

**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).



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## 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

subscriptions and an enlargement of the editorial board with delegates from Asian, African, and South-American countries. We are also looking for a 3<sup>rd</sup> editor to cope with the growing number of manuscripts to be processed. All these is meant to make Gerontechnology an accepted real WORLD journal. We expect you all to help to attain this goal.

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## News - World News

### WORLD NEWS

#### European Year of People with Disabilities

European Council Decision of 3 December 2001 calls for 2003 to be designated as 'The European Year of People with Disabilities'. Although older persons are usually not disabled in the classical sense of the word, declining capacities are also taken into account in the decision of the European Council. Earlier we reported on the start of the activities; see Gerontechnology 1(3):213-214. The year should support progress towards achieving equal rights for people with disabilities. Across Europe attention is focussed on the many areas of European society where barriers and discrimination still exist for the 1 in 10 Europeans with a disability. A dedicated website [www.eypd2003.org](http://www.eypd2003.org) shows all completed and future events for both professionals and consumers. It also has links to the national campaigns websites.

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## News - Other News

### Members of European Parliament write European Commission

*"For a better coherence of ageing issues"*  
Statement to the European Council Meeting

The Intergroup on Ageing is an informal discussion group within the European

Parliament. It brings together MEPs from all political groups and nationalities to discuss ageing related issues. Created in 1984, the Intergroup is now chaired by a bureau composed of 8 co-Presidents : Guido Podestà (PPE, Italy); Stephen Hughes (PSE; UK); Maria-Liese Flemming (PPE, Austria); Marieke Sanders (ELDR, Netherlands); Bartho Pronk (PPE, Netherlands); Jean Lambert (Green, UK); Gerard Collins (UEN, Ireland);and Jan Andersson (PSE, Sweden).

The Intergroup on Ageing calls on the Member States:

- I To follow up and build on the Lisbon Strategy in these areas and commit themselves to reaching its targets;
- II To prepare fully for both the social and economic consequences of the ageing of the European population, to better co-ordinate the different ongoing policies, and to mainstream ageing issues in all EU policies;
- III To commit themselves to give the European Parliament and civil society a real voice in the further developments of the Open method of Co-ordination between member states on social and ageing issues;
- IV To ensure a decent level of pensions for all men and women irrespective of their social status (married/separated/divorced) and eliminate gender discrimination in pension systems;
- V To develop innovative and creative solutions to redefine the role of older workers on the labour market and to fight age discrimination;