



**Human
Factors
and
Ergonomics
Society**

FELLOW PROFILE

Name: Stover H. Snook

**Degrees, certifications,
etc.:** Ph.D. Tufts University
M.A. Fordham University
B.A. Hartwick College
CPA Certified Prof. Ergon.
Fellow HFES
Fellow IEA
Fellow IEHF (U.K.)

Current status: Retired



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

When I received my B.A. in 1954, the Korean War had ended, but the cold war continued. I was drafted within weeks of graduation and although newly married, I was assigned to the 7th Army in Germany (which was still an occupied country). My new father-in-law, an employee of Bell Telephone Laboratories, sent me a copy of the company bulletin, containing an interesting article that described the new field of human engineering. While still in Germany, I wrote to three companies mentioned in the article, and eventually was hired by Dunlap and Associates in Stamford, CT, in 1956. I participated in the human factors design and evaluation of military missile systems, command and control systems, weather observing and forecasting systems, and aircraft cockpit design.

In 1962 I joined the Liberty Mutual Research Center in Hopkinton, MA, and conducted occupational health research on low back pain, manual materials handling, cumulative trauma disorders, heat stress, fatigue, machine guarding, stairway design, and personal protective equipment. In 1997, I retired as Assistant Vice President and Director of the Ergonomics Laboratories.

From 1974 to 2004, I was a Lecturer on Ergonomics at the Harvard School of Public Health, and a Visiting Scientist from 2004 to 2009.

Employment History (List top 5 positions):

1956 – 1962 Dunlap and Associates, Inc.
1962 – 1997 Liberty Mutual Insurance Company
1974 – 2009 Harvard School of Public Health

What were your significant contributions to the field?

Perhaps I am best known for my use of psychophysics in developing tables of maximum acceptable weights and forces for manual handling tasks (lifting, lowering, pushing, pulling, and

carrying), and repetitive hand and wrist motions (wrist flexion, extension, ulnar deviation, and handgrip). I have also published epidemiological and cost studies of compensable low back pain and upper extremity cumulative trauma disorders, and evaluations of low back pain prevention and treatment.

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

The New England Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association presented me with the Leslie Silverman Memorial Award for outstanding contribution to the science of industrial hygiene (1975). I received the Industrial Ergonomics Technical Group Award from the Human Factors Society in recognition of my contributions to industrial ergonomics (1992). The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society presented me with the Jack A. Kraft Innovator Award in recognition of significant efforts to diversify and extend the application of human factors principles to new areas of endeavor (1997). I received the Extension Award from the McKenzie Institute International for outstanding contribution to research in the field of mechanical diagnosis and therapy (2001).

I presented the Ergonomics Society Lecture in Cranfield, England (1978); the Distinguished Lecture on Occupational Health at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey (1989); and the Harriet L. Hardy Lecture to the New England Occupational Medical Association (1990). I was appointed to the Committee on Human Factors at the National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences in 1984. I was Vice-Chair of the American National Standards Institute Accredited Committee Z-365 (Control of Cumulative Trauma Disorders), and a member of the Advisory Panel on Research for the American Physical Therapy Association. In 1999, I was honored by my colleagues with a Festschrift in the journal *Ergonomics* (Volume 42, No. 1). In 2004, I was elected a Fellow of the International Ergonomics Association.

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

It is difficult for me to identify particular articles that were influential to me, because there were so many. However, I have referenced all of them in my publications.

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

I think that HF/E is a good profession for making a lasting contribution to society. That's what has motivated me for many years.