

## BEST PRACTICE

### New developments in Dutch walkers

The walker or rollator enables people to walk and thus remain independent. Going shopping, visiting friends, or just taking a walk are made more easy. Whenever the user gets tired, s/he can sit on the walker to take a rest. This presumes that the walker is of sturdy construction and adapted to the proper dimensions of the user. KBOH, the independent knowledge and information centre for products and accompanying services for older people and for people with physical restrictions in the Netherlands, administers the general 'GQ' or 'Guaranteed Quality' label. GQ goes beyond European norms, such as NEN-EN-ISO 11199-2, for example by requiring safety provisions when folding the walker, and proper usability of the brakes. GQ tests of walkers are performed by TNO using the following testing standards: Homologation Directive L01 – walking aids: Rollators and Walking frames.



*Curve of Jörn Mols, jorn@houseofconcepts.nl, First Price in the Design Competition of Rollator, Eindhoven, October 16-26, 2004 (Photo: J.E.M.H. van Bronswijk)*

Presently KBOH is involved in developing a more special usability label for walkers: the 'Label for usage Quality' (LuQy). The basis is a judgement of usability aspects as derived from end users qualifications: walking, leaning, riding, brake, carry & store and accessories. Both the judge-

ments as to each separate aspect and the total score are printed on a label that comes with every new type of walker. The label is presently in development, and still has to stand the proof of practice. The aim is that potential users can select the proper walker for the types of usage that they have in mind (indoor-outdoor; weight; ease of folding, carrying loads, stability etc).

Apart from the types of usage, other aspects have to be taken into account such as ease of maintenance; for example the brakes have to be inspected and/or adjusted regularly. Also the handling of irregularities of the surface, such as with thresholds and sidewalks, and the stability of direction has to be ensured. KBOH aims at continuous interaction with both users and industry to bring improvements to the market without delay.

As to acceptability, walkers recently were the subject of a design competition ([www.mijnrollator.nl](http://www.mijnrollator.nl)). Although these new designs need still to be tested for their usability, the fact that walkers are taken as the subject of design bears the future promise of more general acceptability. This way, the ultimate purpose of KBOH, increasing autonomy and participation in society of the users, may approach. KBOH disseminates its knowledge through a website ([www.kboh.nl](http://www.kboh.nl)), as well as in brochures and workshops.

For more information about Rollators, the GQ Homologations or the LuQy label please contact KBOH telnr. + 31 348 436700, [info@kboh.nl](mailto:info@kboh.nl) of [www.kboh.nl](http://www.kboh.nl). Ed van Herk, e-mail [e.vanherk@kboh.nl](mailto:e.vanherk@kboh.nl)

## IN MEMORIAM

### Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), health statistician

Florence Shore -named Francis Nightingale after her father changed his name to obtain an inheritance- was born on 12 May 1820

as the second daughter of William Edward Shore or Nightingale (1794-1874), and Frances (Fanny) Smith (1788-1880). Florence grew up in wealthy circumstances and was expected to become an admired woman in the social circle around her parents. Already in early life she felt that she didn't fit into the pattern of a woman from the higher class. Her interest was directed to social questions especially to nursing in hospitals and the military. She observed the many unnecessary victims of bad hygienic conditions in the army and the lower classes. Evidently, these were not the issues her parents wanted her to focus on. They decided Florence to make a tour across Europe to draw her attention to things more appropriate for a woman in the upper class. In this attempt they failed. Florence didn't hesitate about her ambition to improve the hygiene in hospitals and the nursing practice in general. Gradually the mission of her life became clear.

To realize these ideals she mobilised her talents in many directions. First of all because of her human concern for the well being of the soldiers in the army during the Crimean war (1854-1856), the legend of Florence Nightingale came into life. She will never have been forgotten as the 'Lady-in-Chief' and 'The Lady with the lamp'. To convince the British government of necessary investments in better hygienic circumstances, she used her contacts in these circles and her talent for statistics. She thought about the organization of statistical observations and more especially about the visual representation of the data. Doing this in her way, she was able to show the benefits of the investments she suggested to politicians. The crucial importance of relevant measurements and the visual representation of the statistical data for the political decision making process, became clear by the statistical work of Florence Nightingale amongst others. Because of her contribution to especially the descriptive statistics Florence was elected in 1860 as

the first woman to be a fellow of the Statistical Society.

Florence Nightingale has become a legend through her work in formulating basic nursing and sanitary principles. In convincing politicians of the benefits of her proposals she was successful because of her human concern and the language of her visualization of the relevant statistical data. Nowadays, political decisions are supported and motivated by statistical analysis and prediction. The statistical work of Florence inspired this development.



*Florence in her later years; picture by courtesy of the Florence Nightingale Museum Trust, Florence Nightingale Museum, St Thomas' Hospital, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EW, Phone. 00 44 20 7620 0374 ; Opening Times: Monday - Friday 10.00 - 17.00, Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays 10.00 - 16.30, Closed Good Friday, Easter Sunday, 24 December - 2 January <http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk/>*

This fruitful and legendary life came to an end by her death on 13 August 1910. Her life may be a source of inspiration for scientists in the field of health and human welfare. The possibilities to propagate the appropriate measures to be taken in politics are now enormous in view of modern computer and communication

technology. In these efforts a multidisciplinary approach of different kinds of scientist is indispensable. The enthusiasm of Florence in combining different points of view for the ultimate goal of human well being, is perhaps her most significant contribution to future generations.

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## BOOK REVIEW

**R.W. Pew and S. B. VanHemel, (eds), 2004. Technology for adaptive aging. National Academies Press, Washington, D. C., 305 pages. ISBN 0-309-09116-0 (pbk.), 0-309- 52 923-9 (PDF). Price for paperback and PDF is US\$ 53.00. The entire book may be read free at the website for the National Academies Press, [www.nap.edu](http://www.nap.edu).**

Although not obvious from its enigmatic title, the primary goal of the workshop described in this book was to examine how current and emerging technologies might fill some of the needs of aged persons in current and future age cohorts. A related goal was to identify and address personal, societal and economic factors that would act as facilitators or barriers to the development, marketing and use of technology targeted toward older persons.

**Technology for adaptive aging** contains the proceedings and background papers for a workshop conducted by the National Research Council's Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Coeditor Richard Pew is an eminent human factors specialist and a former president of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. Susan VanHemel is the National Research Council staff person assigned to the workshop. The workshop sponsor was the Behavioral and Social

Research Office of the National Institute on Aging (NIA). This NIA Office is the principal supporter of psychological and social science research related to aging in the USA and has supported human factors related research for over a decade. Providing support for research and development of technology that does not involve rigorous hypothesis-driven research or clinical trials is difficult to justify under the guidelines used to evaluate research proposals submitted to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIA was interested in using a NIH funding mechanism called the "Small Business Innovation Research" to foster technology transfer from research and development stages to the market. The recommendations from the workshop may result in one or more calls for competitive proposals by the NIA for such research. One of the strengths of the book is the detailed discussion of the processes involved in development, dispersal and distribution of technology based products. Although the context for this discussion was the United States, the issues raised are applicable to a variety of settings involving different mixes of government, non-profit and for-profit money sources.

The book is divided into two major parts: an integrative description of the workshop results and its implications prepared by the Steering Committee of the workshop (40 pages); and several invited papers by subject matter experts (240 pages). The latter fall into two groups. The first is a discussion of cross cutting issues involving age differences and age changes in cognition (K.W. Schaie), perceptual motor performance (C. J. Ketcham and G. E. Stelmach), and research issues in evaluating the usefulness of technology to meet the needs of older persons (C. Hertzog and L. Light). The chapters on cognitive aging and motor control are up to date and both are useful in describing the limitations of laboratory-based

research to the applied settings in which technology is developed. The methodology chapter should be of particular interest to gerontechnology because many issues related to non traditional research and development issues are thoughtfully analyzed, e.g., the selection of persons trying the technology, the many techniques for measuring person/technology interactions, the complexities of identifying research questions and hypotheses in naturalistic settings, the establishment of baseline comparisons, etc. The breadth of the discussion of methodology is significantly broader than earlier efforts in this field.

The second group of subject matter papers deals with the six domains of application chosen for the workshop: **communication** (S. Kemper and J.C. Lecal), **employment** (S. J. Czaja and P. Moen), **health** (E. Dishman, J. Matthews and J. Dunbar-Jacob), **learning** (S.J. Willis), **living arrangements** (A. Horgas and G. Abowd), and **transportation** (J. Meyer). The papers are generally well written, contain up-to-date references and are highly relevant to the purposes of the workshop. The papers on employment and learning emphasize the importance of secular changes in technology-user interfaces, retirement age, health, education, and in the 50-year accumulation of data on age differences in cognition and motor skills since the publication of Welford's **Ageing and human skill**<sup>1</sup>. They conclude that necessities for post-retirement employment will become more widespread in the near future, and that technology will provide opportunities for nontraditional work settings.

In various ways, the subject matter papers successfully addressed factors related to the acceptance of technology by older users. Those factors include: personal control, autonomy and dignity; customization and universal design;

culture and language; expectations and stereotyping; privacy; safety; trust; training and usability. The last four are of particular importance for applications of technology related to limitations in health and functioning. The limitations and specificity of universal design related to its opposite—customization—is well treated in the papers on communication and technology and everyday health.

Four broad issues related to the successful introduction of new technologies were discussed on pages 15-19: the **processes of technology transfer** from research to manufacturing; **legal constraints**; the **changing dynamics of the market**; and **economics of the market**. The complexity of technology transfer implies high costs and uncertain outcomes at various levels of decision making during the process. The discussion of economics of the marketplace identified four approaches to underwriting the cost of technology development and dispersal: **direct government contributions** through grants and contracts; **subsidization of costs through medical insurance programs like Medicare and Medicaid in the USA**; **private health insurance subsidies**; and of course, **the direct payment for technology by the consumer**.

Although it was a workshop goal, no list of new technologies to support the aging population came from the papers or the discussion. "At this stage in the field, there is simply not enough mutual understanding between specialists in aging research and technology developers to enable sensible, prioritized development of such a list." (p.35). The major recommendations of the report include:

- (i) Government support of educational efforts between researchers and technology developers and direct support of translational research;
- (ii) Involvement of older persons in

- technology development processes;
- (iii) Pre-market evaluation studies;
- (iv) Systems implementation studies of the broad impact of new technology;
- (v) Technology friendly improvements in infrastructure particularly in home settings;
- (vi) Improved training and education of users of technology;
- (vii) Greater use of human factors practitioners and practices in technology development.

There was no mention of gerontechnology as a discipline and little mention of significant work in technology and aging in Europe and Asia in the proceedings of this workshop. On page 12, we read, "...the limited resources for the workshop led the steering committee to select mostly American researchers as authors..." Research conducted in other countries is frequently cited in the workshop papers and some authors have worked with foreign scientists, both here and abroad. In fact, the organization and selection of subject matter of the workshop topics closely is in many ways similar to the Matrix of Application Domains and Areas of Technology Impact described by van Bronswijk, Bouma and Fozard<sup>2</sup>. The subject matter paper on everyday health by Dishman, Matthews, and Dunbar-Jacob describes a three dimensional model of health-related technology that includes most of the elements of the Matrix: Adaptation domains, e.g., physical function, social interaction; level of prevention, e.g., primary, secondary, tertiary; and site of operation, e.g., remote, personal/mobile (Figure 7-1, p. 185). The elaboration of the person-environment interaction model that is the foundation of gerontechnology as a discipline emerges in multiple forms under various rubrics.

The book includes a list of workshop attendees, the workshop agenda, and biosketches of the authors of the papers

and workshop principals. The list of participants and attendees is long on researchers and short on representatives of industries that would translate research to products and manufacture products under discussion. Two of the 21 listed authors and discussants were from industry (Intel and General Motors). The 57 workshop guests include seven representatives from industry. This imbalance has been characteristic of several earlier conferences on technology and aging.

I strongly recommend this book to readers of **Gerontechnology**. It represents a serious attempt to deal with the challenges of making technology serve the needs and desires of older persons and it provides a good description of the opportunities for the use of technology for this group.

#### References

1. Welford AT. Ageing and human skill. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1958.
2. Bronswijk JEMH van, Bouma H, Fozard JL. Technology for Quality of Life: an enriched taxonomy. *Gerontechnology*, 2002;2(2);169-172

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## ISG BUSINESS

### Welcome to Nagoya

The term Gerontechnology born in Europe just prior to the 1990's has been translated into Japanese as a combination of the words for "ageing" and "engineering". In Japan where the population has become aged very rapidly, it is sure that the technology from this field will be increasingly put into use. Any sort of wide application of this technology will require strong interdisciplinary links between the domains

of medicine, physiology, psychology, sociology, ergonomics and mechatronics as well. We are proud of the very important roles played by this international conference of Gerontechnology and the activities that have continued over the years in the world.

The 5th Conference of The International Society for Gerontechnology - Gerontechnology 2005 - will be gathering gerontechnology specialists from around the world in Japan on May 24-27, 2005. The global technology and information that will result from discussions in this meeting will be extremely useful to Japanese facing the aged society, while the conference itself will greatly help QOL of people in the 21st century.

The conference is staged about once every three years, yet this is the first time for it to be held in Asia, which brings high hopes of a strong contribution to information-sharing especially in East Asia. The hosting city Nagoya is one of Japan's most prominent manufacturing areas and much interested in Gerontechnology. We can imagine how this conference will help to improve the work environment of highly aged workers that are likely to increase in number in the future.

We are asking for your understanding of the conference implications as well as your cooperation and support in making Gerontechnology 2005 a success.



*Noritaka Shimizu, Senior Advisor to the board of Toyota Motor Corporation & Chairman of the board of Toyota Housing Corporation, and president of the Organizing Committee of the 5th International Conference of The International Society for Gerontechnology.*



*Mitsuo Nagamachi, Head of Faculty of Human and Social Environment, Hiroshima International University, vice-president of the International Society for Gerontechnology, and general chair of the conference*



*Kazuo Yamaba, Local Organizing Committee e-mail: yamaba@n-fukushi.ac.jp*

### **News from the Conference**

The program committee received a total of 125 abstracts for oral and poster sessions. In addition 7 symposia and a luncheon seminar have been planned, as well as the General Assembly of the International Society of Gerontechnology (ISG) on Thursday afternoon, just before the banquet. Authors have been notified of acceptance or refusal of their contribution. We expect the authors to be busy with their 4 camera-ready pages to be included in the proceedings. Deadline: January 15, 2005. Authors from a wide variety of countries are contributing. In particular we welcome the presentations from countries such as Korea and Malaysia that were largely absent from earlier congresses.

Keynote speakers include Prof. Akihiro Igata, Nagoya University of Art and Sciences, Japan, on "Creation of the successful aging society"; Prof. Samuel Landsberger, Rancho

Rehabilitation Engineering Center, USA on "Robotics for Human Support: Assistive Devices and Universal Design", and Prof. Juhani Ilmarinen, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland on "Working longer requires new dimensions of work life and management". The symposia are devoted to timely subjects, such as:

- (i) Gerontechnology in the prevention of senile dementia, physical inactivity, and psychological degeneration  
Invited speaker: Prof. Yuzo Sato (Japan)
- (ii) Standards for Accessibility -ISO/IEC Guide 71  
Invited speaker: Dr. Yoshikazu Goto (Japan)
- (iii) Robotics and Supporting System for Assistive Technology
- (iv) Universal Design- Toward more fulfilling life in one's later years  
Invited speaker: Dr. James Harrison (UK)
- (v) Challenges in Aging and Work from Asia to Eastern Europe  
Invited speaker: Dr. Natalia Bobko (Ukraine)
- (vi) Finnish- Japanese Development Project for the Care of Older people  
Invited speaker: Prof. Vappu Taipale (Finland)
- (vii) Gerontechnological Paradigms Today

The luncheon seminar is devoted to "Implementation of Gerontechnology in Industry" with invited speeches from companies, and successful stories in the application of Gerontechnology.

Please visit: <http://www2.convention.co.jp/5isg/> for more information and to register as a participant. Registration before January 15, 2005 will cost ¥45,000 only, while students may attend for as low a cost as ¥8,000. All payments by credit card only.



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**Who is who: The Editorial Board (2)**



HANS-WERNER WAHL,  
MEMBER OF THE  
EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof. Hans-Werner Wahl (1954) studied Psychology at the Universities of Trier and Heidelberg. His interest in ageing research got strong impulses as a research associate of Prof. Margret Baltes at the Free University of Berlin from 1984 to 1988. The scholarly model of Margret Baltes worked well and his dissertation completed in 1989 at the Free University of Berlin dealt with ageing in institutional environments. After research stays in the U.S. with Dr. Lawton and Prof. Bengtson, he worked closely with Prof. Paul B. Baltes as project coordinator of the Berlin Ageing Study. 'Habilitation' happened in 1995 at the University of Heidelberg, his 'ageing setting' since 1992, under the excellent supervision of Prof. Lehr and backed with a fellowship of the German Research Council. In 1997, he took over the chair position of the newly established Department of Social and Environmental Gerontology at the German Centre for Research on Ageing. This department strives since then to consider the full range of environmental issues related to old age, with technology research as one of its cornerstones.

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JAMES L. FOZARD,  
MEMBER OF THE  
EDITORIAL BOARD

Convinced that the quality of aging can be enhanced through long-term engineering interventions in the built environment,

James L. Fozard spent the 1993-94 year as a visiting professor at Eindhoven University of Technology, working with founders of the university's gerontechnology program to develop its conceptual, professional and academic foundations, a collaboration that continues today. His research included assignments with the VA Normative Aging Study, the NIA Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging, and as an advisor to many longitudinal aging studies including the Longitudinal Aging Study of Amsterdam.

After completing doctoral training at Lehigh University and postdoctoral research training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, his academic career included faculty appointments at Harvard Medical School and The Johns Hopkins University. His scholarly work includes over 165 articles and chapters. His scientific autobiography was published in the Birren-Schroots volume 'History of geropsychology through autobiography' published by the American Psychological Association.  
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### UPDATED ISG BYELAWS

The byelaws are in need of updating to account for the changes that took place the last years. The new text will have a preliminary status until the General assembly in Nagoya (Japan) in May 2005, when it will be discussed with the members.

#### 1. BYE-LAWS

The Bye-Laws, and any changes of them shall be approved by the General Assembly of the Society.

#### 2. COUNCIL AND OFFICE

The Council of the Society shall consist of an Executive Board and a Board of Directors. The tasks of the Council members shall be defined by the Council. The editor-in-chief of Gerontechnology Journal is a member of the Executive Board. The administrative office of the Society shall normally be at the address of the Secretary General.

#### 3. LANGUAGE

The working language of the Society shall be English. Other languages for conferences or other scientific meetings of the Society shall be accepted, if translation into English is provided. (Exception to this Bye-Law may be made for meetings of regional chapters of the Society).

#### 4. COMMITTEES

The task of Committees is to support the Council. There are (a) Standing Committees and (b) other Committees.

Standing Committees shall be chaired by a member of the Board of Directors, (except for the Financial Committee). The Membership Committee shall be assisted by an Advisory Group consisting of regional representatives.

Other committees will be installed by the Council. Committee members must be active members or members with similar rights, appointed for a period of three years by the Council, normally during the time of the General Assembly.

The number of members in other committees shall not exceed six. Each committee shall recommend (by election) a chairperson whose appointment must also be approved by the Council.

The tasks of committees shall be those defined by the Council, and shall be published in the official journal of the society.

#### 5. EDITORS OF THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

The editors of Gerontechnology journal form a standing committee that works under an Editorial Statute (see: Gerontechnology 2003:2(3);277-278)

#### 6. SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

A Scientific Advisory Board can be created. This Board shall co-ordinate conference policy and other scientific matters between the Society and the international and national organisations. The Board will meet in connection with the triannual conference of the Society or as often as requested by at least 5 Board members, each Board member being the single representative of a national, regional or international organisation which is an Associate Member of the Society. the

Chairperson shall be the President of the Society (or nominated representative).

## 7. ADVISORY BOARD OF COMMERCIAL PROVIDERS

An Advisory Board of Commercial Advisors can be created. This Board shall advise the Council of the Society on all matters concerning co-operation between the Society and industry and other private organisations. This Board will meet in connection with the triannual conference of the Society or as often as requested by at least 5 Board members, each Board member being the single representative of an industrial member of the Society. The President of the Society (or nominated representative) shall be the Chairperson of this advisory board.

## 8. PUBLIC POLICY ADVISORY BOARD

A Public Policy Advisory Board can be created. This Board shall advise the Council of the Society on all matters concerning co-operation between the Society and not-for-profit providers, and policy matters. This Board will meet in connection with the triannual conference of the Society or as often as requested by at least 5 Board members, each Board member being the single representative of a non-profit making Organisation which is an Associate Member of the Society. The President of the Society (or nominated representative) shall be the Chairperson of this Advisory Board.

## 9. WORKING GROUPS

The Society may also establish topic oriented Working Groups. Administratively, these groups will be subgroups of the Council, but membership is open to all members of the Society. The Council will establish and dissolve them. Concerning their financial affairs, they are accountable to the Treasurer. They may give themselves a remit: but this must also be approved by the Council.

## 10. MEMBERSHIP

The Society has active members, associate members and student members.

### 10.1 Active Members

Active members are defined as individuals whose admission is approved and proposed by the Membership Committee. Active Membership must be confirmed during the first General Assembly following the membership application. Individuals are eligible for active membership: (i) If they have completed successfully at least a three year programme at an institute for higher vocational or academic education (BSc or equivalent) in a field related to gerontechnology, or (ii) if their curriculum vitae shows experience and/or interest in the area covered by the Society's objectives. In addition account shall also be taken of advice from one of the regional representatives of the Membership Advisory Group.

#### 10.1.1. Privileges, duties and rights of Active Members

- (a) Receive Gerontechnology Journal free of charge;
- (b) Benefit by reduced fees for publications of the Society such as Conference Proceedings, books, literature services, etc.;
- (c) Benefit by reduced fees for all conferences and other scientific meetings, of the Society as determined by the Conference Committee;
- (d) Enjoy representation in the General Assembly of the Society as provided by the Statutes;
- (e) Pay membership dues
- (f) Support the Society to reach its goals;
- (g) Service in Committees or on the Council (where relevant).

#### 10.1.2. Annual Subscriptions (Dues) for Active Members

Dues shall be paid, net to the Society, in the first quarter of every year upon request of the Treasurer. Membership dues will be proposed by the Council and approved by the General Assembly.

### 10.2. Associate Members

A scientific, industrial or other organisation may become an Associate Member after its application for membership has been approved by the Membership Committee. The application must be confirmed during

the first General Assembly following the membership application.

#### *10.2.1. Privileges, duties and rights of Associate Members*

- (a) Vote in the General Assembly; The number of votes in the General Assembly of an Associate Member has a maximum of 5;
- (b) Representatives of Associate Members shall meet the same eligibility criteria as mentioned in article 10.1. and shall have the same privileges and rights as defined for Active Members (Art. 10.1.1), excepts for positions as excluded in Art. 10.2.1.d.;
- (c) Obtain reduced fees for space in scientific and commercial exhibitions as determined by the Conference Committee;
- (d) Representatives of Associate Members cannot be elected for Council membership, but can be appointed in committees and advisory board;
- (e) Pay membership dues;
- (f) Support the Society to reach its goals;
- (g) Service in Committees and advisory Boards;
- (h) Associate Members shall notify the Secretary General of the name(s) of person(s) who shall represent the Associate Member in the Society and the name(s) of any representative(s) on Committees and Advisory Boards.

#### *10.2.2. Annual Subscriptions (Dues) for Associate Members*

- (a) For scientific and non-profit-making public organisations, the minimum dues for Associate Membership, shall be five times those for Active Individual Members;
- (b) For industrial organisations, the minimum dues for Associate Membership shall be ten times those for Active Individual Members;
- (c) On recommendation of the Membership Committee the Council is authorised to determine a different level of dues;
- (d) Normally, higher dues will be sought from a scientific organisation when their membership exceeds 20. In that case these dues become: Total number of

members divided by four times the due for individual membership;

- (e) Active members of the Society who are either members of a scientific organisation associated with the Society, or employee/member of another non-profit or industrial organisation associated with the Society shall pay a fee that is lower than the regular individual fee, while maintaining the same privileges, rights and duties as defined for Active Members (Art. 10.1.1. and 10.1.3.);
- (f) Dues must be paid, net to the Society, in the first quarter of every year upon request by the Treasurer.

#### *10.3 Student Members*

##### *10.3.1. Privileges, duties and Rights of Student Members*

- (a) Receive the Journal and Gerontechnology News free of charge;
- (b) Benefit by reduced fees for publications of the Society such as Conference Proceedings, books, literature services etc.;
- (c) Benefit by reduced fees for all conferences and other scientific meetings of the Society as determined by the Conference Committee;
- (d) Enjoy representation in the General Assembly of the Society, as provided by the Statutes;
- (e) Pay membership dues;
- (f) Support the Society to reach its goals;
- (g) Service in Committees;
- (h) Student members cannot serve on the Council.

##### *10.3.2. Annual Subscriptions (Dues)*

Dues must be paid in the first quarter of every year upon request of the Treasurer. Membership dues will be proposed by the Council and approved by the General Assembly.

## **11. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership (any class) may be terminated by a written declaration to the Secretary General before November 30 of that year, by death of an Active Member, or by dissolving of an Associate Member.

Membership may be terminated by the

Council if dues have not been paid for two of more years or if the member has offended severely the goals and standing of the Society.

## 12. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly shall have its normal session at the time of the triannual Conference of the Society. An extraordinary General Assembly may be also convened as under Article 10 of the Statutes.

The agenda for the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Secretary General on behalf of the Council. It shall be sent to all members of the Society, including those nominated by the Associate Members at the latest 2 weeks before the meeting, and include at least: (i) Reports from the President, Secretary General, Treasurer, and Finance Committee, (ii) Reports from the Committees, (iii) A membership overview, (iv) Details on Elections.

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## WORLD NEWS

### Aging, Disability and Independence (ICADI)

Maintaining independence and active participation in society in later life is something we all hope to be able to attain. Yet, faced with chronic health conditions or, for some, life-long or late-onset disabilities, independence can be compromised. The ability to socialize, to continue working, to enjoy recreation and leisure activities, and to carry out the activities of daily life can be jeopardized by disability in later life.

Assistive technology, home and workplace modifications, injury prevention techniques, new high technology products and applications, universal design in mainstream products, and new mobility and transportation options offer the potential for older adults to increase independence, maintain or regain employment, avoid or delay institutional care and reduce the cost of healthcare while improving quality of life. The International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence that will take place on February 1-4, 2006, will bring together researchers, practitioners, business leaders and people involved in aging policy to

focus on these issues. The conference will include sessions related to research and development, practice, products and services and policies.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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/>

September 29 - October 1, 2005

VIVA 50plus; World Ageing & Generations  
Congress 2005

University of St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland

Organizer: Swiss Association for Demographic  
and Inter-Generational Issues

Info: [www.viva50plus.org](http://www.viva50plus.org)

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)

February 1 - 4, 2006

International Conference on Aging, Disability  
and Independence (ICADI)

Hilton, St. Petersburg, Florida, USA

Organizer: University of Florida

Info: [www.icadi.phhp.ufl.edu](http://www.icadi.phhp.ufl.edu)

June 16-19, 2007

Festival of Conferences on Disability, Aging  
and Technology

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Organizer: Toronto Rehabilitation Institute

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Announcements of meetings and other events  
for the Gerontechnology Calendar should be  
submitted by e-mail to:

[j.e.m.h.v.bronswijk@tue.nl](mailto:j.e.m.h.v.bronswijk@tue.nl). The editors decide  
to include or not include the announcement  
of a certain event.