



International Society for Occupational Ergonomics & Safety

Fall 2024

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FREE Webinar

The International Society for Occupational Ergonomics and Safety (ISOES) is happy to announce the forthcoming Webinar:

The Overturning of the Chevron Decision—what it is and its possible implications for the occupational safety and health communities.

March 13th, 2025 at noon, EST; 45 minutes (Q&A included)

For more information, please check out the official announcement [HERE](#).

Register for free [HERE](#).



Letter from the President

- George Page, MSE, CPE

Dear ISOES Community!

First, I am honored to be selected to represent you as your President for the 2024-2025 year. Our community is noteworthy in that we cut across many time zones and many professions—all with an interest in occupational ergonomics and safety. So it is with a heartfelt thanks that I take on the mission of President. I aim to serve you well!

We are off to a fast start this year, but first, I would like to thank my predecessor, Richard Wyatt for his Presidential leadership over the past year. We had a very successful conference in Denver in 2024 and look to publish the conference proceedings soon.

To start the year off with a bang, we are announcing the first ISOES Webinar to be held Thursday March 13th, 2025 at 12:00 PM Eastern Time. The topic will be the recent Supreme Court Decision to reverse the Chevron Decision and its implications in the world of occupational ergonomics, safety, and health. Register for free [HERE](#).

Second, we are happy to announce that our 2025 37th Annual International Occupational Ergonomics and Safety Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida on July 24th and 25th. Our conference piggy-backs onto the Annual Conference of ASSP, which is also in Orlando, Florida from the 22nd to the 24th of July. We will once again be

hosting a hybrid conference to accommodate those who cannot join us in person. Thank you to Anand Iyer for working with the Hampton Inn & Suites Orlando at Seaworld, where the in-person ISOES conference will be hosted. This location is just 2.3 miles from the convention center where ASSP Safety 2025 will be held. The conference website will be updated as soon as we have the group rate information available for booking your room. As always, the most up-to-date information on the 2025 conference can be found on the [ISOES conference webpage](#).

As 2025 leaps ahead, we look forward to these opportunities for professional and social interaction among our members and soon-to-be members!

All the best to a productive, engaging and lively new year!

Sincerely,
George B. Page

Letter from the Past President

- Richard Wyatt Ph.D, PE, CPE, CSP, CQE

Another year has passed us by and it has been an honor to serve as the President of the International Society of Occupational Ergonomics and Safety for the 2023-2024 year. We had a wonderful conference in Denver Colorado, with some local keynote speakers that have a lot of experience in Safety and Health. Our goals for the year were to continue the Hybrid conference, which worked well for a number of researchers. We had presentations from Israel, Iran, Japan, Korea, Brazil and the United States. The executive committee worked hard not only to retain members, but also to gain new members. At our annual conference, we met some new faces, which we now know as new friends and colleagues. We also planned the conference around the ASSP Professional Development Conference, and ISOES is very thankful that ASSP also believes in our mission and provided us with booth space at their conference.

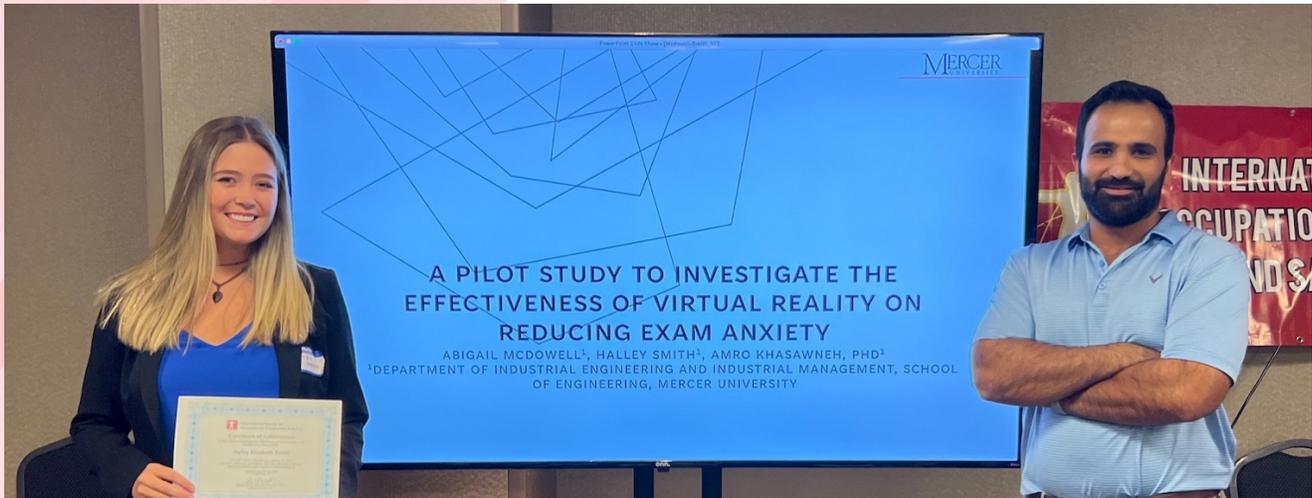


I believe our organization brings together a blend of both practitioners and researchers and this allows our group to effectively dialogue on issues that affect both the science and application of safety and ergonomics. The organization has recently added new members to the Executive Committee, and that addition brings new ideas to the organization. Recent additions Mr. Murray Gibson and Mr. Jim Vachon bring a wealth of industry experience to the group and they have both been a pleasure to work with both personally and professionally. Jim is the Risk Control team Manager for Starr Insurance in New York City, while Murray has his own ergonomics practice in Auburn, Alabama and is a Ph.D. candidate at Auburn University. Both Murray and Jim bring over 20 years of Safety and Ergonomic experience to our organization and have been a welcome addition to the Executive Committee. For the 2024-2025 year, we just welcomed Ms. Raina Shah of Rimkus, and Dr. Suman Chowdhury of the University of Florida, to the executive committee in the positions of secretary and member at large, respectively.

Looking back on this year, interacting with the students at the conference is most rewarding. We had two student scholarship winners: Halley Elizabeth Smith (Mercer University) and Felipe Indalêncio Goulart (Federal University of Santa Catarina).

I welcome our new President, Mr. George Page, of Page Engineering for our 2024-2025 year. It has been an honor to serve with George and the rest of the Executive Committee and I look forward to seeing everyone next year in Orlando.

2024 Student Award Winners



- Halley Smith (left) and her professor Dr. Amro Khasawneh (right), Mercer University.

Halley Smith:

I'm a senior at Mercer University, majoring in Industrial Management through the School of Engineering. I got interested in virtual reality (VR) during my sophomore year after attending a presentation on VR research. I've also always been interested in ways to reduce anxiety, since it's something I've dealt with personally. Working on this research has helped me manage my own anxiety, whether it's through testing out the VR methods or by putting myself in challenging situations, like presenting and networking.

At the ISOES 2024 Conference, we presented our pilot study on using VR to reduce exam anxiety. We did this research because anxiety is something a lot of people, especially college students, struggle with. Our goal was to show that using VR for meditation could help lower exam anxiety more than traditional meditation. While our results didn't show a big difference yet, a power analysis revealed that if we increased our sample size from 13 to at least 30, we might see the effect we expected. We plan to continue this study with a larger group in the future.

The conference itself was a great experience. I gained valuable insights from other researchers' work and learned more than I ever anticipated. I am deeply grateful to the ISOES Conference Committee for the student paper award and the opportunity to present among such talented individuals. Special thanks go to Abby McDowell and Dr. Khasawneh—without their guidance, none of this would have been possible.

Felipe Indalêncio Goulart:

Felipe is a student at Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) in Brazil. His research is the result of several studies conducted in collaboration by researchers from the Laboratory of Design and Usability & Design Management Center (NGD-LDU) at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) and the Laboratory of Assistive Technology and Occupational Therapy & Assistive Technology Center (LabTATO-NTA) at the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) in Brazil. Through an interprofessional approach, products are developed based on human needs and evaluated to identify opportunities for improvement. In his study, a manual vegetable peeler was the result of a collaborative project between the fields of Design, Engineering, and Healthcare, with Occupational Therapy providing the main support and contact with patients. Focusing on patients with rheumatoid arthritis, the product was developed based on real needs, materialized, distributed, and analyzed over time through different studies - eight in this case - allowing continuous evaluation of both the product's performance and the patients' progress, with safety being one of its important aspects.

ASSP Expo in Denver, CO

- Steve Fleming, BSE, MBA, CPE



-Left to right: Jim Vachon, Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia, Tom West (Mak-U-Safe), George Page, and Steve Fleming

The ASSP Conference and Expo was a great opportunity for ISOES outreach. Thousands of occupational safety & health professionals from around the world descended on Denver, CO for the 3-day conference. Richard Wyatt, George Page, Gabriel Ibarra-Mejia, Jim Vachon, and Steve Fleming attended the ISOES Booth, where we worked to promote ISOES and its many outreach initiatives. ASSP Fellow Darryl Hill stopped by the booth as well. Darryl was the President of ASSP for the 1994-1995 year

and he currently works with Firstgroup America, based in Cincinnati, OH. Thanks for visiting, Darryl!

Thanks to Jim Borchardt, ISOES will once again have a presence at the ASSP Expo, which is to be held on July 22-24, 2025 in Orlando, FL.

All ISOES members are invited to help promote the society by volunteering to help staff the booth during the expo. Booth volunteers not only receive complimentary access to the Expo, but to the ASSP Conference sessions as well.

For more information, please reach out to us at ISOESinfo@gmail.com.



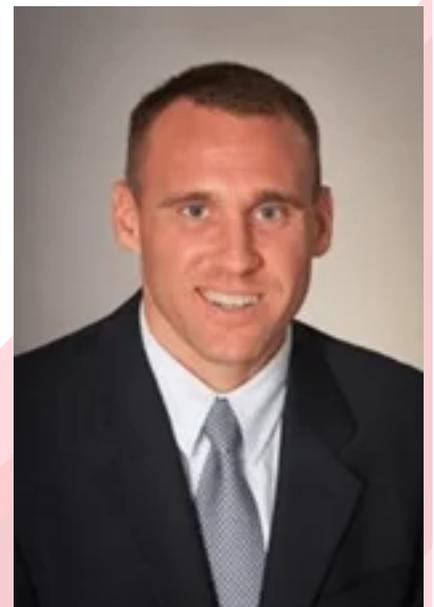
-Center Right: Darryl Hill, Ph.D., CSP, FASSP

Conference Recap

- Jim Vachon, MS, ARM, AIC

The XXXVIth annual ISOES conference was a tremendous success, thanks in part to coordinating our schedule with ASSP. Through this coordination, our conference took place in Denver, CO on August 5th-6th, 2024 where we joined over 6,500 health and safety professionals, 200 sessions with over 300 speakers, and 650 exhibitors who were all eager to share their contributions to the field.

A diverse group of academic scholars, industrial experts and students attended the ISOES conference in person and online for the second year in a row, following 3 years of online only conferences due to Covid. To initiate the conference, Dr. Greg Worrell (HELP Consultants, LLC), delivered a





Richard Wyatt introduces Tom West, Vice President of MakuSafe.

keynote speech on the pivotal ergonomic service opportunities available and how to better engage with clients for sustained success.

As always, the ISOES presentation sessions brought together a wide range of interesting topics and high-quality research.

Topic areas included a focus on autonomous and automated machines and equipment, wearable sensor technology, petrochemical emissions and environmental effects, welding and electrocution hazards, global fall protection construction standard comparisons, general liability swimming pool accident prevention, accident reconstruction technology, bariatrics in the workplace, construction heat stress, distracted driving concepts and more!

Real-world applications of ergonomics and safety were also indicative of the cutting-edge technology and practices employed by our ISOES membership. Presentations were done by attendees from all over the world, including the United States, Korea, Japan, Germany, and Israel.

The first day of the conference concluded with Mr. Tom West, SHRM, HRCI speaking to the group. Tom West is Vice President of MakuSafe, a wearable technology provider focused on machine learning and hazard awareness for supervisors. Tom spoke of his vast experiences in the safety and ergonomics field and how wearable technology continues to expand and gain traction across several industries.



Key Differences Between European and North American Ergonomics

- Marc Snell, PhD, Eur.-Erg.

While ergonomics aims to improve workplace health and productivity worldwide, there are notable differences between how ergonomics is approached in Europe and North America. These distinctions arise from varying regulatory environments, cultural attitudes, and workplace practices in the two regions. Here's a look at some of the key differences between European and North American ergonomics:

1. Regulatory Standards

European ergonomics is heavily influenced by stringent regulations and directives, such as the European Union's Directive 90/270/EEC on display screen equipment (DSE). This directive mandates specific requirements for workstation design, posture, and breaks, with an emphasis on employee safety and well-being. In contrast, North American ergonomics, particularly in the U.S., is guided by recommendations from organizations such as OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and ANSI (American National Standards Institute), which provide guidelines but are less prescriptive than EU regulations.

2. Focus on Work-Life Balance

European companies tend to emphasize work-life balance and employee well-being more than their North American counterparts. Many European nations, particularly in Scandinavia, integrate ergonomics into broader policies that promote shorter workdays, longer breaks, and generous vacation time to reduce workplace stress and physical strain. In North America, while ergonomics is focused on injury prevention and productivity, there is often less focus on systemic work-life balance improvements as part of ergonomics initiatives.

3. Cultural Approach to Workplace Safety

In Europe, ergonomics is often seen as part of a broader commitment to workplace safety and health. This holistic approach means that ergonomics is integrated into nearly every aspect of the work environment, from office furniture design to factory workflow layouts. In North America, ergonomics is frequently approached with a stronger focus on individual responsibility, emphasizing proper training and self-management to prevent injuries.

4. Technological Integration

Both Europe and North America have embraced technology in ergonomics, but with slightly different approaches. In Europe, there is a strong focus on creating ergonomic standards in manufacturing and technology to support sustainable working conditions. This often includes extensive automation and ergonomic design in industrial settings. North America, while also using technology to improve ergonomics, tends to prioritize cost-effective solutions and worker training over high-level automation in smaller businesses.

Although both Europe and North America aim to improve workplace health through ergonomics, their approaches differ in regulatory frameworks, cultural attitudes, and design philosophies. Europe leans toward a more regulated, holistic approach with a strong emphasis on well-being, while North America focuses more on individual responsibility and practical solutions to enhance productivity and reduce injury. Understanding these differences is key to effectively addressing ergonomic challenges across regions.

ISOES Member Accomplishments

Our highly-qualified members are well-known among the ergonomics and health & safety community. ISOES academics and practitioners are regular contributors to the field and to the mission of ISOES: To promote through research, education and sound professional practice of ergonomics and safety, the creation of safer, healthier and more productive working environments around the world. We would like to recognize the following members for their outstanding achievements:

- Jim Borchardt - Was recognized by ASSP for being one of only 34 members to celebrate 50 years of membership in the organization (and 55 years in the field). This celebration of "Leaders & Honorees" was on display for all to see at ASSP Safety 2024.
- Udemba Chiemezie Anthony "Tony" - Was featured on RFD-TV during National Farm Safety and Health Week. His live TV interview spoke to the importance of health and safety in agriculture.

If you or a colleague has an accomplishment to share with the ISOES community, send an email to ISOESinfo@gmail.com and we would be happy to feature you in the next newsletter.