

Trackings

Optometric Extension Program

Volume 10/Number 1/2009

Look in Your Mailbox...

JBO, Volume 20, Number 1

Opportunities...

• APRIL 4-5, 2009

Regional Clinical Seminar, "The Optometric Care of Patients on the Autism Spectrum," Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Contact: Debra Shim, O.D., 561-625-4380, dshim@fdn.com

• APRIL 17-18, 2009

Southern California Vision Therapist Forum, San Diego, CA. Contact: Lyna Dyson, 858-748-6120

• APRIL 19-20, 2009

Robert Wold Southern California Behavioral Vision Seminar, San Diego, CA. CONTACT: Donald J. Janiuck, O.D., (858) 748-6120

• APRIL 23-26, 2009

VT/Strabismus & Amblyopia (OEP Clinical Curriculum), Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Contact: Theresa Krejci, 800-447-0370, TheresaKrejciOEP@verizon.net

• APRIL 25 & 26, 2009

Regional Clinical Seminar, "Motor Training within Optometric Vision Therapy," Wyoming, MI. CONTACT: Lynnette Burgess, O.D., 269-751-4400, dr_burgess@hotmail.com

WHY BOTHER TAKING

THE ART & SCIENCE OF OPTOMETRIC CARE COURSE?

Why should you take the Art and Science of Optometric Care Course? I asked myself this very question. I had been practicing for 20 years. Between meetings, congresses, Regional Clinical Seminars, COVD, and study group, I have been averaging between 30 and 50 hours of continuing education per year in behavioral optometry for the last decade. I had been reading everything I could get my hands on related to vision development, neural science, vision therapy, neuroplasticity, memory, consciousness, visual perception, etc, not to mention the JOVD and the JBO. What could I possibly learn in a course about the 'Art and Science' of behavioral optometry?

I started the Clinical Curriculum series with the Strabismus course. I mean, I was no beginner. I just needed to learn some techniques, right? Did I really need the 'Art and Science' course?

Well, I finally took the plunge and took the 'Art and Science' Course. It has changed the way I think about vision therapy and solidified fundamental concepts, especially about space. *The course changed my thinking and brought together many concepts with which I had been wrestling for years to understand.*

After years of study and serious hard work, what I lacked was something that brought it all together and directly related discoveries outside of optometry to the patient care that is my passion. I am not saying that I could not have put it all together myself. I probably could have, but *the course did for me in a few days what I had been trying to do for years.*

Do not make the same mistake I did. Start with the Art and Science of Optometric Care first. It lays the foundation for what you need to know for the rest of the Clinical Curriculum Courses. When OEP says the series of courses are designed to be one course, they are correct. Much of what comes later builds on what came before. A large part of the Art and Science course is learning how to use the analytical to understand your patients and to prescribe functionally. *But more importantly, the Art and Science Course creates for the practitioner a paradigm shift which allows a surge in understanding the guiding principles of vision therapy.*

For me, the readings* were extremely helpful in developing behavioral vision concepts, especially with regards to the understanding of space. Paul Harris' article** made a huge difference in my thinking. I wish I had read it earlier.

That's what I think, anyway.

John Abbondanza

Editor's Note:

* A Course Readings CD is given as part of the Clinical Curriculum Courses

**The article John mentions above is: Behavioral Vision Care, Chapter 2, The Space World, by Paul A. Harris, O.D., FCOVD. Here is a link to the article:

<http://www.oepf.org/Articles/Chapter%20%20Space.pdf>

More Opportunities...

- **MAY 16-18, 2009**
Acquired Brain Injury/
Traumatic Brain Injury
(ABI/TBI) (OEP Clinical
Curriculum), Baltimore, MD.
Contact: Theresa Krejci, 800
447 0370,
TheresaKrejciOEP@verizon.net
- **JUNE 4-8, 2009**
VT/Learning Related Visual
Problems (VT 2) (OEP Clinical
Curriculum), Baltimore, MD.
Contact: Theresa Krejci, 800
447 0370,
TheresaKrejciOEP@verizon.net
- **JUNE 4-8, 2009**
Joint Conference on Clinical
and Theoretical Optometry
(JCTCO), Pacific University,
Forest Grove, OR. CONTACT:
Sally Corngold, OEP, 949-250-
8070, smcorngold@oep.org.
- **JUNE 13-14, 2009**
Regional Clinical Seminar,
Principles of Prescribing,"
Phoenix, AZ. CONTACT:
Howard Bacon, O.D., 480-963-
8833,
bbacon@familyoptometry.net
- **JULY 11-15, 2009**
The Art & Science of
Optometric Care—A Behavioral
Perspective (OEP Clinical
Curriculum), Memphis, TN.
contact: Theresa Krejci, 800
447 0370,
TheresaKrejciOEP@verizon.net
- **JULY 17-19, 2009**
Clinical Conference on Vision
Care (CCVC), Memphis, TN.
CONTACT: Robert Weathers,
O.D., 513-661-8877.
- **JULY 25-26, 2009**
Regional Clinical Seminar,
"Building, Managing and
Maintaining a Thriving and
Vital Behavioral Vision Care
Practice," Cockeysville, MD.
CONTACT: Diane Serex-
Dougan, O.D., 800-447-0370

New RCS Scheduled

Have you wondered how to really jump start your practice? Learn what separates the mediocre practice from the super successful ones that everyone envies. It is hard work, but, learning what others have done makes it much easier.

After many requests for practice management information, Drs. Diane Serex-Dougan and Paul Harris have put together a new Regional Clinical Seminar (RCS), "Building a Thriving and Vital Behavioral Vision Care Practice—Part I."

This seminar will teach a practitioner how to successfully present a case and "close it," how to build and keep referral sources, how to use in-office seminars, how to use recall, reports and success stories to maintain your current patient base, and more. You will learn: Are web sites necessary? Do I need a patient newsletter?

There are many different ideas that are given at every seminar you attend. This RCS helps you organize your promotional thoughts and dreams. It is an in-depth, two-day seminar designed to teach practice promotion. Seasoned practitioners will share their tried and true ideas and practice pearls.

This RCS will be held July 25-26, 2009, in Baltimore. The presenters will be Diane Serex-Dougan, O.D., FCOVD and Paul Harris, O.D., FCOVD.

Part two of the RCS will deal with managing your growing, thriving practice. Look for a date in the near future for "Building a Thriving and Vital Behavioral Vision Care Practice—Part II."

International Clinical Curriculum Graduates

At a Clinical Curriculum Course completed in Australia February 8, 2009, five participants graduated, having completed all four core courses. They are: Melissa Allen, Dina Chungue, Sally Doyle, Paul Graham, and Carolyn McIlvin. Chih-Chi Lee, also from Australia, graduated in September 2008. The Australasian College of Behavioural Optometry has been presenting the Clinical Curriculum Courses in Australia and New Zealand for the past two years. We congratulate these new graduates.

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