Optometry and Vision Development on the Web

As a member of COVD, you have access to OVD on the COVD website. Go to http://www.covd.org/members/html/archives.asp to see complete journals from 2003 thru 2006. You will need to sign in at the on the Members Only section.

Optometry one of the Top Ten Professions

USNEWS and World Report (3/19/07) noted that Optometry is among the top ten professions in terms of income and job satisfaction. They also noted that:

“Pediatric Optometry. The eye problems of children are generally among the most remediable. And the American Optometric Association projects high growth in this niche.” And “…Your final patient has strabismus (she’s cross-eyed). You walk her through a series of exercises and prescribe a set of prisms she can use at home…”

USNEWS not only notes that optometry is a wonderful profession, but that what we as members of COVD do is important! Go to: http://www.usnews.com/usnews/biztech/articles/061218/18optometrist.summary.htm for more information.

OVD Editorial Re-printed

Dr. Dominick Maino’s editorial, “It’s small, It’s alive! And it’s in your chair!”, was recently reprinted in the Colorado Optometric Association’s newsletter, Viewpoints. This editorial was a part of our infant themed issue. See vol 37 #3 for all the articles or go to COVD’s website and log on to the Journal Archives page.

COVD’s Own on NBC

COVD Fellow, Dr. Carl G. Hillier was featured in an NBC TV story about providing optometric vision therapy for adults. Go to http://video.wnbc.com/player/?id=71737 to see and hear this story.

OVD JRB member Recognized

Congratulations to Dr. Graham Erickson. The University of California Wellness Letter noted the work of Graham in optometric vision therapy.

Israeli Optometrist Gives Award to OMD

Israeli optometrist, Robert Lederman gave an award to one of his students who is an ophthalmologist! Robert gave this student a membership to COVD and COVD gave a plaque to the OMD student. (See photo.)

Evidenced Based Medicine (NOT!)

MedPage Today in a story titled, “Drugs Given to Children at U.S. Hospitals Are Mostly Off-Label” noted that in a recent study:

• At least one drug was used off-label in 297,592 patients (78.7%).
• Off-label pediatric use was highest with autonomic and central nervous system drugs, including morphine (given to 27.8% of children), fentanyl (Actiq) (23.2%), and midazolam (Versed) (19.6%).
• Gastrointestinal drugs and fluids and nutrients were also given to children relatively often. Such drugs include ondansetron (Zofran) (given to 24.8% of pediatric patients) ranitidine (Zantac) (17.7%), and potassium chloride (16%).
• Children undergoing surgical procedures were more than 20-times more likely to receive a drug off-label than those in the hospital for other reasons (odds ratio=21.8; 95% CI=9.4 to 50).

…..and medicine is worried that optometry doesn’t always have clinical trials to support all we do! Go to http://www.medpagetoday.com/Pediatrics/GeneralPediatrics/dh/5225 for the complete story.
Excellence in Education Award
The Illinois College of Optometry Alumni Association during its annual alumni weekend has recognized COVD member, Dr. Carol Marusich for her outstanding efforts in the area of education. Dr. Marusich has been recognized as Optometrist of the Year by both the Oregon Optometric Physicians Association and Great Western Council of Optometry. She lectures internationally on the topics of infant vision & vision development, vision and eye health concerns of special populations, vision therapy, learning-related vision problems, vision problems associated with acquired brain injury and vision rehabilitation.

de Tour at UHCO, PCO & ICO
Dr. Lynn Fishman Hellerstein took the tour to the University of Houston. More than 120 students attended. She also had an opportunity to talk to several faculty as well including Drs. Janice Wensveen, Laurel Masin, Ruth Manny, and Karen Fern. Dr. Hellerstein also visited the Pennsylvania College of Optometry as a part of COVD’s Tour de Optometry program. Approximately 60 students, a pediatric resident and low vision resident attended. This was considered an excellent turnout. Dr. Hellerstein also had an opportunity to interact with Drs. Mike Galloway, Mitch Scheiman, JoAnn Bailey, Mark Boas, Brandy Scombordi, and Karen (Dr. Scheiman’s therapist). She also met with Dr. Tony Distefano, VP and Dean for Academic Affairs and with Gwen Amos, the director of the PCO externships. PCO Liaisons who made this trip possible included: Maura Massucci, Dan Press and Dr. Mike Galloway. Dr. Galloway encouraged other faculty members to become involved in COVD as well. Dr. Bradley E. Habermehl visited the Illinois College of Optometry in October as well. He spoke for more than 2 hours to 130 + ICO students, as well as, to ICO Faculty and Administration including Dr. Arol Augsburger, ICO’s President.

COVD Members Lecture at SECO
This past February, COVD members, Drs. Glen Steele and Dominick Maino presented several lectures to optometrists, para-optometrists, and students/residents on infants, special populations, and developing a niche practice in pediatrics, binocular vision and vision therapy.

Website Provides Ad Free Patient Education
VISIONSTORIES.ORG was re-launched with a greatly improved user-friendly design and added content. This web site publishes over 525 Vision Therapy Success Stories written by Parents, Teachers, Children, and Adult Patients (including Dr. Sue Barry or Stereo Sue). Go to http://www.visiontherapystories.org.

Donald E. Studt, OD: A Vision Therapy Success Story the Book
I had an opportunity to present a lecture at SCCO that was fiscally supported by the Studt Family Foundation. Dr. Studt’s contributions were also noted in a recent editorial by Dr. Les Walls (Walls L. The importance of optometric vision therapy. Optom Vis Dev 2006:37:91-93.) and in an article about the SCCO Pediatrics/ Binocular Vision Service (Rouse M, Borsting E. Studt Center for Vision Therapy at the Southern California College of Optometry. OptomVis Dev 2005:36(2):109-10.)To request copies of this booklet, call SCCO at 714-449-7462, or e-mail: esanford@scco.edu.

Movie Produced by COVDers Son
The “Godfather of Greenbay,” described as “a quirky comedy in the sideways mode,” was produced by Dr. Gary Etting’s son, Brian. It won the 2005 Best Comedy Award from the Midwest Independent Film Festival. This is Brian’s 10th film as a producer. Go to http://www.godfatherofgreenbay.com/ for more information.

Vermont Brain Injury Association
Dr. Rob Fox was a featured speaker at the Vermont Brain Injury Association’s annual meeting. He gave a three hour course on the role of the optometrist in brain injury rehabilitation.
Article Accepted for Publication

Dr. Eric Hussey has had his paper, “Correcting Intermittent Central Suppression Improves Binocular Marksmanship,” accepted by the J Military Medicine. He says to look for a copy of it at a military hospital near you!

COVD Website

COVD’s website was designated as the site of the day at http://specialchildren.about.com/b/a/258316.htm

COVD Docs Featured in the Media

OVD's Editor, Dr. Dominick Maino was recently quoted in the Washington Post where COVD was given as a primary reference resource to the author of the article in the hopes that she will call upon COVD for information for future articles. You can view the complete article at: www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/11/AR2006091100.

Go to:
and www.azcentral.com/community/ahwaukee/articles/0920ar-edvision090Z14.html to read stories about Dr. Kelly de Simone and the patients she works with. Dr. Elise Brisco was quoted on NBC4 TV website at http://www.nbc4.tv/print/9806999/detail.html.

Dr. Dru Grant was quoted in the AOANews (www.aoanews.org/x5990.xm1). Kristina Sasko, O.D., a COVD Associate in San Carlos, CA, was quoted in an article. Dr. Sasko is in practice with COVD West Region Director, Dr. Carole Hong. You can view the piece http://www.insidebayarea.com/bayarealiving/cl_4247972.

Dr. Carl Myers, was featured in an article in the Ft. Wayne News-Sentinel entitled “A Solution in Sight: Vision Therapy Helps Girl See as She Should.” Dr Paul A. Harris was also quoted. Both the COVD and OEP web sites were listed at the end of the article as a source for additional information. Go to http://www.fortwayne.com/ml/d/fortwayne/news/local/15198417.htm

Colorado OD of the Year

COVD Immediate Past President, Dr. Lynn F. Hellerstein was named the Optometrist of the Year by the Colorado Optometric Association (COA).

Research Update

A new random-dot stereotest using a 3D display and infrared oculography has been found to objectively assess stereopsis in children older than three years according to an article published in the November 2006 issue of Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science (IOVS). Go to


Fish Oil Supplements during Pregnancy Boost Kids’ Hand-Eye Coordination

Toddlers whose mothers took fish oil supplements during pregnancy tended to have better hand-eye coordination than children whose mothers didn’t take the supplements. The original article can be found at http://health.msn.com/pregnancykids/

Cognitive Training Helps Seniors Keep Mentally Sharp

This controlled single-blind study recruited 2,832 adults in six U.S. cities who lived independently and had normal cognitive and functional status at the start of the study. The interventions over five to six weeks comprised 10 training sessions (60 to 75 minutes each) for memory (verbal episodic memory), reasoning (inductive reasoning), or speed of processing (visual search and identification). See Willis SL, et al “Long-term Effects of Cognitive Training on Everyday Functional Outcomes in Older Adults” JAMA 2006; 296: 2806-2814.

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