



ergonomics

SOCIETY OF
SOUTH AFRICA

Ergonomics Society of South Africa
NPO: 154-736 NPO
73 African St, Grahamstown, Makhanda, 6139
www.ergonomicssa.com

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To whom it may concern,

RE: Nomination of Professor Andrew Thatcher for IEA President

It gives ESSA great pleasure to nominate Professor Andrew Thatcher for the position of International Ergonomics Association President. Professor Thatcher is a long-standing member of the Ergonomics Society of South Africa (ESSA) and has served ESSA over the years reaching the pinnacle of the leadership structures within the society as a President, Professional Affairs Board Chairperson, and Editor of the ESA Journal. Having had the honour of being led by him and serving alongside him within ESSA, we can attest to the fact that Professor Thatcher's humanity and service leadership are exemplary. His ability to relate to people at all levels and from diverse backgrounds makes him relatable and approachable.

Beyond his academic achievements, accolades, and international recognition, we have witnessed Professor Thatcher ploughing back to less developed regions to support their advancement of the human factors/ ergonomics discipline. In addition to his exceptional leadership, Professor Thatcher's Curriculum Vitae demonstrates how he has made significant contributions to the human factors/ ergonomics community locally and globally. A couple of aspects of his career that make him a worthy candidate for the position are worth mentioning.

Academic Merit

Prof Thatcher has made a significant and meaningful contribution to the field of Human Factors and Ergonomics (HFE) research. From the development of theoretical models relating to green ergonomics and the sustainable system of systems approach to state-of-science articles guiding the future direction of scientific endeavor in HFE. In total, he has published 80+ journal articles, 7+ books, 20+ book chapters, and 80+ full conference proceeding papers. Furthermore, he has vast experience as an editor of academic journals in HFE, including both local (Ergonomics SA) and international journals (Ergonomics), as well as a reviewer for multiple journals. He has also made significant contributions to conference organisation in varying capacities, from conference chair (of the CybErg conference series) to scientific committee chair, and on programme committees.

Not only is he an accomplished researcher but also an award-winning educator. At a postgraduate level, he has successfully supervised to completion more than 60 Masters students and 13 PhD students. He has developed a clear pedagogical framework that guides his teaching as reflected in his work in educational planning and administration, culminating in him being awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Individual Teaching Award in 2003 at the University of Witwatersrand.

These academic accomplishments have been recognised by the international HFE community with him providing keynote addresses for AHFE, IEA, ODAM, HFEM, HWWE, ABERGO, CIEHF, HFESA, and HFESS. What is impressive about these keynotes is that they resonate with large and small HFE societies and all regions of the world. There is little doubt that Prof Thatcher's research has, and continues to have a global impact.

International Ergonomics Association Merits

Prof Thatcher has a long-standing relationship with the IEA having served as a member of the International Development Committee in 2006-2007. Since then, he has continued to make meaningful contributions. This has involved chairing the Human Factors and Sustainable Development Technical Committee from 2015-2021, co-chairing the Science, Technology and Practice Standing Committee from 2019-2021 (where he produced the "Giving your business the human factors edge" IEA publication), and more recently through serving on the IEA Executive Committee and chair of the Future of Work ad hoc committee. Further to this he has worked diligently to support the growth of HFE in developing regions of the globe, being key in the development of ErgoAfrica, the network of African Ergonomics Associations and in the growth of HFE across the continent. Most recently he has headed up the efforts to initiate postgraduate education in HFE in West Africa. His focus has not just been on Africa as seen in his academic publications as well as the fact that he chairs the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society's (USA) Societal Impact Committee.

Final comments

The IEA has five key standing committees that are responsible for the implementation of the IEA aims and policies, namely: Professional Standards and Education; Science, Technology and Practice; International Development; Communications and Professional Relations; and the Development Standing Committees. What is striking from Prof. Thatcher's CV and achievements above is that he has made significant contributions to all of these already and is therefore perfectly positioned to leverage this knowledge and his global reach and network to drive the IEA forward to new heights.

Sincerely,



Nokubonga (Sma) Ngcamu-Tukulula
President: Ergonomics Society of South Africa (ESSA)