



ISOES NEWS

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR OCCUPATIONAL
ERGONOMICS & SAFETY

Fall 2013

Volume 15, Issue 1

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New President's Message

Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia, MD, PhD, MSErg.

The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX 79968



An organization's success is the result of all of its members working together towards the same goal; collaboration is the key to success. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the President of the International Society of Occupational Ergonomics and Safety for the 2013-2014 term. It is, however, also a challenge. Even though our past conference was a success, my presidency term will target improvement in vital areas of the organization that will be reflected in a culminating event: the 2014 Annual Confer-

ence to be held in the "The Sun City" of El Paso, Texas. It will be this Executive Committee's priority not only to maintain our current status but to improve by keeping active in increasing ISOES visibility and membership as well as by promoting academia, private sector and student participation, and organizational outreach to other countries to increase collaboration. With this in mind, let us come together, communicate more, and participate more actively.

The 2014 conference will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the organization's strength. The El Paso del Norte border region is a binational and predominantly Hispanic area that includes three cities in which manufacturing companies and general commerce has thrived for the past 30 years. However, its success has also brought challenges for the ergonomic and safety fields. Issues such as technology transfer, dealing with population diversity, and regulation compliance are challenges that international corporations are facing in the region. Most of these corporations are eager

to show their best practices in an international forum. Being a port of entry to the United States, El Paso gives the opportunity to colleagues from Mexico, Central and South America to attend and participate; let us not forget that El Paso also has direct flight connections to many major hubs, making it accessible to all.

Join our effort to make this the best conference yet. Participate; if you have done so, visit our webpage, learn about our organization and join; follow us on Linked-In, start a discussion, and hopefully, let's meet each other in 2014 in El Paso, Texas!



Outgoing President's Message

Paul Ray, PhD

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487

The time has arrived for the annual change of guards. I look back and feel some satisfaction in finding the accomplishments of the society during 2012-13. The goals for ISOES in 2012-2013 were : increase membership, improve visibility by implementing networking through new social media and publicity of the annual conference, and regularize two newsletters per year. Another goal was the extension of society activities to neighboring countries where the application of Ergonomics and Safety is developing.

The society membership has increased by about ten percent during the year by renewing membership of a few non-active existing members and adding new members. The annual conference of the society has been successfully completed in June 2013 with a modest financial gain for the society. This year the local Ergonomists in Atlanta, GA, participated in the conference and demonstrated the essence of workplace safety for elderly workers; soon to be the workplace of the future. The group also conducted a panel discussion session that provided insight to the application of ergonomics in industry. The developmental work completed during the year included new communication media through the "Linked-In" networking tool and the redesigned society website. The dedication of the executive and conference committee members deserve special commendation. They regularly attended the monthly online executive committee meetings, in addition to the bi-weekly online meetings for conference, during Spring 2013. The plan for two newsletters per year, one in spring and another in summer has been realized and published. This year, one scholarship was offered to a Ph.D. student for research in Ergonomics. The major difficulty for the international scholarship has been in achieving desired outcome from the scholarship. The executive committee is busy developing society policy to ensure the positive outcome of future international scholarships. Once the new procedure is finalized, it will be offered again.

The society is busy in planning for next year to elevate the position of the society to a still higher level. Increase in membership will remain a goal for next year. One idea is to offer membership opportunities to engineers of the neighboring developing countries where Ergonomics and Safety programs are in infancy and still developing. In addition, the international nature of our society prompts us to examine the possibility of having our annual conference in El Paso next year. This location is close to Mexico and easily accessible to a large number of engineers and interested persons from South America. Our conference planning committee has selected El Paso for conference in 2014. With the new momentum, I visualize substantial growth of the society next year.

I take this opportunity to thank all the members for the good work done during the past year and urge each member to cooperate in advancing the goals of the society next year.

ISOES Conference 2013 in Review

Brandy Ware, 2013 Conference Chair



The 25th Annual International Occupational Ergonomics and Safety Conference was held June 6-7, 2013 at the Hilton Garden Inn – Atlanta Airport North. The conference was attended by ISOES members from India, Thailand, France, Mexico, and the USA. There were nine technical sessions where practitioners, educators, and students discussed topics such as ergonomics, health and safety, biomechanics, human factors, and accident reconstruction.

Attendees enjoyed a plenary speech by Dr. Hongwei Hsaio from NIOSH. His talk entitled “A Decade of Challenges and Opportunities in Occupational Ergonomics and Safety” reminded us of the work that has been done in our field and demonstrated that there is still more work that must be done.

Thursday evening attendees enjoyed a banquet, acknowledged the student scholarship winner, Mr. Beniot Langard, and participated in an interactive presentation by Ms. Diane DeGaetano entitled “Ergonomics in the ‘Seasoned Workforce’: Challenges and Solutions.” Diane’s exercises related to experiencing gradual hearing loss, decreased dexterity, and decreased strength, spoke volumes about ensuring that everyone’s abilities are taken into consideration as a part of work design.

Friday morning, a panel of distinguished professionals discussed their ergonomics programs. The presentations by Mr. Kelly Young, Mr. JC Rodrigues, Ms. Diane DeGaetano, and Ms. Peggy Ross provided insight into the struggles and problems that each organization has experienced and ways they have improved their ergonomics programs to result in increased productivity and decreased injuries.

The conference adjourned Friday at noon, with the conclusion of the morning sessions. We hope that you will mark your calendar for the 26th Annual International Occupational Ergonomics and Safety Conference that will be held June 5-6, 2014 at the Hawthorn Suites in El Paso, Texas. See you next year!

Call for New & Renewed Membership

The success of the mission and vision of ISOES depends on you, the members. We are collectively committed to the goal of increasing our membership, maintaining our current members, and expanding our international diversity. To be successful, we need your help. You can help advance the goals of ISOES by:

1. Recruiting new members.
2. Sharing our information and newsletter.
3. Attending conferences.
4. Submitting manuscripts to our Conference call for papers.
5. Sharing your input and expertise with the society, especially the Executive Committee, who is committed to ensuring that the design of our organization matches the needs of its members.
6. Joining!

Go to <http://isoes.info/member.htm> to get your membership form!

Free Membership Announcement

ISOES is pleased to announce free annual membership for qualified students graduating in the academic year 2013-14. Membership benefits include access to ISOES publications and it is a great addition to your resume for free!

Visit our membership page (<http://isoes.info/member.htm>) to get your membership form. Please submit your application with proof of graduation to Brandy Ware (bw@jfa-inc.com).

**Join Us at the XXVIth Annual International Occupational
Ergonomics and Safety Conference
June 5-6, 2014
Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham,
El Paso, TX, USA**



General Body Meeting Minutes

**Place: Hilton Garden Inn – Atlanta Airport North
Atlanta , Georgia, USA**

Date: 6 June, 2013

1. Welcome and Introduction of EC:

Done by Dr. Ray

2. Results of Election

- a) Member at Large: Jeffrey Fernandez
- b) President Elect: Richard Wyatt

3. Summary of Activities

- a) Accounts (see update below)
- b) Membership – about 15% increase in paid membership (see update below)
- c) Review of new EC roles (see Item #6, below)
- d) This year – we have published 2 newsletters; retention is good, new members is good; funding in accounts.

4. Accounts

- a) Bank of America: \$13,325.38
- b) Morgan Stanley: \$52,950.40

5. Memberships

- a) Current Membership is 54 full members and 3 student members.
- b) New Members: 11
- c) Renewed Members: 12

6. New EC Members

- a) President Elect- Richard Wyatt (Richard.wyatt@aon.com)
- b) Members at Large- Jeffrey Fernandez (jf@jfa-inc.com)

7. Support for Developing Countries

- a) We can give funding to other countries for the development of a process. Recommend possibly endorsement from ISOES member, have accountability and action plan of activities.
- b) ISOES EC will develop a process.

8. Student Scholarship

- a) Student Paper Award: This needs to be streamlined. Advertise it early. Evaluation should be done by practitioners (or people that will not have students applying).

9. Conference- General

- a) Can we set up a different mechanism for industry / applications folks where they don't have to write an academic paper.
- b) Pick a topic – such as “ergonomics and hotels” or “ergonomics and the service industry”
- c) We should advertise that we accept abstracts (targeted to industries / practitioners)

General Body Meeting Minutes (cont.)

10. Conference 2013

- a) Model for El Paso
- b) Location is convenient, however, the attractive locations, may bring better enrollment because they'll bring their families.
- c) Being an airport hub and close to the airport is good.
- d) 1 ½ days seems good for duration
- e) Will consider training sessions / workshops for El Paso

For El Paso 2014

- a) Possible themes: Electronics assembly, healthcare medical, factories, agriculture, assembly, call centers, distribution
- b) We should advertise abstracts on website, full papers. E.g. "if you submit a full paper, it is due on this time"; poster sessions;
- c) Military – local, white sands

11. Dr. Ibarra- Mejia's Incoming Presidents discussion

- a) 2014 Conference will be in El Paso at the Hawthorn Suites. The room rates range from \$55-\$85. We will pay \$600 for conference rooms (3 rooms for 2 days). We will pay for snacks and cookies. There is a restaurant in the parking lot of the hotel. We plan on using them for the banquet. The major advantage of the Hawthorn is that there are local hotels near by.
- b) We can advertise in Central / South America. We can offer workshops from Mexico, and the El Paso region.
- c) Objective – diversify ISOES and extent membership to the South.
- d) ISOES already has a collaboration with Juarez to assist and mentor their organization related to Ergonomics. We could possibly do a 1 day workshop with 8-hour contact with a certificate at the end of the day. If we want to attract outside the US, they need evidence that they were trained, attended, and that we they did xyz. To get a certificate of attendance.
- e) Have we looked into getting CEU's for workshops? 1 CEU for 10 contact hours.
 - i) At ASSE – you have your paperwork signed in each session. You can team with them. If we can work with ASSE. IF you have that stamped certificate for BCPE then it may count. Getting published will also attract more people.

XXVth ISOES Annual Conference Student Award Statement

**Benoit Langard
PhD Student**

University of South Brittany (France)

I would first like to start by thanking the ISOES executive committee for the decision to present me with the ISOES 2013 Student Scholarship. I am truly grateful for the receipt this scholarship and consider it an honor to be acknowledged by this organization.

My dissertation focuses on the cultural aspect of safety and the resulting impact it has on decision making with particular attention paid to trade-off situations between safety and performance (including economic performance) that may arise as a result. The particular field that my research is centered on involves a passenger ferry company. I was pleasantly surprised and pleased to see that this particular safety topic was of interest to an international research community and that we share common concerns.

As a French student, my main fear stemming from the prospect of the conference was the apprehension I felt in preparing myself to present in English and to ensure that my audience understood me when I did so. I worked on my speech several days ahead, and on the day of my presentation, I found that actual presentation itself was far more stressful than my French accent that I was sure would bother me the most. To my relief, everything went well and the questions that followed my presentation were very interesting and enriching.

This conference allowed me to visit the United States for the very first time. I stayed for a few days after the conclusion of the conference and visited the city of Atlanta with my girlfriend. What surprised us the most was the friendliness, kindness, and spontaneity of the American people.

It is my hope to be able to keep working in the educational system after the completion of my PhD. Having been given the opportunity to present my work at an international conference has been a privilege and I will be rewarded with the experience throughout the rest of my career.

All conference sessions I attended were extremely interesting and informative, but I was particularly interested in the "Health and Safety" and "Ergonomics" sessions. I also discovered through this conference that a great diversity in the practice and implementation of ergonomics exists which are different from those I've encountered. From this experience, I have discovered methods and practices that are not widely used in my country.

Finally, this conference has helped me gain more confidence as a person; especially regarding my ability to understand and communicate in English. I sincerely hope to be able to attend and participate in future editions of the ISOES conference, and would do so with great enthusiasm.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 2013

7-9	<p>2nd International Summit on Toxicology Hampton Inn Tropicana Las Vegas, NV Sponsor: OMICS Group Conferences Contact: Valentina Phone: (650) 268-9744 Email: toxicology2013@omicsgroup.com Contact URL: http://www.omicsgroup.com/conferences/toxicology-2013/</p>
28-29	<p>87th Annual Pennsylvania Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Conference Hershey Lodge & Convention Center Hershey, PA Contact: Jennifer Phone: (717) 441-6043 Contact URL: http://www.pasafetyconference.com/</p>

November 2013

3-6	<p>Ethical Issues in Global Health Research: Blending Cultures, Building Capacity, and Bolstering Collaboration Harvard School of Public Health Boston, MA Sponsor: Harvard School of Public Health Contact: Peter Bretton Phone: (617) 432-2041 Contact URL: https://ecpe.sph.harvard.edu/programs.cfm?CSID=EIGHR1113&pg=cluster&CLID=1</p>
5-7	<p>Southeast Mine Safety and Health Conference Birmingham, AL Sponsor: Southeast Mine Safety and Health Conference Committee Contact: Andrew Perkins Phone: (270) 556-5325 Contact URL: https://www.southeastmineconf.org/</p>

December 2013

2-4	<p>3rd International Conference on Nanotek and Expo Hampton Inn Tropicana Las Vegas, NV Sponsor: OMICS Group Conferences Contact: Nanotek-2013 Phone: (650) 268-9744 Contact URL: http://www.omicsgroup.com/conferences/nanotek-nanotechnology-2013/</p>
3-6	<p>The National Ergonomics Conference & Exposition Caesars Palace, Las Vegas Sponsor: multiple Contact URL: http://www.ergoexpo.com/index.html</p>

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