

To: IEA Fellow Selection Committee
From: Nancy J. Cooke, PhD
Topic: Endorsement of Eduardo Salas for IEA Fellow
Date: April 24, 2015

I am pleased to write a letter in support of Dr. Eduardo Salas's nomination for International Ergonomics Association Fellow. I support his nomination without reservation and believe that he is most deserving of this honor.

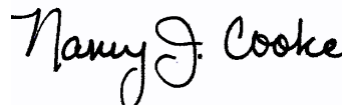
I have known Dr. Salas since 1996 when he invited me to make a presentation at Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division. However, I was aware of Dr. Salas's team and training research well before my visit. Since our initial meeting, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Salas on research and grant proposals, to co-author papers and book chapters with him, present papers together at conferences, and to work together on the Human Factors journal (as an Associate Editor with Dr. Salas serving as Editor, and later as Editor with Dr. Salas serving as Associate Editor). In addition to all of these activities and interactions, Dr. Salas has been the single most influential force in guiding my research interests into the team arena. Although I am grateful for his guidance in steering me to such a challenging and rewarding area, I do not see this as an isolated incident in Dr. Salas's career. In fact, it seems that he has guided the research of many students, co-workers, and colleagues and in doing so has had a tremendous impact on the field. For this reason alone, I believe that Dr. Salas is worthy of the IEA Fellow.

Dr. Salas's research productivity is amazing. He has published countless journal articles (287 to date), books, and chapters in the team research area; and is the most prolific applied psychologist I know. This large body of work is not only indicative of tremendous research productivity, but also the skill and in many cases, perseverance, required to communicate one's research to the larger scientific and technical community. The quality of Dr. Salas's research and its impact on real problems is supported by his strong record at attracting research funding, as well as his numerous consulting experiences. Companies and agencies pay for research that solves problems. But his success is also connected to his ability to conduct rigorous peer-reviewed research, but in addition to translate that research for the practitioner.

What is really amazing is that Dr. Salas's productivity has been steadily high despite his work in a non-academic setting (NAWCTSD), his transition to academia, and his assumption of numerous duties and professional roles that must surely limit his time. To me, this continued productivity in the face of other pressures and sometimes limited payoff, is the sign of a person dedicated to science. As a result, Dr. Salas has made a significant, lasting, and positive impact on the field of team and training research. But not only as this impact been realized in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, the discipline in which Dr. Salas was trained, but also in the related but distinct fields of Military Psychology and Human Factors and Ergonomics. Very few researchers have the kind of impact that Dr. Salas has on even a single field.

Once again, I recommend Dr. Salas for this honor without hesitation. If you have any questions I would be happy to address them (ncooke@asu.edu; 480-727-5158).

Sincerely,



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