



**Human
Factors
and
Ergonomics
Society**

FELLOW PROFILE

Name: Robert G. Radwin

**Degrees, certifications,
etc.:** BS, NYU Polytechnic
Institute (1975); MS, MSE,
University of Michigan
(1979); PhD, University of
Michigan (1986)

Current status: Professor, Departments of
Biomedical Engineering,
Industrial and Systems
Engineering, and
Orthopedics and
Rehabilitation, University of
Wisconsin-Madison

Home page (optional): ergo.engr.wisc.edu



Biography (How you got involved in the field, your major career activities and milestones):

As an engineering graduate student at the University of Michigan, I was searching for a dissertation topic that would combine technology, directly impact people, and ultimately serve society. Then I met Don Chaffin and he introduced me to a new word to me, "ergonomics." Don and Tom Armstrong were my mentors and co-advisors.

Employment History (List top 5 positions):

Professor
Department of Industrial Engineering
University of Wisconsin-Madison
(1995 – Present)

Professor and Founding Chair
Department of Biomedical Engineering
University of Wisconsin-Madison
(1999 – 2010)

Professor
Department of Orthopedics & Rehabilitation
University of Wisconsin-Madison
(2004 – Present)

Faculty in Residence
Wisconsin Institute for Discovery
University of Wisconsin-Madison
(2011 – Present)

What were your significant contributions to the field?

I am best known for my work on the ergonomics of hand tools and hand-operated instruments and devices. My background is electrical engineering and I have used it to develop new instruments for ergonomics research and practice.

Did you receive any notable awards or recognition during your career?

Presidential Young Investigator Award, National Science Foundation (1991)

Fellow of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (1997)

Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (1999)

Fellow of the Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (2000)

Engineering Alumni Society Merit Award in Biomedical Engineering, University of Michigan (2004)

Fellow of the Biomedical Engineering Society (2005)

Fellow of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (2009)

Which articles in the journal *Human Factors* would you say were the most influential to you and your research or practice?

In 1963, *Human Factors* published a special issue dedicated to hand tools. Two articles that were particularly influential are: Drillis R, Schneck D, Gage H., The Theory of Striking Tools, *Human Factors*. 1963 Oct;5:467-78 and Drillis, R.J., Folk Norms and Biomechanics, *Human Factors*, 1963, 1963 Oct;5:427-41.

Please provide any links to your online articles, essays, blogs, Wikipedia pages, etc., that pertain to your research, publications or practice.

My lab site is <http://ergo.engr.wisc.edu> where I post research publications.

What advice would you give someone considering HF/E as a profession?

In HF/E you can have an immediate and profound impact on people in their daily lives.