

## PEOPLE

### Honorary presidents: Vappu Taipale MD and Herman Bouma PhD

Council and other board members promoted two honorary members to honorary presidents during the Pisa conference: a founding mother (Vappu Taipale) and a founding father (Herman Bouma). For both, the International Society for Gerontechnology is like a child they nourished to the grown-up international body it is today.

Vappu Tuulikki Taipale (1940) has served society in a myriad of functions within Finland, the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN). In Finland she was Minister of Health and Minister of Social Affairs (1982-1984), Director-General of the National Board of Social Welfare, later Research and Development Center for Welfare and Health, STAKES, (1984-2008) and member of the Nordic Committee on Health and Social Affairs (1985-2008,) and Vice-chair of the Board of the Academy of Finland (1999-2003). In EU she was member of the Board of the European Centre for Social Policy and Research (1987-1996) and of the Technical Committee on Social Sciences and Humanities (1989-2005), Vice-chair of the COST A5 action on Ageing and Technology (1991-1996) and chair of the EU 5th framework external advisory group on 'the ageing population'. For UN she was member of the UN mission for Social Development (1988-1991) and of the WHO Regional Committee (1992-2008), and chair of the UN mission to Macedonia (1998). In all her functions, she developed and worked on the concept of the sustainability of our society. Vappu Taipale chaired the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Gerontechnology Conference in Helsinki in October 1996, and co-founded the International Society for Gerontechnology ISG in 1997<sup>1</sup>. She served as ISG president for 5 years from the erection of the society until the Miami conference in 2002, and afterwards became a member of the editorial board of the Gerontechnology journal. In addition, when head of STAKES, she actively promoted gerontechnology in Finland and abroad and never stopped supporting the society she founded. Two honorary academic degrees were bestowed upon her: Honorary Doctor of Administrative Sciences (The University of Vaasa, Finland 1998), and Honorary Doctor of Social Sciences (The University of Jyväskylä, Finland 2004).



Herman Bouma (1934), who had studied physics, medicine and physiological psychology in Utrecht (the Netherlands) and Montreal (Canada), was originally an expert in the field of basic and applied aspects of visual processes, such as reading, and understanding and compensating visual restrictions, and later in gerontechnology. In 2002, he succeeded Vappu Taipale as president of the ISG and served in this function for a 6-year period until the Pisa conference. The first publication about ageing and technology by Herman dates from 1988<sup>2</sup> on how to direct technology towards the needs and wishes of older adults. The most important factors in this process, according to both honorary presidents, are older people themselves, who are pushed towards a pro-active and assertive attitude. The increasing interest in ageing and technology resulted in the organisation of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Gerontechnology (1991) organised at the Eindhoven University of Technology (TUE) and chaired by Herman Bouma. The term Gerontechnology had been coined a few years earlier by Jan Graafmans (TUE)<sup>3</sup>. After the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference, activities in gerontechnology began to accelerate. Having been the founding director of the Institute of Gerontechnology at Eindhoven University of Technology from 1994 until 1999, he worked to shape the domain of gerontechnology along scientific and technological lines, and recently took the lead to summarize its development since the 1990s<sup>4</sup>. It culminated in the design of a cross-fertilization matrix showing the intense collaboration of

different gerontology and technology disciplines. It is only logically that he is also an active associate editor of the journal. Herman served in a number of other academic and societal functions: Director of IPO, Institute of Perception Research, a collaboration of Royal Philips Electronics and Eindhoven University of Technology (1975-1994), Professor in human perception and communication at Eindhoven University of Technology TUE (1978-1999), Director of the cross-departmental 'Biomedical and Health Technology' organization of TUE (until 1999), Chair of the preparatory committee faculty of Biomedical Engineering Eindhoven-Maastricht (1994-1996). He also held a number of chairs of organizations in the area of research on visual restrictions (1994-2006). Because of his high scientific standing Herman Bouma was elected fellow of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (1992), and appointed 'Ridder in de Orde van de Nederlandse Leeuw (Knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion)' by Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands (1992). TUE honoured him with its medal of honor (1999) and ISG earlier with a honorary membership (2002). Both Gerontechnology Masters took part in the Pisa Conference with interesting review-lectures. The Society is honored by the presence of such erudite honorary presidents.

**References**

1. Taipale V, Pieper R. Starting ISG. *Gerontechnology* 2007;6(4):187; doi:10.4017/gt.2007.06.04.001.00
2. Bouma, H. Hoe sturen we techniek in de richting van ouderen? In *Symposiumboek Techniek-Vergrijzing: Hoe?* Den Haag: KIVI, 1988
3. The term Gerontechnology is used for the first time in 1989 at the Annual Meeting of the Human Factors Society. Graafmans JAM, Brouwers A. Gerontechnology, the modeling of normal aging. In *Proceedings of the Human Factors Society 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual meeting*, Denver, CO, USA; 1989
4. Bouma H, Fozard JL, Bouwhuis DG, Taipale V. Gerontechnology in perspective. *Gerontechnology* 2007;6(4):190-216; doi:10.4017/gt.2007.06.04.003.00

*Jan Rietsema PhD*

E: jri@Syntens.nl

*Johanna E.M.H. van Bronswijk PhD*

E: j.e.m.h.v.bronswijk@gerontechnology.info

doi:10.4017/gt.2008.07.04.026.00

**Neil Charness and Annelies van Bronswijk honorary members ISG**

The ISG Board meeting in Pisa on June 4, 2008 honored Neil Charness and Annelies (J.E.M.H.) van Bronswijk by nominating them as ISG honorary members for life. Both are photographed at the farewell party in Pisa [picture by N. Charness].

Neil Charness has acted as a creative force in the development of the essentials of Gerontechnology from the very start in the early nineties. He has been a warm supporter of ISG and was the prime organizer of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Gerontechnology Congress in Miami, 2002. He served in the ISG Board and Council since 1999 up till the Pisa Congress and chaired the editorial board of Gerontechnology quarterly journal from its beginning.



Annelies van Bronswijk committed herself to the Gerontechnology movement in the nineties as professor at Eindhoven University of Technology. She took the initiative for the official ISG quarterly journal Gerontechnology that first appeared in 2001. She was the driving force behind the journal ever since and took great pains to make it a quality peer-reviewed journal in an attractive format; she herself took most of the photographs on the front cover as well. She has a great talent for teaching and initiated the first Gerontechnology master class two years ago; an interdisciplinary educational activity that has spread to Taiwan as well as continuing at Eindhoven University of

Technology. She challenges conference organizers, editors, authors, teachers, and students alike to connect their contributions to the foundations of the interdisciplinary field thereby improving the quality of their work.

*Herman Bouma PhD, former ISG president*

E: [H.Bouma@gerontechnology.info](mailto:H.Bouma@gerontechnology.info)

doi:10.4017/gt.2008.07.04.027.00

## Alain Franco MD, president of the ISG



Alain Franco (1944) was born in Grenoble, Isère, France, and obtained his Medical Degree in Grenoble in 1974, while becoming a specialist in Internal Medicine in 1978. In 1982 he became professor of Internal medicine, a position

he still holds, teaching geriatrics, gerontology and gerontechnology at the Joseph Fourier University, Grenoble 1. From 1989 until 2007 he was Chairman of the Department of Geriatric and Community Medicine of CHU, Academic Hospital of Grenoble. Currently he serves as chairman of the Ageing and Handicap Clinic of CHU. In 1991 he became Director of the National Degree of Clinical Gerontology of Grenoble. The degree of Doctor Honoris Causa of the University Jiulius Hatzeganu, Cluj-Napoca (Romania), was bestowed upon him in 1994. As to research, in 1994 he founded the Grenoble Interuniversity Laboratory for Gerontology (LI2G) (UJF-UPMF) and he has been directing it until 2000 and from 2003 to 2007. From 1995 to 1997 he served as scientific coordinator of the program 'Telegerontology and telemedicine in gerontology: Technical, clinical, socio-economical, juridical and ethical feasibility aspects of tele-diagnosis in diseases of elderly', part of the ageing-research theme of the French region 'Rhône Alpes'. He also participated in telemedicine programs Visadom, 1997–2000, and Karma2 (5<sup>th</sup> European PCRD). From 2000 to 2002 he served as president of the French Society for Geriatrics and Gerontology. Since 2002 until 2008 he is president of the College of French Geriatric Professionals. Alain founded the 'Association Internationale Francophone de Gériatrie et Gérontologie' (AIFGG) in 2004 and

was its first President from 2004 to 2006. This explains why he is in charge of the '9<sup>e</sup> Congrès International Francophone de Gériatrie et Gérontologie' in Nice 2010, an event that takes place every four years. Currently he also serves as president of the French Society for Gerontechnology. Internationally Alain Franco has been the European coordinator for the Tempus Program JEP 2762 (France, Italy, Romania) from 1992 to 1995, participated in the Tempus Program CME 01194 – 95 and ERBFMBICT 961325 (Telemedicine), and serves as 'Observer' at the GMS-UEMS for the French Geriatricians. He recently organized their Grenoble meeting on May 6, 2006. He has been elected Secretary General – Vice President for 2009-2013 of the International Association of Gerontology, and is a member of the Organizing Committee of the 2009 19<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Gerontology in Paris. In Pisa he was voted in the board by the General Assembly, while in his first board meeting, the members unanimously requested him to take the presidential chair that he accepted. He is photographed at the banquet of the Pisa Conference.

December 4, 2006, Alain Franco was appointed 'Chevalier de l'ordre national de la Légion d'honneur' by the president of the French republic, after being proposed by the Ministry of Health.

E: [AFranco@chu-grenoble.fr](mailto:AFranco@chu-grenoble.fr)

doi:10.4017/gt.2008.07.04.028.00

## New General Secretary: Hannele Hyppönen PhD

Hannele Hyppönen PhD, was born in Pyhäjärvi UL in 1955. She obtained a degree in physiotherapy in Lappeenranta in 1977 (specialized in ergonomics and public health), a master's degree in education in 1995 (specialized



in social psychology and organizational learning) at the University of Helsinki, and a doctorate at the University of Helsinki in 2004 (organizational learning and sociology of technology). She has worked as a researcher, development manager and research manager in the Unit of eHealth and eWelfare in National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES), Finland since 1996. Her special

interests are in telehealth and telecare services from the viewpoint of Design-for-All, constructive assessment and user impacts. She has participated and led work packages in several EU projects, including MORE and INCLUDE, which developed support of user-centered design for EU TIDE-projects. In eHealth ERA-project she analysed conditions for joint eHealth implementation in Europe. She has also participated in EU Cost 219 activities. She is a Member of the steering board for the Finnish Social and Health Informatics Association (FinnSHIA) since 2006 (the national member society of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) and the European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI)), and a member of the management committee for EHTEL international conference on ePrescribing and medication management (Geneva 2006). She has published articles in 'Human Technology', the 'International Journal of Health Care Technology and Management', and the 'Electronic Journal of Information Systems Evaluation'. She has also acted as a reviewer for different journals including 'The Information Society' and the 'International Journal of Integrated Care'.

*E: Hannele.Hypponen@stakes.fi*

doi:10.4017/gt.2008.07.04.029.00

**Birgit Jæger resigned**

Our editorial board member Birgit Jæger from Denmark has let us know that due to new responsibilities at her university she has to resign. We thank Birgit for her support for the journal.

*Johanna E.M.H. van Bronswijk, editor*

doi:10.4017/gt.2008.07.04.030.00

**New associate editor: Gari Lesnoff-Caravaglia PhD**



Gari Lesnoff-Caravaglia obtained her PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and is currently Professor in the School of Health Sciences at Ohio University. Her extensive publications and research have led to her

development at Ohio University of the first Graduate academic course in Gerontechnology in the USA. Dr. Lesnoff-Caravaglia was responsible for instituting some of the first Graduate Certificates in Gerontology

at Ohio University and at the University of Illinois, Springfield. At the University of Illinois she organized a series of national conferences on Gerontology for nine years which included prominent national and international scholars and developed one of the first Masters in Gerontology degree programs. As a Fellow of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Fulbright Fellow, she conducted research in Italy, the United Kingdom (UK), and Scandinavia. Under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, she engaged in professional visits as a Specialist in Gerontology to Bulgaria and Republics of the former Soviet Union. Her translations and publications include 'The Longliving of Soviet Georgia' and 'Lifestyles for Long Life: Longevity in Bulgaria'. Dr. Lesnoff-Caravaglia was the founder and convener for nine years of the Formal Interest Group on Technology and Aging of the Gerontological Society of America. As the Executive Director of the University Center on Aging at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, she developed the first International Clearinghouse on Technology and Aging and the International Journal of Technology and Aging. She is currently a member of the International Scientific Committee Regional Group: The Americas, of the International Society for Gerontechnology, and serves as associate editor starting volume 7. Dr. Lesnoff-Caravaglia's most recent publications include 'Health Aspects of Aging: The Experience of Growing Old' (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2007) and 'Gerontechnology: Growing Old in a Technological Society' (2007).

*E: lesnoff@ohio.edu*

doi:10.4017/gt.2008.07.04.031.00

**New assistant editor: Mag. Claudia Oppenauer**

Since 2008 Mag. Claudia Oppenauer (1981) functions as assistant-editor of Gerontechnology journal. Born in Austria, she made her 'Abitur' at the Schiller Gymnasium in St. Pölten with a focus on Latin, French and Psychology. In 2005



she graduated in Psychology at the University of Vienna, and one year later finished her education on 'Crisis Intervention' of the

Austrian Red Cross. Since May 2007 she is listed as an official Clinical and Health Psychologist by the Federal Ministry of Health, Family and Adolescence. Her academic activities started 2004 as a student researcher at the University of Vienna, interviewing and training in the project 'Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Decision Making' funded by the 'Jubiläumsfonds' of the Austrian National Bank. She also served as an interviewer in the EU-Project POMONA II aiming at providing health indicators on a sample of people with intellectual disability in thirteen European Union Member States. Currently she is employed as a PhD student at the Department of Clinical and Health Psychology, University Vienna and works on her dissertation with a focus on gerontechnology. In November 2007 she followed the Eindhoven Master Class in Gerontechnology. Her main research interests include needs, motivation and attitudes in the field of technology use in old age. She serves as assistant editor of Gerontechnology journal starting volume 7.

E: [claudia.oppenauer@univie.ac.at](mailto:claudia.oppenauer@univie.ac.at)

doi:10.4017/gt.2008.07.04.032.00

## New vice-president and conference organizer: Andrew Sixsmith PhD



Andrew Sixsmith has been professor and director of the Gerontology Research Centre at Simon Fraser University since September 2007. Dr. Sixsmith has been a member of the British Society of Gerontology Executive Committee and has been UK

representative on the EU's COST-A5 Committee on Ageing and Technology. Since 2000 he has developed research and teaching links with 26 universities worldwide and has actively collaborated with over 30 major commercial and government organizations. He has been particularly involved in the strategic development of research in the area of technology for independent living. Much of Andrew's research has had an applied perspective, with a specific aim to transfer empirical results into policy and practice. Since 2000, he has attracted funding for several prestigious research projects from the European Commission and the En-

gineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Department of Health and Department of Industry in the UK. Dr. Sixsmith has substantial teaching experience within gerontology and has been responsible for innovative educational initiatives in the UK and internationally. He has published many papers in Journals such as the Gerontologist and Ageing and Society. His most recent book was published in 2007: Vaarama M, Pieper R, Sixsmith A, editors. 2007. Care related quality of life in old age. New York: Springer.

E: [sixsmith@sfu.ca](mailto:sixsmith@sfu.ca)

doi: 10.4017/gt.2008.07.04.033.00

## New conference secretary: Amy Johal

Amy Johal is the Communications Assistant for the Gerontology Research Centre (GRC) and BC Network for Aging Research (BC-NAR) at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. In this position she develops and implements commu-



nications materials and assists with a wide range of promotional activities and events. She also is actively involved in the development and management of communications tools and programs. Amy's range of professional experiences over the past 11 years has enhanced the knowledge and skills that undergird her versatility as a communications professional. Prior to taking on the contract for GRC and BCNAR she acted as a Marketing Consultant for a real estate development project driving traffic with her talent in graphic design and marketing abilities. Additionally, she worked as a Website Administrator for the Faculty of Community and Health Studies at Kwantlen University (Vancouver) maintaining content for their website. Amy completed the Public Relations program at Kwantlen University in 2000 leading her to opportunities in diverse industries, such as food service, real estate, mining and radio. In addition to her current position she takes on projects as a consultant in marketing communications, specializing in event coordination, graphic design and project management.

E: [amyjohal@live.ca](mailto:amyjohal@live.ca)

doi: 10.4017/gt.2008.07.04.034.00