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News from the President's Desk

I hope everyone is suffering from the same problem that I am – overwork! Irlen is currently booming in New Zealand, and long may it continue. Clients seen to date this year are up just over 25% compared with the same time last year. And the more people we see, the more advocates for Irlen we have out in the community.

The biggest change that I am noticing is the gradual acceptance by other professionals, including optometrists, of the benefit that Irlen overlays and Irlen Filter glasses can be for some individuals. We need to nurture all those contacts with such professionals as the development of such on going relationships can only enhance Irlen.

Jeff Quinn, as the AAIC Business Development Manager, is keen to receive information from members to include in the AAIC Newsletter – so if you have any snippets **please** forward them to him.

By now you will have read Helen's latest Irlen International Newsletter (or if you haven't you should – available on line at www.irlen.com) and caught up with Irlen news from around the world.

It certainly looks as if Brazil is becoming the latest country to develop a strong Irlen foothold.

Congratulations to the Irlen Clinic Directors, Diagnosticians and Screeners who feature in this latest edition of the International newsletter and the Special Awards recipients from Houston's International Conference who are from 'down under'.

David Wardell

President AAIC

Irlen Special Awards

At the 10th Irlen International Conference, the following special awards were announced:

This is the first year that Irlen Institute International will be honouring certain individuals as Irlen Fellows. This award is the highest distinction given by Irlen Institute International and certainly an honour. Only those with years of clinical service and who have made significant contributions important to the Irlen organization are eligible for this honour. The very first recipients are:

IRLEN FELLOW

Beverley Butt, Director of Irlen Centre Western Canada, brought the Irlen Method to Canada and was the first Screener and first Canadian Irlen Director. She has travelled across Canada and northern USA to increase awareness and provide Irlen services.

Gregory Robinson, PhD, became involved with the Irlen Method in 1985. In addition to being the most prolific researcher, for 22 years Dr. Robinson has run an Irlen Centre. He frequently collaborates with Helen and other Irlen diagnosticians to challenge the scepticism voiced by professionals and the discrimination faced by people with Irlen Syndrome. He also participated in the incorporation and organization of The Australasian Association of Irlen Consultants.

Patricia Stanley was among one of the first diagnosticians and was trained in 1984 by Helen Irlen. She opened the first Irlen Clinic in Perth, Western Australia. Pat envisioned and organized the first International Irlen Conference and the Irlen Advisory Council. She also participated in the incorporation and organization of The Australasian Association of Irlen Consultants.

Paul Whiting, PhD, came across Irlen in 1985 and has since done many TV shows, lectures, articles, and interviews. He has published a number of research papers on Irlen, some with his colleague Dr. Greg Robinson. He participated in the incorporation and organisation of The Australasian Association of Irlen Consultants and was recently honoured by The Association with a life membership.

IRLEN RESEARCH FELLOW: Fritz Steiner, Clinic Director in Switzerland, has been working hard to build credibility for Irlen in Europe. He has been educating professionals, doing research, and publishing. We would like to honour Fritz for his hard work, research efforts, and publications by making him a Research Fellow.

DIRECTOR/DIAGNOSTICIAN ANNIVERSARIES

We congratulate the following on their anniversaries with Irlen:

5 Years

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Jennifer Davies | Dr. Hyung-bae Park |
| Sharyn Gormley | Judith Pool |
| Stephanie Jamison | Beverly von Stein |
| Judith Palapala | |

10 Years

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Dorothee Perpeet | Fred Youngman |
| Donna Thomas | Susan Youngman |

15 Years

Paula Abromovitz

Elaine Gutowitz

Blondell Behrendt

Patricia Johnson, PhD

James Cole, EdD

Jean Kerwin

Peter Freney

Kirstie Lewis, PhD

Adel Francis

Gloria Thomas

20 Years

Joan Hillary

Carol Zuccone, EdD

Georgianna Saba

Dominic Zuccone

Celia Stone

IRLEN SCREENER ANNIVERSARIES

We also congratulate the following Screeners who attended the Irlen International Conference and were celebrating 10+ years of screening for Irlen Syndrome:

Cindy Bird

Terry Ann McMahon

Lori Campbell

Helen Mencey

Myra Clendennen

Dathulia Pease

Nedra Francis

Wilbeth Randolph

Joyce Gouldie

Patricia Rennick

Glenda Hay

Ann Tatom

Connie Headrick

Betty Ward, PhD

Mary Frances Markley

Karen Zavatson

Cindy Marody

Around the Regions

What's happening in Queensland and Northern Territory

Robyn O'Connor from **Rockhampton District** Robyn is a very positive force for Irlen in her area. She sees clients from Rockhampton, Emerald and Mackay Districts – a huge chunk of Central Queensland. She is a very busy lady since she still works part time as a Learning Support Teacher at Heights College in Rockhampton. Robyn was able to take some Long Service Leave in first Term and used part of that time to move from a home office into business premises. Central Queensland Irlen & Dyslexia Centre is now an even busier hive of industry. Last year Robyn took on travelling to Mackay and has gradually built up a client base there.

In **Cairns** New Diagnostician **Bill Spooner** is ably supported by wonderful screeners Gloria Robinson, Atherton, Margie Reddicliffe, Cairns, and newcomers Deborah Potts and Christine O'Reilly, also from Cairns, and a squad of PASS trained people in local schools. Bill is most enthusiastic and has made a remarkable difference to the awareness of Irlen and its benefits as a screener. Bill and his wife Noelene run a coaching Academy in Cairns. His area covers Cairns, The Tablelands and Cape York. In the future he is interested in exploring what could be done in some of the Aboriginal Communities in his area

Sharon Coyne takes care of the **Maryborough District**. Sharon is a full time teacher and runs a tutoring business as well, so, like Robyn, she is a busy, busy lady. Sharon is a great encourager of teachers and over the years has managed to have some of them PASS trained. Sharon also has qualifications in Information Technology and has been very helpful for the Queensland team in getting/keeping their computer skills up to date. Sharon has also allowed us to use her Centre for the last two years to run a mini-Conference.

As well as working from our main office in **Buderim** Peter visits Townsville. Heather Coleman, who has been a screener for many years, had almost completed her training as a Diagnostician before becoming quite ill. We hope she is soon well enough to come back to her Irlen work. Peter also visits **Victoria Point, Underwood**, and **Redcliffe** in **Brisbane**. Active screeners Carmen Cheong-Clinch and new Screener Jane Bradbury refer clients to Underwood and Victoria Point.

Bundaberg District is the Area of **Heather Rawlins**. Heather lives at Gin Gin but travels to Bundaberg for appointments. Her area is more rural and, like many other Irlen Diagnosticians who travel to different centres to service clients, is finding the present price of fuel a real worry.

Sharyn Gormley from **Gladstone** was the first Diagnostician Peter trained. She also runs a tutoring Centre. As well as her usual Irlen work, Sharon has become very interested in helping stroke victims. She diagnosed with Irlen, a lady she was helping to learn to read (after suffering a stroke), and has been so successful that they co-presented at a Kumon Conference in Brisbane (the co-presenter wearing her Irlen lenses of course). Sharon also went on to conferences in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Tony Franklin has been busy in **Darwin**. His wife **Maria** also a trained Diagnostician sometimes visits Darwin with Tony. She has been great in getting the word out through schools and we have been able to get a number of teachers PASS trained. She has also prepared a detailed submission for the NT Education Department outlining the benefit of early screening of children to identify possible difficulties in developing literacy skills. The submission outlined three possible ways of helping those identified. Of course, Irlen was one of them. We think the submission fell on deaf ears but commend Maria for her efforts. The more we keep reminding that there is a well researched answer for a percentage of the failing students in our schools the more likely we are to be heard. Well done Maria.

Barbara and Peter Freney

Sydney News.

Darren Thomas Regional Director Sydney.

I have had 10 invitations to talk to teachers for an hour or so this year. I have 5 more booked this term. This has in turn generated more registrations and interest in the upcoming Screener Training Course. These talks are great in raising awareness and there are always teachers who become far more aware of how IS affects students in their classrooms.

We are running an Information Day for Optometrists on 15th August. We already have 10 registrations from around Sydney. There have been many enquiries and some optometrists are very keen to learn and understand more about IS. Dr Paul Whiting will be presenting a research talk and I will be holding other sessions including "How to work together better."More news on how the day goes after the event.

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Gloria Thomas , Regional Director Vic, ACT & Tas

In the last twelve months I have run five Screener Training courses in Melbourne plus a screener course and update day in the ACT. In Canberra one of our new screeners is a very keen occupational therapist who has set up a private practice and is now making Irlen Screening a part of his assessment for staff in government offices.

The new AAIC business plan is taking shape in Victoria and we now have Jan Male running an Irlen clinic in Mildura and Fiona Baudinette running an Irlen clinic in Hampton. Two screeners who were trained in January this year are screening as many students at their respective schools as they can in preparation for Diagnostician requirements and training near the end of this year.

Trevor and I are going to the International Irlen conference in Texas in July and are also taking a five week holiday, visiting places where we haven't been before including two weeks in Alaska.

I have been asked by the Parliamentary Inquiry into Teacher Training and Professional Learning in Victoria to put in a submission based on the training I have done with teachers over the last fifteen years. I am suggesting that all Reading Recovery teachers should be trained as Irlen Screeners.

I am also working on a proposal for the Victorian Education Minister in collaboration with MP Kirsty Marshall (Ex Olympic Skier). In order to make the Minister's Office aware of Irlen before I present her with my proposal, I am asking the parent of every client I see, to write a

letter to the Minister about their experiences with the learning difficulties of their child and how colour has helped. I supply them with the Minister's name and address. Even if only a few manage to write, the Minister's office will be aware of the name Irlen Syndrome.

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From Nerida Crowe - Coffs Harbour Clinic

In the past four months Nerida has been carrying out talks at local Primary and High Schools at their school staff meetings. She has been raising awareness with teachers and executive staff about Irlen Syndrome (IS) and its impact on learning for their students. Nerida firstly presents information to the staff, including samples of the print distortions, and then offers to visit the school to carry out pre-screenings of students staff feel may present with symptoms of IS.

The response has been very positive. Often intrigued with the information presented, the staff do not realise that words can actually move on a page or the white on the page can seem bright or dominate the text. Their knowledge of IS is quite limited and some have no knowledge of it at all. Often Nerida finds two or three staff members themselves have Irlen symptoms after sharing information with them.

One of those schools Nerida recently visited was Christian Community High School. The student questionnaires were filled in by the students prior to the pre-screening so Nerida had this information available to her before pre-screening the students. She pre-screened 23 students and 14 of these students had symptoms of IS. Nerida then sends information home to the students' parents explaining that their child presented or did not present with IS symptoms along with a brochure about IS. The parents can then contact her or she can contact the parents to explain more about IS.

Irlen Syndrome Petitions

Does everyone have copies of the petition the Newcastle Irlen Clinic put together for the Federal Government regarding carrying out pre-screenings in schools from Year 3? The Sydney Clinic has over six pages of signatures supporting the notion. Many parents from the Sydney Clinic are more than happy with the idea of Irlen being recognised through the education system. How are other clinics going? It is important to have the petition where parents can see it to sign in the reception room of the clinic or in individual clinic rooms.

Disability Education Association of NSW & ACT (DEAN) Meeting

On Wednesday, 2nd July 2008, Nerida was asked to present information to the Disability Education Association of NSW/ACT (DEAN) for the NSW Tertiary Disability Practitioners who organise special provisions for TAFE and University students. The aim was to share information on Irlen Syndrome and discuss the reporting procedures that Irlen clinics use when requesting special provisions for Irlen students in NSW and ACT.

The information sharing was well received. DEAN wanted to know who trains diagnosticians, who can train as a diagnostician and what the training involves. Questions were asked about what sort of assessment tasks are carried out with training diagnosticians

to determine whether they have achieved a certain level of attainment, the length of time for training and how people are chosen to be trained as diagnosticians.

These educational bodies have serious reservations about how legitimate and professional some Irlen clinics are because of their varying reporting standards. As an organisation they believe we are not presenting as a unified corporation.

In receiving documentation from Irlen clinics in NSW they find the documentation is very inconsistent between the clinics. Some reports are very generic and list no details that Irlen clients report. Specific difficulties experienced when reading, copying or when working in fluorescent lighting or ... / 13 bright light conditions are not explained, the distortions and distractions which occur on the page or within the environment are not presented and no explanation is given as to the improvements once the lens colour has been chosen. Another clinic uses a tick box approach for reporting. DEAN finds this inadequate. They are not interested in receiving reports without sufficient detail.

Essential information that highlights how Irlen impacts on learning(Reading, Spelling, Copying, Concentrating), the distortions and distractions experienced when reading, copying etc and the improvements experienced when wearing the lenses need to be adequately documented in a report. (Nerida cont...) A precise list of the special provisions e.g. whether a client required extra time and rest breaks or just one of these is also important.

DEAN are also interested in how we determine whether an adult requires a reader or writer, considering we do not use a standardised reading assessment.

DEAN found the inconsistencies with Irlen reporting across the state unacceptable. They suggested that because of the varying levels of reporting it undermines the credibility of Irlen in NSW. Currently they said Irlen's reputation is not great in NSW. What they need is a standardised report, consistent between all NSW clinics. They must have uniformity.

They have also requested appropriate research associated with Irlen Syndrome. It was suggested by DEAN that unfortunately some of the Irlen research has been carried out by people associated with Irlen. They want research that is totally independent of Irlen people. Compiling a data base of research, perhaps on the AAIC website, with the actual articles may be worthwhile as a useful tool for all clinics and clients in Australasia to use.

Nerida Crowe
Diagnostician
Note:

Nerida recently represented the Sydney Irlen Clinic at the Education Expo at Rose Hill Sydney. She was there both days doing a superb job sharing her knowledge and helping people learn more about IS. This is the type of marketing that doesn't always bring immediate results – but it is part of the puzzle of getting the word out there. It is a branding and awareness raising exercise. Well done Nerida and thank you for your contribution to this newsletter.

We can make better use of our Web Site and look more professional at the same time writes Jason

We have an unlimited number of AAIC email proxies (also called email aliases) available with our AAIC website hosting package. Originally offered to AAIC committee members, there are only a few people taken up the opportunity and I would prefer to see them used rather than not. We are therefore now offering them to all AAIC members, so if you feel this would be useful for you, please email your request to Jason Thomas [jasondt@dyslexiaservices.com.au]. The more people use them the more it promotes the AAIC name and our website address. This is a free service.

How does it work?

We have full access to a domain name, in this case "aaic.org.au" or "aaic.org.nz", this means we can use proxy email addresses such as <insert your name> Heather.Rawlins@aaic.org.au. The word proxy sounds scary but it is actually quite simple and useful. Heather.Rawlins@aaic.org.au would become the email address that you would give to all your Irlen clients - you'd have to change it on your printed promotional documents but it would be the last time you ever do.

Once changed, any email sent to your proxy address <insert your name> (Heather.Rawlins@aaic.org.au) is re-directed to the email account of whichever internet carrier you are currently using <insert your current email address> (heather.r@activ8.net.au). This means that no one need ever know (other than you and me) what the real email address behind the proxy (Heather.Rawlins@aaic.org.au) <insert your name> is, so if you change carriers again in the future, all you need to do is let me know and I'll swap it over for you. It only takes a few minutes and you no longer need to spend money changing any printed promotional material.

Cheers JASON

AAIC Business Development - in the pipeline

Membership Certificates posted to current financial members. Please inform Jeff Quinn if you have paid but not received your certificate for 2008.

DL Flyer for mail drops and distribution to schools etc. New tag line: Irlen Lenses – Clear your Mind. Goes with 1300irlens. Based on Amens SPECT Scan Poster.

DL Brochure – for information packs and general distribution at venues like conferences and expos

1300 irlens – in Australia and 0800irlens – in New Zealand in conjunction with aggregated telephone rates for AAIC members; more about the 1300/0800 number soon...

Site Engine Marketing – using Google Adwords and other strategies;

Medical Funds Research and lobbying; Australian Funds list available from Regional directors and on AAIC web site: www.aaic.org.au

Lens Cloths are being ordered to send out with every set of Irlen lenses.

Thumb drives information kits. Instead of sending out reams of paper we'll soon be able to send or give prospects a thumb drive with all the information we want to share.

Tag line to highlight how Irlen Lenses change people's lives for the better. Please comment. Colour your world. Clear your mind . Read Better didn't catch on.

REVIEW OF RESEARCH ON THE USE OF COLOURED LENSES

While much of the early literature was unpublished and of poor scientific design, there are now numerous controlled studies which have reported positive results for the use of coloured lenses. These studies have all been reported in peer reviewed journals, using reviewers with expertise in this field, who are unlikely to recommend the publication of studies which are methodologically unsound.

I have listed these studies below, with their full references (attached on the article available on www.aaic.org.au). The largest number of controlled studies report improvement in reading when using coloured plastic overlays, coloured computer monitors, and one study which illuminates text with coloured light (Bouldoukian, Wilkins, & Evans, 2002; Chase, Ashourzadeh, Kelly, Monfette, & Kinsey, 2003; Croyle, 1998; Evans & Joseph, 2002; Jeanes, Busby, Martin, Lewis, Stevenson, Poynton et al., 1997; Kriss & Evans, 2005; Noble, Orton, Irlen, & Robinson, 2004; Northway, 2003; Ray, Fowler, & Stein, 2005; Scott, McWhinnie, Taylor, Stevenson, Irons, & Lewis, 2002; Singleton & Trotter, 2005; Solan, Brannan, Ficarra, & Byrne, 1997; Solan, Ficarra, Brannan, & Rucker, 1998; Tyrrell, Holland, Dennis, & Wilkins, 1995; Wilkins, Jeanes, Pumfrey, & Laskier, 1996; Wilkins & Lewis, 1999; Wilkins, Lewis, Smith, Rowland, & Tweedie, 2001; Williams, Le Cluyse, & Littell, 1996).

There are also numerous studies which report improvements in eye strain, headaches and reading when using coloured lenses (Chronicle & Wilkins, 1991; Evans, Patel, & Wilkins, 2002; Good, Taylor, & Mortimer, 1991; Harris & MacRow-Hill, 1999; Lightstone, Lightstone, & Wilkins, 1999; Robinson & Conway, 2000; Robinson & Foreman, 1999; Wilkins, 1993; Wilkins, Patel, Adjajian, & Evans, 2002). In particular, the paper by Chase et al. (2003), describes a series of four studies which found that the accuracy of oral reading was poorer when using red filters in comparison to blue and green filters. These results were used to support physiological evidence that red light suppresses functioning of the Magnocellular visual neural pathway, with reading being better when longer wavelengths of light (red) are removed from the light source by the use of blue filters.

A number of these studies have used placebo controls (Bouldoukian et al., 2002; Evans & Joseph, 2002; Jeanes et al., 1997; Ray et al., 2005; Robinson & Foreman, 1999; Wilkins, Evans, Brown, Busby, Wingfield, Jeanes, & Bald, 1994; Wilkins & Lewis, 1999; Wilkins et al., 2002). Such placebo studies are possible because the effects of coloured filters can be assessed without subjects being aware of the precise chromacity of the colour which provides optimal results for them (Wilkins, Huang, & Cao, 2004).

In addition, people who respond to the use of colour are also likely to have abnormalities in accommodation (Simmers, Gray, & Wilkins, 2001), significant changes in visual evoked potentials when using coloured filters (Huang, Cooper, Satana, Kaufman, & Cao, 2003; Riddell, Wilkins, Zemori, Gordon, & Hainline, 1998) as well as differences in biochemical profiles (Robinson, Roberts, McGregor, Dunstan, & Butt, 2001; Sparkes, Robinson, Dunstan, & Roberts, 2003; Sparkes, Robinson, Roberts, & Dunstan, 2006), all of which could not be attributed to placebo effects.

I hope this information may be of use.

Greg Robinson, PhD
Irlen Diagnostic Clinic Newcastle

Headaches and Migraine Research

Research at the University of Birmingham in England showed that many migraine sufferers are sensitive to the flickering from fluorescent lighting, TV screens, and computer monitors. The study found that wearing coloured glasses reduced the frequency of migraine headaches by 74 percent. Other research indicates that about one in five individuals could get relief with coloured glasses. A preliminary study conducted at the UT Houston Medical School with 30 migraine sufferers found that 27 of them were helped dramatically by coloured contacts.

Evidence that symptoms of headaches and other symptoms of strain can be reduced by the wearing of Irlen Coloured Filters which alter the wave lengths of lighting comes from a variety of studies (Bulmer, 1994; Chronicle & Wilkins, 1991; McLachlan, Yale & Wilkins, 1993; Cilkins & Clark, 1990; Wilkins, Nimmo-Smith, Slater & Bedocs, 1989; Wilkins & Wilkinson, 1991).

There are numerous surveys of subjects who have used coloured filters for periods of six months to six years. Reduction in eye strain was reported by 78% to 86% of subjects in studies by Burgess (1990), Westergard (1993), Whiting and Robinson (1988), and Whiting, Robinson and Parrot (1994). Stokes and Stokes (1990) found 45% of subjects reported reductions in headaches, while Fricker (1989) and Schaffer (1994) also reported a reduction in headaches when using Irlen Coloured Filters.

A preliminary study by D.W. Riley and A. Wright (October 2000) comprised 30 people ranging in age from 10 to 60+. The diagnosis of migraine was by doctor or specialist for 21 of the subjects, with the remaining 9 being self-diagnosed. All the subjects had been assessed for Irlen Syndrome and had been wearing Irlen Coloured Filters for 6 months to 5 years. For 83% of people in the study, Irlen Filters reduced the frequency and severity of their migraines.

This Bibliography is taken from www.irlen.com and put together by Darren Thomas

Irlen International Conference and Irlen Professional Advisory Board (by Helen Irlen).

The 10th Irlen International Conference was held in Houston, Texas. Over 160 delegates attended the conference, making it the largest International Conference to date. There were directors, diagnosticians, and screeners representing 13 countries around the world including Switzerland, Mexico, Canada, Guatemala, UK, Germany, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Jordan, Ecuador, Bahamas, and the USA.

At the conference I introduced the newly formed Irlen International Professional Advisory Board. The board is composed of physicians, ophthalmologists, optometrists, neuroscientist, researchers, and experts in the fields of dyslexia, low vision, and autism/Asperger's Syndrome. The accompanying attachments (included below) contain the professional profile of the board members in an abbreviated format, complete resumes, and as a power point presentation. You can print the attachments for your use. The names of the board members will be listed on Irlen letterhead, in the website, and this information will be included in the next Irlen International Newsletter. Please know that you can share this information with others.

In addition, I have also started a Scientific Committee; and I will be sending out names with vitas when this committee is completed.

There were many highly interesting and informative speakers as well as a presentation by the International Directors providing information on how Irlen is progressing in their various countries. The following topics were covered during the Directors/Diagnosticians day: new methods of tinting, new techniques for screening, and the Irlen Business Model and Pricing Structure.

Helen

**IRLEN INTERNATIONAL
PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD**

Tony Attwood, PhD

Christopher H. Chase, PhD

Angela Fawcett, PhD, FBPsS, FIARLD, FRSA

Ricardo Guimarães, MD, PhD

Jeffrey David Lewine, PhD

Bill Takeshita, OD, FAAO, FCOVD

Doris Safra, Dr. med. Ophthalmologist FMH

Sharon Vaselenak, MD, B Med Sci, CCFP, FCFP

Tony Attwood, PhD



- Clinical psychologist specializing in autism spectrum disorders
- Adjunct Professor at Griffith University in Queensland, Australia
- Started a diagnostic and treatment clinic for children and adults with Asperger's Syndrome in Brisbane in 1992

- Prolific author of scientific papers and books on Asperger's Syndrome

- His book *Asperger's Syndrome – A Guide for Parents and Professionals* has sold over 300,000 copies and has been translated into 20 languages



Christopher H. Chase, PhD

- Professor of Psychology at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California
- Adjunct Professor at the School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences, Claremont Graduate University
- His research interests include: cognitive neuroscience, developmental dyslexia, ocular-motor function, and reading
- Author of numerous scientific papers including the following recent publications: Chase, C.H., Dougherty, R.F., Ray, N., Fowler, S. & Stein, J. (2007). L/M speed match ratio predicts reading in children, *Optometry and Visual Science*, 84, 229-237. Borsting, E., Chase, C, & Ridder, WH III (2007). Measuring visual discomfort in college students, *Optometry and Visual Science*, 84 (8), 745-751.



Angela Fawcett, PhD. FBPsS, FIARLD, FRSA

- Leading international researcher on dyslexia and other developmental disabilities
- Professor at Swansea University in the UK, and Chair and Director of the Centre for Child Research
- Chartered Scientist; Vice President of the British Dyslexia Association (BDA); advisor to the DfES and Welsh assembly
- Winner of the 2007 Copernicus prize
- Editor of *Dyslexia*, an International Journal of Research and Practice
- Chair of 2004 BDA International Conference; Chair Education Advisory Committee Dyslexia Cymru; and President WWDA
- Creator of screening and diagnostic tests for cognitive development and dyslexia.



Ricardo Guimarães, MD, PhD

- Board certified ophthalmologist
- Assistant Professor at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Brazil
- Member of: the Brazilian Society of Ophthalmology, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, International Society of Refractive Surgery, and International Implant Club
- Director of: the International Club of Refractive Surgery and President of the Brazilian Society of Refractive Surgery
- Medical Editor of Ocular Surgery News for Latin America, member of the Board of the Council of Health School – Universidade Pitágoras, Brazilian Institute of Marketing Economy (IBMEC), Fundação da Associação Comercial de Minas Gerais and American Chamber of Commerce, President of the HOLHOS Foundation, and Director of the Hospital de Olhos de Minas Gerais.



Jeffrey David Lewine, PhD

- Executive Director, Alexian Center for Brain Research
 - Executive Director, Illinois Magnetoencephalography Center
 - Co-author of a textbook on Functional Brain Imaging, and author of more than 100 articles and book chapters
 - Research interests include the scientific evaluation of novel treatment strategies for children with learning and developmental disorders
- Has researched a wide range of clinical conditions including autism, ADHD, depression, dyslexia, epilepsy, schizophrenia, and traumatic brain injury



Bill Takeshita, OD, FAAO, FCOVD

- Chief of Optometric Services at the Center for the Partially Sighted
 - Director of Low Vision Services at the Braille Institute of America
 - Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a Fellow of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development
 - Developed the first paediatric optometric low vision program in Southern California in 1988
- Adjunct Professor of the Southern California College of Optometry
 - Guest faculty at California State University, Los Angeles, California State University, Dominguez, and the University of California, Los Angeles



Doris Safra, Dr. med. Ophthalmologist FMH

- Dr. Safra was born and went to school in Berne, Switzerland, where she studied medicine
 - She has a specialization in ophthalmology and is a specialist of strabology in Israel and Switzerland
- Publishes articles in the physiological and pathological problems of ophthalmology, treatment of low vision in adults and children, objective measurements of accommodation, asthenopia, dyslexia, and explanations of illusionary movements
 - Created special tools for diagnosis and treatment of reading problems caused by ophthalmological problems

- Contributing author of the book entitled *Interdisciplinary Textbook for Treatment of Learning and Reading Problems*



Sharon Vaselenak, MD, B Med Sci, CCFP, FCFP

- Graduate of the University of Alberta (MD 1981) and the Queen's University of Family Medicine Program (CCFP 1983)
- She has been in private practice in the Edmonton, Alberta, area since 1983
- In 2003, she was honored with her FCFP from the Canadian College of Family Practice in recognition of her years of service in the area of Family Medicine
- Twenty-two years of parenting have encouraged the development of an interest in many aspects of sports-related injuries
- A special area of interest involves advocacy for Compassion Canada and Compassion International
- Dr. Vaselenak counts her 26 years of marriage, as well as her four children, to be her most important accomplishment

New Irlen Book

I am in the process of writing my next book. I am again coming to you for your help. If you can provide any information, I would appreciate hearing from you.

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- Do you have any stories of screeners who have not been allowed to screen in their schools or have been told that they could not screen anymore? Would you please send me these stories including the circumstance why they were told not to screen and by whom?
 - Do you have any stories of how you have overcome opposition from schools and other professionals?
 - What are the common questions that parents ask you?
 - How do you explain your Irlen testing to parents? Warm and colourful wishes, Helen
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Irlen in the News (US)

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<http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080717/LIFE/807170301&emailAFriend=1> story from Cape Cod re girl diagnosed with Irlen, and mother became advocate for children being tested - legislature

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