George Buchanan, CHISIG Chair

How did you find out about ergonomics?

I was interested in programming, and in particular making computers easier to use. Cognitive ergonomics investigates how to make tasks easier to perform, so there's a clear overlap between an ergonomics approach and computing. Luckily, when I did my computer science degree there were parts of it that both cognitive and physical ergonomics.

Why a career in ergonomics?

I enjoy making technology that people can use effectively and easily. In particular, seeing people use and enjoy a system I've designed does give me a 'kick'.

What's been the most interesting project you've worked on?

Research I did on improving mobile web browsing some twenty years ago is in daily use. It was a real stretch to get all the technology working together. We worked with dozens of users to understand how people might use a technology that wouldn't be available to the average person for some years.

What do you do on a typical day?

I normally am doing research, either observing people use a new system, or interviewing users in what they use technology for. My work also involves teaching university students in how to improve the user experience of computer systems, which happens two or three days a week.

What do you find most satisfying about your work?

Building technology that people enjoy using and seeing something become real that was previously only an idea on a piece of paper.