

## Spreading our wings

I am writing this column as I prepare to travel from Australia to the Nordic Ergonomics Society conference in Reykjavik, Iceland. For many years I have gazed enviously at the well-developed visual ergonomics networks within Scandinavia. Therefore it is very exciting for me to be able to attend, give a presentation, and to meet my fellow visual ergonomists at NES2013.

While it is important that we have networks to discuss visual ergonomics issues, such as those described on page 1 of this newsletter, it is also important that visual ergonomics information is communicated beyond our ranks. Page 2 of this newsletter presents a variety of ways in which members of our IEA VE group are achieving this throughout the world.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter. If you have any news items you wish to share with the group, please send them to me by the 30th November.

I look forward to hearing from you (and seeing some of you) soon.

Jennifer Long  
IEA Visual Ergonomics TC  
Chairperson

## Visual Ergonomics Meetings

### ErgoVisionNet, Sweden

The Nordic Network for Visual Ergonomists, ErgoVisionNet, supported by the *Swedish council for working life and social research (FAS)* arranged a meeting in Lund, a university town in the south of Sweden on May 14-15<sup>th</sup> 2013. One of the major topics discussed at the meeting was the need for research and higher education within visual ergonomics, relating these needs to competencies, and comparing research and education needs to existing resources (competencies) within the Nordic countries. The network has been the driving force for the development of the visual ergonomics definition (now on the IEA VE webpage) and plans to publish the definition of Visual Ergonomics in selected scientific journals and in *Wikipedia*. The VE definition has now been translated from English to all the Nordic languages. The next meeting of ErgoVisionNet will be at the annual conference of the *Nordic Ergonomic Society (NES)* in Iceland August 12-14<sup>th</sup> 2013.

### Swedish Visual Ergonomics Network (SNiS)

The Annual Spring SNiS Seminar was held at the Swedish Work Environment Authority (SWEA) in April. Attended by 25 members under the guidance of SNiS chairperson Ann-Kristin Nyström, topics discussed at the seminar included lighting and health (Hillevi Hemphälä), extreme light sensitivity (Anders Görloff), the readability of cash register displays (Eva Porsblad), information from the SWEA concerning a new provision paragraph stating that employers must now include visual and lighting conditions in risk analyses of musculoskeletal work load; developments in office LED based lighting; and a demonstration of SWEA's new Iphone application which includes a light and contrast meter (Per Nylén). The day ended with a workshop teaching participants how to use a newly developed visual ergonomic checklist which assesses contrast, glare, flicker, color temperature and color rendering.



*Members of SNiS take a short break from their discussions to have an eye-rest break.*

## Upcoming Events

**Nordic Ergonomics Society Annual Conference, Reykjavik, Iceland 11-14 August 2013 (will include parallel sessions and a keynote presentation on visual ergonomics)**

**Visual Image Safety Conference, Stratford-upon-Avon, UK, 3-5 September 2013**

**Closing date for abstracts  
31st July 2013  
<http://imago.sym-online.com/VIMS2013/default.htm>**

**International Ergonomics Association World Congress, Melbourne Australia 9-14 August 2015**

## LinkedIn

Did you know that there is an IEA discussion forum on LinkedIn? During the past 6 months there have been several discussions related to visual ergonomics, including one attracting 47 comments on the Hazards of LED. To join, connect to the International Ergonomics Association group on LinkedIn.

## Spotlight on Paris

The International Commission on Illumination (CIE) celebrated its 100th birthday in April at a meeting in Paris, France with a 2-day conference on the theme "Towards a New Century of Light". The CIE is an international body of 37 member countries devoted to worldwide cooperation and the exchange of information on all matters relating to the science and art of light and lighting, colour and vision, photobiology and image technology ([www.cie.co.at](http://www.cie.co.at)). Among the 176 papers in the proceedings, VE members might be particularly interested in those on colour quality (a hot topic in lighting these days) and glare (always a contentious topic). The proceedings are available through <http://www.techstreet.com/cie/products/1860287>.

## Visual ergonomics and architecture

Italian architect, Isabella Tiziana Steffan, has collated a two volume book *Design for All—the project for everyone. Methods, tools, applications*. Containing 45 contributions by more than 60 different authors, the publication serves to clarify terms and methodologies on urban planning, architectural design, products, services and teaching. It also strives to establish a common basis for a Design for All approach to enable dialogue between the scientific community and stakeholders. Visual ergonomics content includes chapters on wayfinding, way-showing and icon signage.



## Building a vision for ergonomics

Orfield Laboratories, Inc, based in Minneapolis, USA, have developed quantitative building performance perceptual engineering standards (acoustics, lighting, daylighting, thermal comfort, indoor air quality) for elder perception (90 year cohort). This is being applied in two non-profit campuses in the USA with a construction budget of \$US70million. "Visual ergonomics is a dominant issue in the elder population" reports Steven Orfield, the author of a peer-reviewed publication reporting this research, "Why senior environments are associated with a reduced quality of life: Development of a Research-Based Model for Better Aging Environments" which will appear in the September edition of *Seniors, Housing and Care Journal* of the Institute on Aging.

## Say it again...

Californian optometrist, Jeffrey Anshel, will be giving a presentation "Seeing is believing: Vision in the Workplace" at the National Ergonomics Conference in Las Vegas in December 2013. This is the 11th year in a row that he has presented this topic at the conference.

## Focus on research

Camilla Zetterberg is a physiotherapist who works at the Center for Musculoskeletal Research (CBF) at the University of Gävle, Sweden and is a PhD student enrolled at the University of Uppsala, Sweden.

Camilla is researching the relationship between accommodation/vergence demands during prolonged near work and muscle activity and discomfort



in the neck/shoulder area. So far she has been able to demonstrate a relationship between accommodation response and trapezius muscle activity.

In the future, Camilla would like to investigate whether these laboratory results translate to real life, specifically the development

of work related musculoskeletal disorders in the neck/shoulder area during prolonged sedentary near work. She would

also like to contribute to increased collaboration between optometrists, physiotherapists and ergonomists to highlight the importance of visual ergonomics in the occupational environment.

Camilla is supervised by Hans Richter (CBF), Mikael Forsman (Karolinska Institute) and Malin Josephsson (Uppsala University), and plans to defend her thesis during spring 2015.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:  
30TH NOVEMBER 2013  
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