

Grundgeiger, T., Sanderson, P. M., MacDougall, H. G. & Venkatesh, B. (in press). Distributed prospective memory: An approach to understanding how nurses remember tasks. *Proceedings of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society*. San Antonio, TX: 19-23 October.

Distributed Prospective Memory: An approach to understanding how nurses remember tasks

Tobias Grundgeiger¹
Penelope M. Sanderson¹
Hamish G. MacDougall²
Bala Venkatesh³

¹School of Psychology, The University of Queensland

²School of Psychology, The University of Sydney

³Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, QLD

People's ability to execute future intentions, or their *prospective memory*, is a critical aspect of cognitive work as failures can have adverse outcomes. Most research to date deals with unaided prospective memory performance outside a healthcare context. We report results from a field study investigating prospective memory performance of intensive care nurses. Concepts from *distributed cognition* help to identify how nurses use physical properties of their working environment to manage prospective memory demands. Results show that (1) PM demands can be classified using a taxonomy from aviation and (2) nurses use properties of the working environment to manage PM demands. Focusing on distributed support for prospective memory makes it easier to study prospective memory in rich work contexts. The results inform health information system and device design and professional education.