Facets of Dyslexia
The Cooper Learning Center
First Annual Dyslexia and Language-Related Disabilities Conference
Saturday, May 3, 2014
Conference Agenda

8:15-8:45 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45-9:00 Welcome - Richard Selznick, Ph.D., Director: Cooper Learning Center, Department of Pediatrics, Cooper University Hospital

9:00-10:00 Keynote - George McCloskey, Ph.D., Professor and Director of School Psychology Research, Department of Psychology, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

10:05 -11:05 Morning Session One

Description: The law in New Jersey now mandates screening for dyslexia. In this session, Dr. Selznick will review best practices for screening children for dyslexia. Specific tests will be highlighted.

2. Vision and Reading: What is the Connection? – Michael Gallaway, O.D., FCOVD, FAAO
Description: The visual process encompasses much more than 20/20 visual acuity. Dr. Gallaway will discuss different aspects of vision and how each relates to reading and learning. Classroom behavioral signs and symptoms of learning-related vision problems will also be discussed, along with the latest research in this area. This workshop will help provide educators and parent with the “missing piece of the puzzle” for many of their students.

3. Mindfulness - Bridging the Mind Body Experience for Dyslexics – Basant Pradhan, M.D., Attending Psychiatrist, Associate Program Director of Psychiatry Residency Training, Cooper University Hospital
Description: The concept of “mindfulness” is one of the most researched forms of meditation. It can be used with people and children of all ages to help them manage their emotions. Mindfulness can enhance attention, counteract depression, and ease a multitude of behavioral issues for students. Learn more about Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy and how it can help students and families.

4. Supporting Struggling Readers at Home – Nancy Graham, M.S., CCC-SP/LDT-C
Description: How do you motivate and encourage a reader who struggles? This session will explore strategies for doing just that.

Description: Building a reading vocabulary is a challenge for students with dyslexia, who often have a hard time learning new words in print. They often have a discrepancy between their spoken vocabulary, which may be strong, and their reading vocabulary. This session will provide teachers with specific tools and techniques to teach receptive language and comprehension to students who are struggling readers beyond third grade and beyond.

11:15-12:15 Morning Session Two

1. Decoding Dyslexia: Parents Changing the Educational Landscape - Susan Clothier and Liz Barnes, Parent Advocates, Decoding Dyslexia
Description: Learn more about the evolving role of the parent grass-roots movement that is helping change education in our country. Decoding Dyslexia is impacting legislation and education reform in New Jersey and throughout the country. These parent advocates will discuss their journey, as well as provide information and resources to help both parents and educators better understand dyslexia and the people who live with it from a personal perspective.

2. Teaching the Foundational Skills for Reading to All Students – Nancy Graham, M.S., CCC-SP/LDT-C
Description: The Common Core Standards require foundational skill instruction for all students in early elementary grades. This workshop covers the nuts and bolts of highly effective reading instruction that ensures each child learns to read. Participants will learn how to incorporate multi-sensory strategies into their large and small-group reading instruction to support all types of learners. This hands-on workshop is ideal for empowering parents and teachers of emerging readers with the information and resources to help young children read and spell proficiently across the Response to Intervention spectrum.

3. Writing Remediation for Struggling Students in the General Education Classroom –
Description: For elementary school teachers, accommodating the needs and abilities of writers at varying levels of proficiency is often one of the biggest challenges in the classroom. What so few understand about dyslexia is that it effects writing as much as reading. Writing with dyslexia can be difficult, but there are many ways to overcome the weaknesses and turn them into strengths.

4. Supporting the Social-Emotional Needs of Children with Dyslexia and Related Disabilities -
Description: Learn how to see beyond the struggles and frustrations that learning disabilities can have on a child and their family. This session will explain what works and what doesn’t and encouraging a child to find social and emotional balance.

5. Assistive Technology for Reading Disabilities- Beyond Talking Computers -Fred Chang, Director of Assistive Technology Services, Advancing Opportunities
Description: Computers can turn visual text into speech, providing the option to listen to and comprehend text. Comprehension, however, goes beyond decoding. Through the use of electronic study tools, students can make sense of the text, apply it to their experience, and create notes for studying and writing. We will also review the latest applications in Universal Design for Learning (UDL), including electronic “coaches” for digital books. Learn about how to work smarter, not harder in employing these types of technologies.

12:15-12:45 LUNCH

12:45-1:35 Afternoon Sessions One

Description: The term dyslexia is most commonly used to describe a pattern of learning difficulties characterized by problems with accuracy of fluent word recognition, problems with decoding, and poor spelling. New research finds links between abnormalities in the processing of auditory signals and many
symptoms of dyslexia. Audiologist Maegan Mapes will share her expertise about the characteristics of auditory processing disorders, how it impacts learning in the classroom, as well as accommodation and modification strategies that you can start to use immediately.

2. Walking in Their Shoes: A Simulation Experience - Cooper Learning Center Staff
Description: This hands-on workshop lets participants experience some of the challenges and frustrations that people with this language-based learning disability face each day. This simulation provides a lively, thought-provoking experience for teachers, parents, and anyone interested in better understanding the lives of individuals with dyslexia.

Description: As trainers, our mission will be to profile four unique students with learning disabilities and explain how they negotiated the education system from kindergarten on and achieved each family’s postsecondary goal with smart college planning. We will share the history of these students including the programs and placements that contributed to their success, as well as specific interventions that made a difference. Finally, we will talk about how students with Dyslexia, Language-based Learning, Attention Deficit and Executive Functioning disorders carry their challenges into their future. If you accept the mission, come ready to discuss, take notes and share from your own experience.

4. Assistive Technology for Reading Disabilities - Beyond Talking Computer - Fred Chang, Director: Assistive Technology Services, Advancing Opportunities
Description: Computers can turn visual text into speech, providing the option to listen to and comprehend text. Comprehension, however, goes beyond decoding. Through the use of electronic study tools, students can make sense of the text, apply it to their experience, and create notes for studying and writing. We will also review the latest applications in Universal Design for Learning (UDL), including electronic “coaches” for digital books. Learn about how to work smarter, not harder in employing these types of technologies.

5. Dysgraphia: Rev up Fine Motor and Handwriting Skills at School and Home - Liezel Smith, OTR/L, SPD, Director: Sensational Kids
Description: Dysgraphia, sometimes called disorder of written expression, is a neurologic disorder. This workshop is designed to highlight how effective learning can be achieved so struggling children can succeed in writing. During the session, basic information about signs/symptoms, assessment, types of remediation, accommodations and technology will be discussed.

1:35-2:30 Afternoon Sessions Two

1. Dyslexia: Myths, Mistakes, and Solutions - Howard Margolis, Ed.D, Professor Emeritus of Reading Disabilities and Special Education, City University, New York
Description: Dyslexia is a word wrapped in myths, mistakes, and simple, but often ineffective solutions. It is a devastating, often chronic emotional and learning problem without simple solutions. Effective solutions start with valid, comprehensive, ongoing evaluations that are far more involved than standardized testing in an office. Effective solutions require far more than stressing one or two specific methodologies to improve rapid word recognition. This presentation will examine several of the myths and mistakes surrounding dyslexia and offer a variety of solutions to increase students’ emotional well-being while increasing their chances of becoming successful, motivated readers.

2. Learning How Learning Ally Can Help You - Learning Ally Training Associate
Description: Dyslexic students find themselves spending hours longer than their peers doing homework because they are bogged down with reading assignments. Leading authorities on dyslexia, praise how audio textbooks from Learning Ally help people with this pervasive learning difference. Learning Ally remains a
leading provider of audiobooks – including the world’s largest library of audio textbooks available on Mac, Windows, Ipads, and Androids. Come learn how Learning Ally can become a critical resource for your students or children.

3. **Spelling at School and Home**  
**Description:** This workshop is designed to be used with dyslexic learners, but would be applicable for any learners with spelling difficulties. Participants will be able to try out different spelling strategies and take away practical ideas for teaching and improving a student’s spelling performance, as well as handwriting ability.

4. **Special Education “Alphabet Soup:” A Basic Primer** - Terri Allen, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Education, Department of School Psychology, Rowan University  
**Description:** Do you understand the difference between a 504 and an IEP? Special education can be confusing and overwhelming with its different terms and categories. If you feel any confusion, Dr. Terri Allen will help clear things up for you and help you find ways to navigate the special education waters.

5. **Comprehension Instruction for Students with Dyslexia**  
**Description:** Teachers often spend a great deal of time helping children with dyslexia learn decoding and reading fluency skills, and sometimes reading comprehension is overlooked. However, there are many ways teachers can help students with dyslexia improve their reading comprehension skills. This workshop will explain comprehension strategies as they relate to students with a language based learning disability, explaining how to create interactive reading instruction that keeps students engaged in reading.