

Endings...and beginnings

There are cycles within any active organization. Our IEA Visual Ergonomics (VE) group is no exception.

This newsletter features two milestones—the official close of the ErgoVision VE network which helped to form our IEA VE TC, and the retirement of Norwegian VE researcher Gunnar Horgan.

There is information about current member activities and publications.

Looking to the future, this newsletter also includes details for a call for papers for the IEA Triennial Congress in Melbourne, Australia in August 2015. The deadline for submitting abstracts is the 3rd October 2014.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and consider submitting an abstract for a presentation or poster at next year's IEA Congress.

Jennifer Long
IEA Visual Ergonomics
TC Chairperson

Milestones

ErgoVision Network, Scandinavia

In April 2010 a network of VE researchers and practitioners was initiated in Scandinavia. Funded by the Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research and coordinated by Allan Toomingas, the purpose of the network was to foster communication among VE professionals in the Nordic countries. Meeting twice a year, some of the items discussed by the group included:

- Identification of research and development needs within VE.
 - Scoping the resources and competencies within VE in the Nordic countries and mapping this to research and higher education requirements.
 - Initiation of the development of a definition of visual ergonomics. A letter to editor was recently published about the definition in *Applied Ergonomics*.
 - Assisting with the organisation of the VE stream at the IEA2012 congress in Brazil in 2012.
 - Arranging VE sessions at the Nordic Ergonomics Society (NES) Annual Conferences each year.
- The ErgoVision Network officially closed in April 2014, but VE networks are still strong in Scandinavia, most notably with dedicated VE sessions at the annual NES conference.



Hanne-Mari Schiøtz Thorud, Allan Toomingas, Mikael Forsman, Hillevi Hemphälä, Per Nylén, Hans Richter and Christina Zetterlund.



Professor Gunnar Horgan retired at the end of 2013 from the Department of Optometry and Visual Science, Buskerud and Vestfold University College, Norway. Well known within the visual ergonomics world for his work on vision and computers and for his publications advocating the use of task specific spectacles for presbyopic computer users, Horgan has also played a key role in the development of the Norwegian optometry profession. A seminar honouring Horgan will be held on August 25 in Norway. For further information, please contact Magne Helland at magne.helland@hbv.no

Upcoming Events

Nordic Ergonomics Society Annual Conference, Copenhagen 17-20 August 2014 (will include parallel sessions on visual ergonomics)

International Ergonomics Association World Congress, Melbourne Australia 9-14 August 2015. Abstracts due 3rd October 2014. www.iea2015.org

Publications

Gordon J (2014) Rethinking the sports bar. *Twin Cities Business tcbmag.com* May 2014. This article describes the economic benefits for a lighting design for a sports bar to cater for a variety of different types of customers.

Letter to editor:

Toomingas A (2014) A definition of visual ergonomics. *Applied Ergonomics* 45(4): 1263-1264

Helland M (2014) Letter in response to article “How to avoid tablet-neck problems” in the Norwegian Medical Association <http://tidsskriftet.no/article/3166601/>

In Press: Lehman B and Wilkins (2014) Designing to mitigate the effects of flicker in LED lighting. *IEEE Power Electronics Magazine* 1(3) September 20.

Around the world

Switzerland—Taiwan

How does blindfold manipulation relate to visual ergonomics? Automated visual screeners, joystick, mice and tablets are used as input devices to collect patients' responses to presented vision test charts. Since patients continuously fixate on the optotypes on test charts, operation of the input devices is carried out blindfold. In an international joint project, Sheu-Farn Max Liang (Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, National Taipei University of Technology), Marino Menozzi and Rudy Huang (Ergonomics of Information Media Lab, ETH Zürich) are investigating blindfold pointing using various input devices. Their research is important for a range of input devices e.g. TV remote controls, crane and aircraft operation. During his stay in Zürich, Prof Liang presented a guest lecture to the academic staff and students of ETH, in which he reported about Human-Centered Design and User Experience in healthcare, nuclear power plants and smart TVs.



Marino Menozzi, Rudy Huang and Sheu-Farn Max Liang

Sweden

The spring meeting of the Swedish Visual Ergonomics Network (SNiS) was held on the 13th June at the Swedish Work Environment Authority in Stockholm. Chaired by Ann-Kristen Nystrom, 25 people attended, including practitioners, scientists, representatives of governmental organisations and lighting designers. The program included a presentation on the activities by the Swedish Public Employment Service to assist vision impaired workers, eye movements after severe head trauma, lighting design, prism spectacles for dentists, LED lighting, and a review and discussion of topics covered at last year's Nordic Ergonomics Society conference in Reykjavik, Iceland.



Participants at the SNiS meeting in Stockholm.

Australia

In March the New South Wales Branch of the HFESA presented a whole day seminar “What's in your toolbox?”. A range of ergonomics topics were covered including measurement of light, slips and trips, risk assessment tools and design prototyping.

In July the Tasmanian Association of Vocational Rehabilitation Providers hosted a half-day seminar in Hobart “Vision, Lighting and Computers in the Modern Office Environment”. Presented by Jennifer Long, the seminar attracted 14 attendees including rehabilitation providers, ergonomists, optometrists and equipment suppliers.

USA

Stephen Orfield recently completed the design of a viewing station which demonstrates visual conditions such as acuity loss, light transmission loss and visual diseases. This station is accompanied by viewing goggles which simulate how the world may appear to people with ageing eyes and people with perceptual disabilities (including autism, ADHD and PTSD). The purpose is to teach designers and users the importance of universal design, and is important since more than 30% of the population live with perceptual disabilities.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 30th NOVEMBER 2014
jlong@visualergonomics.com.au

**19th Triennial Congress of the
International Ergonomics Association Congress**

9 – 14 August 2015
Melbourne Australia



Theme: *Reaching Out*

Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of New Zealand

Hosts of the 19th Triennial Congress of the International Ergonomics Association



Call for Papers: DEADLINE—3rd October 2014

The International Ergonomics Association Triennial Congress will be held next year in Melbourne Australia.

Within the congress, our Visual Ergonomics Technical Committee has the opportunity to run dedicated visual ergonomics sessions. We also have the opportunity for a joint session with the Work With Computing Systems (WWCS) Technical Committee.

Would you like to make a presentation (or a poster) about your work?

Abstract proposals include scientific research, case studies, technical papers, application papers, panels, symposia and workshops.

For further information about the congress, or to submit an abstract, please visit <http://iea2015.org/>

When submitting an abstract, please select the area “Visual Ergonomics”.

Of course, you can still attend the congress *without* presenting a paper!

During the congress, we also plan to have a meeting for our Visual Ergonomics Technical Committee, so you will be able to meet some of the people who you may have only read about or seen photos of in our IEA VE newsletter.

If your company or organisation is interested in being a sponsor or exhibitor at the conference, then see <http://iea2015.org/index.php/sponsorship-exhibition>

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Long at jlong@visualergonomics.com.au