

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Listmail discussion

March and April were active months online for the ISG Discussion Forum. Selected topics included information and comments about mobile phones, elderly housing, the FICCDAT conferences this June in Toronto, and nutritional products for older adults. There were messages and requests for conference proposals, and for research references. For example, there were several exchanges within the topic 'sustainable communities for all ages', mention of one resource leading to another, including this item: Interesting article in March 9 Wall Street Journal called 'For Boomers, the House of the Future', describing how Universal Design is becoming more mainstream as 'boomers' age.

Thanks to all Forum participants to date. The ISG Forum welcomes more authors and readers to sign in and join discussions. Online exchange is more informal than journal correspondence, and open to all. To subscribe to the ISG discussion list visit [www.jdc.org.il/mailman/listinfo/isg\\_discussion](http://www.jdc.org.il/mailman/listinfo/isg_discussion).

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### KNX, an open standard also for A-mode (plug-and-play)

In this issue<sup>1</sup> the XML language is put forward as a prerequisite for plug-and-play applications in the ICT domain. Although not mentioned in this contribution, the KNX Association created the world's only open standard for all applications in home and building control, ranging from lighting and shutter control to various security systems, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, monitoring, alarming, water control, energy management, metering as well as household appliances, audio and lots more<sup>2</sup>. KNX uses a single, manufacturer independent design and commissioning tool (ETS), with a complete set of supported communication media (TP, PL, RF and IP) as well as a complete set of supported configuration modes (system, easy and automatic (A) mode). It has been approved as a European (CENELEC EN 50090 and CEN EN 13321-1) and an International standard (ISO/IEC 14543-3). This standard is based upon more than 15 years of experience in the market including its predecessors, EIB, EHS and BatiBUS. Over 100 member companies worldwide from dif-

ferent application domains have almost 7000 KNX certified product groups in their catalogues. The KNX Association has partnership agreements with more than 21,000 installer companies in 70 countries.

### References

1. Brandt P, Bruijning J. XML for plug-and-play applications in service delivery. *Gerontechnology* 2007;6(3):147-154
2. KNX Association; [www.knx.org](http://www.knx.org); retrieved July 9, 2007

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## BOOK REVIEW

**Gari Lesnoff-Caravaglia. Health aspects of aging. The experience of growing old. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Springfield: Charles C. Thomas. 208 pp, published January 30, 2007. ISBN 978-07695-5 (hb), US\$ 50.95; ISBN 978-0-398-07696-2 (pb), US\$ 32.95**

Researching the interdisciplinary domain of gerontechnology, located at the crossroads between gerontology and technology, is a complex endeavour. Typically, students will be schooled in either gerontology or technology. For technologists, functioning of the human body may be some sort of a black box. Most basic texts in physiology are of little help because of their specific jargon. The basic text by Gari Lesnoff-Caravaglia, editor-in-chief of a forerunner of this journal (*International Journal of Technology and Aging* 1988-1993), fills in this gap nicely in describing biological and psychological changes of the male and female body during adult life, and doing this in a way that is well understood by technologists.

After an introductory chapter on the health aspects of ageing, development of the different tissue and organ systems are treated in separate chapters: skin and hair (integumentary system), bones and muscles, the nervous system, heart and blood vessels, the respiratory system, organs of digestion, the urinary system, organs of sexuality and child bearing, and the endocrine and immune systems. Vision, hearing, taste, smell and touch are also treated.

Each chapter starts with the description of the organs and tissues involved and their changes in adult life as related to both heredity and environmental exposures. Subsequently dysfunctions are treated: diseases, inflections, but also unpleasant experiences. Hints are given as to possible technological interventions to prevent nuisance or disease, and to support those affected. A concluding

chapter on 'Aging and technology: the new continuum' treats the duality of our current increase in life expectancy: expanded independence and increased dependency. From the problem solution point of view, it compares the present with the settling of the American 'New World' by westerners one or two centuries ago. In both cases technological innovation answered the problems encountered. Today, these should include prevention of chronic conditions, robotic technology, mobility and communication support, long-term care, home-health care, support for personal identity, and the coping with stressful events. In addition, both the self-chosen death and life-sustaining technologies are mentioned in this chapter. Ambient intelligence, as such, is not treated in this basic text.

The book focuses on problem solving for an ageing society where a lifespan of 100 years or more is slowly becoming a mainstream phenomenon. As an introduction to especially the biological side of gerontology, it will serve students and researchers alike, who approach gerontechnology from one of the many technology disciplines.

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**PEOPLE**

**Who is who: Board of the Dutch-Flemish Chapter**

On June 14 2007 the board of the Dutch-Flemish chapter (Nederland-Vlaamse afdeling, NV-ISG) of ISG was installed. It consists of Annelies (J.E.M.H.) van Bronswijk, president (short bio in Gerontechnology 2003;2(3):278), Tamara Derksen, secretary (short bio in Gerontechnology 2006;5(4):259-260), and Martijn H. Janssen, treasurer (bio follows).



*Board of NV-ISG (the Dutch-Flemish chapter), from left to right: treasurer, president and secretary*

*Martijn H. Janssen MSc*

Martijn H. Janssen (1979) obtained his MSc degree in Building Services at Technische Universiteit Eindhoven (Eindhoven, the Netherlands) with a thesis titled 'Teleservices to fulfill older adults' needs?'. Earlier he earned a Bachelor degree in both Building & Architecture, and Building Services & Installations. As a student he served as a voluntary construction worker in Poland and the Czech Republic twice, participating in social building projects of the non-commercial International Building Association (Internationale Bouworde). After earning his MSc degree, he served as project leader for the research group Demand Driven Care at Hogeschool Utrecht (Utrecht, the Netherlands), supervising the design and construction of experimental dwellings for older persons in a laboratory setting. Through this work he got familiar with a different view on technology as seen from the domain of care. Currently he is employed as junior-adviser at Peutz BV (Mook, the Netherlands), working in the field of building physics, acoustics and fire safety. Being a board member of the Dutch-Flemish chapter of ISG keeps him in touch with both the social and human-machine interface aspects of technology in built environments.

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**ISG BUSINESS**

**News from Pisa**

Preparations of ISG08 are advancing. The local organising committee has decided to have a number of exhibitions during the conference. Room has been allotted to 6-7 industrial exhibitions, both Italian and international, and 4-5 academic ones. Suggestions for companies or subjects to be included in the exhibitions are welcome.

The format for abstract and full paper submission has recently put on the conference website ([www.isg08.org](http://www.isg08.org)). Registration and abstract submission is open.

We are pleased to announce that a number of fine key-note speakers have agreed to come and present. Among these Joseph F. Coughlin, Senior Lecturer at MIT, Engineering Systems Division, founding Director of the MIT AgeLab, a multidisciplinary partnership between MIT, industry and the aging community to engineer innovative approaches and technologies to improve the quality of life of older adults and those that care for them.

*Silvestro Micera*

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**NV-ISG, the Dutch-Flemish chapter**

On June 14 2007, eleven of the total of 30 ISG members residing in Flanders and the Netherlands gathered at Technische Universiteit Eindhoven to officially establish the Dutch-Flemish Chapter of ISG (Nederlands-Vlaamse afdeling, or NV-ISG). A letter of acceptance and congratulations had been received from the international ISG president, professor emeritus Herman Bouma PhD and was read during the meeting, marking the official installation of the chapter. In his subsequent speech, the international president mentioned the start of Gerontechnology in Eindhoven in 1991 at the first international conference, and the work done during the 5 years that the Institute of Gerontechnology existed under his directorate at Technische Universiteit Eindhoven. Although the institute has not survived the university's financial scheme, conferences, a master class and almost 6 volumes of a dedicated scientific journal kept the gerontechnology movement going internationally, and now, after the installation of the local chapter, also the national field may be cultivated again.

Other business included the appointment of a president, secretary and treasurer, adoption of the rules of the chapter, and the unanimous election of professor emeritus Bouma as first honorary member of the chapter, which he accepted.

After lunch, a visit was paid to the Care-Lab at the research campus of Royal Philips Electronics NV. Senior researcher at Philips and ISG member, Boris de Ruyter PhD, showed the way user needs and abilities are tested in relation to new technologies under home-like circumstances.

Back at the university campus, the local situation of gerontechnology was outlined by Leon W.P. van der Pluym MSc of Bam Housing Construction Corporation (BAM Woningbouw BV) for a new builders' view on housing for older adults, Ad van Berlo PhD of the Smart Homes Foundation for small and medium enterprises in domotics, and by Helianthe S.M. Kort PhD of the national care and wellness organisation Vilans for demand driven care and technology. In a closing speech Professor emeritus Herman Bouma PhD stressed the importance of regional chapters for the development of gerontechnology.

At the first board meeting of NV-ISG, on July 5 2007 in Culemborg, a preliminary activity plan has been devised consisting

of an annual Gerontechnology day for the presentation and peer-reviewing of research posters by PhD candidates in Flanders and the Netherlands, and a yearly excursion to a laboratory or company of interest. As to national conferences and workshops that relate to gerontechnology or gerontology, the board will devise a calendar of Dutch and Flemish events and distribute it among the members in a 3-monthly e-mail newsletter. In addition, reduced fees for NV-ISG members will be negotiated.

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**Société Française des Technologies pour l'Autonomie et Gérontechnologies (SFTAG)**

On May 23, 2007, the Gerontechnology group of the Société Française de Gériatrie et Gérontologie has formed the French Society for Assistive Technology and Gerontechnology (Société Française des Technologies pour l'Autonomie et Gérontechnologies or SFTAG). During Gérontexpo ([www.hopitalexpo.com/gerontexpo](http://www.hopitalexpo.com/gerontexpo)), Porte de Versailles, Paris, the first scientific meeting and general assembly took place ([www.sftafg.fr](http://www.sftafg.fr)).

Scientific contributions included a presentation of the WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) by Catherine Barral, Centre Technique National d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Handicaps et les Inadaptations, Paris, and an evaluation of the technical, clinical and ethical needs for gerontechnology by Vincent Rialle of the Laboratoire TIMC-IMAG & CHU, Grenoble. Professor Alain Franco PhD serves as president of SFTAG, Vincent Rialle PhD as secretary, and Gérard Cornet PhD as treasurer. It is the intention of SFTAG to become the francophone chapter of the ISG.

*A. Franco PhD*

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**WORLD NEWS****Gerontechnology initiatives in Taiwan**

Elderly populations all over the world are increasing at an amazing speed. Like many other countries, Taiwan is on its way to becoming an elderly society. Of course, this leads to increasing awareness of the need to provide for the health and quality of life of senior citizens and for their dignity and security.

The Taiwan Government has recognised the problems, which society faces in respect of

these needs, and is already encouraging business and other institutions to research and develop elderly care programs. Acting on this, as President of Nan Kai Institute of Technology (NKIT), Taiwan, I focus on Gerontechnology and Care Service as the two major directions for our Institute.

In order to build up international links with gerontology research a Conference and a Master Class on Gerontic Technology and Service Management has been held on March 26-30, 2007, with a total attendance of 320 academics and students from Nan Kai Institute of Technology, Chung Hua University, China Medical University, Feng Chia University, Chung-Cheng Institute of Technology, Ministry of the Interior (Central Taiwan Office), and the Quixotic Implement Foundation. The purpose of this Conference and Master Class was to provide an opportunity for scholars and experts in the fields of Gerontology and Gerontechnology to share and discuss one another's research results. We are very pleased to have invited Professor dr. Herman Bouma and Professor dr. Annelies van Bronswijk from Technische Universiteit Eindhoven (TU/e) and Professor Anthea Tinker and Dr. Ruth Mayagoitia-Hill from Kings College, University of London.

We will now also establish an ISG Taiwan Chapter in July, 2007 to encourage more international links and to promote the implementation and development of Gerontechnology and the welfare and health care of the elderly by means of seeking new solutions to the problems of ageing. Since The Netherlands Research Foundation (NWO) has a cooperation agreement with the National Science Council of Taiwan (NSC), which offers Dutch researchers a chance to do research in Taiwan, further collaboration between TU/e and NKIT will be organized in 2007 as well. In addition, a full English programme of MSc in Gerontechnology will be added in our graduate programme starting September, 2008. Professors from TU/e will be invited to join our teaching. It is our sincere hope that all the elder people are taken good care of and hence lead more respectful and decent lives.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2007

*July 22-27, 2007*

The 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction  
Beijing, China

Organizer: HCI International  
Info: [www.hcii2007.org/home.html](http://www.hcii2007.org/home.html)

*July 29 - August 3, 2007*

12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics: Moving beyond disability  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
Organizer: ISPO Canada National Society  
Info: [www.ispo.ca/congress](http://www.ispo.ca/congress)

*August 3-5, 2007*

Pittsburgh Employment Conference for Augmented Communicators (PEC): Employment and Planning for the Second Half of Life  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA  
Organizer: SHOUT, Pittsburgh  
Info: [www.sciconics.com/shout/documents/PEC07REGISTRATION50\\_000.doc](http://www.sciconics.com/shout/documents/PEC07REGISTRATION50_000.doc)

*August 5-6, 2007*

Midnight Sun Assistive Technology Conference  
Anchorage, Alaska, USA  
Organizer: Assistive Technology of Alaska (ATLA)  
Info: [www.akatconf.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=section&id=4&Itemid=35](http://www.akatconf.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=4&Itemid=35)

*September 5-8, 2007*

7<sup>th</sup> DPI World Assembly  
Kintex, Goyang, Gyeonggi-do, Korea  
Organizer: Disabled Peoples' International (DPI)  
Info: <http://dpiwa.net/>

*September 6-8, 2007*

Realities of Ageing: Research into action  
Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, United Kingdom  
Organizer: British Society of Gerontology  
Info: [www.bsg2007.org.uk/](http://www.bsg2007.org.uk/)

*September 13-14, 2007*

Supporting Human Diversity Through Inclusive Design – The Role of Standards  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Organizer: Standards Council of Canada  
Info: [www.utoronto.ca/arc/openforum.html](http://www.utoronto.ca/arc/openforum.html)

*September 16-18, 2007*

Aged and Community Services Australia's (ACSA) 20<sup>th</sup> National Conference & Trade Exhibition  
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia  
Organizer: Aged & Community Care Victoria

Info: [www.agedcare.org.au/Conferences/2007\\_National\\_Conference/2007\\_National\\_Conference.htm](http://www.agedcare.org.au/Conferences/2007_National_Conference/2007_National_Conference.htm)

*October 3-5, 2007*

9<sup>th</sup> European Conference for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe  
San Sebastian, Spain

Organizer: Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology (AAATE)  
Info: [www.fatronik.com/aaate2007/](http://www.fatronik.com/aaate2007/)

*October 4-5, 2007*

Techshare 2007  
London, UK

Organizer: Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB), and Age Concern England  
Info: [www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsite/public\\_tscallword07.doc](http://www.rnib.org.uk/xpedio/groups/public/documents/publicwebsite/public_tscallword07.doc)

*October 11-12, 2007*

Housing and environmental conditions in post-communist countries  
Gliwice, Poland

Organizer: The Silesian University of Technology  
Info: <http://konferencje.polsl.pl/iaps/default.aspx>

*October 14-17, 2007*

ASSETS 2007: 9<sup>th</sup> International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility  
Tempe, Arizona, USA

Organizer: Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)  
Info: [www.acm.org/sigaccess/assets07/n3rd%20Int.%20Symp%20Work%20Ability.doc](http://www.acm.org/sigaccess/assets07/n3rd%20Int.%20Symp%20Work%20Ability.doc)

*October 22-24, 2007*

3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Work Ability: Towards a Productive Aging  
Hanoi, Vietnam

Organizer: Scientific Committee on Aging and Work of ICOH in collaboration with the Vietnam Association of Occupational Health, the Ergonomics department of the University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan, and the

Technical Committee on Aging of the IEA  
Info: [www.uoehu.ac.jp/kouza/ningen/works/aging/3rd%20Int.%20Symp%20Work%20Ability.doc](http://www.uoehu.ac.jp/kouza/ningen/works/aging/3rd%20Int.%20Symp%20Work%20Ability.doc)

*October 22-25, 2007*

8<sup>th</sup> Asia / Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics: Aging diversity in Asia and Oceania region: Health, participation, security, sharing  
Beijing, China

Organizer: Gerontological Society of China  
Info: [www.aog2007.org](http://www.aog2007.org)

*October 24-26, 2007*

1<sup>st</sup> Arab-African Conference On Disability: Rights - Decades - Partnership  
Djerba, Tunisia

Organizer: General association of persons with motor deficiencies of Tunisia (AGIM)  
Info: [www.agim.org.tn/?pId=183](http://www.agim.org.tn/?pId=183)

*October 25, 2007*

Scientific meeting of SFTAG  
Paris, France

Organizer: Société Française des Technologies pour l'Autonomie et Gérontechnologies (SFTAG)  
Info: [www.sftag.fr](http://www.sftag.fr)

*November 8-9, 2007*

DSAI 2007: Software Development for Enhancing Accessibility and Fighting Info-exclusion  
Vila Real, Portugal

Organizer: University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD)  
Info: <http://dsai2007.utad.pt/index.html>

*November 13-14, 2007*

2<sup>nd</sup> ISG International master class 'Gerontechnology' for PhD students  
Eindhoven, the Netherlands  
Organizer: Flemish-Dutch chapter of ISG  
Info: [www.phe.bwk.tue.nl/2ndISGMasterClass](http://www.phe.bwk.tue.nl/2ndISGMasterClass)

*November 13-15, 2007*

AdvantAge07: Annual Conference of the Retirement Village Association  
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Organizer: Retirement Village Association (RVA)  
Info: [www.rvadvantage.com.au](http://www.rvadvantage.com.au)

*November 16-20, 2007*

GSA's 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting: The era of global aging: Challenges & opportunities

San Francisco, California, USA

Organizer: The Gerontological Society of America

Info: [www.agingconference.com/](http://www.agingconference.com/)

*November 26-27, 2007*

RAATE 2007: Recent Advances in Assistive Technology and Engineering  
Sheffield, UK

Organizer: RAATE

Info: [www.raate.org.uk](http://www.raate.org.uk)

*November 28-29, 2007*

Innovadom: Innovation in home care (in French)

Grenoble, France

Organizer: Département de l'Isère & la Ville de Grenoble

Info: [http://innovadom.nuxit.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=27](http://innovadom.nuxit.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27)

## 2008

*January 18-20, 2008*

4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Technology, Knowledge and Society  
Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Organizer: Common Ground, Australia

Info: <http://technology-conference.com/>

*January 28-31, 2008*

Biosignals 2008: the International Conference on Bio-inspired Signals and Systems  
Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

Organizer: IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBS), the Workflow Management Coalition (WfMC) and the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)

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

*February 21-23, 2008*

ICADI 2008: Advancing technology and services to promote quality of life

St. Petersburg, Florida, USA

Organizer: University of Florida, USA

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

*February 27-29, 2008*

Asia Pacific Disability Forum (APDF)

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Organizer: National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD)

Info: [www.nfowd.com](http://www.nfowd.com)

*March 5-8, 2008*

24th International Seating Symposium: Current and future developments in the areas of seating, positioning and mobility

Vancouver, British-Columbia, Canada

Organizer: UBC Interprofessional Continuing Education

Info: [www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/)

*24th\_Seating.htm*

*March 10-12, 2008*

REHAB Dubai 2008

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Organizer: Dubai Club for Special Sports

Info: <http://rehab.ae>

*March 10-15, 2008*

Technology & Persons with Disabilities Conference (CSUN)

Los Angeles, California, USA

Organizer: Center on Disabilities Conference

Info: [www.csun.edu/cod/conf/index.html](http://www.csun.edu/cod/conf/index.html)

*May 13-15, 2008*

i-CREATE 2008: 2<sup>nd</sup> International Convention on Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology

Bangkok, Thailand

Organizer: Thailand's National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre (NECT-EC)

Info: [www.start-centre.com/i-create2008/index.php](http://www.start-centre.com/i-create2008/index.php)

*May 19-23, 2008*

ICRA-08: IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation

Pasadena, California, USA

Organizer: IEEE

Info: [www.icra2008.org/](http://www.icra2008.org/)

Announcements of meetings and other events for the Gerontechnology Calendar should be submitted by e-mail to: [j.e.m.h.v.bronswijk@gerontechnology.info](mailto:j.e.m.h.v.bronswijk@gerontechnology.info). The editors decide to include or not include the announcement of a certain event.

The most up-to-date forthcoming list may be found at [www.gerontechjournal.net](http://www.gerontechjournal.net)