

HFES Candidate Biography

Name: Ranjana K. Mehta

Present position: Associate Professor, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Work experience:

- 2018-present: Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Texas A&M University, Associate Professor
- 2013-2018: Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Assistant Professor
- 2011-2012: Departments of Cognitive and Learning Sciences/Kinesiology and Integrative Physiology, Michigan Technological University, Assistant Professor

Education:

- PhD, Industrial & Systems Engineering, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, 2011
- MS, Industrial & Systems Engineering, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, 2009
- ME, Industrial Engineering, University at Buffalo, NY, 2006
- BE, Production Engineering, University of Mumbai, 2004

Current HFES activities:

- Texas A&M HFES Student Chapter Faculty advisor
- Member, Alphonse Chapanis Student Paper Award Selection Committee, *Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Conference*, 2018
- Volunteer conference abstract reviewer, *Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Conference*, 2018

Current activities in other professional organizations (offices, committees, activities):

- Program committee, Applied Ergonomics Conference

Significant accomplishments and contributions to the profession:

HFES

- Program Chair, Aging Technical Group, *Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Conference*, 2017
- Member, Alphonse Chapanis Student Paper Award Selection Committee, *Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Conference*, 2017, 2018
- Member, Publications Committee, *Human Factors and Ergonomics Society*, 2013 – 2015
- Secretary, *Houston Human Factors and Ergonomics Society*, 2014
- Volunteer conference abstract reviewer and session chair/co-chair for multiple TGs for the HFES annual conferences since 2011

Other Organizations

- Member, Program Committee, *Applied Ergonomics Conference*, 2014 – present
- Program Co-Chair, Human Factors and Ergonomics Track, *Industrial & Systems Engineering Research Conference*, 2014
- Volunteer conference abstract reviewer and session chair/co-chair for the IISE annual conferences (2011-14)
- Volunteer conference abstract reviewer and session chair/co-chair for the Applied Ergonomics annual conferences since 2013
- Developed workshops and master tracks for academic and professional audiences at Applied Ergonomic Conference since 2014

Honors and Awards

- *William C. Howell Young Investigator Award*, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, 2017
- *James G. Zimmer New Investigator Research Award*, American Public Health Association, 2014
- *Best Professional Presentation*, Houston Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, 2013

Goals/direction for HFES: I was introduced to the field of HF/E in a very serendipitous fashion, when I attended my first professional conference (the 2005 Annual HFES conference) and found home instantly! Recognizing that not everyone is equally lucky, my goals are to develop and implement efforts that enable others (i.e., students, academics, and professionals) to recognize and experience the benefits of our science and services in their endeavors as well as contribute to the growth of our discipline – like I have. I truly believe that when we discard the notions of silos, allow our problems to be approached and resolved by multiple, and sometimes contradictory, approaches that are grounded in sound science, particularly when working peers that we don't always agree with, we develop better and more flexible foundations for the growth of our profession and its services.

My experiences with HFES as a contributing member (first as a student and now as faculty) for the past decade have encouraged me to disrupt traditional boundaries of HF/E through my research and service activities and has motivated me to contribute more. If I were to have the privilege of being Secretary/Treasurer of HFES, my goals would be to bring my experience to the table to facilitate HFES' ability to reach out to members, particularly students and early career professionals, of other professional societies and work with them such that they identify, leverage, or contribute to the field of HF/E through our collaborative platforms for research, training, and practice. Additionally, I would also like to develop learning opportunities for our members to explore and expose themselves to the challenges and workings of different industries such that our society is more innovative, adaptive, and effective in the products, solutions, and services we provide.