Texas Focus 2012:
Etiologies, Eye Conditions & Educational Implications

March 30-31, 2012
Omni Houston Hotel at Westside

You pre-registered for your sessions. You may choose to go to different sessions as long as seats are available for those who pre-registered for that session. If you change sessions please show courtesy to others. Wait until pre-registered participants take their seats to sign-in and be seated.

Session Guide

Friday, March 30th
4:30-6:00 PM
Sign-in and packet pick-up in the registration areas located

6:00-8:00 PM Opening Session
Texas Ballrooms 5-7

Welcome and Housekeeping

Keynote - Laughing Matters: Developing and Supporting Humor as a Skill for Learners who are Visually Impaired and the Professionals who Work with Them

Presenters: Rick Welch, APH Hall of Fame Award Recipient and Leader in the Field of Visual Impairments and Mary Nell McLennan, Executive Advisor to the President, American Printing House for the Blind, Pittsburgh, PA

Comedian Victor Borge said that “Laughter is the shortest distance between people.” His quote summarizes the theory behind this unusual look at the powerful role humor can play in our work. “Laughing Matters” explores humor as a skill that can connect visually impaired people with others in their worlds and professionals with their students and clients. Rick and Mary Nelle illustrate how humor can facilitate communication, learning, health, coping, and success.
Saturday, March 31st
7:30 AM Registration and Coffee

Coffee will be served in the foyer area beginning at 7:30 AM.

8:30-10:00 AM Breakout Sessions

Texas Ballroom 1-3

Nystagmus in Children: Causes, Effects, and Strategies
Dr. Ana Perez, O.D., FAAO, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, Houston, TX

Nystagmus is a condition of involuntary eye movement, acquired in infancy or later in life, that may result in reduced or limited vision. It is often misunderstood in terms of the impact on students with visual impairments. This session will review the most common reasons for nystagmus in children, the effects nystagmus has on visual functioning in the classroom and for travel. Current medical interventions, as well as strategies for educational intervention will be shared.

Texas Ballroom 5-6

The Neurophysiology of Reading with Low Vision
Dr. Bill Takeshita, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD, Chief of Optometry at the Center for the Partially Sighted, Los Angeles, CA

Visual reading is a complex process that involves the eyes and numerous areas of the brain. This workshop will review the process of how visual reading occurs and provide attendees with an understanding of the most common causes of vision related reading problems. Attendees will also learn how to make accommodations to assist people with low vision when reading.

Paluxy Room

A Multidisciplinary Approach to Educating Preschool Children with ONH and SOD
Rosalinda Mendiola, TVI, Blind Children’s Center, Los Angeles, CA

The session will address the medical implications of this diagnosis beyond the visual impairment. Medications that are in some cases needed by these students will be discussed, and how the medications may impact the student’s performance in the classroom setting. The importance of early intervention and what specialist should be brought on board early on. Classroom strategies will be discussed and possible video of students with ONH in the classroom setting. The importance of a multi-disciplinary approach when addressing the special needs of these students will be shared. Other diagnoses that are at times associated with ONH will also be discussed.

Permian Room

RP from A to Z
Dr. David Lewerenz, Assistant Professor, Chief of Low Vision Services, Northeastern State University, Oklahoma School of Optometry

The characteristics of cone-rod dystrophy and Achromatopsia will be examined, as well as current and future medical treatments and rehabilitation strategies. These conditions will be compared and contrasted with each other and with other congenital conditions affecting the central retina.
Saturday, March 31st
10:00-10:30 Break
A light break and coffee will be served in the foyer area outside the meeting rooms.

10:30-12:00 PM Breakout Sessions

Texas Ballroom 1-3

Visual Field Loss: Causes, Effects, and Strategies
Dr. Kia Eldred-McGee, O.D., Optometrist at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in the VISOR Program

This session will review the most common reasons for field loss in students, the effects field loss has on visual functioning in the classroom and for travel. Current medical and rehabilitative treatment for field loss, as well as strategies for educational intervention will be shared.

Texas Ballroom 5-6

The Neurophysiology of Reading with Low Vision (repeat of early session)
Dr. Bill Takeshita, O.D., FAAO, FCOVD, Chief of Optometry at the Center for the Partially Sighted, Los Angeles, CA

Visual reading is a complex process that involves the eyes and numerous areas of the brain. This workshop will review the process of how visual reading occurs and provide attendees with an understanding of the most common causes of vision related reading problems. Attendees will also learn how to make accommodations to assist people with low vision when reading.

Paluxy Room

Traumatic Brain Injury: From Diagnosis to Instruction
Marnee Loftin, LSSP, School Psychologist, Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Austin, TX

The session will discuss common causes of traumatic brain injury as well as the manifestations of these conditions. The primary emphasis of the session will be development of specific instructional techniques that address the learning needs and behavioral style of students with traumatic brain injury and visual impairment. Case studies will be presented to increase the real-life applicability of the material. As available, participants will have an opportunity to ask specific questions about individual students.

Permian Room

Congenital Conditions Affecting Cones
Dr. David Lewerenz, Assistant Professor, Chief of Low Vision Services, Northeastern State University, Oklahoma School of Optometry

The characteristics of cone-rod dystrophy and Achromatopsia will be examined, as well as current and future medical treatments and rehabilitation strategies. These conditions will be compared and contrasted with each other and with other congenital conditions affecting the central retina.
Saturday, March 31st
1:30-3:00 PM Breakout Sessions

Texas Ballroom 1-3

Vision Therapy - What Is the Role of the TVI?
Dr. Randy Jose, Professor Emeritus, University of Houston, Low Vision Diplomate, Emeritus, American Academy of Optometry, Houston, TX, Dr. Joy Rosner, O.D., Houston, TX
Chrissy Cowan, TVI / Mentor Coordinator, Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired Outreach Programs, Austin, TX

Ever been asked by a parent whether you will help their child read better with vision therapy? Ever wondered what the difference is between your job and what those private clinics provide? Ever wonder if this is something you SHOULD know how to do? Come join this discussion with Dr. Randy Jose about the sometimes grey line between the role of a certified teacher of students with visual impairments and that of a vision therapist.

Texas Ballroom 5-6

Content--the Missing Link in Visually Impaired Infant Education
Dr. Wendy Drezek, TVI, Private Consultant, San Antonio, TX & Rebecca Kilian-Smith, COMS, Private Consultant, San Antonio, TX

Infants with visual impairments can face challenges in their development leading to issues in many areas of learning and social interaction. Working with infants in homes is about more than just providing interesting visual and tactual materials. Rather, the family and CTVI and frequently COMS together seek to understand the developmental path of the individual child, and jointly develop strategies to compensate for the loss of information, meaning, context, content and relationship, all of which can be diminished with visual impairment, so that the child can be productive and competent in the world beyond the home.

Paluxy Room

Position Paper: Intelligence Testing of Individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired
Marnee Loftin, LSSP, School Psychologist, Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Austin, TX

The session will present the position paper outlining best practice guidelines for administering intelligence tests. Opportunities will be provided for participants to ask specific questions. Emphasis will be on application of position paper to real-life situations in public school settings.

Permian Room

O&M for Students with Cortical Visual Impairments
Lisa Calaci, COMS, Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired and Ruth Ann Marsh, COMS/O&M Outreach Consultant, Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired Outreach Programs, Austin, TX

Students with cortical visual impairments present a number of unique challenges when addressing orientation and mobility. This session will focus on some of these challenges and share some of the strategies employed by these O&M Instructors in working with these students. Information will also be shared on assessment related to orientation and mobility.
Saturday, March 31st
3:00-3:30 PM Break
Light snacks will be served at  .

3:30-5:00 PM
Texas Ballroom 1-3

Instructional Materials for Students with Visual Impairments
Cecilia Robinson, TVI, Education Specialist, Region 4 Education Service Center, Houston, TX and
Kirk Behnke, ATP, Senior Education Specialist, Region 4 Education Service Center, Houston, TX
Accessible print and electronic materials are hot topics for today’s educators of students with visual
impairments. This session will help participants acquire knowledge of instructional materials,
including acquisition and accessibility for students with visual impairments. Participants will also learn
about options to help students to gain access to print and electronic materials.

Texas Ballroom 5-6

Life Changes: Transitioning into the Adult World, Tips and Advice
Juan Carlos Munoz, Juan Del Rasorio, Courtney Stevens and Israel Cazares, Houston, TX and from
Joseph Hudson, Harker Heights, TX
A panel of young adults with visual impairments will share their stories about their successes and
some of their challenges as they made their transitions to adult life. They will offer tips and advice to
professionals and parents on how to help prepare their student, son or daughter for the adult world.

Paluxy Room

What Happens When the School Bus Quits Coming: Purpose, Satisfaction, and Joy as
Outcome Goals
David Wiley, Deafblind Transition Consultant, Outreach Programs, Texas School for the Blind and
Visually Impaired, Austin, TX
Everyone strives for a high quality of life. The details of what makes “quality of life”, is different for
each of us, and for each of our students. These details make not be clear for some students who
have sensory impairments with additional disabilities. This presentation will discuss identifying
outcome goals to help students have opportunities to experience purpose, satisfaction, and joy as
they transition to adult life in the community.

Permian Room

¿Habla ARD e IDEA? Vocabulario de Educación Especial (En Español)
Isela Wilson, President of Texas Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (TAPVI),
and Myrta Torres, The ARC of Greater Houston Outreach, Houston, TX
Esta presentación esta diseñada para ayudar a los padres de niños con discapacidades a entender
que significa educación especial. Se discuten los derechos del niño y del padre junto con el proceso
de referido, puntos prácticos para asegurar una educación especial apropiada en el ambiente menos
restrictivo.
Saturday 5:30-7:00 PM

Lakeview Room

TAPVI Family Social

Hosted by Texas Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (TAPVI)

Join the Texas Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (TAPVI) for this special networking time for family members of children with visual impairments. Light snacks and a cash bar are provided.

Thank You

We greatly appreciate your involvement in this year’s Texas Focus. We hope this has been a wonderful experience for you and that you feel re-energized to go back to your homes and jobs and make great changes for individuals with visual impairments. Don’t forget to laugh a lot as you go about this very important mission.

We would like to thank the following agencies and organizations for their support:

- Statewide Leadership Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- DARS-Division of Blind Services
- The twenty Education Service Centers
- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

Exhibits

Texas Ballroom IV

Please take time to visit our exhibits. Information has been provided by the following entities:

- All Blind Children
- American Foundation for the Blind
- Family2Family
- Low Vision Network of Houston
- Texas Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (TAPVI)
- Texas Parents of Blind Children (TPOBC)
- Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired
- World Service for the Blind
Evaluation and Certificates
The 2012 Texas Focus Conference evaluation is on-line. You must go on-line and complete the evaluation in order to receive your certificate. You have the option of selecting one or more of the following certificates:

- SBEC (for all educational staff including TVI, paraprofessionals, rehabilitation staff other than VRT)
- ACVREP (for COMS, LVT, VRT)
- TSHA (for Speech-Language Therapists)
- Certificate of Attendance

Go to http://www.certain.com/system/profile/web/index.cfm?PKwebID=0x34207738ad&varPage=home to complete the evaluation.
My Breakout Session Choices:

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Session’s At-a-Glance and CEU Code Record

Please use this form to record your continuing education units’ codes in the blue space for each of the sessions you attend. You will need these when you complete the evaluation on-line in order to receive a certificate. NO CERTIFICATES will be awarded on site.

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*This project is supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the U.S. Department of Education.*