

In Memoriam Professor Ramón M. Gutmann PhD (1943-2016)

On July 1, 2016 Professor Dr. Ramón Maximo Gutmann passed away at the early age of 73. Professor Gutmann had been an associate editor of *Gerontechnology* since 2005, and oversaw the subfield of 'Sociology and ageing'. In 2007 he formulated his aim in an editorial entitled 'Technology and old age in Argentina'¹ He took part in the processes of growth and development of the journal with everlasting enthusiasm.



Dr. Gutmann held a PhD in Social Psychology (Kennedy University- Buenos Aires), a Master degree in Sociology (Buenos Aires University), a Master in Social Work (Buenos Aires University) and a Post Master in Advanced Gerontological Practice (Yeshiva University, New York, USA).

Dr. Gutmann wrote more than one hundred papers and book chapters related to social problems in adulthood and aging. As a full professor, both at Barcelo University, School of Medicine, and at the School of Psychology at Universidad de Buenos Aires, he taught gerontology and sociology at a post-graduate level. In addition he instructed students in developmental psychology as an associate professor at Palermo University in Buenos Aires.

As a keen observer of the global dynamics of aging, Dr. Gutmann also was a vice president of the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) for Latin America and the Caribbean. As a scholar who works to see sound policies adopted and best practices advanced, he served as policy advisor and administrator to Buenos Aires' aging establishment.

In addition, Dr. Gutmann served as the Executive Director of the Jewish Communal Social Services in Argentina for nearly three decades, and spent twenty years as chair of educational training for professionals, lay leaders, and volunteers in Buenos Aires' local government.

He leaves behind his wife, Professor Dr. Luisa Acrich-Gutmann, psycho-gerontologist at Universidad de Buenos Aires, their two children and four grandchildren, as well as his son and grandsons in Israel.

Reference

1. Gutmann RM. Technology and old age in Argentina. *Gerontechnology* 2007;6(2):63-65; doi:10.4017/gt.2007.06.02.001.00

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Our 2014 honorary members

At ISG2014 two new honorary members were elected by the membership.

It is a pleasure to welcome Professor Kuo Ming Wang PhD and Professor Gloria Gutman PhD as Honorary

members of the ISG. Their honorary status was approved at the 9th ISG conference in Taiwan 2014 and is awarded to those individuals who have rendered acknowledged eminent service to the society and the profession of technology and ageing.

Professor Kuo Ming Wang has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to the gerontechnology and ageing field. He was President of Nai-Kai University of Technology (2004-2010), where he built Nan Kai into the first university in Taiwan focusing on gerontechnology and service management. He acted as Vice-president of the 9th ISG conference in Taiwan 2014 supporting Professor Yeh-Liang Hsu. Professor Wang is founding President and currently Honorary President of the Chinese Society of Gerontechnology. He is also the founding President of the ISG Sinophone chapter, promoting research and hosting Masterclasses for the society.



Professor Gloria Gutman was the Founding President of the Gerontology Association of British Columbia, served two terms as President of the Canadian Association on Gerontology (1987-1991), and was President of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics from 2001 to 2005. In June, 2007 she was made a member of the Order of British Columbia in recognition of her pioneering work in the area of gerontology. Over the years, Gloria has been a major contributor to the society, serving on the board of the ISG from 2008-2014 and acting as Vice President of the 7th ISG World Conference held in Vancouver, Canada, in 2010

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Carla da Silva Santana PhD: New associate editor from Brazil

Starting this issue the sub-domain 'Assistance and rehabilitation' is covered by a new associate editor, Professor Carla da Silva Santana BS, MA, PhD, Coordinator of the Occupational Therapy Course, at the Department of Neuroscience and Behavioral Science, Ribeirão Preto Medical School, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.



Carla da Silva Santana is an occupational therapist with a PhD in Educational Psychology and Human Development at the Psychology Institute of the University of São Paulo. She did a post-doctoral internship at Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, University of Oxford (UK). Professor da Silva Santana's daily work is to guide master and doctorate students at Inter-units Program in Bioengineering, School of Engineering of São Carlos / Ribeirão Preto Medical School / Institute of Chemistry of São Carlos. She also organized and chaired the first Brazilian Congress of Gerontechnology¹.

Professor da Silva Santana's research concerns assistive technologies, occupational therapy, care of the elderly, elderly users' perspectives, technology in intergenerational relationships, tele-rehabilitation, and training of students with restrictions, among other subjects.

As to the journal she intends to disclose studies of innovation and applicability of gerontechnology in the real world, with a special focus on encouraging the development of studies and production of knowledge coming from South America, and Latin America as a whole.

Reference

1. Silva Santana C da, Soares Bernardes M, editors. Proceedings of the 1st Brazilian Congress of Gerontechnology. *Gerontechnology* 2016;15(2):65-97; doi:10.4017/gt.2016.15.2.003.00

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ISG-Sinophone Chapter

ISG Sinophone Chapter (registered as 'Chinese Society of Gerontechnology and Service Management' in Taiwan) publishes a quarterly 'Journal of Gerontechnology and Service Management' in Chinese since 2012. Two new issues have been published in 2016, in the form of online free open access and paper copies.

The 2016 International Conference and Master Class on Gerontechnology and Service Management, annual conference of ISG Sinophone Chapter, was held on May 14, 2016, at Nan Kai University, Nantou, Taiwan. Two key note speakers, Professor van Bronswijk, ISG Grand Master and Editor-in-Chief of Gerontechnology and Professor Agenosono Yoshiko of Nihon University (College of Humanities and Sciences, Department of Social Welfare) gave wonderful speeches at the beginning ceremony. After that, a total of 95 papers in different fields of gerontechnology and service management were presented in 19 symposiums in the conference. All of the articles presented in the conference were published as two-page papers in Vol 4 (2) of *Journal of Gerontechnology and Service Management*.

The final round of 'The 5th Innovative Gerontechnology Product / Service Design Contest' for college



The opening ceremony and keynote speech of 2016 International Conference and Master Class on Gerontechnology and Service Management



The 'Older-Adult Appreciation Award' presented by seven older judges at the awarding ceremony of 'The 5th Innovative Gerontechnology Product / Service Design Contest'

students, annual design contest of ISG Sinophone Chapter, was also held in parallel with the 2016 Annual Conference. The theme this year was 'Design for Connectedness'. Nineteen student teams made their final presentation and demonstration on May 14. In addition to the judges invited from related industries, seven older adults were also invited as judge for the 'Older-Adult Appreciation Award'.

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ISG-North American Chapter

The North American Chapter of the ISG established a social media presence by launching its Facebook page in December of 2014¹. The site is peered with the main ISG Websites for easy access and presents materials of interest to the chapter's membership. In 2015 the University of South Florida submitted a successful bid to host the ISG2018 World Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida. This marks the first time since 2010 that the World Conference has been hosted in North America.

CREATE hosted their first workshop on Health Care Technologies for Older Adults: Design, Adoption, Implementation & Training Issues in Februari 2016 and will offer it again in February 2017². Prof. Wendy Rogers has been named co-director of a new aging-related center funded by National Institute on

Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR); the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technologies to Support Successful Aging with Disability (RERC TechSage)³. The North American chapter members have been flexing their scholastic muscles since 2014's World Conference in Taipei; ISG North America's members published an average 7 gerontechnology-related papers (median 7, range from 0-18) in peer-reviewed journals having a mean Impact Factor of 1.59 (median 1.50, range 0.13 to 3.43) since the 2014 ISG World Conference. Our members report also authoring an average of 2.4 book chapters (median 3) and gave an average of 7.6 national and international conference presentations (median 5, range 0-23) since the 2014 World Conference. Results are based on a 29% response rate to an informal email survey of the North American ISG chapter's members.

Reference

1. <https://www.facebook.com/Gerontechnology.North.America/www.createworkshop.org/www.techsage.gatech.edu/>

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IAHSA representing users of gerontechnology

The International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing (IAHSA), www.globalageing.org, is a global network of leaders in ageing services, housing, research, technology and design. The association brings together experts from around the world. It intends to pave the way to improve best practices in aged care so that older people everywhere can live healthier, stronger, and more independent lives. The members of IAHSA represent more than 20,000 age care institutions around the world. The age care providers also provide services for home care. Thus the members represent a huge market for gerontechnology products. When we hosted the IAHSA conference in Norway in 2005, we also arranged an exhibition of gerontechnology products. As is well known, the use of technology to support and enhance safety and social connectedness of older people is an important element in ensuring quality of life.

The members of IAHSA also represent people with user experience and insight in user needs in relation to new solutions for elderly people. As an example I could mention that when my organisation SINTEF had the leadership of the EU project 'M*Power', I introduced the European part of IAHSA, EAHSA, to represent the 'users' in the project. Thus members of IAHSA showed that they could be useful partners in research projects.

The founder of IAHSA in 1994 was AAHSA (American Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing), now called LeadingAge (www.leadingage.org). LeadingAge has established CAST (Center for Ageing Services Technologies), and CAST is also a strategic

collaboration partner for IAHSA, and in conjunction with the IAHSA conference in 2015 in Perth there was a special IAHSA-CAST Technology Forum.

IAHSA and CAST developed a global network of organisations that seek to expand the use of technology to address the needs of our ageing society. They are working together to establish the IAHSA/CAST Affiliated Action Networks with a vision that technologies can improve the quality of life for seniors while reducing health care costs.

The IAHSA/CAST Affiliated Action Network includes ageing services providers, technology companies, research institutions and other stakeholders. Its mission is to provide leadership in the development, evaluation and adoption of technologies that will transform the ageing experience. In that way it is complementary to housing and daily living activities within ISG.

IAHSA 2017 conference is titled '2017 Aged Care Congress', and focusses on the retirement and nursing home sector. Subjects include,

- (i) New technologies for health care and future long-term care,
- (ii) End-of-life forms of care,
- (iii) Nursing staff and management, and
- (iv) Ethics and mental health in today's workplace.

Gerontechnology covers the first subject completely. The regular submission deadline has passed, but there is an opening for late submissions out of the Gerontechnology domain: <http://globalageing.org/2017-global-ageing-conference/>
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Technology tracks for aging

The technology track of the Interest Group 'Technology and Aging' of the GSA (The Gerontological Society of America) will focus on technologies that can benefit and inspire older adults, opportunities for technology to transform health care systems and living environments for older adults, and evaluation approaches relevant to rapid technology changes. Both the poster session and a symposium on technology research Initiatives in the USA and Canada are scheduled for November 19, 2016.

In addition several ISG members do participate and some also offer a symposium.

These gerontechnology related events are part of the 2016 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans, USA (<https://www.geron.org/meetings-events/2016-gsa-annual-scientific-meeting>).

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