

Editorial • The First OEPF Alumni Weekend ... A Complete Success

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One of things that I love about the Optometric Extension Program Foundation (OEPF) is that the organization is not afraid to think outside of the box. If you do not know me, let me tell you one thing: I hate living and working inside a box. If you come to Line Vreven, the Executive Director, or Eric Ikeda, the President, or any of the Board members while you are at it, with a good idea, you had better be prepared to back up your idea with time and energy. Just ask Beth Anderson!

About nine months ago, in a conversation with Line, Beth commented that she wanted more from OEPF. Her point was that once you took the Clinical Curriculum Courses, you were essentially done learning the main aspects of the program. The Clinical Curriculum originated out of the courses taught by Dr. Paul Harris at the Baltimore Academy of Behavioral Optometry. There are four core courses that cover topics including visual dysfunctions, learning related visual problems, and strabismus/amblyopia. There are also number of special interest topics, such as brain injury, autism, and sports vision. Most courses can be attended by doctors or therapists of all experience levels.

Getting back to where you can go following the curriculum courses: yes, there are any number of Regional Clinical Seminars and Congresses at which you can continue learning, but there was nothing to help practitioners in honing skills and getting questions answered in an organized fashion about the daily work we do in the vision therapy room. How do we deal with difficult patients? How do we break the grid lock when working with the grids? What are some of the best practices in the business of vision therapy? How does everyone else deal with the everyday issues? From Beth's comment developed what would become the first OEPF Alumni Conference. The team of Drs. Beth Anderson, JJ Lant, Hansel Huang, Kris Anderson,

and Bob Hohendorf, along with myself and Line, put together a two-day program to help answer those questions and many more.

For this first study group, we purposely kept attendance small as a pilot study. The doctors and therapists completed all four core courses, graduating from the OEPF curriculum. We focused on what the attendees wanted to get out of the meeting and how they felt it went afterwards by use of surveys. The attendees ranged in practice modality and experience. Some were life-long vision therapy practitioners, while others were just getting started. I am happy to let you know that as the lone academic in attendance, I was not hazed in any way. We were treated to some songs by Moshe Roth, but no windows were shattered throughout the weekend. We were even joined by two exhibitors, Bernell and RightEye. Having the one-on-one time with each representative helped me better to understand their variety of products, which will benefit my patient care.

Topics of interest included turning up and down the burner settings on different activities, the binocular vision approach to working with amblyopes, marketing and the use of social media, how best to train therapists, fee structures, and communication with other professionals.

Well, enough from me ... listen to some of the results of the exit survey!

- What did you get out of the workshop?
 - How to make the grids work for me, that I need to get a vision therapist, and good ways to try to get patients into therapy!
 - Great ideas for directing marketing. Better strategy for training therapists.
- How could the workshop have been improved?
 - Time ... more of it. We only scratched the surface!

Perhaps the most fun for me as a bibliophile was to get to look at the OEPP library. I was not able to sneak anything back in my bag since I was being watched, though! I was able to read some of the original Skeffington, Getman, and Kraskin works and was introduced to many other authors with whom I was not familiar. I am now! We will be working throughout the next few years to bring you as many of these treasures as possible.

I also loved the opportunity to update the attendees on the upcoming publications that are in various stages of production. There are second volumes, new editions, the bringing

back of lost gems, and of course, new works by amazing authors! Press, Borsting, Scheiman, Torgerson, Suchoff, and Getman are just some of the names you will be seeing in the future. The first of about 10 works is printing as you read this. Look for *The Shape of the Sky* from Dr. David Cook for sale in January.

The conference organizers are already hard at work planning the bigger and better OEPP Alumni Conference in 2020. We hope that you will all consider joining in the learning from others and sharing your experiences as we strive to bring our patients better care.

NEW • NEW • NEW • NEW

REGIONAL CLINICAL SEMINAR



OPTOMETRIC EXTENSION PROGRAM
FOUNDATION

THIS MEETING IS MADE POSSIBLE
BY THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE
OEP FOUNDATION AND ITS ASSOCIATES.

Sponsored by the
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Power Tools: Lens and Prism Seminar

Presented by **Randy Schulman, MS, OD, FCOVD**

Saturday & Sunday, 7-8 March 2020
SOUTHPORT, CONNECTICUT

Seminar Location

Office of Dr. Randy Schulman
EyeCare Associates
2600 Post Road
Southport, CT 06890

Lodging

Hilton Garden Inn Norwalk
560 Main Avenue
Norwalk, Connecticut 06851
203-523-4000

Booking Code:
OEPG

Recommended Airport

John F. Kennedy International (JFK)

Comprehensive 2-Day Seminar

12 Hours Continuing Education

SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2020

9:00am - 5:00pm (1 hr lunch break)

SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2020

9:00am - 3:00pm (1 hr lunch break)

Lunch and coffee breaks will be provided.

Attendance at this seminar is limited.
Early registration is recommended.

Cancellation policy

A non-refundable fee of 25% of registration fees if cancelled within two weeks of RCS.

OEP reserves the right to cancel seminar two weeks in advance if registration is inadequate.

Lecturer **Randy Schulman, MS, OD, FCOVD**



Dr. Schulman graduated cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. She graduated with her Doctorate in Optometry and Masters in Vision Science degrees from the State University of New York, College of Optometry. Dr. Schulman received her Fellowship in the College of Optometrists for Vision Development and is an Associate member of the Optometric Extension Program, in addition to being an Adjunct Professor at the State University of New York College of Optometry.

Dr. Schulman has lectured extensively on behavioral optometry topics such as vision in the classroom, vision and aging, visual difficulties in the developmentally delayed, and lectured and published on vision and autism. She specializes in behavioral optometry and vision therapy, pediatrics, learning disabilities and preventative, integrative and alternative vision care for all ages.

The Power Tools seminar on lenses and prisms is a must attend for practitioners wishing to gain a better understanding of how to use lenses and prisms in an optometric practice in diagnosing, prescribing, and therapeutic use. Attendees will learn about the behavioral model of vision, the gaps in the field, and how to utilize lenses and prisms in order to make improvements in function for patients.

This course is suitable for both new practitioners as well as established practitioners looking for a fresh look at these awesome tools. Vision therapists will also gain a working knowledge of the use of lenses and prisms in the therapy room.

For more info and registration: <http://bit.ly/393hLaD>