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Henning E. von Gierke and human biodynamics

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In addition to his well-known involvement in protecting humans from exposure to excessive noise, Dr. Henning E. von Gierke was deeply involved in protecting humans from exposure to excessive mechanical shocks, impacts and vibration. From exploring the limits of survivability during the landing phase of space and aircraft capsules to the more everyday issues of occupational exposure to vibration, he provided scientific insight into problems and leadership in developing solutions. While most of Henning's contributions are buried in past literature, the spirit of his efforts lives on in a review chapter published in Harris' Shock and Vibration Handbook that I have had the privilege to co-author with him through two editions, now extending back more than a decade. The challenge of encompassing the original content of his contribution while introducing the results of more recent research has, so far, yielded a composition that he has endorsed. Henning's involvement and interests in human biodynamics will be illustrated by examples taken from this work.