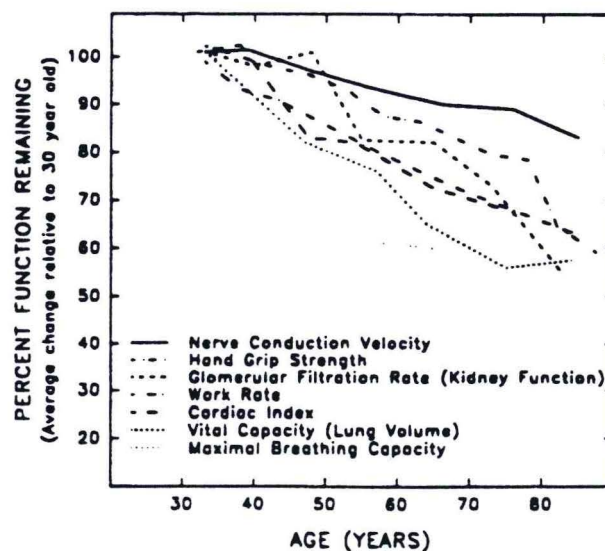


The aging of the U.S. population and the growing number of older people participating in the labor force will focus special attention on the safety and occupational health of the older worker. The Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA), a major intramural research program in the National Institute on Aging, has been studying longitudinal changes that occur as part of the aging process for over 30 years. Results from the study have led to the conclusion that aging is a complex process which results from the interaction of genetic, environmental and life-style factors. Figure 2 shows BLSA data illustrating the decline in seven different physiological processes. Each line in the figure shows the percent of function remaining relative to a 30 year old. While some of the factors governing these processes are primarily genetic, biological, biochemical, or physiological; others may be greatly affected by behavioral characteristics, such as life styles and changes in social conditions. Many of the longitudinal declines observed in the BLSA may have an impact on job performance and subsequent safety in older workers. Table 1 summarizes some of the human factors that have been observed in the BLSA and their relevance to occupational safety. Thus far, this knowledge has been based primarily on laboratory research and has seldom been applied to occupational safety and health.









# Comptes rendus du 12e Congrès triennal de l'Association internationale d'ergonomie

# VOLUME 6

## Part 1: Organization Design and Management

## Part 2: General Issues in Ergonomics

## #1 : Design organisationnel et gestion

## #2 : Communications d'ordre général

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Volume 1: International Perspectives on Ergonomics  
Volume 2: Ergonomics in Occupational Health and Safety  
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Volume 4: Ergonomics and Design  
Volume 5: Ergonomics and the Workplace

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