

Part III Exemplar applications consists of two chapters providing examples of how the design guidelines are applicable to work and health care. Making the work environment age-friendly states that the current generation of older adults is healthier, more diverse, and better educated than previous generations, and also more interested in remaining engaged in some form of productive work, even after retirement. A number of issues must be considered in designing work (environments) to accommodate an ageing workforce, likely to encounter personal computers on the work floor, such as workplace and equipment redesign, or the development of new and innovative training strategies. Domotic appliances and ambient intelligence are not among the solutions provided, even though these state-of-the-art technologies can bring great relief on the work floor. In 'Maximizing the usefulness and usability of health care technologies' the authors focus on health care technology. Health care is a critical concern especially to older adults, who often have at least one chronic condition, and in many cases are caregivers themselves. Assistive health care technology should be effective and safe, and attention to human factors is crucial, since health care technologies are used under stress and in highly emotional situations in a domain which is often not well-known. Technology should be accurate, credible, and easy to operate, since usage error can lead to prolonged illness or worse. When using the World Wide Web: "older adults, unfamiliar with a domain or desperate for a service, may be susceptible to what is termed a gullibility error" (believing something that is untrue).

The book is concluded by '*Synthesis and comments*', which contains a discussion on the development of future technology stating that new technology is not necessarily better, and that knowledge of the

end-users is indispensable in good design. Although the book provides guidelines based on scientific data, much of the information is self-evident. The book does, however, provide a legible overview of topics discussed. Throughout the book there is great feedback to previous chapters to express relations between physiology and design. It would be a valuable asset to the guide if more graphical material was added in order to show good and bad design examples, which would also make the book more appealing to a larger audience such as students and designers.

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ISG Business

News from the Nagoya Conference

The Nagoya conference is ready to receive its participants, with the all-time record for an ISG conference of 150+ papers turned in, with keynotes and symposia inspired by the issues we face today.

Venue: Nagoya Congress Center, 1-1 Atsuta-nishimachi, Atsuta-ku, Nagoya, Aichi 456-0036, Japan; phone: +81-52-683-7711; fax: +81-52-683-7777; URL: www.ncvb.or.jp/ncc/

Draft Agenda of the General Assembly of the ISG, Nagoya, May 26, 2005

1. Welcome
2. Draft-minutes of the General Assembly of November 10, 2002, Miami, USA (Gerontechnology 2002; 2(2):223-224)
3. Announcements
4. ISG Proceedings November 2002 - May 2005
 - Final Report on the Miami Conference by Vice-President Neil Charness (to be presented at the meeting)
 - Report on the Nagoya Conference by

Preliminary Program of Gerontechnology 2005

May 25, 2005		May 26, 2005		May 27, 2005	
Morning		Samuel Landsberger: Robotics for Human Support: Assistive Devices and Universal Design (keynote)		keynote lecture: To be disclosed	
		Coffee Break		Coffee Break	
Opening Session Akihiro Igata: Creation of the successful aging society (keynote)		Symposium Fifteen years of Evolution of Gerontechno- logy's Core philosophy Co-Chair: Richard Pieper	Symposium Gerontechno- logical Robotics Chair: Takanori Shibata	Paper session Communication (1)	Paper session Universal Design
Afternoon		Implementation of Gerontechnology in Industry Invited speeches from companies on successful stories in the application of Gerontechnology will be held every lunchtime			
		Symposium Gerontechnology in the prevention of senile dementia, physical inactivity, and psychological degeneration Chair: Masaru Miyao	Paper session Mobility	Paper session Home Care and Living (1)	Paper session Home Care and Living (1)
Evening		Symposium Accessible Design and Standards Chair: Kenji Kurakata		Coffee Break Paper session Health Care System	Paper session Home Care and Living (2)
		Symposium Universal Design- Toward more fulfilling life in one's later years Chair: Satoshi Kose		Paper session Communication (2)	Paper session Gerontechnology in Asian Design
Welcome Reception		General Assembly			
		Official Banquet			

More details: <http://www2.convention.co.jp/5isg/english/scientific.html>

- Vice-President Mitsuo Nagamachi (to be presented at the meeting)
- Report of the Secretary-General (follows as Appendix A)
 - Report of the Treasurer (to be presented at the meeting)
 - Report of the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal (follows as Appendix B)
5. Papers for discussion and approval
- Updated ISG Articles of Association (to be included in issue 3(4) of Gerontechnology)
 - Updated ISG Byelaws (Gerontechnology 2004; 3(2):119-122. The following changes are proposed to this draft: (i) Replace "the Statutes" with "the Articles of Association"; (ii) Replace the content of "2. Council and Office" with "Daily affairs of the ISG are delegated to the Council that report to the Board on a yearly basis. The administrative office of the Society shall be the address of one of the Council members."; (iii) Replace "Board of Directors" with "Board"; (iv) Replace "active members" with "full members"; in addition membership categories are to be placed in the same order as in the updated Articles of Association)
 - Editorial Statute of the Gerontechnology Journal (Gerontechnology 2003; 2(3):277-278)
The Board proposes to place the updated texts on the ISG websites.
6. Elections, Appointments and Dismissals
- **Board members**
 - *Not standing for re-elections:*
Richard Pieper (served 3+ terms)
 - *Standing for re-election:*
Herman Bouma (2nd term),
Annelies (J.E.M.H.) van Bronswijk (as Editor-

- in-Chief of the Journal),
Neil Charness (3rd term),
Wiet (L.G.H.) Koren (2nd term),
Mitsuo Nagamachi (2nd term)
 - *Vacancies:*
Francesco Franchimon (with the special task as officer for advertisements and other paid news items in the Journal),
Vice-President as organizer of the next conference, and up to 5 other members
 - **Regional representatives**
 - **Editors of the Journal**
 - **Editorial Board Members of the Journal**
7. Future Activities 2005-2008
8. Other Business
9. Next Meeting

All ISG members are invited to the General-Assembly. Those not able to attend may propose candidates for the vacancies mentioned by mail until May 1, 2005 (e-mail Secretary General: Jan.Ekberg@stakes.fi).

Herman Bouma, President of the Board

Appendix A: Report of the Secretary General

Since the 4th International Conference of Miami, much energy has been devoted to our international scientific journal Gerontechnology, and a publishing organisation has been formed. In fact, giving the journal a sturdy foundation has been the main activity of Board and Council. This way the Society could publish issues 2-4 of volume 2, and volume 3. Issue 4 of volume 3 is expected to be distributed by April or the first week of May 2005.

The Board succeeded in obtaining a loan from the Herman Bouma Foundation for Gerontechnology to finance part of the journal issues. The Society also obtained a grant from the Foundation Visual

Consultancy Centre Eindhoven to prepare a special issue on the Vision aspects of Gerontechnology. That special issue has been scheduled as the last issue of the 4th volume of the Journal.

We succeeded in retrieving our initial web-address <http://www.gerontechnology.org> and use it together with the .info version. Both lead to the same information.

In early 2003 a flyer and an action plan have been produced. Currently 15 libraries located in 6 different countries have taken a subscription to Gerontechnology: Netherlands (6), USA (4), Finland (2), Taiwan (2), Germany (1) and Sweden (1). The ISG has no associate-members at the moment.

The working groups on "Education / Harriet Berthold" and on "Research and development / Marja Vaarama" finished their work successfully by our Miami meeting November 10, 2002.

The ISG flyers have been distributed by the regional representatives in Italy and the BENELUX-countries, and were also sent to a number of gerontechnological events.

The preparations for the Nagoya conference is handled splendidly by our Japanese friends.

Jan Ekberg, Secretary-General

Appendix B: Report of the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal

As reported at the Miami conference, the initial publisher, Hola Press, defaulted shortly before that conference, leaving the publishing task to the society. The low number of paying members at that time, the absence of library subscriptions and loss of associate-memberships resulted in little interest among other professional

publishers to accept the task. However, in the last 2,5 years, the paying individual membership increased by 3-fold, and libraries are slowly starting to develop interest in the journal.

We started the process of being included in PsychInfo, but had to terminate this endeavour temporarily because of the irregularity in publishing frequency. Setting up a publishing organisation with at first only 2 editors did cost more time and effort than was available. The initial publication scheme of September, December, March and June could not be continued: the conference issues, 2(1) was still in time, but 2(4) although bearing the publication date of June 2003, came out much later.

To do justice to the members, and after consultation with treasurer and president of the ISG, it was decided that membership dues would always include 4 issues of the journal, and that we would start volume 3 in January 2004. Solving the financial and workload restrictions still included more time than expected, and issue 3(1) has been mailed to the members as late as June 2004, while 3(2) appeared in December of that year.

In the meantime the publication team has been expanded to 4 editors and an officer for the acquiring of advertisements, while the treasurer of the society took charge of the subscriptions. This team will complete volume 3 before the Nagoya Conference, and expects to publish at least 3 of the 4 issues of volume 4 in 2005.

The total number of editorial board members decreased from 14 in September 2001 to 11 in March 2005 due to the death of Michel Frossard (France) and the appointment of 2 members (Don G. Bouwhuis, Netherlands, and Lawrence Normie, Israel) as associate editors. Earlier 2 other editorial board member have withdrawn: March 2002: Peter Bidyuk in

favour of Vladislav V. Povoroznjuk (Ukraine), and December 2002: Huib de Ridder in favour of Don G. Bouwhuis (Netherlands). In the time period until the 2008 conference, the editors hope to expand the editorial board, especially with new members from Asian, African, and South-American countries.

As to the manuscripts received from the gerontechnological community, they appeared to be diverse in both content and quality. The editors are grateful to the members of the editorial board and other peers for the quality of their reviewing work, especially in case of the student papers that usually needed a number of reviewing runs. In total 10-15% of the manuscripts received were eventually refused for publication in the Journal

Johanna E.M.H. van Bronswijk, editor-in-chief

From the regions: Italy

Dario Bracco, representative of Italy, reports that he is in the process of forming an Italian Chapter of the ISG. To this end a meeting was organized in Turin on March 31, 2004. Participants were 8 Engineers, Architects, and Geriatric Doctors from Universities (Turin, Pisa, Padova, Milano, Ancona) and other Institutions. The main goal of the Italian Chapter is to further develop gerontechnology and to organize one of the future international ISG conferences. The current number of Italian full members is 6 but rising. Unfortunately, the library of the National Institute for Research and Care in Ageing terminated its subscription.

Who is who:

The Editorial Board (3)

Elizabeth Karol PhD (1948), a member of our editorial board, studied architecture at the University of Melbourne



and has, since that time, been involved in the construction industry in various capacities. She has worked as an architect in Singapore, United Arab Emirates, and Australia. Having qualified also as a civil engineer and as a building surveyor she has also worked in these two capacities in Australia. In the 1980s she was part of the team writing innovative performance-based building regulations for the Australian construction industry and was part of the 1991 National Building Regulation Review Taskforce that studied the building regulatory environment in Australia. Over the past decade her efforts have been focused on architectural education with an emphasis on sustainability of design in general and in housing for the aged in particular. This led to the completion of a doctoral thesis that considered the appropriateness of energy efficient design in independent housing for the aged. Elizabeth currently teaches in the School of Architecture, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia.

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Mauro Colombo MD, a member of our editorial board, was born at Imperia (a place of sea and mountain, near France), Italy, on September 29th 1955. Married with a primary school



teacher, he has 2 daughters. His gerontological story started since mid high school, while volunteering for catholic charity within a nursing home in Milan. Through that experience, he could face successful ageing of his grandparents with tough and more or less troubled coping of less fortunate old persons. After two years of university scholarship, his gerontological vocation found its coronation by entering the geriatric institute 'Camillo Golgi' at Abbiategrasso, near Milan, in the mid of

the plain (in 1983). Therein, he found two masters, the old - past and the current heads, who fascinated him, and offered the opportunity of playing different roles within a multi-service skilled nursing home - including outpatients services, side by side with colleagues in a small but tight group. The involvement in gerontechnology began in 1992, serving as national delegate for the EU action 'COST A5' - Ageing and Technology, then continuing through the EU - Biomed II project 'TED' (Technology, Ethics and Dementia). He recently cooperated in a textbook about technical aids for domiciliary care of elderly patients (in Italian). At present, he is cooperating for a Health Ministry research on domestic accidents in elderly people. Therefore, time for listening music (from Gregorian choirs to Pink Floyds "The dark side of the moon") or for reading good books is scanty. But he has a way out: his wonderful family, who pardon him for his late coming home, share with him the magic of everyday life, and are waiting for the next bike or mountain promenades, or for some picture of coloured fishes close to the rocks of west Liguria.
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Note: the patient on the photograph has given her consent to be included in the picture

World News

Finnish National Research Program on Ageing

The importance of ageing research and the need for multidisciplinary work in the field is today widely acknowledged. On the European level, European Forum on Population Ageing Research in 2002-2005, and the new ERA-AGE project, funded by the European Commission's 6th Framework Program, aim at promoting European co-operation in ageing research and research funding. This European-level activity both draws inspiration and encourages similar activities in individual

countries. Here my aim is to describe the measures taken by the Academy of Finland to support ageing research in Finland, particularly the Research Program on Ageing in 2000-2002.

Ageing research has long traditions in Finland, and the first scientific society on ageing, Societas Gerontologica Fennica, was founded as early as 1948. The Academy of Finland is the main governmental body for supporting and funding high-quality basic research in all fields of science. Besides its normal calls, open to all fields of research, the Academy has also taken special measures to promote basic and applied research on ageing, among them two multidisciplinary research programs and targeted funding for internationalization of ageing research. The second Research Program on Ageing in 2000-2002 had four general aims: (i) to help the society contain the challenges presented by the ageing of the population, (ii) to activate innovative basic and applied research, (iii) to promote cooperation and dialogue between different disciplines, and (iv) to strengthen the involvement of the academic community in the public debate on ageing. In the Program memorandum, both the ageing process itself (social, cultural, biological, and functional dimensions), and the challenges presented by population ageing (themes such as working life, life-long learning, living environment, technology, policy and services, and market) were mentioned as relevant topics of research.

Organization and funding. The program was launched jointly by the Academy of Finland, three ministries, the Social Insurance Institution, the Finnish Work Environment Fund, and The Association of Finnish Local Authorities. There was a two-phase call for the proposals. At first phase, one hundred plans of intent were received. These were evaluated by the program Steering Group, and altogether 51