

# **Symposium**

# **Living Through Touch:**

# **Smart Haptic Communication for Inclusion, Accessibility and Participation**

# **Programme**

## Monday 17 May 2021

12:00-12:45 – Opening Session

Nasrine Olson (SUITCEYES Project Leader, University of Borås): *“Welcome and Introduction”*

Mats Tinnsten (Vice Chancellor, University of Borås): *“Official opening remarks”*

Matilda Ernkran (Minister of Higher Education and Research, Sweden):

*“The role and importance of research in achieving societal goals such as Equality”*

June Lowery-Kingston (Head of Unit “Accessibility, Multilingualism & Safer Internet”, DG CNECT, European Commission):

“*Union of equality*”

13:00-13:45 – Session 2: Sensing

Raymond Holt (University of Leeds) and Panagiotis Petrantonakis (CERTH): *“Computer vision; object, face, scene detection and recognition; active object search and navigation”*

14:00-14:45 – Session 3: Perception

Myrthe Plaisier and Astrid Kappers (Eindhoven University of Technology): *“Psychophysics and user studies for optimizing haptic feedback”*

15:00-15:45 – Session 4: Informing

Sándor Darányi, Nasrine Olson, Riitta Lahtinen, Russ Palmer: *“Haptograms as an adaptation of social haptic communication, user participation, and the design process”*

16:00-16:45 – Session 5: Learning

Arthur Theil, James Gay, Oliver Korn (Offenburg University of Applied Sciences): *“Game-based learning and communication with the Tactile Board”*

17:00-17:40 – Session 6: Wearing

Nils-Krister Persson, Li Guo, Amelie Olesen (University of Borås): *“Textile as communicative interfaces – design considerations”*

## Tuesday 18 May 2021

12:00-12:45 – Session 7: Related Research – Development, Well-being and Life-Long Learning in Individuals with a Dual Sensory Loss

Astrid Kappers (Eindhoven University of Technology): *“Welcome and Day Two Opening”*

Marleen Janssen (University of Groningen): *“Introduction Special Issue Frontiers in Education and Layered Communication”*

Saskia Damen (University of Groningen): *“Social Validity in Communication Research on Congenital Deafblindness”*

Andrea Wanka (Heidelberg University of Education): *“CHARGE Syndrome: Communication and Identity Building”*

13:00-13:45 – Session 8: Related Research II – Development, Well-Being and Life-Long Learning in Individuals with a Dual Sensory Loss

Walter Wittich (University of Montreal): *“Importance of research on assistive technology and deafblindness; several studies”*

Moa Wahlqvist (Örebro University): *“Health issues in Usher Syndrome”*

Lisa van der Mark (University of Leiden): *“Tactile communication and the Protactile movement”*

14:00-14:45 – Session 9: Networking

Chair: Jan Nolin (University of Borås)

Frank Kat (Head of Deafblind International): *“Within the challenge, lays the opportunity”*

Sanja Tarczay (President of EDBU): *“Nothing about Deafblind without Deafblind”*

Anna Corbett (Senior MSI Practice Adviser-Sense): *“No one left out of life”*

15:00-15:45 – Session 10: Bridging the Gap – Research results to useable products – Technology companies and haptic communication solutions

Chair: Myrthe Plaisier (Eindhoven University of Technology)

Gilles Pepin (CEO, Humanware Canada – Implementation of Research and Development): *“From a research project to a successful commercial product”*

Dick Lunenborg and Eric van Heuvelen (Bartimeus Fablab): *“How to develop meaningful technology for people with deafblindness”*

16:00-16:45 – Session 11: Bridging the Gap – Research results to useable products – Available Accessible Technology – User and Developer Perspectives

Chair: Myrthe Plaisier (Eindhoven University of Technology)

Anna Lefevre Skjöldebrand (CEO of Swedish MedTech): *“How does a product reach the market? A short overview of the major obstacles”*

Richard E. Ladner (Professor Emeritus in Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington): *“How Can Remote Protactile Communication Be Supported?”*

Danielle Bragg (Senior Researcher, Microsoft Research): *“Building Systems in Support of Sign Language Users and Low-Vision Readers”*

Jarek Urbanski (CEO of Harpo): *“Small business involved in scientific research – possibilities, expectations, practical achievements”*

17:00-17:40 – Session 12: Bridging the gap from research to product development – Panel Discussion

Chair: Jarek Urbanski (Harpo)

Gilles Pepin (Humanware Canada)  
Dick Lunenborg (Bartimeus Fablab)  
Anna Lefevre Skjöldebrand (Swedish MedTech)  
Richard E. Ladner (University of Washington)  
Danielle Bragg (Microsoft Research)*”*

## Wednesday 19 May 2021

12:00-12:45 – Session 13: Setting Policies

Raymond Holt (University of Leeds): *“Welcome and Day Three Opening”*

Chair: Sarah Woodin (University of Leeds)

Jose Smits (Netherlands), Eleni Strati (Greece), Sabrina Weller (Germany), Moa Wahlqvist (Sweden): *“Policy Study Results”*

13:00-13:45 – Session 14: Perspectives, Policy and Decision Makers – *Panel Discussion*

Chair: Elena Maceviciute (University of Borås)

Lina Nordquist (Member of Parliament / Sweden - L, Social and Healthcare Policy Spokesperson)  
Alison Wellwood (Sensory Impairment Policy Manager, Assisted Communication Team, Policy & Delivery Division, Directorate for Mental Health & Social Care, Scottish Government)

Jonathan Reid (Sensory Coordinator - Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE); Coordinator for the Nordic Cognition Network in relation to Deafblindness)

June Lowery-Kingston (Head of Unit “Accessibility, Multilingualism & Safer Internet”, DG CNECT, European Commission)

14:00-14:45 – Session 15: Setting Policies – Panel Discussion

Chair: Sarah Woodin (University of Leeds)

Jose Smits (Netherlands)  
Eleni Strati (Greece)  
Sabrina Weller (Germany)  
Moa Wahlqvist (Sweden)

15:00-15:45 – Session 16: Beyond SUITCEYES – Proactive initiatives by the community

Chair: Mauricio Fuentes (LDQR, France)

Linda Eriksson: *“What can the deafblind community take away from SUITCEYES?”*

Femke Krijger: *“Working with loss and potential; the benefits and thresholds of inclusive, innovative projects”*

Lisa van der Mark: *“Thoughts of a deaf-born deafblind researcher on Deafblind related research”*

16:00-16:45 – Session 17: Beyond SUITCEYES – Advisers – Experiences from SUITCEYES and Path Forward

Riitta Lahtinen (The Finnish Deafblind Association, Finland) and Russ Palmer (TouchCom)

Maria Alvarez (Invectra Consulting, Sweden)

Ann-Britt Johansson and Rolf Lund (EIKHOLT, Norway)

Thomas Ragnarsson (SPSM and NKCDB, Sweden)

Henrik Hildemar (Mo Gård, Sweden)

Otto Carlander (Otrolica AB, Sweden)

Ole Mortensen (CFD, Denmark)

17:00-17:40 – Session 18: Open Discussion

*“What is next? Symposium conclusion, lessons learned, panel discussion”*

[end of programme]

# **Accessibility:**

There will be simultaneous interpretation in International Sign Language and Brazilian Sign Language. Automatic Zoom captioning will also be available.

Symposium partially sponsored by:



