



# Irish Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (IHFES)

Names and emails of President, Secretary and Treasurer	<p><b>President:</b> Marie E. Ward – <a href="mailto:marie.ward@tcd.ie">marie.ward@tcd.ie</a>  <b>Secretary :</b> Hector Diego Estrada-Lugo - <a href="mailto:Diego.EstradaLugo@ukaea.uk">Diego.EstradaLugo@ukaea.uk</a>  <b>Treasurer :</b> Bridget Masterson – <a href="mailto:bridget.masterson@intel.com">bridget.masterson@intel.com</a></p>
Name and email of IEA Council Representative/s	<p><b>Marie E. Ward</b> – <a href="mailto:marie.ward@tcd.ie">marie.ward@tcd.ie</a></p>
Website address	<p>Website: <a href="https://ihfes.org/">https://ihfes.org/</a>  LinkedIn: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/ihfes/">https://www.linkedin.com/company/ihfes/</a></p>
Number of society members	<p>We currently have 88 paid up members of the Society which is a slight decrease on 90 last year and 311 people on our monthly newsletter distribution list.</p>
Is the title Ergonomist, HFE specialist, or similar protected by law in your country?	<p>No</p>
Are there laws in your country requiring ergonomic adaptations in the workplace, or for working tools, etc.	<p><b>The key legislation with respect to Ergonomics in Ireland:</b></p> <p>The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and the associated Schedule 3: General Principles of Prevention require employers to manage and conduct work activities in such a way as to ensure the safety and health of their employees; to provide systems of work that are planned, performed and revised as appropriate to be without risk to health; and to implement measures for the protection of the safety and health of their employees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 4: Manual Handling of Loads of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application Regulations) 2007 places a duty on employers to manage ergonomic risks in relation to work activities that involve manual handling.</li> <li>• Chapter 5: Display Screen Equipment of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application Regulations) 2007 places a duty on employers to manage ergonomic risks in relation to work activities that involve working at computer workstations.</li> </ul> <p>Schedule 1, Annex 1 to Directive 2006/42/EC of SI No. 407 of 2008 specifically refers to the need for good ergonomics in relation to machinery being purchased such as allowing for the variability of the operator’s physical dimensions, strength and stamina</p>

<p><b>Is there a professional certification system for HFE specialists in your country or region?</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Do you have a promotion program or special membership categories for early career / students?</b></p>	<p>Yes, we have category of membership called 'Associate'. This refers to anyone who has a third level qualification in a subject area that interfaces with Human Factors/ Ergonomics or anyone that has an interest in the application of Human Factors/Ergonomics. We also have a 'Student' membership category.</p>
<p><b>Are there university level courses for HFE specialists in your country?</b></p>	<p>Professionals usually come through Psychology, Engineering or Occupational Safety undergraduate programmes but there are limited dedicated modules on HFE in these programmes.</p> <p>There are also a number of Masters level programmes:</p> <p>TUDublin Master of Science in Health Safety and Human Factors <a href="https://www.tudublin.ie/study/postgraduate/courses/environmental-health-and-safety/">https://www.tudublin.ie/study/postgraduate/courses/environmental-health-and-safety/</a></p> <p>RCSI Masters in Human Factors and Patient Safety <a href="https://www.rcsi.com/dublin/postgraduate/taught-courses/human-factors-in-patient-safety/course-details">https://www.rcsi.com/dublin/postgraduate/taught-courses/human-factors-in-patient-safety/course-details</a></p> <p>UoG Masters in Healthcare Simulation and Patient Safety <a href="https://www.universityofgalway.ie/medicine/postgrad/medical-healthcare-patient-safety.html">https://www.universityofgalway.ie/medicine/postgrad/medical-healthcare-patient-safety.html</a></p> <p>UoG Masters in Occupational and Environmental Health &amp; Safety <a href="https://www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/taught-postgraduate-courses/occupational-environmental-health-safety.html">https://www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/taught-postgraduate-courses/occupational-environmental-health-safety.html</a></p> <p>TCD Masters in Managing Risk and System Change <a href="https://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/courses/managing-risk-and-system-change/">https://www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate/courses/managing-risk-and-system-change/</a></p> <p>There is a course in Situation Awareness for healthcare professionals</p> <p>RCPI Being Safe Together <a href="https://courses.rcpi.ie/product?catalog=RCPI-Being-Safe-Together">https://courses.rcpi.ie/product?catalog=RCPI-Being-Safe-Together</a></p>
<p><b>Does your society have any official special interest sub-groups, similar to IEA's Technical Committees?</b></p>	<p>No</p>

<p><b>Are there adequate work opportunities for HFE graduates?</b></p>	<p>Yes it would appear so as some companies are approaching us to advertise unfilled HFE positions in their companies.</p>
<p>What issues do you have that you would like to discuss with others at the next IEA meeting?</p>	<p>Priority areas for 2025 for the IHFES that we would like to discuss are the following:</p> <p>To continue working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to support the development of members in the IHFES and their career progression</li> <li>• How to attract more people to our Lunch 'N Learn webinars and our Annual Conference</li> <li>• How to promote and support National and International engagement with other HFE societies</li> </ul> <p>To commence working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring how to approach HFE from a position that addresses the interaction between social, environmental and economic systems and developing a position paper on the integration of HFE and sustainable development. Some of the IHFES committee would like to join the IEA working group on Ergonomics and Human Factors for Sustainability to support this activity.</li> <li>• Reviewing the current HFE teaching and modules in the Irish undergraduate and postgraduate curricula for healthcare and engineering disciplines and developing guidance on promoting HFE material in same. We would like to discuss if other national societies have done this or if the IEA has done this and if there is already guidance available to undergraduate programmes.</li> </ul>
<p>Society activities held since last annual report or planned for the following year.</p>	<p><b>The IHFES held the following Monthly IHFES Lunch n' Learn webinars since the last IEA Council meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2025, The focus of the Lunch n' Learn, which was held in the Centre for Innovative Human Systems, Trinity College Dublin, was 'Building a culture of safety and health' with three speakers from the Health and Safety Authority; Dr Joan Cahill, Seán Walsh and Elaine Murphy.</li> <li>• May 2025, <a href="#">Addressing Ergonomic risk to Improve Musculoskeletal Health in the Workplace</a></li> <li>• April 2025, <a href="#">The role of Human Factors in Intellectual Disability</a></li> <li>• March 2025, <a href="#">The use of 3D printing with user-centered design in healthcare</a></li> <li>• February 2025, <a href="#">Advancing of human in the loop AI-enhanced applications in safety-critical contexts</a></li> <li>• January 2025: <a href="#">UKOM and HSSIB international collaboration in patient safety investigations</a></li> <li>• December 2024: <a href="#">Insights of HF practitioners in High-Stakes environments, Human Factors – COMAH inspection guidance &amp; The role of HF in an atomic energy regulator</a> This was an hybrid event</li> </ul>

taking place both online and in-person at the Human factors in Safety and Sustainability (HFISS) research group in TUDublin.

- November 2024: [Gaps and importance of human factors in aircraft design and maintenance \(based on RAeS Human Factors Engineering Sub-Group 2022 report\)](#)
- October 2024: [Using a serious game to understand environmental and financial factors affecting home appliance repair/replace decision-making: findings and policy implications](#)

All of the online webinars can be accessed at the IHFES YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@irishhumanfactorsandergono1005>

**The IHFES endorsed and supported the successful international Healthcare System Ergonomics and Patient Safety (HEPS) international conference** 18 – 20 June 2025 addressing patient and staff quality and safety taking a Human Factors Ergonomics perspective. The IHFES Chair Marie Ward was co-Chair of the HEPS conference.

306 people from 30 countries registered including 12 patient partners, and 111 healthcare leaders, 29 HFE practitioners, 95 HFE Academics, 35 early career HFE researchers and 22 service providers who presented 109 oral presentations, 47 poster presentations, 9 workshops, 7 panel discussions, 7 keynote, lunchtime and breakfast talks of the conference.

The IHFES sponsored a stand at the HEPS conference to promote the IHFES and the benefits of membership.

Presentation and posters slides from the conference are available to view here:

<https://www.heps2025.com/media-2025>

**Collaboration with Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (CIEHF) on new AI guide for healthcare professionals**

IHFES Chairperson Marie E. Ward led on the co-design of on a new guide produced by the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (CIEHF) on 'Integrating Human-Centred AI in Clinical Practice A guide for health and social care professionals'.

This is a guide for designers, developers and users of AI in healthcare. It outlines general principles health and social care professionals should consider, a case study drawn from clinical practice and a directory of

resources to find out more. It includes key questions that clinicians and AI developers need to answer together to ensure the best possible outcomes.

The guide can be accessed here:

<https://ergonomics.org.uk/resource/integrating-human-centred-ai-in-clinical-practice.html>

**In Memoriam: Dr. Thomas Fritz Waldmann, Former Chair of IHFES**

The IHFES members were deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Thomas Fritz Waldmann, Coolbawn, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick, who died peacefully in his sleep on 5th August 2025 at University Hospital Limerick.

Thomas was a valued Fellow Member, Former Chair, and active committee member that contributed to the growth and life of the Irish Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. As a Lecturer at the University of Limerick in Ergonomics and Work Psychology, he was a kind and inclusive mentor to generations of students. His dedication, warmth, and wisdom will be greatly missed by colleagues, students, and friends alike.

**Lifetime achievement award for IHFES Fellow and Fellow Emeritus, TCD Nick McDonald**

Congratulations to Professor Nick Mc Donald, Fellow of the IHFES and Fellow Emeritus, TCD & former Director of the Centre for Innovative Human Systems, TCD, for receiving an Award for his 'Outstanding contribution to Human Factors Research & Education' at the HEPS 2025 Conference. Prof McDonald has been engaged in Human Factors research and engagement for over 50 years starting off his career studying truck driver fatigue for his PhD thesis. He has carried out applied research across many safety critical industries and founded the Aerospace Psychology Research Group (APRG) in TCD which later became the Centre for Innovative Human Systems. Researchers from the APRG, under Prof McDonald's direction, were the first European team to win the prestigious International Ergonomics Association (IEA) Liberty Mutual Medal for outstanding research in HFE (2012). Nick was described at the award giving as an 'ultimate visionary who has spent his career pursuing research on the role of people in complex systems with a socio-technical system focus on risk, governance, safety, change and system design'.

<https://www.tcd.ie/psychology/news/latest-news/congratulations-to-professor-nick-mc-donald-on-his-heps-2025-award/>

	<p><b>Award for the research team of former Chairperson Dr Maria Chiara Leva</b></p> <p>Human Factors in Safety and Sustainability Research Group won the Multidisciplinary Research Team Award in TU Dublin on the 4th of November 2024. This team led by former Chairperson of the IHFES Dr. Maria Chiara Leva has advanced the development of adaptive systems that predict and mitigate human errors and safety risks, for high-risk industries like aviation, healthcare, and nuclear energy, where both technical and human failures can lead to severe societal, economic, and environmental consequences. The team is large and truly interdisciplinary in nature with members based in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Food Science, Media and Social Sciences and Computing (TU Dublin). External members come from hospitals, businesses, and academia from Denmark, Italy, Serbia and the UK. For more information please read:</p> <p><a href="https://www.tudublin.ie/research-innovation/research/discover-our-research/research-centres/centre-for-human-factors-in-safety-and-sustainability/news/the-hfiss-won-the-multidisciplinary-research-team-award-in-tu-dublin.php">https://www.tudublin.ie/research-innovation/research/discover-our-research/research-centres/centre-for-human-factors-in-safety-and-sustainability/news/the-hfiss-won-the-multidisciplinary-research-team-award-in-tu-dublin.php</a></p>
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**Any other comments:**