The 113th Congress convened in January facing the same political tensions that brought the federal government and the national economy to the brink of the fiscal cliff late last year. Now, three budget deadlines will define the first six months of the new Congress. The first is the significant across-the-board spending cuts (sequester) that, by law, went into effect on March 1. The next budget deadline is the expiration on March 27 of the Continuing Resolution (CR), which is funding the entire federal government at approximately the fiscal year (FY) 2012 funding level. Finally, President Obama and Congress will have to increase the debt limit by May 19, which becomes the de facto deadline for negotiating a larger deficit reduction plan.

Impact of Sequestration on the Research Community

Although sequestration took effect on March 1, at the time of this writing, much is still unknown about what these cuts will mean in the short term and what the outlook is for a resolution. Prior to sequestration going into effect, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) offered some insight into what the research community could expect in the coming months. For example, OMB is expected to apportion the impact of the across-the-board cuts month by month, such that cuts could be reversed later in the year should a resolution to sequestration be found. In addition, with respect to the research community, federal agencies are hoping to structure any cuts so that they will not be unilaterally passed on to grantees.

Based on Lewis-Burke’s conversations with numerous agency and White House officials, most agencies are looking at plans that will protect existing awards and that include delaying solicitations, funding fewer awards, stretching out programs, and instituting furloughs associated with larger contracts. The most important impact is on the attitude within agencies and their risk tolerance in such a destabilized environment.

The feeling is that Republicans will be blamed for the defense cuts, and advocates for non-defense programs are working to ensure that any efforts to restore defense cuts would include these programs. Although philosophical differences complicate the picture considerably, many feel that Congress will ultimately grant the agencies more latitude in how they absorb any cuts that are instituted.

The hope among the research community is that the public outcry and constituent response will be sufficient to address spending through an adjusted year-long CR at the end of March in which part of the cuts may be restored. The Appropriations Committees have been working behind the scenes to identify targeted spending reductions to replace at least some of the cuts under sequestration. Collective advocacy efforts, such as a recent letter signed by HFES and more than 3,200 other organizations, are aimed at ensuring that research and education would be among the program areas more favored for remedy.
Looking to 2014

The president’s budget submission for FY 2014 (which is usually released the first Monday in February) is delayed, likely until later in March. The request will have to comply with the existing discretionary spending caps set in the Budget Control Act of 2011, but it will be under most scrutiny for proposed changes to entitlement and mandatory programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and new tax proposals. The hope for a larger deficit reduction agreement is likely to play out during congressional consideration of the FY 2014 budget resolution, which is under development in the House and Senate.

In the near term, the FY 2014 budget resolution will be the focal point and would provide the legislative mechanisms for re-engaging in negotiations to complete a long-term deficit reduction plan before the debt limit needs to be increased again by May 19. Regardless of the political outcome, most believe that some level of discretionary spending reductions is inevitable absent a serious effort to reform federal entitlement programs.

TAKE ACTION: Defend HF/E Science Funding in 2014

The science advocacy community continues to weigh in on the importance of federal investment in scientific research as the FY 2013 appropriations process moves along. Although FY 2013 remains unresolved for at least the next month or two, attention must turn to the FY 2014 appropriations process. As budgets continue to tighten and efforts are prioritized toward longer-term deficit reduction, it will be increasingly critical that HFES and the human factors/ergonomics community weigh in with policy makers about the value of HF/E research to the nation, especially as attacks on the federal government’s funding of specific areas of research intensify.

In a speech to the American Enterprise Institute in early February, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) suggested repurposing federal research dollars away from the social sciences to other research priorities, in this case biomedical research. With shrinking discretionary budgets, it will not be uncommon for policy makers to make such suggestions, pitting one area of research against another.

Criticism of social and behavioral science by a small group of policy makers, particularly on the right side of the aisle, is not new, but it serves as a reminder that the scientific community—especially an organization such as HFES, whose scientific interests are very broad and interdisciplinary—must continue to advocate for the value of scientific research writ large and defend against proposed cuts such as those suggested by Rep. Cantor.

With the FY 2014 appropriations process just starting, now is the time to educate Members of Congress about HF/E research. HFES members are encouraged to take a moment sometime in the next month or two to reach out to elected officials in the House and Senate to, first, explain what HF/E is and its impact on real-world challenges and, second, to urge them to reject efforts to defund social science research programs in the FY 2014 appropriations process. Such an introductory conversation with staff at this early stage will serve to open doors with the office later in the year when advocating for specific legislative proposals. There is no deadline for this activity; outreach to your congressional offices about the importance of HF/E can be made at anytime.

Simply call or e-mail your respective House and Senate offices using this step-by-step guide and script. For additional guidance on reaching out to your policy makers, review An HFES Guide to Participation in Federal Policymaking on the HFES Web site.

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC, a leading Washington, D.C.–based government relations and consulting firm, represents the public policy interests of scientific societies and institutions of higher education. Lewis-Burke’s staff of about 20 government relations professionals work to promote the federal research and policy goals of HFES and the HF/E community.
January 2013 was a busy month with regard to standardization work on ergonomics processes and accessibility. In this article, I describe the activities in these respective areas and call for participation by HFES experts.

**Ergonomics Process Standard Initiative**

The newly established working group on Ergonomics Process Standards (ISO/TC 159 SC 1/WG 5) held its first meeting in Berlin, Germany, on January 30. This working group is tasked, initially, with producing two ergonomics process standards—one at the executive level and one at the management level. There are also plans to develop one or more specialist-level process standards in the future.

Many countries are interested in these efforts, and attendance at the first meeting reflected that interest. The standards to be developed should be especially useful, for example, to the young human factors/ergonomics professional who is hired by a company as its sole HF/E staffer and who is tasked with implementing human factors throughout the organization. These documents will provide processes that should be put in place, serve as guidance to HF/E practitioners, and educate managers and corporate executives, thus paving the way for smooth implementation of HF/E programs.

At the working group’s first meeting, Tom Stewart (UK) and Tomas Berns (Sweden) accepted lead responsibility for developing the executive-level standard, and Yushi Fujita (Japan) was designated as the development lead for the management-level standard. There was some discussion of whether there should be one specialist-level standard or more than one, and the ad hoc task force under ISO/TC 159 that was charged with drafting a specialist-level standard work item proposal indicated that it was still conducting its research and should have a firm proposal for moving forward by the working group’s next meeting in August. The working group also recommended that the ad hoc task force’s work be transferred to ISO/TC 159/SC 1/WG 5.

HFES has expressed its strong support for this work by agreeing to provide both the convenor and a secretary for the new working group. Nevertheless, the Society seeks the participation of U.S. experts in this endeavor. If you are interested in serving as an U.S. expert to this working group, please contact me at jdnbonneau@charter.net.

Also occurring in Berlin the same week was the plenary of ISO/TC 159/SC 1 and a meeting of ISO/TC 159/SC 1/WG 1. SC 1 concerns general principles of ergonomics and is responsible for some of the highest-level general ergonomics standards. The primary focus of the meetings was a decision about the potential revision of ISO 6385 – *Ergonomics principles in the design of work systems*. The decision was made to revise this standard to (a) broaden its content to more obviously illustrate its application beyond physical work to other types of work; (b) address the issue of accessibility; and (c) ensure that its content is consistent with that of ISO 26800 – Ergonomics – General approach, principles and concepts.

Delegates to the SC1 plenary were reminded to vote on the systematic review of ISO 10075 – Principles related to mental workload – General terms and definitions, and to provide input concerning a potential revision of ISO 10075-2 – *Ergonomic principles of mental workload – part 2: Design principles*. At present, many HFES members are specialists in mental workload, but no U.S. experts are participating in ISO/TC 159/SC 1/WG 2, which is specifically about mental workload issues and which produced the ISO 10075 series of standards. If you are a specialist in this area and would like to become involved in this standards work in order to assist with the review of these ISO 10075 documents, please contact me for further information.
Accessibility Initiatives

Also in January, I had the opportunity to attend a week of meetings about accessibility standardization in gorgeous Sydney, Australia.

The groups that met in Sydney were ISO/TC 159/WG 2 – Ergonomics for people with special requirements and the ISO/IEC JTAG that is developing the revision of ISO/IEC Guide 71, just retitled Guidelines for incorporating accessibility in standards. The revision of ISO Guide 71, which was fast-tracked by ISO/IEC, is not progressing at the expected pace. It has been nearly 12 years since the original Guide was published, and much has changed in the area of accessibility. Although ISO/TC 159 has adopted two definitions of accessibility with which it is satisfied—one very broad-based and one limited to interactive systems—many people on the JTAG come from areas of specialization outside ergonomics and would not accept either of the ISO/TC 159 definitions of accessibility. But neither could the JTAG agree to an alternative definition. This, in and of itself, suggests how difficult is the task to develop guidelines with respect to something one cannot define!

With multiple philosophical and technical viewpoints in the room, specific agendas on the part of some participants, and some member bodies decidedly against any significant changes to the original ISO/IEC Guide 71, it should come as no surprise that at the end of this, its fourth meeting, the JTAG did not have a solid outline for the revised guide or an integrated working draft of any sort. The group will meet again in Geneva in the spring.

Although HF/E specialists with interests in accessibility represent a sizable number of the JTAG’s participants, it is not clear that the JTAG overall is willing to draft guidance based on a human factors/ergonomics approach to accessibility, as evidenced by its rejection of the ISO/TC 159 definition of the term. On the other hand, neither has the JTAG put forward an alternative basis for guidance on incorporating accessibility, beyond some high-level principles of accessibility/universal design/accessible design, which, in and of themselves, do not imply the process, (i.e., “the how”) by which standards developers are to incorporate accessibility into standards—or by which designers can incorporate accessibility into design, for that matter.

The outcome of the JTAG meeting, then, did not bode well for the subsequent meeting of ISO/TC 159/WG 2, given that its primary work item—a revision of ISO TR 22411 – Ergonomics data and guidelines for the application of ISO/IEC Guide 71 to products and services to address the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities—was very closely tied to the original version of ISO/IEC Guide 71. At least part of the meeting was devoted to discussing the direction in which the JTAG appeared to be going, and whether or not ISO/TC 159/WG 2 was going to link the revised TR with the new guide, particularly when some members disagree with the direction in which the JTAG appears to be moving. Feeling that its hands were tied by the lack of progress in the JTAG, members of ISO/TC 159/WG 2 decided not to hold another face-to-face meeting until March 2014; instead, they will hold teleconference meetings after each of the next two JTAG meetings to reassess the implications of the JTAG’s decisions for the TR.

As the only continuously active U.S. expert in ISO/TC 159/WG 2, I am of the view that ISO TR 22411 requires major revision and restructuring, regardless of what happens with the revision of ISO/IEC Guide 71. The TR’s tie to the original guide is only one of its problems; there are other barriers to progress of the revision that are beyond the scope of this article. Although I will continue to participate remotely in both the JTAG and ISO/TC 159/WG 2 over the next 12 months, it is doubtful my participation will continue beyond that unless there is significant progress by this time next year.
On the TV Hot Seat: A Q&A With Missy Cummings

“"I was so relieved when that show was over and nothing caught on fire.””—Missy Cummings on her Colbert Report appearance

HFES member Missy Cummings has been making the rounds of prominent TV shows lately. An unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) expert, she was featured on PBS’s NOVA and interviewed on Comedy Central’s The Daily Show with Jon Stewart and The Colbert Report. HFES staff asked her to tell us what it was like to talk about her work on programs aimed at general audiences.

How did you get connected with The Daily Show and, before that, The Colbert Report?
As an expert in UAVs, I was featured in a recent NOVA broadcast called “Rise of the Drones.” From a NOVA press release, The Daily Show contacted their public relations firm to see if I was interested in being on The Daily Show. The answer was a resounding “yes,” since The Daily Show is my favorite show on TV. The Colbert Report found me through the best and cheapest agent on the planet—Google.

How did the interviews on the Colbert Report and The Daily Show compare?
Of the two shows, the Colbert Report was the hardest to do because we had UAVs flying around the set and I had to have students standing by with fire extinguishers. It took several days of coordination and flight-testing to get the UAVs working, and even at that, Stephen Colbert crashed one into the ceiling of the set. And the very next day, I got a call from my research sponsor who wanted to know (jokingly) if he had to pay for the damage. I was so relieved when that show was over that nothing caught on fire—the interview was a piece of cake compared to all the technical drama.

Did the producers or anybody else coach you for the appearances?
No, for both shows I chatted with each host for about 10 minutes. They give you an idea of general topics, but pretty much, you go onto the set cold. And they only do one shoot—there is no going back.

On The Daily Show, did Jon Stewart’s question about the Death Star petition surprise you?
Not really, thank goodness I knew about the recent Death Star petition. I am currently residing in Washington, D.C., working with the U.S. government, so it helped to be in the area and somewhat caught up on recent events.

What are Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert like off camera?
Stephen Colbert is playing a role on TV, so he is not the same person you meet backstage. He is a really nice guy in real life. Jon Stewart is a fantastic host; he is really attuned to his guests and walks a fine line between trying to conduct in-depth interviews and making it funny. I actually learned from him on the set and bow to his hosting and comedic brilliance!

Any other comments to add?
You would not believe the stress of trying to pick out something to wear on national TV, and that is only second to the stress of taking UAVs onto national television!
Don’t Miss Out! Register to Attend the Health-Care Symposium

Time is running out to register for the HFES 2013 International Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care: Advancing the Cause, hosted by the National Center for Human Factors in Healthcare, MedStar Institute for Innovation. Online registration is fast and easy. Some rooms are still available at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel so book your room today! The HFES room block is nearly filled. View the final program, and bookmark the main symposium Web page for regular updates.

Human Factors Editor Candidates Sought

The term of the current editor of Human Factors, William S. Marras, will expire at the end of 2013, and HFES is seeking candidates for the position.

The Human Factors editor’s term is four years (2014–2017), with the possibility of two additional two-year terms. The incoming editor will be asked to work with the outgoing editor in the latter part of 2013, so on each end of the tenure there will be a few months of overlap to enable a smooth transition.

Desirable candidates will have a strong vision for the role of Human Factors in the rapidly changing scientific publishing landscape. Responsibilities include ensuring that only the best work is published in the journal, encouraging submissions, maintaining a distinguished Editorial Board, and increasing the journal’s impact. Candidates should have experience working with authors of scientific research, including a demonstrated ability to communicate sometimes unwelcome news with consideration, tact, and diplomacy.

The job involves a commitment of at least 8 hours per week. Administrative support for the manuscript review process is provided in the HFES central office in Santa Monica. The Society’s publications staff also oversees production, which is performed by SAGE Publications. Questions about these functions may be directed to Communications Director Lois Smith (310/394-1811, lois@hfes.org).

If you are interested in being considered for the Human Factors editorship, please view the instructions on the Web site. Please forward a current CV and a letter of interest to Lois Smith by April 15, 2013. In the letter, please provide the names of two individuals who will be willing to provide professional recommendations upon request of the search committee.

The HFES Publications Committee will conduct telephone interviews with qualified candidates in June and make a recommendation to the Executive Council in September.

Call for Input for Volume 11 of Reviews of Human Factors and Ergonomics

By Douglas H. Harris, Editor, Reviews Series

I think that most members would agree that documenting and publishing information about the latest findings from research, development, and application is an important function of our Society, and that our journals have been doing an excellent job of providing this information. An
equally important function is to review and document what we have learned thus far about the topics of most interest and value to the membership. This, along with identifying important gaps in our knowledge and recommendations for further research, is the purpose of the Reviews of Human Factors and Ergonomics. As the concept of Reviews was being contemplated, HFES Past President and Fellow Hal Hendrick, one of the early planners, observed: “A number of us see this as perhaps the most significant new initiative of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society in many years—one that potentially will greatly enhance the knowledge and skills of us all, thus enhancing our ability to serve society.”

In recent years, technological innovations have led to significant changes in the manner in which information is published, accessed, and used. The Internet, in particular, has reduced the need for publishing scholarly works in books and journals on paper, which carry the burden of ordering, shipping, and storing bound volumes. Moreover, there is evidence that obtaining the information from a Web site has significantly enhanced the publication process and increased the utilization of the information.

Our publisher partner, SAGE, maintains a Web site for Reviews that provides easy access to all volumes published to date. A direct link from the Society home page provides access to the information and the capability to download chapters in either full-text or PDF format at no cost to HFES members. The latest usage statistics show that during the past 12-month period, the number of online accesses to the Reviews totaled 82,783 (an average of 6,899 per month), and full-text downloads totaled 7,621 (an average of 635 per month).

At this time, seven volumes of Reviews, consisting of a total of 50 chapters, are available, and Volumes 8, 9, and 10 are in preparation. Starting with Volume 8, the objective of the Reviews is to provide a comprehensive coverage of a single topic. The topic of Volume 8 is human factors in health care, and that of Volume 9, human performance in teleoperations. Volume 10 will cover fatigue in transportation. Volumes 8 and 9 are scheduled for publication in late 2013, and Volume 10 will be published in 2014.

The initial steps for Volume 11 are being contemplated by the Advisory Committee, involving selecting the topic, defining the needed chapters, and selecting the editor, authors, and reviewers—a process in which participation from all interested Society members is encouraged. I welcome your suggestions and recommendations and look forward to receiving your e-mail at dharris@anacapasciences.com.

Nomination Ballots Coming in April

Nomination ballots for the 2013 election of HFES officers and at-large Executive Council members will be sent to Full and Emeritus Members and Fellows on April 15. Completed nomination ballots are due on May 15. Voting members will be able to receive and retain nomination ballots via e-mail. If you have already opted out of the e-mail voting process, you will receive your nomination ballot by mail. All others will be receiving the ballots by e-mail.

The Executive Council (EC) wants to enable a variety of enthusiastic and committed nominations for HFES officers and at-large EC positions. The EC is engaged in setting a strategic direction for the Society and overseeing its fiscal and intellectual direction, so the health and future of HFES depends on a continually diverse amount of input and perspective. Officers and at-large Council members are expected to attend the midyear (spring) and annual (fall) meetings of the Executive Council; the Society reimburses some travel and hotel expenses within the limits of the Society's travel policies.

HFES members are encouraged to seek out eligible nominees for all available positions. All nominators should confirm the willingness of their nominees to run for office.
Executive Council Midyear Meeting

The 2013 Midyear Meeting of the HFES Executive Council will be held March 22 and 23 at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront, San Diego. For additional information, contact HFES Executive Director Lynn Strother at 310/394-1811 or lynn@hfes.org.

Update Your Member Record for the Directory & Yearbook

Be sure to update your member record at hfes.org so the correct information will appear in the 2013–2014 Directory & Yearbook. Updates must be made by March 8. To enter updates, simply log in at hfes.org. If you have forgotten your login ID, please contact the Member Services Department at membership@hfes.org, 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 asked us not to publish it. (To omit your home address, please contact the Member Services Department.)

You can opt out of the print version of the Directory & Yearbook and help HFES conserve natural resources. The Online Directory has the latest updates. If you prefer not to get a printed directory, please contact Member Services.

List Your Consulting and Expert Witness Services

If you’re a Full Member or Fellow and provide consulting or expert witness services, HFES invites you to purchase a listing in the online Consultants Directory.

The Consultants Directory is freely available to anyone who visits the HFES Web site. The fees for an annual listing are $150 for individuals and $250 for companies; renewal rates for those already in the system are $100 for individuals and $200 for companies.

If you are a current, eligible HFES member and would like to place or renew a listing, go to www.hfes.org, log in, and select the option “Create a Consultant Directory listing” on the Welcome page. If you have any questions, please contact the Member Services Department at 310/394-1811, membership@hfes.org.

Save the Date for HFES Europe Chapter Conference

By Antonella Toffetti

From October 16 to 18, the Europe Chapter Conference will take place in beautiful Torino, Italy. Centro Ricerche Fiat will be hosting the meeting. Two times this century we have had a conference in Torino, in 2001 and 2005, both in Orbassano. This year we will stay close to the city center near Lingotto, at the National Automobile Museum.

The theme this year is “Human Factors: Sustainable Life and Mobility,” with Peter Hancock giving a keynote presentation.

We now welcome abstracts on this topic and on the following subtopics: smart mobility; user experience and sustainability; infrastructure; environmental architectural and industrial design; human-machine interaction; telematics; workplace; cognitive performance; aviation; surface transportation; automation and trust; and psychophysiology in ergonomics.

For more information and to submit a 200-word abstract, please visit http://conference.hfes-europe.org. The submission deadline is June 15, 2013.
Presidential Addresses Map the Evolution of HF/E

Every year, the HFES president delivers an address during the Annual Meeting opening plenary session. The speeches, in addition to being informative and insightful, track current issues facing the HF/E field and serve as a valuable record.

In 2005, the Society published *The Human Face of Technology: Selected Presidential Addresses of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society*, an online collection, edited by Peter A. Hancock, of addresses presented by HFES presidents since 1964. In February, the collection was updated to include the 2012 Presidential Address by Mica R. Endsley.

The freely available collection serves as an introduction to HF/E for interested laypersons, advanced undergraduates, or graduates who may be searching for a specific research focus. It can also be used by practicing professionals to introduce HF/E to those who may not be familiar with the field.

Member Milestones

Ayse P. Gurses

HFES member Ayse P. Gurses, an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, has been named as the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society recipient of the FABBS Foundation Early Career Investigator Award. This award is presented to early-career scientists of FABBS member societies during the first 10 years post-PhD and recognizes scientists who have made major contributions to the sciences of mind, brain, and behavior. The goal is to enhance public visibility of these sciences and the recipient’s particular research through the dissemination efforts of the FABBS Foundation, in collaboration with the member societies and award winners.

Gurses’ research focuses on improving patient safety in the cardiac operating room, transitions of care/handoffs, care coordination, compliance of providers with evidence-based guidelines, and nursing working conditions. She has given more than 35 national and international talks on human factors engineering to diverse audiences, including schools of engineering, information systems, business, medicine, nursing, and public health, as well as to community hospitals and state-level patient safety organizations.

Gurses has extensive experience working in interdisciplinary research environments and collaborating with clinicians on HF/E-related projects. Her work has been funded by the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, National Patient Safety Foundation, National Science Foundation, Society of Cardiac Anesthesiologists, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Robert Earl Patterson

Robert Earl Patterson, a technical adviser with the AFRL 711th Human Performance Wing’s (711 HPW) Human Analyst Augmentation Branch, received the 2012 Harry G. Armstrong Scientific Excellence Award from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB), Ohio.

The Armstrong Award, which commemorates Major General Armstrong’s pioneering career in aerospace medicine research at WPAFB, represents an annual honor presented in recognition of 711 HPW’s most significant scientific or technical accomplishment.
In Memoriam: Charles Irwin

HFES member Charles Irwin passed away October 2, 2012, at the age of 84. Happiest on the ocean, Irwin joined the Navy in World War II and continued into the Korean War. He later became a Navy diver, which led to his later-life hobbies of sailing and scuba diving.

Irwin worked for the federal government on projects such as SeaLab and the TomCat fighter plane. He was a founding member of the HFES Potomac Chapter. Charles was also active in many civic and local organizations, including the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Commission, Ojai Planning Commission, and Ojai Center for the Arts.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, two daughters, and one grandson.

In Memoriam: John E. Karlin

HFES Fellow John E. Karlin passed away January 28, at the age of 94. To read about Karlin’s life and accomplishments, please access the obituary that was published on The New York Times Web site.

ANNUAL MEETING

Support HFES With an Annual Meeting Sponsorship

The 2013 Annual Meeting is an opportunity to promote your organization’s products and services to our attendees by signing up for one of several sponsorships. Reserving your sponsorship is easy with our online sponsorship reservation site.

Increase Your Visibility

All Annual Meeting sponsors receive significant recognition through listings in the program, signage, and daily newsletter. In addition, your organization’s logo and name are included on the Sponsors page at the HFES Web site, with links to your site. Sponsors also receive 10% off the cost of advertising in the daily on-site newsletter, the HFES Bulletin, the Annual Meeting program, Ergonomics in Design, and inserts for attendee registration bags. All advertising opportunities may be viewed here.

Some sponsorships are still available, including the Internet Café, refreshment breaks, registration bags, and such student-oriented events as the Mentor-Mentee luncheons, Student Lounge, and Student Reception.

If you are interested in sponsoring or cosponsoring the Opening Plenary Session, which takes place on Tuesday, October 1, please contact HFES Executive Director Lynn Strother at 310/394-1811.

OTHER NEWS

Abstracts Invited for Annual Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia Conference

The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia (HFESA) has recently opened the submission site for abstracts to be presented at the 49th Annual Meeting, to be held December 2–
4 at the University Club of Western Australia, Perth WA. This year’s meeting is intended to provide a forum for new ideas on structuring the physical, cognitive, and organizational aspects of the workplace to provide the “right balance” in an age of great technological, environmental, and social change.

Abstracts are due *March 15, 2013* and can be submitted online.

**Office Ergonomics Research Committee Seeks Research Proposals**

The Office Ergonomics Research Committee (OERC) was formed in 1991 by a group of U.S. companies concerned by reports of an increasing number of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) among office workers. OERC aims to better understand the human-machine system that is composed of the people who use office, information, and communication technologies in a broad variety of settings.

OERC recently announced a request for proposals for research on topics of interest to the group. If you would like to prepare a proposal on any of the topics, please visit the Proposal Essentials Web page. All proposals must be received by *July 31*, and final funding decisions will be announced in December.

**CALENDAR**

*March 2013*

**2013 Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care: Advancing the Cause**  
March 10-13, 2013, Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore, MD.


*May 2013*