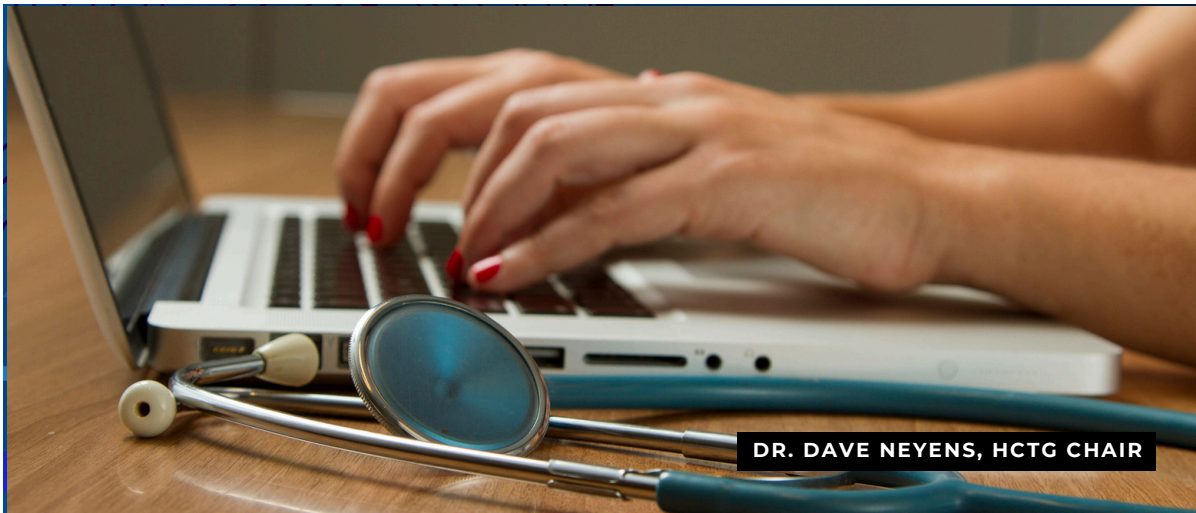


HFES Health Care Technical Group

NEWSLETTER

♦
July 2026



Introducing Our New Chair: A Welcome Message

Welcome HCTG community!

I hope everyone is having an excellent summer and staying cool or enjoying the heat (if you prefer that).

We are planning some webinars for the near future and into the fall, so be on the lookout for announcements and we'd love to have everyone attend. Webinars are great ways for us to stay connected to HCTG outside of ASPIRE.

Speaking of that, we are looking forward to ASPIRE 2026 in Reno! Vickie Nguyen and Reid Parks (our Program Chair and Program Chair Elect) have organized an excellent program of lectures, posters, and alternative format presentations for our technical group members.

Thank you very much to those of you who reviewed proposals and paper drafts. I think we are all still getting used to the multistage review process and appreciate the timely engagement from our members to help the process run smoothly and effectively.

We are co-hosting a number of sessions with other technical groups, which helps reduce silos and incorporate healthcare related work with other audiences.

Please be on the lookout for information about our business meeting at the ASPIRE Annual Conference in Reno. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and connecting with old friends and making new friends.

Dave Neyens, PhD

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Message from
the Chair

Thank you to
previous board!

Introducing the
new board!

ASPIRE 2026
Conference
Information

Call for Awards
and Reviewers

The Fun Corner

Thank you to our previous Health Care Technical Group board!



Chair
Abigail R. Wooldridge

Assistant Professor
Faculty Fellow

Department of Industrial &
Enterprise Systems Engineering

University of Illinois Urbana-
Champaign

ARCHES Faculty Fellow
OSF Healthcare



Chair-Elect
David Neyens

Associate Professor

Department of Industrial
Engineering & Department of
Bioengineering

Clemson University

Associate Director of
Human Factors Institute



Program Chair
Megan Gregory

Associate Professor

Department of Health Outcomes &
Biomedical Informatics

University of Florida

Faculty Liason
Integrated Data Repository Research
Services



Program Chair-Elect

Vickie Nguyen

UX Researcher

Biomedical Informatician &
Consultant



Secretary & Treasurer

Elizabeth Papautsky

Assistant Professor

Department of Biomedical &
Health Information Sciences

University of Illinois at Chicago



Newsletter Editor

Jessica M. González-Vargas

Assistant Professor

Department of Industrial &
Systems Engineering

Mississippi State University



Communications

Director

Jordan Hill

Assistant Research Scientist

School of Public Health

Indiana University-Bloomington



Student Affairs

Chair

Kathryn Wust

Assistant Teaching Professor

Department of Industrial &
Systems Engineering

University of Minnesota Twin Cities



Awards & Scholarship

Chair

Megan Salwei

Assistant Professor

Department of Anesthesiology &
Department of Biomedical
Informatics

Vanderbilt University Medical Center



Introducing our new Health Care Technical Group Board!



David Neyens
Chair



Associate Professor
Department of Industrial Engineering
Department of Bioengineering
Clemson University



Research Interests: Analytical models to quantify human behavior and performance in complex systems and situations.



Why HCTG? To make connections with others that are working or want to work in the healthcare area. There are a lot of awesome people in the HCTG that are generous with their time and advice.



Best Advice: Asking questions and learning new things are key aspects of success.

Dr. Neyens is an Associate Professor of Industrial Engineering at Clemson University. He is a Faculty Scholar in the Clemson University School of Health Research and has an appointment in the department of Bioengineering. His research uses sophisticated analytical models to quantify human behavior and performance in complex systems and situations. He is particularly interested in understanding the effects of technology on human behavior, performance, and overall system effectiveness. His work centers around the use of technology and tools in the delivery of healthcare, most recently related to the use of AI and AI chatbots.

Introducing our new Health Care Technical Group Board!



Megan Salwei
Vice-Chair/Chair elect



Assistant Professor
Center for Research and Innovation in Systems
Science
Vanderbilt University Medical Center



Research Interests: Macroergonomics, Complex
Socio-Technical Systems, Healthcare Quality and
Patient Safety, Collaboration



Why HCTG? To improve the quality and safety of
healthcare using human factors.



Best Advice: Imagine it is 10 years from now. You
wake up, get in the car, and drive to work. Where is
it that you envision yourself parking and going in to
work?

Dr. Salwei is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Research and Innovation in Systems Science (CRISS) in the Departments of Anesthesiology and Biomedical Informatics at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Salwei's research is focused on the design of complex sociotechnical systems, specifically in health care. In her research, she applies human factors engineering methods and principles to improve the design of health information technology (IT) to better support clinicians and patients, and to enhance patient safety and care quality. She is interested in how to successfully integrate advanced technologies, such as those based on artificial intelligence, into clinical workflow. She is also interested in the design of health IT to support teamwork in healthcare, not just between clinicians but between the entire healthcare team – clinicians, patients, and family caregivers.



Avinash Gupta
Secretary/Treasurer



Teaching Assistant Professor
Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems
Engineering
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Research Interests: Extended Reality (XR), AI,
Healthcare Simulation & Training, Human-Computer
Interaction, Healthcare Technology Design and
Evaluation; Aging, Cognitive Health, Assistive
Technologies



Why HCTG? Because it provides a community of
researchers and practitioners who are passionate
about improving healthcare systems through
human-centered design.



Best Advice: Stay curious and keep learning

Dr. Gupta is a Teaching Assistant Professor in the Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Director of the Human eXtended Reality Interaction (HXRI) Laboratory. His work focuses on designing and evaluating immersive technologies that improve healthcare education, training, and patient outcomes. Through interdisciplinary collaborations with clinicians, engineers, and educators, he develops virtual, augmented, and mixed reality solutions for healthcare applications, including nursing education, surgical training, and support for older adults.

Introducing our new Health Care Technical Group Board!



Kathryn Wust
Student Affairs Chair



Assistant Teaching Professor
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
University of Minnesota Twin Cities



Research Interests: Macroergonomics, Complex Socio-Technical Systems, Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety, Collaboration



Why HCTG? To serve my professional society and positively impact student's engagement and experience in HFES and the HCTG.



Best Advice: Advocate for yourself.

Dr. Wust is an industrial and systems engineer with expertise in human factors and ergonomics. Her teaching and research center around the concept of collaboration. She currently teaches courses in systems engineering and project management. Her pedagogical approach involves creating an active, inclusive, and collaborative learning environment where students have the opportunity to learn and apply new theories, skills, concepts, and techniques. Dr. Wust's research focus has been in health care settings, where she has used qualitative methods and applied sociotechnical systems principles to understand how older adults and clinicians collaborate in health care settings, such as the emergency department, to inform system redesign.



Reid Parks
Vice Program Chair/
Program Chair Elect



Research Operations Manager & Postdoctoral Researcher
Indiana University Bloomington & University of Wisconsin



Research Interests: Macroergonomics, Healthcare systems, Implementation Science



Why HCTG? To explore healthcare careers with cool people



Best Advice: If you are the smartest person in the room, you are in the wrong room.

Dr. Parks is an engineer and researcher with positions at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and Indiana University Bloomington. He works with healthcare, government, and education organizations to implement change, improve outcomes, and solve complex problems. He has led training workshops and presented award-winning research at over 15 international conferences, and his teams have published research findings in high impact academic journals including Innovation in Aging, the Journal of the Medical Directors Association, and Human Factors in Healthcare.

Introducing our new Health Care Technical Group Board!



Vickie Nguyen
Program Chair



Mixed Methods Researcher &
Biomedical Informatician
Consultant



Research Interests: Patient Safety & Quality; Medical
and Consumer Health Devices; Team
Communication and Decision Making; Critical Care
Environments; Data and Information Management



Why HCTG? To give back to the HFES community
that helped me during graduate school and to
support the HCTG community continue to make
great advancements in HF/E and healthcare.



Best Advice: Everything is a learning opportunity.

Vickie finds joy in helping people reach their work and life goals through the tools and data they use. She holds a Master's degree in Psychology and a PhD in Biomedical Informatics. Most recently, she has been working as a consultant on medical devices for some of the top biomedical companies in the world.



Huei-Yen Winnie Chen
Awards and Scholarships



Associate Professor
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo



Research Interests: Automated driving, medication
safety, clinical decision-making, artificial intelligence
technologies



Why HCTG? To gain a deeper understanding of the
breadth and depth of healthcare human factors
work.



Best Advice: Invest in relationships. The most
rewarding research and career experiences for me
have come from collaborations built on trust,
curiosity, and mutual growth.

Dr. Huei-Yen Winnie Chen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, where she directs the Applied Cognitive Engineering Lab (ACEL). She earned her Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Toronto, specializing in human factors and ergonomics. Using both laboratory and field-based research methods, her work examines how people interact with complex technologies and how these systems can be designed to better support human decision-making, safety, and performance. Her research encompasses automated driving, driver behavior, medication safety, clinical decision-making, and the design and evaluation of AI-enabled technologies in safety-critical environments. She is affiliated with the University at Buffalo's Stephen Still Institute for Sustainable Transportation and Logistics, the Center for Cognitive Science, and Team Alice, an interdisciplinary research group focused on improving medication safety for older adults.

Introducing our new Health Care Technical Group Board!



Raúl I. Ramírez B.
Communications Chair



PhD Student
Systems Design Engineering
University of Waterloo



Research Interests: Human-AI interaction; explainable AI; digital health; wearable health technologies; smartwatch-based ECG/PPG measurement; hypertension care; interface design; usability testing; AI clinical decision support



Why HCTG? To engage in a community whose mission aligns with my goal of connecting AI-enabled health technologies with broader efforts to improve medical systems through human factors research.



Best Advice: Make the best of time, because time is the one thing no one can take away from you

Raúl I. Ramírez B. is a graduate student in Systems Design Engineering at the University of Waterloo. His work sits at the intersection of human factors, ergonomics, artificial intelligence, and healthcare, with a focus on designing and evaluating AI-enabled health technologies. He is particularly interested in AI-enabled systems, explainable AI, usability, and translating complex system outputs into clear, actionable guidance for users. His mission to apply human factors and ergonomics to improve healthcare technologies and outcomes. He is interested in how human-centered design can make medical systems more effective, usable, and trustworthy, while also improving quality of life for people managing health conditions.



Jessica M. González-Vargas
Newsletter Editor



Assistant Professor
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
Mississippi State University



Research Interests: Healthcare simulation-based training, extended reality, user-centered design, artificial intelligence



Why HCTG? To support, contribute, and advance the human factors healthcare community



Best Advice: Always do your best so you can know, no matter the outcome, that you gave it your full effort.

Dr. González-Vargas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Mississippi State University. She is the director of the Bridging Opportunities in Research and Innovation (Bori) Lab. Her research integrates human factors, usability, user-centered design, systems engineering, and cutting-edge technologies to improve training, education, user experience, and patient safety. Her work specifically focuses on improving medical simulation-based training, healthcare systems, healthcare processes, patient outcomes, and quality of life. By leveraging innovative tools and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, she aims to address critical gaps in healthcare training, education, and delivery.



Planning for ASPIRE 2026: Key Dates & Deadlines

October 19 - 23, 2026
Grand Sierra Resort
Reno, Nevada
Register for the conference [here](#)
Book your accommodations [here](#)

Important Dates:

May 12, 2026 – Acceptance Confirmation

May 19, 2026 – Stage 3: Pre-Publication
Proceedings Paper Stage Due

June 12, 2026 - Call for Late Breaking
Submissions Open

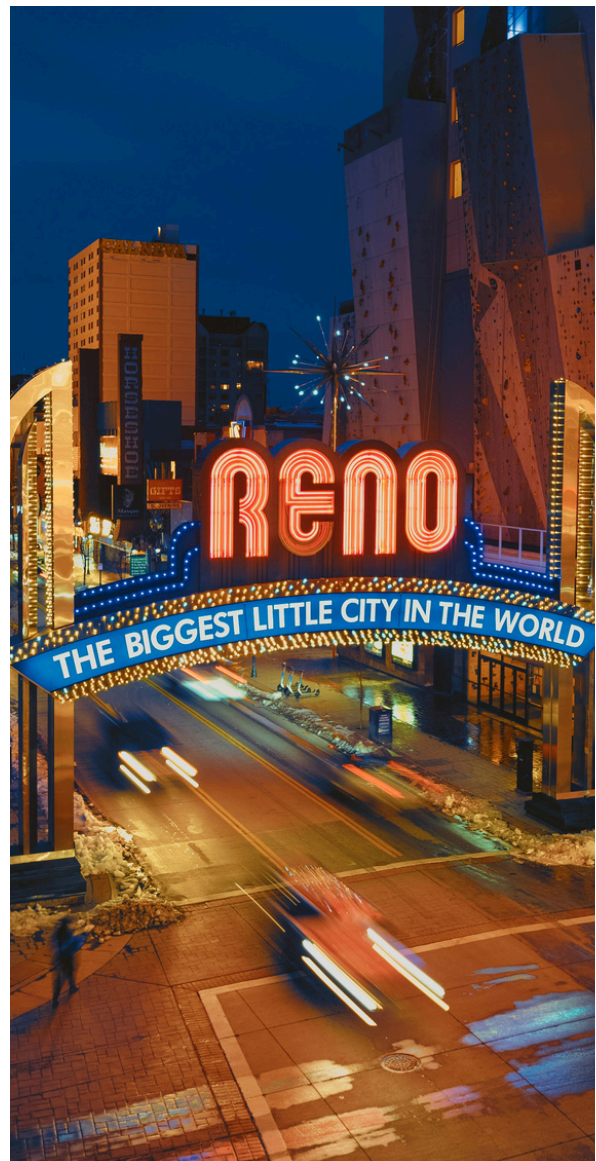
June 19 - 2026 - Student Award and
Alphonse Chapanis Award Papers Due,
Paper Review Comments Released

June 23, 2026 – Final Program Released

June 30, 2026 – Pre-Conference
Proceedings Publication Deadline

July 6 - Call for Late Breaking
Submissions Closed

July 31, 2026 – Final Publication
Proceedings Deadline





Call for Awards and Reviewers!



July 24, 2026

Call for Travel Scholarship Awards (2026)

The Health Care Technical Group (HCTG) is pleased to announce the travel awards for the upcoming HFES Annual Meeting for HCTG members. To encourage and support its members to attend the annual meeting, HCTG will dedicate a total of \$3,000 for up to six scholarships to student members, members in transition, and practitioners (non-academic) in the healthcare industry. To be eligible for the award, you must be a registered HCTG member. HCTG will reserve at least one of the awards for members of the minority groups and at least one award for international members (not from North America). **Apply by July 24** using the Google Form below:

[Apply here](#)



August 12, 2026

Call for Robert L. Wears Early Career Award (2026)

The Health Care Technical Group (HCTG) is pleased to announce the call for 2026 Robert L. Wears Early Career Award. Please read the call for applications to nominate a colleague or yourself **by August 12**. Details can be found on the following link:

[Apply here](#)

Call for Reviewers HFES HCTG Best Student Paper Awards (2026)



July 31, 2026

The Health Care Technical Group (HCTG) is pleased to announce HCTG Best Student Paper Awards that recognize outstanding student work in Health Care Human Factors. We are seeking volunteers to review student-authored, accepted papers and evaluate them using a set of criteria to be provided. **Apply by July 31** using the Google Form below:

[Apply here](#)

For any questions and concerns contact us at HFESHealthcareTG@gmail.com



The Fun Corner

Fun Fact



Did you know that the concept of “situational awareness” was first formalized in aviation research, but is now widely used in healthcare to improve patient safety and reduce errors?

Brain Teaser



A clinician needs to administer 3 doses of a medication at equal intervals within a 24-hour period. If the first dose is given at 6:00 AM, what time is the third dose given?

Spot the Issue



A nurse is preparing a medication in a simulated hospital room. The syringe is labeled correctly, but the medication vial is placed next to a similar vial with a different dosage. What is the human factors issue?

- A) Poor lighting
- B) Look-alike/sound-alike risk
- C) Lack of training

Quick Poll



What helps you be most productive during work or research?

-  Coffee / Tea
-  Music or background noise
-  Time-blocking your schedule
-  Working in focused work sessions
-  Collaborating with others

We want to hear from you!

We value your input and expertise, and we invite you to contribute to our upcoming newsletter! If you have any thoughts on the following, simply click [here](#) or scan the QR code.

1

Feedback: Have thoughts or suggestions about our newsletter? Share your feedback on the current content or suggest topics you would like to see covered in future editions.

2

Content: Do you have an article, story, or announcement you would like to share with our audience? We welcome your contributions, project update, or success story in our newsletter.



Thank you for reading!