

# CURRICULUM VITAE

**Valerie F. Beecher, MS**

## **Education:**

- 2002 MS, Industrial Engineering, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York  
*Thesis topic: A Subjective Measurement Scale for the Universal Design of Consumer Products*
- 2000 BS, Industrial Engineering, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York

## **Professional Experience:**

2010 - Present **Ergonomic Technologies Corp.**

Ergonomic Specialist / Consultant

2/04 – Present **SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY**

Ergonomics Specialist, Employee/Student Health

Oversee all ergonomic-related activities of University Hospital. Responsible for the development and implementation of University Hospital ergonomic policies, procedures and guidelines. Responsible for ongoing work to implement a hospital-wide ergonomics program. Initiate and facilitate ergonomics committees and process improvement projects related to ergonomics. Responsible for the education and training of employees in ergonomic concepts with an emphasis on their particular tasks or work areas and provide information about preventive and corrective ergonomic modifications. Support management with education and consultation regarding ergonomics and related aspects of health, productivity and employee relations. Develop and maintain accuracy of training materials. Conduct ergonomic assessments of work areas as requested by physicians and health care providers, managers, benefits administrators, facilities planners and others. Develop and recommend appropriate engineering or work process modifications to prevent and/or reduce worker injury. Provide follow-up assessment of recommendations. Provide reports to physicians and claims administrators for use in determining causation when seeking remediation of workplace problems.

3/02 – 2/04 **Duke University and Duke University Health System, Durham, NC**

Ergonomist, Duke Ergonomics Division

Conducted ergonomic assessments of work areas for Duke employees as requested. Recommended appropriate engineering or work process modifications to prevent worker illness or injury. Provided reports to physicians and claims administrators. Educated employees in ergonomic concepts emphasizing their particular tasks or work areas.

5/01 – 2/02 **Motorola, Inc., Elma, NY**

Ergonomics Intern, Environmental, Health and Safety Division

Served as the on-site ergonomist operating the ergonomics program. Performed plant-wide injury and illness investigations and implemented ergonomic corrective actions through engineering and administrative controls. Facilitated three ergonomics teams and conducted safety and ergonomics training.

1/00 – 5/01

**University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY**

Teaching Assistant, Department of Industrial Engineering

Assisted with the teaching and organization for two undergraduate laboratory classes in Ergonomics. Presented lectures for senior-level occupational ergonomics class. Graded laboratory reports and exams and held office hours to assist students.

Research Assistant, Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Universal Design

Under the direction of Dr. Victor Paquet and Dr. Edward Steinfeld, participated on a multi-disciplinary team for the development of an anthropometric database of wheelchair users. Researched and summarized literature and developed databases for literature review. Developed experimental protocol and methods for and conducted initial pilot studies. Planned and conducted a focus group of wheelchair users.

5/99 – 8/99

**Anheuser-Busch, Inc., Baldwinsville, NY**

Industrial Engineering Intern, Beverage Packaging and Shipping Department

Performed multiple studies on packaging lines for process improvement, including downtime analysis, material usage analysis and overall line performance. Analyzed the Quality Assurance Wrapping Room and made recommendations for ergonomic improvements in the work process and design. Worked with a project team performing a production study on two bottle lines to reduce the cost of quality inspections.

**Consultancy:**

- Verizon
- Corning, Inc.
- US Probation Office
- US District Courts

**Activities and Conferences:**

- Member, New York State Zero Lift Task Force
- New York State Department of Labor Safe Patient Handling and Movement Conference
- Safe Patient Handling and Movement Conference
- Applied Ergonomics Conference
- Lucien Brouha Work Physiology Conference
- Assistive Technology Research and Development NIH/Whitaker Workshop

**Professional Societies:**

- Full Member, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
- Member, Western New York Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
- Member, Carolina Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (2002-2004)

**Leadership Activities in Professional Societies:**

- Treasurer, Western New York Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (2006 – 2007)
- Vice President, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, University at Buffalo Student Chapter (2000 – 2001)

**Refereed Journals:**

1. **Beecher**, V. and Paquet V. (2005). A survey instrument for the universal design of consumer products, *Applied Ergonomics*, 36: 363-372.