NewsMakers

NewsMakers is a column dedicated to COVD and the many activities of its membership. If you have done anything of note (lectured, published, or been recognized by a group or organization), please email Dr. Dominick M. Maino, Editor of OVD at dmaino@covd.org today. We welcome photographs with all submissions, but they must be submitted as separate files, not embedded in the document.

Optometry & Vision Development is an open access journal and is readily available online at www.covd.org. All underlined words in this article represent functional hyperlinks for use in the online version of OVD. Please take advantage of using this unique feature by reading this article online.

COVD Gives Research Grants

Marjean Taylor Kulp, OD, MS (et al) of The Ohio State University College of Optometry and an OVD Journal Review Board Member was awarded a COVD Research Grant of $2,000 for her project, “Effect of Vision Therapy on Accommodative Function and the Ciliary Body in Patients with Accommodative Insufficiency.” Other grant recipients include Barry Tannen, OD, FCOCVD (et al) (SUNY/Private Practice) for “Correlation of Visual Motion Sensitivity Tests with Pseudoword Decoding, and Reading Speed, Accuracy, and Fluency, in Children” ($1000) and Chris Chase, PhD (et al) (Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry) for “Measuring Accommodative Function with Autorefraction” ($2000). Once this research is completed, all will publish their results in Optometry & Vision Development.

The funding for these projects comes from the COVD President’s Research Fund Grants program. The money you donate to this fund is then made available to optometrists, optometric educators, and other vision scientists. These grants are designed to support research related to oculomotor, binocular vision, visual information processing, and learning-related vision problems and vision therapy. Please read: Maino D. Experiment. Optom Vis Dev 2009;40(1):6-10 for additional information.

A True Giant in His Field, A True Gentle Man

Dr. W.C. Maples to retire! Dr. Richard Phillips, President of the Southern College of Optometry informed Dr. Maples that he will be receiving the LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD during the September 30, 2010 SCO convocation. Many of us have known W.C. for years. We’ve listened to his “Mississippi Boyhood” stories, his love of a good Scotch (single malt, of course) and marveled at his many accomplishments (including being a past president of COVD and IECB Chair). He is a clinician, researcher, politician (in the good sense of the word), man of faith, Southern Gentle Man, and remarkable individual.

COVDers Elected to the National Academy of Practice

Dominick Maino, OD, MEd, FAAO, FCOCVD-A and Andrea Thau, FAAO, FCOCVD were the only two optometrists to be elected into the National Academy of Practice for 2010-11. This Washington, DC based organization is an organization of distinguished practitioners representing 10 different healthcare professions working together to advance coordinated, accountable, accessible, and affordable healthcare for all. Other members of COVD who have been inducted into this elite institution are Drs. Sandra Block, Kenneth Ciuffreda, Rachael Coulter, Paul B. Freeman, Daniel D. Gottlieb, Lynn F. Hellerstein, Eric T. Ikeda, Steven A. Levin, Sue E. Lowe, Carol E. Marusich, Robert B. Sanet, Arnold Sherman, and Glen T. Steele.

COVD/OEP Members in AOA Hall of Fame

Drs. A.M. Skeffington, Lois Bing, and Harold Solan were selected to be inducted into the American Optometric Association’s Optometry Hall of Fame.

COVD Member Featured in AOANews

Dr. Lynn Hellerstein, past president of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development, was featured in the June AOA News Spotlight on AOA Members in a full page story. The story noted that she is using her more than 30 years of expertise to present breakthrough optometric vision therapy and visualization strategies for children through her newly published book See It. Say It. Do It! The book has
already received numerous awards, including: Best Call Award from iParenting Media, Top 10 Book for Educators, 2010 Colorado Independent Publishers Association (CIPA) EVVY Award – “Parenting/Family” category, Achievement Award Winner – Best Book in the Category of “Parenting,” and the USA Book News named *See It. Say It. Do It!* on its K-12 summer reading list. *Colorado Parent* magazine also named her practice a Gold Medal Winner for 2010! She has been interviewed by multiple radio stations. I should mention that she was featured on Voices on the Net podcast as well.

**COVD at the AOA**

Many COVD members attended the AOA meeting this past summer. Your COVD Board of Directors held their mid-year meeting during the AOA meeting as well as attended many other functions.

**Dr. Nate at it Again!**

Dr. Nathan Bonilla-Warford authored an article on *Eye Health for the Workplace* for VSP which is available at [http://vsblog.com/2010/07/29/eye-health-for-the-workplace/](http://vsblog.com/2010/07/29/eye-health-for-the-workplace/). In this story he discussed computer related eye problems including dry eyes, accommodative problems, and workstation design issues. He also recently talked to a reporter from the *Wall Street Journal.*
“StereoSue”... Susan Barry, PhD, on NPR Once Again Telling the World about Optometric Vision Therapy

According to her most recent interview on National Public Radio, Dr. Susan Barry noted that: In her mid-40s, Dr. Barry met the neurologist Oliver Sacks at a dinner party. She told him that she didn’t think she was missing much by not seeing the world in 3-D. But several years later, after experiencing several side effects from her vision problems, Barry decided to visit a developmental optometrist, who helped her relearn how to view the world stereoscopically.

Dr. Barry tells her NPR audience how she achieved binocular vision after being told she was too old to do anything about her strabismus. After working with a Fellow of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development she was able to achieve stereovision! Click here to listen to this program with Fresh Air’s Terry Gross or here to read all about it.

Featured in Story on WRAL.com

Dr. Sue Durham helped a patient with TBI. This story tells how she did it. Go to http://www.wral.com/lifestyles/healthteam/story/7772370/ to learn more.

Dr. Mitch Scheiman, ICO’s Visiting Professor

This year’s Illinois College of Optometry Dr. and Mrs. Dominick M. Maino Visiting Professor was none other than Dr. Mitch Scheiman. He spent the better part of a week participating in clinic and laboratories; presenting to faculty, students and residents and providing several hours of continuing education for area optometrist (it was a packed house with many ICO students in attendance). Dr. Scheiman is currently a Professor and Director of the Pediatric and Binocular Vision Programs at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, and Study Chair of the Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial. Past visiting professors include COVD Fellows Dr. Ken Ciuffreda and Dr. Len Press.

BreezyMaMa Blog Features article by COVD Doc

Dr. Claude Valenti wrote an article titled, How Visual Tests Determine School Readiness, Learning Difficulties and More. In this article he says to go to the COVD and OEP websites to find docs who can help and offers an article he wrote for parents which outlines ideas for optometric vision therapy activities that parents can use with their infants so that they can help prevent functional/developmental problems from occurring later in life.

AOA Leader and COVD Member Working Hard

Dr. Andrea Thau along with other COVDers including Drs. Leonard Press and Paul Freeman...
presented at SECO International this past February. Dr. Thau also lectured at the Colorado Vision Summit on “Is Your Young Patient Visually Ready for School?” and “Babies Examined Here!” She was also featured in the Contact Lens Spectrum, Pregnancy Today, Redbook, All You, Body + Soul, and in Parenting: School Years (regarding UV protection for children).

**Eyegames Now Available**

*Eyegames* written by COVD member, Dr. Rebecca Hutchins and an OT colleague, is now available from the publisher (FHautism) and Amazon.

**Lecturing, Lecturing, Lecturing**

Drs. Curtis Baxstrom and Jason Clopton lectured on “Vestibular Processing, A key component of visual functioning.” Dr. Baxstrom was also on a local public television program called “House Calls.” It is a call-in interview show with doctors answering questions on air at http://www.wcte.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=822:vision&catid=30:house-call&Itemid=100053.

**Blog Helps Parent**

Recently, Dr. Dan Fortenbacher received this email after writing about CI and Vision Therapy on his blog:

Our daughter was that 10-year-old child struggling to learn the two lines of music during piano lessons. Not until we got a diagnosis of CI and follow-up therapy did EVERYTHING change for her (music, reading, art, sports, etc.). We are now faithful and active advocates for promoting comprehensive screenings in schools, MD offices, etc. to help families get the assistance they need. What a difference the right diagnoses and appropriate therapy can make!

**S.I. Focus Magazine**

*S.I. Focus Magazine* featured a cover article (My Child Sees Well... I Can’t Believe He Has a Vision Problem!) written by Dr. Charles Shidlofsky.

**COVD in Greece**

Vassilis Kokotas, a Greek COVD member, presented a one-day seminar to occupational therapists, special educators, and psychologists. Dr. Paul Harris gave an introductory seminar on contemporary behavioral vision care to almost 50 Greek opticians and optometrists who attended. Vassilis Kokotas organized this first meeting. The Special Olympics World Games will be hosted in Athens, Greece in Greek Eye Care at the Special Olympics, Athens 2011.
2011. Greek optometrists and ophthalmologists worked together to provide eye examinations during The Opening Eyes program, supported by Lions Club and sponsored by Essilor and Safilo. About 500 athletes were tested in 3 days and everyone is looking forward to welcoming 8000 athletes in Athens Special Olympics 2011. A collection of photos can be seen on YouTube at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhDvnEJ5nj0

ODs of the Year
Sarah Hinkley, OD, FCVOd, assistant professor at the Michigan College of Optometry was named Young OD of the Year by the MOA. COVD Fellow Dr. Roger Trudell was recently named the Colorado Optometric Association OD of the Year!

More Lecturing
Dr. Robert Lederman received this communication after one of his many presentations:

I attended Dr. Robert Lederman’s Monday evening lecture on the subject of Developmental Optometry. The presentation, which included video clips that highlighted the various topics discussed, was outstanding. For any of us seeing children (or adults for that matter), I learned why it is so important to take into account how our client’s visual system is operating. If you were not there, I urge you to ask Dr. Lederman for another lecture date, so that you can benefit from his wisdom and experience in this area. The lecture was graciously delivered at no cost to the participants. You will walk away with new tools which will aid you in client assessments. He has a very informative website in English and Hebrew at ledermanvision.com – Mordechai Reich, PhD

Parenting on the Peninsula
Parenting on the Peninsula featured an article by Dr. Carol Hong go to http://www.ponthep.com/issues/10_AUG_WEB.pdf to read all about it. See page 14.

Blogs by Moms and Others
My son’s vision therapy blog noted that: He is reading! He checked out a 530-page book from the library 3 days ago and he is almost halfway through it! And he can tell me what he read! I am sooooo amazed! This is AWESOME! He will just go in his room and sit and read and he has NEVER done
that before! He is so excited that he is reading and enjoying it! I hope this school year goes much better for him because of that! Thank you vision therapy and Miss Jean for helping us to enjoy to read!

[Editor's note: I had to delete all the extra “!” mom used. She was really excited about the progress her son had made!!!!] This mom was talking about COVD associate member Dr. John Metzger, of Lenexa, KS.

**Vision Disorder Makes 3-D Fall Flat for Some**

A story in the *Wall Street Journal* features OVD editor, Dr. Dominick Maino. “People with mild vision problems may feel discomfort or nausea and ‘will just close an eye through the whole movie’ because of it, or they may experience dizziness or headaches but not associate them with their vision,” Dr. Maino said.

**COVDers on TV! Did you see these?**

Dr. Genia G. Beasley appeared on a PBS affiliate station, a Charlotte WTVI-TV program, for a one-hour interview about “The Critical Link Between Vision and Learning.” KSWB-TV FOX5 in San Diego reported recently: Do Your Eyes Hurt While Watching 3D Movies? and interviewed Dr. Carl Hillier. KTLA in Los Angeles reported on the difficulty of some people to experience the 3D effects in the latest 3D movie craze. Dr. Elise Brisco of Hollywood Vision in Los Angeles, was interviewed for the story. You can also see Dr. Brisco being interviewed about a story titled: Dangerous ‘Vodka Eyeballing’ Popular with College Students.

**Flipping for Phonics**

Dr. Larry Lampert has written, performed, and recorded two music CDs for Flipping for Phonics. This is a phonics-based learn-to-read system. The story books were given to him and then he created the music for the printed stories. Larry played guitar, mandolin, and harmonica as well as vocals. His wife participated with some of the singing as well. Dr. Dan Flemming helped out with the percussion. Check out [http://www.flippingforphonics.com](http://www.flippingforphonics.com) for more information.

**Many kids who struggle in school have undetected sight problems**

This *Spokane-Review* story noted that: “… Up to 25 percent of school-age children may have vision problems that can affect learning, but only 14 percent receive a comprehensive eye exam before starting school, according to 2004 statistics from the College of Optometrists in Vision Development… Without an eye exam, children who have undiagnosed vision problems are sometimes misdiagnosed as having a learning disorder, according to the American Optometric Association.”

It sure is wonderful having the AOA and COVD mentioned in the same story!

**Are You Using Social Digital Media to Get the Word Out?**

In a recent Visions newsletter Dr. Brad Habermehl noted that:

- 83% of all companies use Facebook.
- If Facebook were a country it would be the third largest country with over 400,000,000 users.
• 80% of companies use social media for recruitment.
• YouTube is the 2nd largest search engine in the world.
• 25% of search results for the world’s top 20 largest brands are links to user-generated content.
• 78% of consumers trust peer recommendations while only 14% trust advertisements.

COVD Received $50,000 Donation from the Jacqueline Clark Trust
The donation was made for the specific purpose of research and the COVD Board of Directors used the donation to start a COVD President’s Research Reserve Fund. The purpose of the fund is to generate income to fund research projects.

OD Sites
OD Sites lists many of the websites, blogs, etc. that you want to visit.

More and More and More on 3D Movies, TV and Videogames
Are 3D movies, TV bad for your eyes?

Researchers say eye strain a concern as 3-D TVs debut

Trouble with 3-D - eye fatigue

Healthbeat Report: The 3-D Dilemma

Illinois OD helps those with 3-D vision problems
For a few, 3-D effects are not so special: Projection technique uncovers vision problems, even makes some people sick

3D TV Is Here, But Is It Harmful To Young Eyes?

Doc, I Can't See 3-D!

COVD’s Press Releases Reach Millions!
Vision, Learning & Dyslexia - All-Pro Arizona Cardinals Wide Receiver Larry Fitzgerald Sets the Record Straight

Most Back to School Shopping Lists Are Missing 17 Critical Items - Doctors offer advice to parents to ensure academic success

From 3D Vision to Acquired Brain Injury: New Issue of Optometric Journal Shares Insights for All

Is Your Child Ready for ‘How to Train Your Dragon’ 3D Movie?

Millions Suffer From Undiagnosed Vision Problems

Other news releases of interest by the AOA and other organizations:
Back-to-School Checklist Should Include Trip to Eye Doctor

New Moms Encouraged to Schedule Eye Assessment For Infants

New AOA Report Reveals High Number of Infants With Untreated Eye and Vision Problems

Prevent Blindness America Wants All Children to be Star Pupils

Blogs and More!
Those of us involved in functional optometry continue to develop or take advantage of what the internet and social digital media has to offer. Please check out all of the following:
EXCELerated Vision – Vision Development Blog

COVD Blog – Go here frequently for stimulating discussion.

VisionHelp – Commentary on all things Functional

MainosMemos – Children’s Vision/Disability Research Blog

The Vision Therapy Blog – Talks about optometric vision therapy and available resources

Vision Therapy from Skeptic to Cheerleader – A parent tells the story of experiencing vision therapy

Sovoto – All things VT

Eyes on the Brain – Dr. Sue Barry’s Blog