

of local chapters of the society, and to have a source of local news, the ISG has instituted regional representatives overseeing a population of at least 30 million persons. These officers may be contacted for collaborative research, joint organizing of events, or the regional members list. Regional representatives receive a free subscription to the journal for each 30 active ISG members in their region.

Two regional representatives have recently been appointed:

Region	Regional representative
Benelux countries	Ir. Jan A.M. Graafmans
Italy	Dario Bracco

The board of ISG is grateful for the enthusiasm of these first two representatives and expects that it will give a new impetus to both national and international gerontechnological activities.

Herman Bouma  
President of ISG

## World News

### AUSTRALIA: AUSTRALIAN AGEING RESEARCH AGENDA

The trend towards the structural ageing of populations in industrialised countries has been accepted and much expertise and effort has been devoted to researching the pertinent issues in each particular country. In order to provide a sound evidence base for policy makers and practitioners, a framework for an Australian Ageing Research Agenda has been established. Part of this framework is the Building Ageing Research Capacity (BARC) Project that includes the Ageing Research Online (ARO) web site that was launched in September 2003.

More info: [www.aro.gov.au](http://www.aro.gov.au)

### FRANCE: INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY ON NUTRITION AND AGING

The International Academy on Nutrition & Aging aims to contribute, in a practical way, to knowledge of problems concerning nutrition and aging and to the development of solutions through research, training programs and the spread of information.

The Academy is involved in the following areas: research, scientific publication and distribution, workshops, and training programs. Areas of activities include nutrition in relation to: needs of older people, prevention of

pathologies associated with aging, longevity, quality of aging, as well as causes and consequences of malnutrition, oral and enteral feeding, functional foods.

More info: [www.healthandage.com/html/min/iananda/index.htm](http://www.healthandage.com/html/min/iananda/index.htm)

### UKRAINE: THE 5<sup>TH</sup> UKRAINIAN SCIENTIFIC-PRACTICAL CONFERENCE ON OSTEOPOROSIS

Osteoporosis is a widely spread systemic disease of the skeleton, which is characterized by low bone mass and disturbances of the osseous tissue micro-architectonics, resulting in an increased bone breakage and growing risk of fractures. The last decade, this problem has become of special importance in view of two tightly interwoven demographic processes: a dramatic rise of the share of elderly and old individuals among the general population and, in particular, an increasing number of postmenopausal women. Bone fractures influence the morbidity and mortality rates considerably. According to WHO data, number of hospital-bed days for postmenopausal females with osteoporotic proximal femur segment fractures surpasses those of breast cancer, acute myocardial infarction, chronic lung diseases, diabetes mellitus, etc.

The January 13, 2000 was declared in the headquarters of the World Health Organisation in Geneva (Switzerland) as the beginning of a World Decade of the bone-muscular pathology (The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010). The WHO General Secretary Brundtland noted that, despite the fact that the bone-muscular system has more than 150 diseases and syndromes, the medico-social and economic burden for society is primarily associated with osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, low back pains, rheumatoid arthritis and bone/joints traumas. This decade's worldwide campaign has the aim of improving the life quality of individuals with bone and joint pathology as well as of encouraging research on the diagnostics, prevention and treatment of such conditions, and improving an education in this domain.

Osteoporosis management in Ukraine is very challenging. Inadequate nutrition, environmental contamination, social crisis, hypodynamia, etc., all of them have negative impacts on bone tissue structure and functioning. This is a multidisciplinary problem, and efforts of specialists of various disciplines should be consolidated in order to resolve it. Progressive bone mass loss, chronic bone pain syndrome, appearance of non-traumatic fractures of bones and worsening life quality of patients urge researchers to develop new methods for disease diagnostics,

prevention and treatment.

That is why these problems were in the focus of attention at the 5<sup>th</sup> Ukrainian Scientific-Practical Conference 'Osteoporosis: Epidemiology, Clinic, Diagnostics and Treatment, Odessa, Ukraine, June 2-4, 2003. In total 215 participants attended, physicians as well as research workers. The latter included 14 Doctors of Medical Science, 12 Professors, 6 Docents and 32 Candidates of Medical Science from different regions of Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Belarus and Uzbekistan. The following topics were treated:

- (i) Epidemiology of osteoporosis;
- (ii) Morphogenesis of bone tissue;
- (iii) Osteoporosis and menopause;
- (iv) Osteoporosis in children;
- (v) Mechanisms of osteoporosis development;
- (vi) Clinical and x-ray data;
- (vii) Diagnosis;
- (viii) Prevention and treatment of primary and secondary osteoporosis;
- (ix) Osteoporosis and endo-prosthetics;
- (x) Osteoporosis at orthopedic pathology;
- (xi) Osteoporosis and parodontal diseases.

Satellite symposia concerned: (i) Menopause and bone/joints diseases, (ii) Pain syndromes during bones/joints diseases: mechanisms of onset, prevention and treatment, (iii) Calcium and vitamin D in osteoporosis prevention and treatment, (iv) The osseous system and parodontal diseases, and (v) Osteoporosis issues in traumatology and orthopedics.

The conference was an exceptional professional experience for all who participated, both research workers and practitioners, as it had been an excellent stage to learn about latest information and progress in the area of study on the mechanisms of osteoporosis development, diagnostics, prevention and treatment.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Ukrainian Conference on 'The Osteoporosis: Epidemiology, Clinic, Diagnosis and Treatment' will be held from April 27 to May 2, 2004 in Kiev, Ukraine.

Prof. Vladislav V. Povoroznjuk, M.D.  
President of the Ukrainian Osteoporosis Association  
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## Calendar of Events

*July 7-9, 2004*

### **9th International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs**

Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France

Organizer: ICCHP

Info: [www.icchp.org/](http://www.icchp.org/)

*October 4-12, 2004*

### **ISAAC 2004 Biennial Conference**

Natal, Brazil

Organizer: International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Info: [www.isaac2004.fee.unicamp.br](http://www.isaac2004.fee.unicamp.br)

*November 4-5, 2004*

### **4th European Congress on Nutrition and Health in Elderly People**

Toulouse, France

Organizer: International Academy on Nutrition and Aging

Info: [www.healthandage.com/html/min/iananda/docs/ELDERLY\\_PRG.pdf](http://www.healthandage.com/html/min/iananda/docs/ELDERLY_PRG.pdf)

*November 19-23, 2004*

### **'Technology and Aging' event Convention of the Gerontological Society of America,**

Washington, DC, USA

Organizer: Formal Interest Group 'Technology & Aging'

Info: [www.gsa-tag.org/2004/index.html](http://www.gsa-tag.org/2004/index.html)

*May 24-27, 2005*

### **5th International Conference on Gerontechnology**

Nagoya Congress Center, Nagoya, Japan

Organizer: International Society for Gerontechnology

Info: <http://www2.convention.co.jp/5isg/>

*November, 2005*

### **'Technology and Aging' event Convention of the Gerontological Society of America,**

New Orleans, LA, USA

Organizer: Formal Interest Group 'Technology & Aging'

Info: [www.gsa-tag.org/2005/index.html](http://www.gsa-tag.org/2005/index.html)