PUBLIC POLICY MATTERS

Budget Update and Funding Opportunities
By Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

President Releases FY 2016 Budget Request

President Obama released his FY 2016 budget request on February 2, a submission to Congress that contains many bipartisan ideas but also requires significant changes in top-level spending caps to be realized.

The budget request presents a mostly positive agenda for research and education organizations, both by proposing increases for core funding agencies and by launching new initiatives and emphasis areas. Examples include an increase in the maximum Pell grant award and programs in the food-energy-water nexus, precision medicine and infectious diseases, agricultural research, and disaster resilience. Moreover, several of the biggest topics for investment and opportunity reflect areas of bipartisan support, such as cybersecurity and exascale computing, advanced manufacturing, and neuroscience. The president has also reproposed a major new investment in public infrastructure, building on successful programs used in the economic stimulus legislation five years ago to enable states and local communities to derive new capital for major infrastructure needs. Initiatives such as this, an emphasis on expanded trade authority for the Asia-Pacific region, and proposed changes to higher-education financing come in a year when Congress is expected to consider related legislation, increasing the likelihood that some of these proposals will be accepted.

In contrast to the last two years, in which Congress and the President had adhered to overall defense and domestic discretionary spending levels, the FY 2016 budget request is being presented to a Congress that has not yet decided how to account for budgetary caps agreed to in a bipartisan 2011 budget deal. The existing caps, along with sequester levels, would disallow substantial new funding as proposed by the president above FY 2015 levels. Reflecting a tone set by Obama in his most recent State of the Union speech, his administration’s budget request reflects funding thresholds that assume sequestration is largely offset by changes in tax policy and other savings requiring congressional approval. These changes requested by the White House are meant to alleviate overall budget pressures and foster an environment for new legislation by Congress to increase the existing spending limits.

Although Congress may disagree with several of the President’s proposed savings, the debate over the overall spending levels is expected to occur early in 2016 and will have significant implications on how many of the proposed increases Congress can provide for individual agencies, accounts, or programs in the annual appropriations process.

Regardless, the annual budget request reflects months of planning and negotiations by the White House and provides a window into forthcoming plans and priorities. The proposed increases for research, education, and infrastructure reflect areas of emphasis for the remaining two years of the Obama Administration and benchmarks for which congressional champions will advocate throughout the appropriations process.
The full Lewis-Burke analysis of the president’s FY 2016 budget request for federal research, health, and education programs is available here.

ONC Announces Three New Funding Opportunities

On February 3, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sylvia Burwell and National Coordinator for Health IT Karen DeSalvo announced three new funding opportunities from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) totaling approximately $36 million. Letters of intent are due March 2, and complete proposals are due April 6.

The announcements come after a flurry of recent activity at ONC focused on moving health IT forward to improve adoption, interoperability, and care delivery. These activities include the release of ONC’s draft of the Health IT Strategic Plan for 2015–2020, which provides the framework, vision, and priorities for health IT over the next five years, and the release of ONC’s Connecting Health and Care for the Nation: A Shared Nationwide Interoperability Roadmap Version 1.0 (Roadmap), which outlines the path to achieving ONC’s long- and short-term goals.

These recent activities served as the backdrop for the ONC Annual Meeting, which took place February 2–3. At the meeting Secretary Burwell outlined the new path forward for health IT, stressing that after years of working to establish health IT awareness and meaningful use, HHS—and in particular ONC—should build on the existing infrastructure by leveraging the market through payment and delivery reform, simplifying the way stakeholders utilize health IT, and empowering them to make health IT a vital part of health-care delivery. The three funding opportunities announced at the meeting are the next step in ONC’s transition to this new phase of health IT.

The funding opportunities focus on community engagement and population health, workforce training, and health insurance exchanges. Each builds on established programs funded under the HITECH Act, such as the Beacon Communities, Workforce Curriculum Development program, and the State Health Information Exchange program. The full Lewis-Burke report on the funding opportunities is available here.

INSIDE HFES

Call for Papers for Human Factors Special Issue

A special issue of Human Factors will honor the late Tom Waters, who was a highly respected researcher in the field of occupational ergonomics and biomechanics at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Original, previously unpublished papers are invited in the following three areas that represent Tom’s seminal work:

- application or evaluation of the NIOSH lifting equation
- health-care ergonomics and safe patient handling
- child/adolescence agriculture ergonomics.

All manuscripts must be submitted online at http://hfs.sagepub.com/ and follow the requirements for manuscript length. Submissions will be reviewed by three reviewers through the traditional review process. Please send an e-mail to Kermit Davis by March 1 regarding your
intention to submit a paper or if you have questions about the fit of your proposed submission with the special issue topics. Completed manuscripts must be uploaded by June 1.

## Technical Group on Children’s Issues Proposed

*By Mike Wogalter*

A group of HFES members is working on development of a proposed new technical group (TG) on children’s issues. The scope is envisioned to encompass HF/E issues associated with children and their caretakers in various settings, such as home, school, and recreation.

The formation of a TG on children’s issues was discussed in a topic-related panel session and at the Council of Technical Groups (COTG) at the 2014 Annual Meeting. Discussion by those present was very positive, but a few procedures need to be followed to initiate the process. One initial requirement is to collect a list of at least 150 persons who would be interested in joining the new TG if it were formed, half of whom may be nonmembers. If you would be interested in a TG in HFES that focuses on children, please e-mail me at wogalterm@gmail.com to indicate your willingness to join the TG, your name, and your membership status in HFES. If you know any nonmembers who might like to join and participate, please ask them to e-mail me an indication of interest.

The rationale and purpose of the proposed TG can be summarized as follows. No other TG addresses this population; most concern adult interface-type issues focusing on a content area. One exception is the Individual Differences in Performance TG, which focuses on differences among people but mostly among adults. (It is debatable whether being a child is an “individual difference!”) Another TG concerns aging, but as currently construed, the Aging TG is concerned with older adults. A few TGs (e.g., Safety, Product Design) sometimes touch on children’s issues, but their concern is tangential and occasional.

Having a core group is important in encouraging interest and research in an area. Children comprise a large proportion of population that could benefit from HF/E input. Indeed, a greater or special emphasis on children is needed. Why? Young children are particularly vulnerable in many ways, including the potential for injury. Children face different issues and have varying abilities at different ages. For example, very young children lack both physical and cognitive characteristics to perform in ways that older children can, and 12-year-olds can read, but 2-year-olds cannot. Development is a continuously changing and dynamic process: A child may be incapable of doing something one day and have that capability the next day. Children progress at different rates. Furthermore, older children’s characteristics can differ from those of mature adults.

The TG will also concern caretakers. Relevant issues are caretakers’ cognitive (e.g., decision making) characteristics and the tasks they perform. For example, issues such as mental and physical workload are relevant.

The lack of a formalized group relating to children’s issues in HFES makes it less likely that persons interested in the area will find a place to publish their research and ideas. For the HFES Annual Meeting, proposals are sent to TGs for review by peers, but without a core group, the proposals get scattered to different TGs that might not have a single reviewer who is interested or knowledgeable in children’s issues. As a result, reviewers might not see the relevance or importance of the research. Formalization of a specific TG could serve as the beginning of a critical mass serving to energize and generate research and interest in the area. Thus, the proposed TG on children’s issues will likely aim to address these issues and probably several others.

Mike Wogalter is a professor emeritus in psychology from North Carolina State University who now resides in south Florida. He is a Fellow of HFES and IEA.
Update Your Member Record for the Directory & Yearbook

The 2015–2016 Directory & Yearbook is an important tool for helping you connect with fellow HFES members. March 6 is the deadline for updating your member record to ensure that others can reach you.

To enter updates, log in at hfes.org. In your member record, select “View/change my membership information” and verify or change your contact information, address, and demographic details. If you have forgotten your login ID, please contact Member Services (310/394-1811).

HFES publishes only the business contact address for every member; if a business address is not available, the home address will appear unless you have requested that it not be published. (To omit your home address, please contact Member Services.)

The online directory, which is included with your membership, has the latest updates. You have the option of purchasing a printed directory through your member record by selecting “Place publication orders.”

Entries Invited for Product Design Award
By Dianne McMullin and Stanley H. Caplan, PDTG Award Committee Cochairs

Win $1,000 and the recognition of your peers! The Product Design Technical Group (PDTG) of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society invites you to submit a nomination for the 2015 Stanley H. Caplan User-Centered Product Design Award. The award emphasizes both product design and the methods used to specify and achieve the design. There is no entry fee for the award, which is open to members and nonmembers of HFES and PDTG. Any human factors professional, product designer, or product team may participate. Please relay this information to potentially interested colleagues.

Consideration will be given to products, software, or systems that are used in the home, in the workplace, or while mobile, including consumer, commercial, and medical products but excluding military equipment or systems. The product or system being nominated must be operational at the time of submission. The product must be scheduled for commercial use within one year with no substantial changes or not have been on the market for more than three years prior to submission. Past winning products have been high tech and low tech, digital and non-digital and they have come from large and small companies and consulting firms. For more examples and complete details about submitting a product for consideration, visit the PDTG Web site at http://pdtg-hfes.blogspot.com/search/label/Awards/.

The winners will be recognized at an award ceremony on October 27 at the HFES 2015 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, and they will be asked to give a presentation on the product and process used for its development.

Call For Nominations

Nominations should be submitted via e-mail by May 22 to Dianne McMullin. You may submit a nomination for your own work or the work of others. The winner(s) and any honorable mentions will be judged by a panel of experienced PDTG practitioners in August.

Questions about the 2015 PDTG Stanley H. Caplan User-Centered Product Design Award may be directed to Dianne McMullin.
Nominations for 2015 Awards Due by March 27

HFES Full Members and Fellows are invited to submit nominations for eight Society awards, which will be presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. Nominees are not required to be HFES members, but only members may submit nominations. Submissions are due on or before March 27. To nominate,

- submit the candidate’s résumé or curriculum vitae, a nominating letter, and at least two but not more than three letters of support from individuals who know the candidate well enough to assess his or her candidacy in terms of the award’s criteria; and
- send all nomination packages via e-mail to Lynn Strother. Please submit the package as a single file in PDF format.

For more information on the scope and criteria for HFES awards, please view the HFES Awards Web page.

Qualitative Methods Webinar

Researcher, technologist, and entrepreneur Wayne Zachary will present a webinar entitled “Introduction to Qualitative Methods for Human Factors Analyses” on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, from 9:00–10:30 a.m. Pacific Time.

The webinar introduces the basic skills, methods, and mindset of qualitative research for human factors analyses, focusing on the two key tools of the trade: talking to people (i.e., interviewing) and participatory observation of interactions and behavior in a natural context (i.e., participant observation).

This introductory-level webinar is appropriate for a broad audience of human factors practitioners and students. It may also be of interest to practitioners and students in related fields such as usability, user-experience, and policy/public health program design.

Wayne holds a PhD in anthropology from Temple University along with advanced study in computer science. He has conducted qualitative and mixed-methods studies in diverse domains, including national defense, aerospace, health care, pharmaceuticals, parks and recreation, and ethnographic studies of differing military, business, and non-Western cultural settings. He is the author of more than 100 conference, journal, and monograph publications. He has served on the United States Defense Science Board panel on Advanced Decision Architecture and on the editorial board of Human Factors and Journal of Cognitive Engineering and Decision Making.

For more information and the registration link, click here.

HFES Online Career Center

Spending too much time looking for qualified candidates? Find them here...right at your fingertips.

Don’t rely on monster-sized job boards for finding the best candidates for your organization. Instead of having your inbox inundated with unrelated, irrelevant résumés, find highly qualified HF/E professionals with the skills and experience you’re looking for at the HFES Online Career Center.
If you are an employer seeking full- or part-time staff or interns, HFES offers an online Career Center exclusive to the dynamic HF/E field. What better place to find the best professionals than right here in the Society?

For information about cost-sensitive posting, searching the résumé database, or complimentary internship posting, visit the HFES Online Career Center today.

HFES Southern Ohio Chapter Celebrates 50th Anniversary
By Mark S. Crabtree

The HFES Southern Ohio Chapter has a lot to be proud of. Not only is our chapter one of the oldest in the Society, but we continue to be a vibrant organization with well over 100 members who are highly active in both their technical specialties as well as the chapter itself. It was therefore fitting that our 50th Anniversary celebration should be a very special event.

The anniversary luncheon at the Hope Hotel Conference Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on October 21 featured guest speaker Air Force Chief Scientist Mica Endsley. In her presentation, “Human Factors in the U.S. Air Force: Challenges and Opportunities,” Endsley focused on improvements in the human-systems integration process across the Department of Defense (DoD) and emphasized the continuing need to identify and resolve human factors issues early in the design process.

The success of the celebration was evident from the significant number of DoD, university, and industry personnel in attendance and the audience’s active participation in the question-and-answer period following the talk. Complementing Endsley’s headliner presentation was a large turnout of past chapter presidents, two of whom have served as HFES presidents (Lewis Hanes and Thomas Eggemeier). The event would not have been possible without the contributions of numerous chapter members, including Gloria Calhoun, Frank Gentner, Laurie Quill, and Regina Shia.

Mark S. Crabtree is the outgoing (2014) President of the Southern Ohio Chapter of the Human Factors & Ergonomics Society. For over 40 years, Mark has provided a wide range of human factors support for DoD programs, mainly at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He is employed by Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. as a Senior Human Factors Professional.
ISO/TC 159 Standards Update
By Daryle Gardner-Bonneau, Chair, U.S. TAG to ISO/TC 159

The items presented in this article concern news relevant to ISO/TC 159 standards activities and include upcoming meetings, newly published standards, new standardization projects, and draft standards currently being balloted.

Except for newly published standards, titles of standards are abbreviated in this listing, but you can obtain the complete title for any standard by visiting the HFES Standards Web page and then clicking on the Subcommittee (SC) Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that is involved with the standard in which you’re interested. Clicking that link will display a graphic of the SC’s structure and a listing of all the projects and standards of that subcommittee. You can also purchase standards and search full titles and abstracts by going to the ANSI Store or the ISO Store and searching by the document’s number (e.g., ISO 24504).

The contacts whose e-mail addresses are provided below (i.e., Daryle Gardner-Bonneau, Robert Fox, and Jim Williams) welcome your inquiries and your participation in these activities.

The listings use the following ISO abbreviations:

TC = Technical Committee
SC = Subcommittee
WG = Working Group
CD = Committee Draft
DIS = Draft International Standard
FDIS = Final Draft International Standard
TR = Technical Report
NWIP = New Work Item Proposal
PAS = Publicly Available Specification

Items new this month are preceded by ***.

Special Solicitation
The U.S. TAG to ISO/TC159/SC4 (Ergonomics of Human System Interactions) seeks new TAG members and/or U.S. experts to review documents and participate in projects in the following working groups:

- WG6 (Human-Centered Design Processes for Interactive Systems)
- WG9 (Haptic and Tactile Interaction Systems)
- WG10 (Accessible Design for Consumer Products)

Because more and more international meetings are taking place via WebEx, travel is not a requirement for participation as a U.S. expert in a working group. If you are interested in participating in standards work in any of the above-listed topical areas, please contact Jim Williams at ergojim@earthlink.net.

Draft Documents Released for Comment and Vote
***SC1 – ISO/DTR 22100-3 – Safety of Machinery – Relationship with ISO 12100 – Part 3: Implementation of ergonomic principles in safety standards; Comments (only); due February 28. Contact JDNBonneau@charter.net.
SC4 – ISO/CD 9241-11 – Usability definitions and concepts; due February 20. Contact ergojim@earthlink.net.

Upcoming Meetings

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<th>Standard/Group</th>
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<th>Location/Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>***ISO/TC159/SC4/ WG10</td>
<td>February 26–27</td>
<td>Seoul, South Korea – Work on several preliminary work items related to accessibility of: 1. doors and door handles of home appliances; 2. font sizes; 3. tactile symbols and letters; and 4. indicator lamps on consumer products</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ergojim@earthlink.net">ergojim@earthlink.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/TC159/SC4/WG5</td>
<td>March 2–4</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA – Continue work on ISO 9241-112 (presentation of information) and ISO 9241-125 (visual presentation of information)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ergojim@earthlink.net">ergojim@earthlink.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/TC159/SC4/WG6</td>
<td>March 16–18</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany – Process comments on revisions of ISO 9241-11 (usability) and ISO 9241-220 (human-centered design process)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ergojim@earthlink.net">ergojim@earthlink.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/TC159/SC1/WG5</td>
<td>March 19–20</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany – Continue development of ISO 27501 (management-level ergonomics process standard) and begin development of NWIP for a specialist-level ergonomics process document</td>
<td><a href="mailto:JDNBonneau@charter.net">JDNBonneau@charter.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/TC159/SC3/WG4</td>
<td>March 30–31</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robert.r.fox@gm.com">robert.r.fox@gm.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>ISO/TC159</td>
<td>April 23–24</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD – Plenary meeting</td>
<td><a href="mailto:JDNBonneau@charter.net">JDNBonneau@charter.net</a></td>
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MEMBER MILESTONES

Compton Receives National Safety Council Award

HFES member Richard Compton has received the 2015 Robert F. Borkenstein Award from the National Safety Council’s Alcohol, Drugs, and Impairment Division for his research on human factors and programs to reduce injuries and deaths caused by alcohol- and drug-impaired driving. The award, named for the inventor of the Breathalyzer, recognizes individuals who, through a lifetime of service, have made outstanding contributions to the field of alcohol/drugs in relation to traffic and transportation safety.

Compton began his career at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as a research psychologist and has been director of the Office of Behavioral Safety Research since 2002. Throughout his career, he has authored and published more than 60 reports, papers, and articles on transportation safety. His alcohol- and drug-impaired driving research includes evaluations of new technologies and examinations of the effectiveness of sanctions, enforcement, and public information and education campaigns.

In Memoriam: Malcolm Ritchie

Malcolm Ritchie, a longtime member, former officer, and Fellow of HFES, passed away on January 20, 2015, in Dayton, Ohio, at the age of 94. He began his professional human factors engineering career in 1951 at the University of Illinois, performing research on air traffic control and aircraft flight instrumentation. From 1953 to 1957, he headed a University of Illinois research team located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, establishing the use of simulators for the evaluation of aircraft instrument concepts. As President of Ritchie Inc. from 1957 to 1969, he was responsible for research and consultation on a variety of manned aircraft and spacecraft projects. He was a major subcontractor to Lear Siegler, establishing such cockpit concepts as the “pilot manager.” He managed contracts with the Air Force Flight Dynamics Laboratory dealing with advanced cockpit control-display concepts. He owned and operated a twin-engine aircraft equipped as a flying test bed to evaluate cockpit instrumentation concepts. Ritchie developed an instrumented automobile for research on the role of information inputs in automobile driving. He participated in the preliminary design of the Mercury and Apollo space vehicles as a subcontractor to General Electric. One of his employees, Lewis Hanes, later became president of HFES.

In 1969, Ritchie became a professor of engineering at Wright State University, where he established one of the nation’s first undergraduate human factors engineering degree programs, combining system engineering and experimental psychology into a truly interdisciplinary platform. His student assistant, William S. Marra, is now president-elect of HFES.

Ritchie retired in 1982 as Emeritus Professor of Engineering and Emeritus Professor of Professional Psychology. During his tenure at Wright State and following his retirement, he consulted extensively with the Federal Aviation Administration and companies involved in training and instrumentation. He served as an expert witness in several cases. Ritchie published about 100 scientific papers. In addition to being an HFES Fellow and secretary-treasurer (1963–1964), he also was a founding member of the HFES Southern Ohio Chapter.

Ritchie grew up in Breckenridge, Texas, and studied engineering for one year at Texas Tech before entering Army flight training in 1941. He was a flight training instructor, flew intruder missions in a B-25 and then flew 67 combat missions as a P-61 Night Fighter pilot in the Pacific theater during World War II.

Following the war, Ritchie received an associate degree from Graceland College, BA and
MA degrees from the University of California at Berkeley, and in 1953 earned a PhD in experimental psychology from the University of Illinois.

Malcolm married Roberta Ann Gossadge in 1947 and is survived by his wife, three children, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Prepared by Lewis Hanes and William S. Marras. Lew visited Dr. Ritchie about four months before his death and found him very knowledgeable and as interested in aviation human factors as he was in the 1950s and 1960s when they worked together.

OTHER NEWS

FPE 2015 Student Award

The Foundation for Professional Ergonomics (FPE), a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing professionalism in ergonomics, has announced the 2015 deadline for the Dieter W. Jahns Student Practitioner Award. The award was created in honor of Dieter Jahns, a lifelong advocate of the practice of ergonomics and a leader in ergonomics certification. The award is open to master's and doctoral students in ergonomics and ergonomics-related programs. Students who have completed their graduate degrees within one year of submitting are also eligible.

The annual award is given to the student (or group of students) for a project that demonstrates the major practice areas of ergonomics: analysis, design, and evaluation. The purpose of the award is to advance professionalism in ergonomics by recognizing educational activities that demonstrate how professional ergonomists serve to make people's lives at work and at home healthier, safer, more productive, and more satisfying. The award and cash prize of $500 will be presented during the 2015 HFES Annual Meeting, to be held October 26–30 in Los Angeles, California.

As this is a practitioner award, the student (or students) should describe and document a research or intervention project that exhibits the following:

- The major practice areas of ergonomics: analysis, design, and evaluation.
- Direct, practical application.
- Final design recommendations or a description of how the resulting information can be applied to design.

The submission deadline for the 2015 award is May 31. Notification will be sent by July 31. Submissions can be made individually or as a group. They should provide adequate descriptions, illustrations or photos, and details that address the judging criteria. Entries will be judged by the FPE Board of Directors. Please go to www.ergofoundation.org for complete details on criteria and format.
Featured Events

10th Annual Regional Human Factors Conference at California State University, Long Beach, March 7, 2015, Long Beach, CA.

2015 Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care: Improving the Outcomes, April 26–29, 2015, Baltimore, MD.


2015 International Annual Meeting, October 26–30, 2015, Los Angeles, CA.

19th Triennial Congress of the International Ergonomics Association, August 9–14, 2015, Melbourne, Australia.

May 2015

18th International Symposium on Aviation Psychology, May 4–7, 2015, Dayton, OH.

2015 IFAC Symposium on Information Control in Manufacturing (INCOM 2015), May 11–13, 2015, Ottawa, Canada.


June 2015

12th International Naturalistic Decision Making Conference, June 8–12, 2015, McLean, VA.

8th International Driving Symposium on Human Factors in Driver Assessment, Training, and Vehicle Design, June 22–25, 2015, Salt Lake City, UT.

July 2015

6th International Conference on Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics (AHFE), July 26–30, 2015, Las Vegas, NV.

August 2015


17th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (HCI International 2015), August 2–7, 2015, Los Angeles, CA.