member

President: Herman Bouma (new)

Treasurer: L.G.H (Wiet) Koren (new)

Vice Presidents: Neil Charness(continuing) and Mitsuo Nagamachi (new)

Secretary general: Jan Ekberg (new)

Member: Richard Pieper (continuing)

Country representatives: Old members continue. The list of names and addresses will be published on the ISG web sites. Possible changes can be communicated to the secretary general Jan Ekberg.

e-mail address: [jan.ekberg@stakes.fi](mailto:jan.ekberg@stakes.fi)

## Future Activities 2002-2005

Fifth World Congress of Gerontechnology will be held in 24-27 May 2005 in Nagoya, Japan.

## Other Business

None

## Next meeting

In conjunction of the next congress in Nagoya, in 2005.

Vappu Taipale

Chairman of the meeting

Marja Vaarama

Secretary of the meeting

---

## Vappu Taipale and Jan Graafmans, two new honorary members of the ISG

In Miami in the first meeting of the new Board at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference in November 2002, two new Honorary Members were appointed for life: Vappu

Taipale from Finland and Jan Graafmans from the Netherlands, currently living in Belgium. Both are 'inventors' of the multi disciplinary field of Gerontechnologist from the very beginning.

## Vappu Taipale (1940)

has been the Director General of the National Research and Development Center for Welfare and Health (STAKES) since 1992. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the



National Technology Agency of Finland (TEKES) and vice-chair of the Board of Directors of the Academy of Finland.

Born in 1940, she is married with 4 children and 4 grandchildren. She acted as professor in child psychiatry at the University of Kuopio from 1980 to 1982.

Dr. Taipale was in Finland Minister of Health from 1982 to 1983 and Minister of Social Affairs from 1983 to 1984. She has acted as advisor and chairperson to a number of Finnish state committees on social and health affairs. As Expert to the EU on Ageing she acted as chairperson of COST A5 (Ageing and Technology) from 1991 to 1996 and of the working group of the European Technology Assessment Network Action (ETAN) on 'Ageing Population and Technology Challenges and Opportunities' of the European Commission in 1998. She has also acted as chair of the International Society of Gerontechnology 1997-2002 and as chairperson of the Fifth Framework Programme External Advisory Group on Key Action "The Ageing Population" 1998-2002. In 2001 Dr Taipale was offered the membership of the Council of the United Nations University until 2006.

Vappu Taipale was the first president of the International Society for Gerontechnology. At her retirement from this post at the 4th international Congress of Gerontechnology in Miami (FL, USA), she was elected honorary member of ISG.

**Jan Graafmans** (1951) studied mechanical engineering, ergonomics, and health technology at Eindhoven University of Technology and came to work within the interfaculty unit Biomedical and Health Technology (BMGT) directed by the late Tonny Brouwers. Together they took the initiative for an international Congress on Technology for Aging People. It took place in Eindhoven in 1991 and for this congress they coined the term 'Gerontechnology'. When Tonny Brouwers reached retirement age, Jan Graafmans succeeded him and parallel to BMGT, the Institute for Gerontechnology was founded in which, with his characteristic zeal, Jan took a very active part both nationally and internationally. In 1997 Jan Graafmans was one of the founding fathers of the International Society for Gerontechnology of which he became Secretary-General. At his retirement from this post at the 4th international Congress of Gerontechnology in Miami (FL, USA), he was elected honorary member of ISG. His present position is Secretary General of CESAER, an international body of some 50 Universities of Technology, based in Leuven (Belgium).



*J. Ekberg*  
e-mail: [jan.ekberg@stakes.fi](mailto:jan.ekberg@stakes.fi)  
*H. Bouma*  
e-mail: [heebouma@xs4all.nl](mailto:heebouma@xs4all.nl)

## Gerontechnology Volume 1

The attentive reader of this journal might have noticed changes lately. These have to do with a change in publisher. The first volume of Gerontechnology has been published by HolaPress, Valkenswaard, the Netherlands. In the middle of the production of Gerontechnology 2(1), the congress issue, the publisher defaulted. After some deliberations your editors as well as the board of the society decided that ISG would become the publisher.

Now that we have arrived at issue 2 of the second volume it is good to look back to see what we have achieved. In the first year of the journal a total of 37 peer-reviewed contributions have been accepted. This amounts to about 80% of the received manuscripts. However, about half of them were invited manuscripts for the first 2 issues. Another 7% is still in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> round of the peer-reviewing process, while 13% has been refused in the preparation of the first volume.

The editors are grateful to the peers that have refereed the potential contributions to the journal. To obtain our scientific goals peer-reviewers are even more important than editors. Each review or original has been judged by at least 2 peers, while shorties usually have 1 or 2 peers judging. In addition to the members of the editorial board these active peers include the following professionals:

**Belgium:** Jan A.M. Graafmans, Christine Marking, Jos Spaepen;

**Finland:** Päivi Topo

**Germany:** Heinz Jürgen Kaiser

**Netherlands:** Henk A. Becker, Don G. Bouwhuis, Hein Damen, Cornelis H. Doevendans, Wouter Dreschler, Evert Hasselaar, Armin Kohlrausch, Ludovicus G.H. Koren, Helianthe S.M. Kort, Johan Molenbroek, Cor E.E. Pernot, Kees Roos, Jos J.A.M. Smeets, Raymond Veldhuis, Cor Vermeulen, Jac. S.M.H. Wismans.

**USA:** Karlene Ball, Joyce Colling, Eric Tangalos

Members of the editorial board have also contributed with news, ideas, and helpful criticism. During the year some mutations took place. Unfortunately we lost Michel Frossard to a deadly illness (see obituary on page 220). From this issue on Don Bouwhuis will take the place of Huib de Ridder. Welcome Don! And thanks for your contributions Huib!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> volume of Gerontechnology, that is halfway now, should bring a doubling of