

# IEA VE NEWS

IEA Visual Ergonomics Technical Committee Newsletter

September 2022

## From the chair

I joined research in the early 1980s and by that time sick building syndrome (SBS) started becoming the focus of Ergonomics and Occupational Hygiene. New technologies were said to be responsible for an increasing prevalence of the syndrome, such as unserviced air conditioning units or the use of unhealthy materials in furniture and paintings, such as formaldehyde. A similar evolution occurred when I bought my first PC in 1984. Since the very beginning of the PC era, monitors were suspected of negatively affecting users, for instance, by exposing computer workers to electromagnetic radiation (including X-ray and radiation “unknown” to physics). Later, vision related symptoms became a major concern and about a decade ago, computer vision syndrome (CVS) was used to describe vision related health symptoms in computer workers, a term which, due to evolution of the technology, has transformed to Digital Eye Strain (DES).

According to the Miriam Webster dictionary, a syndrome “denotes a group of signs and symptoms that occur together and characterize a particular abnormality or condition”. In the scientific literature, the cause of sick building and computer vision syndromes are a matter of debates and the causality remains fuzzy for both SBS and CVS (or DES). Furthermore, when studying SBS, CVS, and DES in workers, it might be difficult to differentiate between causes for SBS and causes for CVS or DES as in many relevant studies, participants are performing visual work in front of a monitor and are sitting inside a building. Therefore one may ask “how much DES is in SBS?” To answer this question a masters thesis has been conducted at my University in Switzerland. The main outcome of the thesis is that the literature lacks properly designed experiments to answer the question (more information after the thesis defense in August 2022). Further research is needed and I am convinced that our members will contribute to solve the mystery by combining their practical and scientific experience on the matter.



Best wishes and stay safe,

**Marino Menozzi**

**IEA VE TC Chair**

## Some publications by IEA VE TC members

- Baertsch T, Menozzi M (2022) **The redesign of a checklist for evaluating driver impairment: A human factors and ergonomics approach.** *Healthcare* 2022, 10, 1292. <https://doi.org/10.3390/Healthcare10071292>
- Schiøtz Thorud H-M, Mork R, Bjørset CO, Gilson SJ, Hagen LA, Langaas T, Pedersen HR, Svaverud E, Vikesdal GH, Baraas RC (2022) **Laboured reading and musculoskeletal pain in school children—the role of lifestyle behaviour and eye wear: a cross-sectional study.** *BMC Pediatrics* 22: 416. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12887-022-03465-1>

## IEA News

### Keep up to date with news from the International Ergonomics Association

- Latest news about a range of ergonomics topics:  
<https://m4v.211.myftpupload.com/blog/>
- Upcoming (and past events): <https://iea.cc/meetings/other-events/>

### Mark your diaries:

The next IEA congress will be held in August 2024, Jeju Island, Jeju, South Korea.

<http://iea2024.com/>



## Other opportunities

**CIE Expert Tutorial and Symposium on the Measurement of Temporal Light Modulation (TLM).** This event will take place in Athens, Greece, Oct. 11-12, 2022. It is the first in-person CIE (International Commission on Illumination) event in more than three years! Topics covered in the tutorial will include:

- What is TLM.
- How TLM affects us.
- How to measure TLM accurately.
- Tips on calculation of predictors of temporal light artefacts (TLA).
- Guidance on measurement uncertainty evaluation.

The second day of the event will be a **CIE Symposium on Advances in Measurement of Temporal Light Modulation.** This one-day scientific symposium will feature contributed papers following submission and review of abstracts.

For more information and to register, visit:

<https://cie.co.at/news/cie-expert-tutorial-and-symposium-measurement-temporal-light-modulation>

### Research Forum on Matters Relating to Temporal Light Modulation

The CIE also welcomes new members to a research forum on TLM, which is an informal mechanism for researchers to share ideas and discuss their research directions. The research forum will hold a hybrid meeting (in Athens and online) on Oct. 12, so even if you cannot attend the in-person events, there is a way to engage with other researchers on this topic. For more information see:

<https://cie.co.at/researchforum/rf-02>

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 30th November 2022**

Please send any visual ergonomics news or announcements to Marino Menozzi at

[mmenozzi@ethz.ch](mailto:mmenozzi@ethz.ch)



Remember these newsletters? Our first newsletter in August 2012 (left), a review of our achievements for the IEA2015 conference in Melbourne, Australia (middle) and a new look newsletter in December 2018 (right)

## Farewell to Jennifer Long, the founder and editor of the IEA Visual Ergonomics Newsletter

By Marino Menozzi

With this September edition, Dr. Jennifer Long, the founder, driving force and editor of our newsletter leaves the production of the newsletter for realizing new projects. Jennifer produced 31 newsletters and since the very beginning in 2012, she brilliantly managed to organize the newsletter as a vehicle with “the purpose ... to provide a forum for informing others within the visual ergonomics world about events or activities related to our discipline” (Visual Ergonomics Newsletter, 2012, 1 (1), [https://iea.cc/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/iea\\_ve\\_newsletter\\_august2012.pdf](https://iea.cc/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/iea_ve_newsletter_august2012.pdf)).

It will be hard to reach the high standards set by Jennifer, but as being a vital element of our TC, the production of the newsletter must go on. The next issue follows in December and will be produced by a new editor who will contact you asking for events or activities to be included.

The Technical Committee Visual Ergonomics of the IEA, expresses its deepest gratitude to Jennifer for her strong engagement and excellent work, and wishes her all the best for the new projects. Thank you Jenny!

### The last word...(from the editor)



I've had fun writing this newsletter for the past 10 years and watching the TC grow from less than 10 members to more than 120 members. It has been wonderful to meet so many visual ergonomics colleagues from around the world, hear about your work, and share it with the broader VE community. Although I am moving into a different phase of my work, I will always have a fond spot in my heart for the IEA Visual Ergonomics group.

With best wishes to you all,

Jennifer Long