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President's Message



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“On behalf of all the members of NORA, I accept the prestigious National Academies of Practices Award. Every member of the multi-disciplinary teams that constitute NORA are the recipients of this award. This organization represents the new visionary approach for optometry. Our partnership with healthcare professions of rehabilitation medicine, neurology, physiatrists, neuropsychology, case managers, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and chiropractic medicine have recognized their benefits and con-

tributions toward patient rehabilitation. I encourage each and everyone to emphasize the practice of neuro optometric rehabilitation whenever possible.” My personal thanks to all the members of the National Academies of Practices who have selected NORA for this award. NORA is proud to have witnessed the inclusion of Eric Ikeda, O.D., John A. Thomas, O.D., and Vincent Vicci, O.D., into the National Academies of Practices in Optometry. Please offer your congratulations to these exceptional doctors whose work is not confined to NORA but to optometry.

Since our conference in Tucson, Dr. Eric Ikeda and I have represented NORA at the first and annual California Brain Injury Conference held in Napa, CA. Contact with internationally recognized speakers will be highlighted in future NORA conferences. We have been encouraged by Susan O'Connor, executive director for Brain Injury Association of America, to submit articles for publication to their national membership. Janet Berthiaume, OTR will be presenting her fellowship article to the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals with emphasis on the multi-disciplinary rehabilitation. Bill Padula, O.D.,

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NORA Noteworthy

NORA Noteworthy gives you a quick look at current news within the organization.

NORA honored by the National Academies of Practice.

On November 4, 2006, President Don Fong, O.D. accepted the Interdisciplinary Group Award from the National Academies of Practice on behalf of NORA. The National Academies of Practice was founded in 1981 to advise governmental bodies on problems of healthcare. It includes both outstanding scholarly and clinical representatives from dentistry, medicine, nursing, optometry, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, podiatry, psychology, social work, and veterinary medicine. It is a considerable honor for NORA to have received this award.

NORA 2007 General Conference Mark your calendars now for NORA's 16th Annual NORA Multidisciplinary Conference. It will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Historic Charleston, Charleston, SC, March 17-20. The general conference will precede the curriculum program.

Nominations for Awards

Nominations are now being considered for the following:

Advancement of Science Award (presented to the individual, group, agency or organization that has provided a unique and valued contribution to the science of neuro-optometric rehabilitation and possibly including but not be limited to clinical investigation, scientific discovery, public awareness, publication, or research.).

Advancement of Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Award (presented to the individual, group, agency, or organization that has demonstrated, by virtue of their actions, treatments, or clinical procedures, to further the advancement of

the art and science of neuro-optometric rehabilitation. The advancement of neuro-optometric rehabilitation is expected to increase public awareness, to enhance function, performance and rehabilitation outcomes.).

William M. Ludlam, O.D. and Diana P. Ludlam, B.S., COVT. Educators Award (presented to the individual educator or institution best exemplifying the commitment to serving the students and patients in the neuro-optometric rehabilitation effort.).

If you know of someone who should be considered please contact Dr. Danny Gottlieb with the appropriate information for nomination as soon as possible at (404) 296-6000 or 5462 Memorial Dr. Ste. 101; Stone Mountain, GA 30083.

NORA Curriculum Program.

If you have questions about the curriculum program, please contact Chris Nelms, OTR at a.c.nelms@usa.net. Registration forms to start the curriculum process and Level I examinations are available by contacting the NORA toll free number at (866) 2CBETTR.

Need Networking Information?

NORA continues to provide brochures and information packets to assist members in networking with other members of the rehabilitation community. Brochures and packets are available in limited quantities at no charge to members. Materials can be obtained by calling NORA, toll free, at (866) 2CBETTR.

NORA Website.

The NORA website continues to be updated. Please visit the website at NORA.cc.

Contribute Clinical Pearls and Articles.

We are continually looking for clinical pearls to be included in our newsletters. If you are interested in having your pearl in our newsletter please send your draft to our upcoming optometric editor, Dr. Tom Politzer at tpolitzer@msn.com, for consideration. We would also like to encourage you to submit articles on neuro-rehabilitation to the Journal of the American Optometric Association at:

Optometry Journal of American Optometric Association, c/o Paul Freeman, 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis Missouri 63141-7881. The more often articles on neuro-rehabilitation are published the more widely expected neuro-optometry will become.

Members On The Move

Willard Bleything, O.D., has been actively consulting with Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, CA in development of a new college of optometry, with neuro-optometry and vision therapy as founding concepts. Dr. Bleything made sure that neuro-optometry was well represented at the focus group meeting held with Western University administration in October 2006, by inviting many NORA member doctors, **Robert Williams** (OEP's executive director, and NORA's administrator), and NORA's president. The focus group members concentrated on setting a direction and proposing a mission statement for the new college.

Elise Brisco, O.D., recently appeared in several news interviews, in an effort to make vision therapy more visible.

Carl Garbus, O.D., presented a workshop on neuro-optometry at the CA Brain Injury Association meetings in Napa Valley, in September 2006.

Lynn Hellerstein, O.D., was featured in the inaugural issue of "Women in Optometry" in June 2006.

Eric Ikeda, O.D., John A. Thomas, O.D., and Vincent Vicci, O.D., were inducted into the National Academies of Practices in Optometry. (See picture on opposite page)

William Padula, O.D., Vincent Vicci, O.D., and Penelope Suter, O.D. presented at the American Academy of Optometry as part of a special symposium on "Traumatic Brain Injury: a new challenge for optometry, neuro-optometric rehabilitation, and our nation".

Errol Rummel, O.D., was presented



NORA president Don Fong, O.D. (third from the left) accepted the Interdisciplinary Group Award from the National Academies of Practice on behalf of NORA. NORA members Eric T. Ikeda (fourth from the left), Vincent Vicci, O.D. (directly behind Dr. Ikeda), and John A. Thomas, O.D. (first from the right) were inducted into the National Academies of Practice. NAP/NORA members William Padula O.D. (first from the left and Daniel Gottlieb, O.D., (second from the right) were also present.

with a Volunteer Excellence Award by the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey.

Other Meetings

The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA): The AOTA will hold its' 87th Annual Conference & Expo April 20-23, 2007 in St. Louis, Missouri. For more information visit their website at aota.org.

College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD): Will hold its' 37th Annual Conference at the Renaissance Vinoy - St. Petersburg, Florida October 16-20 2007. For more information visit their website at covd.org.

The International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP): IARP will hold its' annual conference April 27-29, 2007 in Washington D.C.. For more information visit their website at rehabpro.org

Optometric Extension Program: OEP has numerous meetings. Just a few are listed here. To see their com-

plete calendar, visit their web site at oep.org.

The Northwest Congress of Behavioral Optometry will be held February 24-25, 2007 at Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR. Speakers will include Rick London, O.D., Hannu Laukkannen, O.D., and Dean James Sheedy, O.D., PhD. For more information contact Eric Hussey, O.D., 509-326-2707, spacegoggle@att.net.

The Great Lakes Optometric Congress will be held March 11-12, 2007 at the Renaissance North Shore Hotel Northbrook, Illinois. Speakers will include John Streff, O.D., and Brenda Montecalvo, O.D.. For more information contact John Loesch, OD, drjohnod1@comcast.net or 630-833-6214).

The Eastern States Congress will be held April 29-30, 2007 at the Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz, NY. Speakers will be Dr. Barry Tannen, Dr. Harold Solan, Dr. Mark Mintz, Dr. Heather White Schrempf, and Dr. David Cook. Contact Stuart M. Rothman, OD, smrod@aol.com

Neuro-Optometric Pearl

Quick and Simple Test for Cranial Nerve IV Palsy, or Paresis

**Thomas A. Politzer, OD,
FCOVD, FAAO**

A few months ago I was talking to the medical residents at the VA Hospital here in Denver. I have worked for years with their Physiatry department chair. She is not only exceptionally bright, but quite humble and gracious.

Well, the topic turned to bedside evaluation for Fourth Nerve involvement. We all know this is a common accompaniment to traumatic brain injury, but sometimes teasing it out can be quite subtle. Is it a paresis, or palsy; is a CNIV involvement, or simple hyper / hypo-deviation; does the patient have a bilateral CNIV involvement? These are the questions we ask and need to answer.

So, I started to give a review of the Park 3 step method for analyzing the affected muscle. After about two minutes into my explanation they all had the "deer in the middle of the road look" on their faces. I had completely confused and lost them. At that time, thinking quickly, I turned and asked Dr. O'Brien, "so, what do you normally do bedside to evaluate for a Fourth Nerve involvement". She proceeded to tell us the following:

When I was a resident, she said, my mentor taught me to have the patient cover one eye at a time, keep their head level, and view a perfectly straight and flat horizontal line. If it appears tilted, then there is most likely a Fourth Nerve involvement. If it is tilted for both eyes, then you should suspect a bilateral Fourth Nerve involvement.

I know uncorrected cylinder and other factors can influence this, but I was very impressed with what a great, simple and effective test this is. I hope you can use it.

(Editor's note: This is a wonderful tip for the hospital setting. Remember that subtle CN IV palsies which sometimes cause PTVS-like symptoms will not be picked up with this screener and require more sensitive testing for post-acute rehabilitation.)

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will also be presenting at IARPs as NORA exchanges speakers between our organizations educating and promoting the need for case managers to be inclusive of neuro-optometric rehabilitation for optimum patient outcomes.

NORA was well represented in the third AOA 20/20 Summit meeting in Dallas, TX. Together with John A. Thomas, O.D., Bob Williams, Bill Padula O.D., and myself, we made strong arguments for inclusion of NORA in optometry's future. I believe our impact on optometry has resulted in the optometric rehabilitation courses and clinical tracks being introduced into three of the nation's optometry schools.

Optometry's future has included the discussion of limited surgical "as taught" language. More states will seek to introduce legislation to permit their optometric colleagues to perform limited surgical intervention in their scope of practice. Whether you agree or disagree with this; this is the course that our optometric institutions are formulating. However before optometry can embark down this road, optometry must establish residencies affiliated

with hospitals following internships across the country (similar to medicine). It is in this system of residency programs that NORA can have the utmost influence. Our hospital affiliated members can demonstrate the high quality, effective treatment, and cost containment contributions in neuro-optometric rehabilitation when complimented with medicine.

Part of NORA's future includes students of optometry and the other multi-disciplines. The NORA board of directors has established a student fund which will help with students seeking to attend the annual conference. In addition to the Gus Forkiotis Student Award, NORA will seek to provide free rooms, meals and defray travel expenses to students attending the annual conference. This interactive environment will develop life long multi-disciplinary friendships, referrals, and treatment regimens that will benefit patients. Sarah Lane has graciously accepted the monumental task of being student liaison.

Bill Padula O.D., Past President Eric Ikeda, O.D., and myself will be traveled to Washington,DC to continue our dialogue with the Veterans Administration for NORA's inclusion in the treatment protocols for those soldiers with TBI returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Neuro-optometric rehabilitation is vital toward their recovery and return to functional productive lives. We are hoping to start a pilot program in one of the VA hospitals to serve as a working model to neuro-optometric rehabilitation within the Veterans Administration.

We have met with Tom Weaver,

M.D., consultant to the AOA, for guidance toward codification for Post Trauma Vision Syndrome and Vision Midline Shift Syndrome. John A. Thomas, O.D. and Bill Padula, O.D. have begun the process toward achieving those goals. Following the board meeting in Charleston, SC I submitted a list of diagnostic and procedural codes that pertain to neuro-optometric rehabilitation. We will seek to post those 2007 codes on a members-only portion of the website as an added bonus to being a NORA member.

I repeat the call that all NORA members submit their clinical pearls. No matter how great or small if one gem allows another member to treat or diagnose, that patient was the recipient of your knowledge. Please mark your calendars for this year that you attend the Charleston, SC conference March 17, 18 with our clinical skills to be held on March 19 and 20. Sue Wenberg, D.C. our Speaker Chair has a great speaker lineup. Hopefully each speaker will end his or her presentation with take home bullets. Likewise if you have a speaker that NORA members will be interested in hearing, please submit them to Dr. Wenberg. We are developing a program of multi-disciplinary speakers and not limit our scope to optometry but neuro-optometric rehabilitation.

Thank you and please recruit a friend and colleague toward spreading NORA's mission. I thank you for your continued support of this great organization. In our brief history of existence you have made an important contribution to optometry by your participation.