



The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

Founded in 1957, the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) is the world's largest professional organization devoted to the advancement of human factors/ergonomics science. The Society has approximately 4800 members internationally.

The Society's mission is to promote the discovery and exchange of knowledge concerning the characteristics of human beings that are applicable to the design of systems, devices, and products of all kinds. Members of HFES study human capabilities and limitations, and apply that knowledge in order to make the things that people use safer, more comfortable, and more user-friendly.

The Society furthers serious consideration of knowledge about the assignment of appropriate functions for humans and machines, whether people serve as operators, maintainers, or users in the system. And it advocates systematic use of such knowledge to achieve compatibility in the design of interactive systems of people, machines, and environments to ensure their effectiveness, safety, and ease of performance.

As defined by the International Ergonomics Association, a federation of the world's ergonomics societies of which HFES is a member, "*Ergonomics (or human factors)* is the scientific discipline concerned with the understanding of interactions among humans and other elements of a system, and the profession that applies theory, principles, data, and other methods to design in order to optimize human well-being and overall system performance."

HFES has 23 technical groups in a wide array of application areas and domains, including Surface Transportation, Safety, Aging, Cognitive Engineering and Decision Making, System Development, Human Performance Modeling, Training, and Perception and Performance. Local/regional chapters of HFES provide networking of peers in close geographic proximity. Chapters at major universities support the educational and professional development of students.

The Society publishes two archival journals: *Human Factors*, the flagship journal of the field, now celebrating its 50th year of publication, and the new *Journal of Cognitive Engineering and Decision Making* provides research and case studies in this important and emerging area. The Society also serves as a developer of national and international ergonomics standards. The annual meeting of the Society, held each fall, provides a gathering point for researchers and practitioners in the field, where the latest findings and developments are presented and discussed.

For additional information on HFES and its programs, please see <http://hfes.org> or contact Executive Director Lynn Strother, CAE, at the address below.