

Three years in review

This newsletter is written on the cusp of IEA2015, the International Ergonomics Association Triennial Congress, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, this month. Our Visual Ergonomics Technical Committee (VE TC) is a part of the IEA, and we are the host of the visual ergonomics presentations within the conference program. This includes two streams of oral presentations, a workshop and posters.

During the congress we will also be holding a Visual Ergonomics TC General meeting, in which we will discuss the leadership of our TC, review our past work projects and discuss potential projects for advancing awareness and knowledge about visual ergonomics.

This newsletter has a smattering of news from around the world, but I have also taken the liberty

of highlighting some of the achievements of our TC over the past 3 years. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the VE TC during this time.

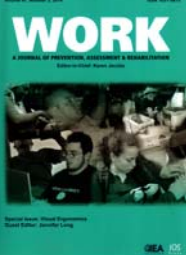
If you have any visual ergonomics news which you would like to share, the deadline for the next newsletter will be 30 November 2015.

Jennifer Long

IEA Visual Ergonomics TC
Chairperson

iea 2012 Recife, Brazil

At the last IEA congress in Recife, Brazil (February 2012) we hosted two visual ergonomics parallel oral paper sessions and one joint parallel session with the Work With Computer Systems TC.



Our major work item during the past 3 years has been the publication of a visual ergonomics special edition of *WORK: A journal of prevention, assessment and rehabilitation* (2014, Volume 47, Number 3). This edition features a guest editorial by Jennifer Long, 12 peer-reviewed articles, a Sounding Board article by Hans Richter on the topic of neck pain, and an open-access article which explains visual ergonomics in an easy-to-understand way for a non-visual ergonomics audience.

The Nordic Ergonomics Society visual ergonomics group, FAS ErgoVision Net, were instrumental in developing a definition of visual ergonomics. The IEA VE TC participated in the latter stages of this process. The definition was uploaded to the IEA VE TC website in July 2012, included in the guest editorial written for the visual ergonomics edition of *WORK* (see above) and was submitted by Allan Toomingas as a Letter to the Editor for publication in *Applied Ergonomics* in 2014.

Did you know?

- 👁 Our IEA VE TC has grown from 5 members in February 2012 to 62 members in August 2015.
- 👁 We have members residing in each world continent. 18 members live in Sweden.
- 👁 This is the 10th newsletter published by our TC. In these we have featured conference reports, announced the publication of books and journal articles, congratulated prize recipients, profiled student researchers and discussed hot topics within visual ergonomics.
- 👁 Past copies of this newsletter can be accessed at <http://www.iea.cc/about/technical.php?id=51df9aa27ebf9>

Upcoming Events

International Ergonomics Association World Congress, Melbourne Australia 9-14 August 2015. www.iea2015.org (will include visual ergonomics sessions)

Nordic Ergonomics Society Annual Conference, Lillehammer, Norway 1-4 November 2015 (will include sessions on visual ergonomics)

Recent Publications

Two books have recently been published with visual ergonomics content.

- 👁️ *Evaluation of Human Work, 4th edition*, is an updated version the classic ergonomics textbook, edited by J.R. Wilson and S. Sharples, and published by CRC press in 2015. It contains a chapter by Peter Howarth called "Assessment of the Visual Environment".
- 👁️ *Basics of Computer Vision Syndrome* is a short book (125 pages) by Ajay Kumar Bhootra, published by Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers, India, in 2014.

Conferences

MAY 2015— AUSTRALIA. Jennifer Long gave a presentation "*Grand rounds: Occupational Optometry- Recent developments and the implications for clinical practice*" at Super Sunday, an Annual Conference in Sydney hosted by Optometry Australia.

JUNE 2015—USA. Jeffrey Anshel gave a spotlight talk "*Seeing is believing—Visual Ergonomics*" at the Ergo-X conference in Anaheim, USA, a conference hosted by the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society.

VE laboratory in Norway named after Professor Robert Fletcher

Report and photograph by Magne Helland

At a recent symposium at City University in London, delegates from Buskerud and Vestfold University College in Norway announced that their new visual ergonomics laboratory would be named after professor emeritus Robert J. Fletcher. Their entire campus at Kongsberg, where the Department of Optometry and Visual Science is located, will move into new facilities this July-August.

The London symposium was in honor of Professor Fletcher, who celebrated his 90th birthday in July. Fletcher was a professor and a guest lecturer in Norwegian optometry education for many years, and had very strong links to Kongsberg and the work- and research- field of visual ergonomics.

As early as in 1961, he authored a book "*Ophthalmics in Industry*" in which he describes the general and special visual challenges in the workplace. His later fields of interest and research were mostly focused on visual perception, especially color vision and its occupational implications. In 1985 "*Defective Colour Vision*" was published together with Janet F. Voke.

Fletcher has developed several color vision tests, including "The City University Colour Vision Test" and "CAM Fletcher Evans Colour Vision Test". The latter is specifically designed for testing professionals in aviation and shipping, where requirements for normal color vision are essential.

In 1982 he was awarded the Norwegian Association of Optometrists highest award for his work for Norwegian optometry and optometric education at Kongsberg. Fletcher has played a significant role in the establishment and development of the discipline previously in Norway termed "occupational optometry", but in recent years and especially internationally, more frequently featured under the heading "visual ergonomics."



Professor Fletcher in London at the symposium in honour of his 90th birthday.