

Events



The next IEHF annual conference, Ergonomics & Human Factors 2013, will take place in the historic city of Cambridge from Monday 15th to Thursday 18th April 2013. Each month we'll provide a little taster of what you'll find there.

Bridging the gap between research and practice – let's talk

We all know there are differences between the challenges that researchers and practitioners face day-to-day. Furthermore, the value placed on different types and formats of research, will, invariably, change based upon the individual challenges faced. The stereotypical view is that those in academia are more focused on the fundamental understanding of the interactions among humans and other elements of a system whereas, those working in industry are more interested in the application of tools and techniques in order to optimise human wellbeing and overall system performance.

Making the somewhat contentious assumption that the readership can be broadly divided into two groups (researchers and practitioners), most would probably agree that there is much benefit from collaboration between the two groups. Practitioners need to remain up-to-date with substantial advances in thinking, and researchers must demonstrate the application of their research. As such, the application of research has clear advantages to researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and the public. Increasing collaboration, communication and networking between researchers and practitioners was the most cited suggestion by human factors and ergonomics practitioners in the largest study conducted on the research-practice relationship.

Our experience is that the level of collaboration is often inconsistent and frequently reliant on individual contacts or networks and has varied success. Given this, we contend that more could be done to increase the level of collaboration between researchers and practitioners. We will be hosting a discussion session at the upcoming IEHF Ergonomics & Human Factors conference in April to discuss (1) in which areas collaboration is needed, and (2) the appropriate mechanisms for supporting this collaboration. During the discussion, we would especially like to hear your stories of collaboration: what worked well, what did not, and how could collaboration be optimised to bridge the gap between research and practice? It would be great to see you there and hear your thoughts.

Dan Jenkins, Steve Shorrock & Amy Chung

For full details of EHF2013, visit www.ehf2013.org.uk

Show your work in progress

This year at the Ergonomics & Human Factors conference, we would like to invite anyone who wants to participate to submit an abstract describing 'work in progress'. Accepted submissions in this category will be presented as posters in the poster session, including the Just a Minute oral presentation session, and the abstracts will be published on the event website. The deadline for these submissions will be quite late (watch this space for exact details) and we encourage any of you who are planning to attend the conference but did not manage to submit an abstract for inclusion in the paper proceedings, to take this opportunity to participate in the presentation and discussion of your work.

If four days is too long...

If time or cost is a limiting factor for you in considering whether to attend EHF2013, why not look at one of our special day-long symposia which all begin with a lecture by a prestigious speaker?

- ◆ **Standards:** starting with a plenary lecture "Standards as human factors best practice for industry" by Dr Scott Steedman CBE, Director of Standards, BSI Group
- ◆ **HCI:** Professor Ann Blandford of UCL will begin with the Donald Broadbent Lecture "Interactions 'in the wild': explorations in healthcare", looking how new technologies can be designed to support new work practices
- ◆ **Healthcare:** "Task, team and technology integration in surgical care" will be the subject of a lecture by Ken Catchpole, Cedars Sinai Medical Centre, USA

There are also separate day-long sessions with seven presentations each that you may be interested in on accessibility and transport, plus other half day topics.

Don't miss out, come along for a day! Refreshments, lunch and a copy of the proceedings is included in all day rates. For the full programme, visit the website at www.ehf2013.org.uk.

Showcase your research

The fourth IEHF Early Career Research Symposium (formerly the Doctoral Consortium) will provide an opportunity for postgraduate research students and early career researchers and practitioners studying and working in areas related to ergonomics and human factors, to meet each other and learn about each others' research interests and activities. If you want to showcase your research at whatever stage you're at, to your peers, come along on June 13th at UCL in London. It's a great opportunity to talk about your own study and to find out about how others are coping in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. The deadline for submission of abstracts is March 1st so it's time to think about this now. For all details, visit the IEHF website at www.ergonomics.org.uk/event/early-career-research-symposium/



If you have an interesting case study involving ergonomics, human factors, usability, wellbeing, performance, etc., in the workplace that you'd like to share with an audience of like-minded professionals, please consider speaking at the second Workplace Ergonomics & Productivity Exhibition. The Exhibition will be accompanied by two days of presentations in two theatres. This is an opportunity to show how ergonomics can play a major part in increased productivity.

The audience will be H&S managers and officers, managing directors, ergonomists, occupational health advisors, physiotherapists, osteopaths, H&S consultants and trainers. Please send any proposals to Sue Hull, email s.hull@ergonomics.org.uk. For details of WEP2013, visit www.wep2013.org.uk.