

IEA VE NEWS

Welcome

Dear visual ergonomists,

December – what a month. It has always been a very special month to me. However, reasons for this have varied across life. When I was a kid, I was excitedly waiting Christmas day, for unwrapping thrilling toys. Today, December is still a particular month to me but for a different reason. In this month, and I guess it is similar in others, work keeps me super busy. However, December has remained an enjoyable month for me making me excited, as when I was a kid. I keep thinking that a “fresh” New Year, will start just around the corner, at which, at least for me, work slowly reboots after it was radically shut down at end of the past year.

I wish to thank all the members of our technical committee, for supporting our efforts in promoting visual ergonomics and wish you a relaxing start in the New Year, may it start in January or at any other time of the year (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Year).



With best wishes,

Marino Menozzi

Chair, IEA Visual Ergonomics TC

December 2019—Some events and deadlines

- A parallel session on "Occupational Safety and Health and Human-System Interaction" will be part of HCI International 2020 (<http://2020.hci.international/>) with the affiliated 11th International Conference on Digital Human Modeling and Applications in Health, Safety, Ergonomics and Risk Management.

You are cordially invited to submit an abstract of up to 800 words by December 13, 2019. This deadline differs from the conference website, because it is made available through personal invitation only. Information about how to hand in an abstract (by Dec 13), about the review process (by Dec 23) and the full paper (by Jan 28) will be given upon request by email to Peter Nickel at peter.nickel@dguv.de

- A webinar on "Blue Light Hazard - What does it really mean?" will be presented by John O'Hagan on December 19, 2019, 12 noon (Eastern Time, USA and Canada). For more information see:

https://www.osa.org/en-us/meetings/webinar/2019/the_blue_light_hazard_-_what_does_it_really_mean/

To register, visit: https://osa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sLn5L1h9RealyqjXCAG96g

Student news



Claire Allcock completed an MSc with distinction at Loughborough University, England.

Claire is an optometrist and investigated the role of technology in optometric practice, in particular the role of computers in the consultation room. Her thesis “An ergonomics evaluation of the optometrists consulting room and musculoskeletal risks” evaluated the modern day consulting room in terms of its overall design, equipment, furniture and technology, with respect to musculoskeletal risks.

Claire says “I loved almost every minute of my research project, but particularly enjoyed interviewing my professional colleagues about their experiences.” She also says that she was very excited to analyse dimensional data about equipment and furniture to ascertain anthropometric accommodation.

Claire’s project was supervised by Professor Diane Gyi.



Ameer Alhusuny is a medical doctor with a MSc in Occupational Health and Safety. He is currently studying for a PhD at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The University of Queensland, Australia. His thesis “Neck/Shoulder problems, Visual Symptoms among Surgeons Performing Minimally Invasive Surgeries (MIS)” has led him into the world of visual ergonomics.

Ameer says “We were looking for the risk factors of musculoskeletal disorders among surgeons performing MIS. We found that there was a significant increase in the prevalence of neck/shoulder problems among MIS surgeons which led us to look for the risk factors of neck and shoulder pain.” Ameer suspects that the visual needs of visualizing 2D and 3D monitors might account for surgeons adopting awkward postures while performing MIS.”

Ameer has three supervisors: Dr Venerina Johnston, Dr Margaret Cook and Dr Akram Khalil. He hopes to submit his thesis in mid-2020. Meanwhile, he has achieved the following publication: Alhusuni A, Cook M, Khalil A, Xie Y, Johnston V (2019) Neck/Shoulder problems and visual disturbances among surgeons: A scoping review. *Journal of Surgical Research*, doi.org/10.1016/j.jss.2019.09.064

Randi Mork, who has been working toward a PhD at the Department of Optometry, Radiography and Lighting Design, National Centre for Optics, Vision and Eye Care, University of South-Eastern Norway, has published two articles:

- Mork R, Falkenberg HK, Fostervold KI, Thorud HS. (2019) Discomfort glare and psychological stress during computer work: subjective responses and associations between neck pain and trapezius muscle blood flow. *Int Arch Occup Environ Health*. doi: 10.1007/s00420-019-01457-w.
- Mork R, Falkenberg HK, Fostervold KI, Thorud HMS. (2018) Visual and psychological stress during computer work in healthy, young females—physiological responses. *Int Arch Occup Environ Health*. Oct;91(7):811-830. doi: 10.1007/s00420-018-1324-5.

Obituary



David Brown, member of this IEA Visual Ergonomics TC, and Fellow of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia, passed away on the 13th July 2019 after a long illness.

David had expertise in psychology and physics, and in 1990 he identified VDU screen flicker on Windows software as a potential public health issue contributing to headaches and eyestrain. His knowledge of physics placed him in good stead for lobbying Microsoft to change the Windows platform to support higher screen refresh rates, and he co-developed high refresh rate VDU screen drivers and displayed these at major computer conferences. David also contributed to this IEA VE TC newsletter, and was very interested in the topic of LED flicker.

Mark your diaries

The next IEA Triennial Congress

IEA2021—21st triennial congress, Vancouver, Canada. June 13-18, 2021.

For more information, see <https://iea2021.org/>



Nordic Ergonomics Society Annual Conference

Ergonomics and Human Factors in an Everchanging World. Norway, 25-28 October 2020.

<https://www.nordicergonomics.org/post/nes-2020-ergonomics-and-human-factors-in-an-everchanging-world>

Blog: Vision@WORK+play



WORK: A journal of prevention, assessment and rehabilitation

celebrated its 30th birthday in November 2019. As part of the birthday celebrations, a new interactive website was launched: workjournal.org, and among its features are links to webinars, newsletters, tweets and blogs.

Jennifer Long is moderating a blog "Vision@WORK+play", which will include commentary on a range of vision and visual ergonomics topics. The blog can be accessed at:

<http://workjournal.org/meet-our-bloggers>

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 30th March 2020

Please send any visual ergonomics news or announcements to Jennifer Long at jlong@visualergonomics.com.au