



## FELLOW PROFILE

**Name:** Peter A. Hancock

**Degrees, certifications, etc.:** D.Sc. Loughborough University, Loughborough, England, Human-Machine Systems, 2001.

Ph.D. University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois, Human Performance, 1983.

M.Sc. Loughborough University, Loughborough, England, Human Biology, 1978.

B.Ed. Loughborough University, Loughborough, England, Anatomy and Physiology, 1976.

Certificate of Education Loughborough University, Loughborough College of Education, England, 1975.

Certificant, Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics (CPE), No.1258. BCPE.

**Current status:** Provost Distinguished Research Professor, and Pegasus Professor, University of Central Florida

**Home page:** [www.peterhancock.ucf.edu](http://www.peterhancock.ucf.edu)



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

I was at Loughborough University in England doing a Master's in Human Biology. The next group over the way were studying Ergonomics (they were known as 'Ergonomes'). I often found what they did was as interesting, if not more so, than the work we were doing. This is where I first bumped into the area. When I subsequently did my Ph.D at Illinois, my advisor suggested taking the most 'interesting' courses the University had to offer and for

me, some of the most interesting were in Psychology being taught by the likes of Stan Roscoe, Chris Wickens, Walt Schneider, Jack Adams, Manny Donchin, and Mike Coles. In meeting and talking with the graduate students in this area such as Dan Fisk, Art Kramer, Ray Eberts, Mike Vidulich, Phil Ackerman, Valerie Gawron and a number of others, I became ever more associated with Human Factors. I've been in HF/E ever since.

**Employment History (List top 5 positions):**

2009-present Pegasus Professor, *University of Central Florida*.

2001-present Provost Distinguished Research Professor, Department of Psychology and Institute for Simulation and Training, *University of Central Florida*.

1996-2001 Professor, Division of Kinesiology and Director, Human Factors Research Laboratory, *University of Minnesota*.

1989-1996 Associate Professor, Division of Kinesiology and Director, Human Factors Research Laboratory, *University of Minnesota*.

1983-1989 Assistant Professor, Department of Safety Science, Institute of Safety and Systems Management, *University of Southern California*.

**What were your significant contributions to the field?**

The question of one's significant contributions is surely a matter for others to judge. With respect to the dimension of my career that I am most proud of accomplishing, this comes down to the students I have worked with and the colleagues with whom I have collaborated. It is the nature of science that one's works are ephemeral, but the relationships one creates are the living legacy and therefore the most important.

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

***Awards from Scientific Societies***

Presidential Citation, for Services to Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology from the American Psychological Association, 2010.

Andrew P. Sage Award, Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, 2008.

*Paul M. Fitts Award*, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, 2008.

*Raymond F. Longacre Award*, Aerospace Medical Association, 2008.

*Otto Edholm Award*, The Ergonomics Society of the United Kingdom, 2008.

A.R. Lauer Award, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, 2007.

John C. Flanagan Award, Society of Military Psychologists, American Psychological Association, 2007.

Norbert Wiener Award, Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, 2006.

Jack A. Kraft Award, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, 2005.

Liberty Mutual Medal in Occupational Safety and Ergonomics, International Ergonomics Association, 2003.

Wojciech Bogumil Jastrebowski Medal, Polish Ergonomics Society, 2002.

Jerome H. Ely Award, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, 2001.

*Liberty Mutual Prize in Occupational Safety and Ergonomics*, International Ergonomics Association, 2001.

*Franklin V. Taylor Award*, Society of Engineering Psychologists, American Psychological Association, 2001.

*Sir Frederic Bartlett Medal*, The Ergonomics Society of the United Kingdom, 2000.

Best Paper Award, *Ergonomics in Design*, Human Factors Society, 1994.  
NASPSPA, *Early Career Distinguished Scholar*, June, 1987.

### **Awards from Institutions**

Winner, NASA 2002, Turning Goals into Reality (TGIR) Award for Outstanding Accomplishment toward the Revolutionize Aviation Goal. The AGATE Alliance Project Team, University of Central Florida Space Coast Center for Human Factors.

*Winner*, Best Lecture Award 2000, for the A. Louis Medin Seminar Series, Institute for Simulation and Training, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

Winner, *Research Partnership Award*, Center for Transportation Studies. 'Investigating the Effects of Roadway Design on Driver Behavior: Applications for Minnesota Highway Design.' May, 1999.

Minnesota Guidestar, Winner of the ITS America Board Chair Award, 1995. The Human Factors Research Laboratory is a component element of the Guidestar program.

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

It is hard to single out any particular papers because the body of our literature is appropriately inter-dependent and when you specify one you neglect another of essentially equal importance. I would only say that I read all papers published in our Journal and benefit from most.

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

Most of my works can be found either at our Lab website: [www.mit.ucf.edu](http://www.mit.ucf.edu), or at my own personal website: [www.peterhancock.ucf.edu](http://www.peterhancock.ucf.edu).

They are each in the process of revision and in constant up-date mode as various elements and citations are added.

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

The only real question any human being can ask themselves is: what am I going to do with my life? Sadly, all too few people get to make an actual conscious decision as to what they want to do, and if they do they have to make this decision very early in their life when there appear to be so many potential opportunities that it is inevitably confusing. Most often the world inveighs upon us and, in reality, we have very restricted choices. The primary goal is, I think, to make a job of your passion. If HF/E is not your passion, don't do this, rather do whatever is. HF/E is my passion because I see how much influence technology has in the world and how poorly it is designed to achieve its declared goals. It is this often mindless power of technology that dooms most individuals to a life of frustration and servitude when, in reality, it ought to be exactly the opposite. That's why I'm in the struggle. But it's fun too.