PERFORMS Team Bios

Professor Alastair Gale

Alastair is a psychologist by design and an ergonomist by accident. His research is concerned with human performance, performance errors and how to minimise these. He has examined radiological reporting performance for over 40 years. He has worked in conjunction with the UK's national Breast Screening Programme since its inception and developed the PERFORMS (PErsonal performance in Mammographic Screening) self-assessment scheme. This has been used annually across the UK by all screening personnel for 26 years as a means of improving and supporting high quality screening. He has also researched ergonomic issues in breast screening and produced training materials for technologists to minimise potential musculoskeletal injuries. Additionally he has produced national minimum ergonomic standards for the UK Cervical Screening Programme which have been used by hospital laboratories. Outside radiology he has researched widely in driver behaviour, homeland security, gun crime detection and assistive technology. He is a: Fellow of the British Psychological Society; Chartered Psychologist; Fellow of the Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors; and an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Radiology. He has been awarded the Ergonomics Society Otto Edholm award; the Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors President's medal, and Loughborough University’s first Enterprise award.

Dr Yan Chen

Yan has a background in Computer Science and Information Science coupled with Human Factors and applies her knowledge to assist health professionals perform tasks to the best of their abilities, particularly in the radiology domain. She completed a BEng degree in Computer Science at Central South University, China. This was followed by an MSc in Information Science at Sheffield University then a PhD at Loughborough University studying the performance and visual search behaviour of radiologists during breast cancer screening. She has carried out numerous experiments; both across the UK and also in America and China, examining aspects of radiological behaviour when inspecting breast screening mammograms. During this research she became involved in the PERFORMS breast screening project eventually becoming the Research Manager of this project as well as becoming a Senior Research Associate. She is an honorary member of the Royal College of Radiologists.