



THE STUTTERING FOUNDATION®

A Nonprofit Organization

FALL 2006

Since 1947... Helping Those Who Stutter

Is language a risk factor in stuttering?

By Ehud Yairi, Ph.D.,
University of Illinois

A person's stuttering is not random. Linguistic factors have been considered relevant to stuttering especially since early research (Brown, 1937, 1945) demonstrated their strong influence on the occurrence of stuttering events, or "moments of stuttering," in specific locations of the speech stream (e.g., the beginning of sentences and phrases) and in words of certain grammatical classes (e.g., verbs and adjectives). The link between stuttering and language is especially intuitive in young children. Several scholars have noted that stuttering onset, typically between ages 2 and 4, coincides with the critical period of accelerated expansion in children's expressive and receptive language (Levina, 1963; Yairi, 1983, Ratner, 1997). Thirty years ago, Cheverkeva (1977) proposed that stuttering is basically a disorder of language development, an idea recently echoed by Bloodstein (2002).

The possible stuttering-language link has become a focus of scientific interest, reflected in several stuttering models with psycholinguistic viewpoints. Among these are the Demands-Capacity Model (Starkweather, 1987), the Covert-Repair Hypothesis (Postma & Kolk, 1993), the Trade-Off Hypothesis

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Ehud Yairi, Ph.D.

Transatlantic alliance will help researchers, clinicians and children

The Stuttering Foundation and the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children have joined forces in a groundbreaking alliance to help children who stutter through research, treatment and training programs.

The Michael Palin Centre, based in London, England, is widely considered one of the premier treatment centers in the world for childhood stuttering; and it is active in research and the training of speech-language therapists. While the Centre is based in London, it provides treatment for children as well as training for therapists from all over the United Kingdom.

The Memphis-based Stuttering Foundation is one of the leading U.S.-based nonprofit organizations dedicated to the prevention and treatment of stuttering. Its publications reach people in more than 100 countries each year, and it is also active in training speech language pathologists by sponsoring training courses for those who specialize in stuttering.

More than 800 therapists have participated in SFA workshops during the past 20 years, including 145 from 32 countries around the

world. However, this will be the first direct involvement of the Stuttering Foundation in a treatment program.

"We are very excited at the prospect of working together with SFA to promote and provide a first class service for children and young adults who stammer," said Frances Cook, M.Sc., manager of the Michael Palin Centre. "This partnership between our two organizations will combine our strengths and serve to benefit our clients and therapists on both sides of the Atlantic."

"The alliance of the two organizations makes perfect sense," said Jane Fraser, president of the Stuttering Foundation. "The Palin Centre's top-notch treatment facility means hope for thousands of children who stutter and for some time now has provided an essential training ground for researchers and clinicians."

The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children was officially opened in 1993. British comedian Michael Palin agreed to the center being named after him following

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Geneticist Dennis Drayna joins SFA board

Dennis Drayna, Ph.D., has joined the SFA Board of Directors.

Dr. Drayna received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin in 1976, and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1981.

Internationally recog-

nized for his work in genetics, he currently serves as Section Chief in the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, NIH, where he pursues studies on the genetics of human communication disorders. □



Drayna

New windows on the onset of stuttering

Dublin conference brings researchers together

By Anne Smith, Ph.D.,
Purdue University

In July of this year, I was honored to be a keynote speaker at the meeting of International Fluency Association in the wonderful city of Dublin, Ireland. In my talk, "Physiological Indices of Speech and Language Processes: New Windows on the Onset of Stuttering in Young Children," I reviewed some of the accomplishments of the Purdue Stuttering Project and outlined our ongoing research studies. Here are some of the highlights from that talk:

First, to let you know our point of view about stuttering — Despite the diversity of the disorder in different people who stutter, all individuals who stutter exhibit breakdowns in the motor processes necessary for speaking. The factors that influence these breakdowns in speech are complex. We have proposed that a complete model of stuttering must incorporate motor, linguistic, cognitive, psychosocial, and genetic factors, and that the model must explain how these factors interact during childhood to produce the disruptions in speech that makes one a person who stutters.

What we know from studies of adults who stutter — Much of our earlier work on the Purdue Stuttering Project was focused on adults who stutter. These studies were essential to establish what the physiological bases of the disorder are in individuals with chronic stuttering. Our findings, in addition to those from many other research groups, mapped the differences in speech movement and muscle activity that occur during disfluent speech in the face, voice, and breathing areas. We also looked at language processing in adults who stutter when they are

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Anne Smith, Ph.D.

SFA at 5th World Congress

Workshop specialists meet again in Dublin

The 5th World Congress of the International Fluency Association was held at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, July 25-28, 2006. It brought together more than 300 people, many of them experts in the field of stuttering.

Participants came from 34 countries around the world and more than 15 percent of all participants had attended the Stuttering Foundation/Northwestern/Iowa Workshop for Specialists! This group met for several photos in honor of Dr. Hugo Gregory who directed the Northwestern Workshop for 16 years. □



JoAnne Wilding, Canada; Peter Tonev, Bulgaria; Beatriz de Touzet, Argentina; Lisa Avery, Canada; Merethe Moerk, Norway; Steen Fibiger, Denmark; Jane Fraser, U.S.A.; Yulia Filatova, Russia; Anne-Marie Simon, France; David Shapiro, U.S.A. Florence Juillerat, Switzerland.



At Dublin Castle opening reception, Joe Fulcher, U.S.A.; Beatriz deTouzet, Argentina; Peter Tonev, Bulgaria; Jane Fraser, U.S.A.; and Ma Carme Junca, and Marina Llobera, Spain.



Blanca Gonzalez, Spain.



SFA founder Malcolm Fraser's granddaughter Celia Gruss, France, and Yulia Filatova, Russia, at Dublin Castle.



Ruth Ezrati, Israel; and Isabella Reichel, U.S.A.



◀ Claudia Furquim de Andrade, Brazil; and Suzana Jelcic Jaksic, Croatia.



Joseph Nsubuga, Uganda; Jane Fraser; and Yuki Hara, Japan.



Front row: Lisa Avery, Canada; Simona Bernardini, Italy; Jane Fraser; and Massimiliano Marchiori, Italy. Back row: Suzana Jelcic Jaksic, Croatia; JoAnne Wilding, Canada; Isis Meira, Brazil; Beatriz de Touzet, Argentina; Peter Tonev, Bulgaria; Merethe Moerk, Norway; Steen Fibiger, Denmark; Anne-Marie Simon, France; David Shapiro, U.S.A.; Florence Juillerat, Switzerland and Mirjana Lasan, Croatia.



◀ Joseph Agius, Malta, at the SFA booth.

Quality journalism honored

For the 15th year, the Stuttering Foundation recognizes excellence in news reporting.

The 2006 Media Awards go to five distinguished journalists.

Each winning entry successfully enhanced public understanding of this complex speech disorder during the past year.

“Journalists in a variety of media have done an outstanding job of focusing on the causes and treatment of stuttering over the past year,” said Jane Fraser, president of the 59-year-old nonprofit foundation. “We were particularly pleased this year to see increased focus on stuttering in the workplace, an area that’s previously not received much attention.”



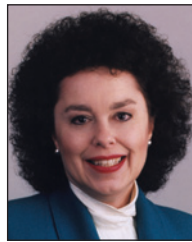
Fitch

T. Grant Fitch of the Post-Tribune, Merrillville, Ind., received first place in the daily newspaper category for “Saving stutterers.” The article provided readers with timely information that parents can use to help their children overcome stuttering, including taking advantage of resources offered by their local schools.

Dorothy P. Dougherty, Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine earned first place for magazine articles. Dougherty’s



Dougherty



Culp

her nationally syndicated column *Workwise*. In her inspirational column, Dr. Culp explained how people who stutter can make it in the workplace.

Joyce Lain Kennedy earned second place. Her nationally syndicated column *Careers Now* helped a reader who stutters prepare for a job interview.



Kennedy

In the television category, **Janelle Wolfe** of Comcast Tonight, Reading, Pa., received first place for a lively segment featuring speech-language pathologist Joseph Donaher of Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and the DVD *Stuttering: For Kids, By Kids*. Donaher and Wolfe shared timely resources for children who stutter.



Wolfe

The awards were announced during Stuttering Awareness Week, May 8-14. 20/20’s co-anchor John Stossel led this year’s awareness campaign.

article gave readers the tools they need to identify stuttering in young children and offers useful advice on how to improve fluency.

Mildred L. Culp took first place for

Childhood stuttering part of Congressional Record

U.S. Congressman Frank R. Wolf of Virginia read the article about Tiger Woods from the summer newsletter and submitted remarks to the *Congressional Record* to draw attention to childhood stuttering.

On June 20, the congressman said, “Mr Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the House to an article I recently read about Tiger Woods in the Stuttering Foundation’s summer newsletter. I stuttered as a child and I think it’s important for kids to know that they can overcome this complex disorder. Tiger Woods is an excellent example of the many people who have led successful lives despite struggling with stuttering as a child.”



Wolf

Transatlantic *Continued from front page*

his role in *A Fish Called Wanda*, in which he portrayed a character called Ken who stuttered. He based the role on his own father who suffered from stuttering all his life. Palin is best known for his comic roles as part of the Monty Python comedy group.



Diana de Grunwald, Willie Botterill and Frances Cook of the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children with Jane Fraser of the Stuttering Foundation.

Speaking wasn’t always easy for Damon

New York Daily News writer Anthony McCarron inspired people of all ages with a July article that told of Yankees outfielder Johnny Damon and stuttering.

“...speaking didn’t used to be so easy for Damon. For several years as a child, he stuttered so badly he was afraid to introduce himself. Sometimes, there was cruel teasing from other kids,” McCarron wrote.

“My mind was going a thousand miles an hour and my mouth would say whatever came to it. I slowed down, took my time, connected my words



and got better,” recalled Damon, who started speech therapy in second grade.

A link to the complete article is at www.stutteringhelp.org.

Rabinowitz's podcast

World-renowned wildlife conservationist Alan Rabinowitz has been leading the fight to save tigers in the remote Hukaung Valley in northern-most Myanmar.

Now, you can listen to all of the details of Alan's fascinating journey on a podcast at www.audible.com/tiger-man. There is also a link directly to his podcast at www.stutteringhelp.org.

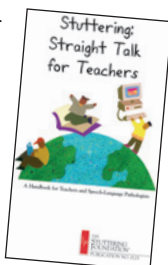
Rabinowitz has previously said struggling with stuttering helped shape his life.

A DVD of an inspirational keynote address by Rabinowitz is also available from the Foundation. □



Translation for Russian teachers

Vyatcheslav V. Lep-tyukhov, author of the Web site www.stuttering.ru, is translating *Stuttering: Straight Talk for Teachers* handbook into Russian. □



Web conference to explore stuttering

In October individuals interested in stuttering, professional therapists as well as clients and their support persons, will discuss this much misunderstood speech disorder in one of the largest professional conferences of the year. But not face-to-face — this conference is freely-available on the Internet.

The ninth annual International Stuttering Online Conference runs from October 1-22 at the Stuttering Home Page, www.stutteringhomepage.com.

Conference presentations are posted for reading on the web site. Presentations are designed for a general audience, and feedback and discussion is invited through an Internet bulletin board.

Past conferences have drawn participation from more than 130 different countries around the world. □



Help for back-to-school season

With school back in session, the Stuttering Foundation offers materials that are helpful for teachers and students.

Stuttering: For Kids, By Kids is a 12-minute DVD that features an animated basketball speaking with children of various ages about their stuttering.

Brooklyn-based speech pathologist Peter Reitzes, M.A., lets his students bring friends to view the video with. He provides doughnuts and milk for the "party."

During and after the video, Reitzes keeps an open discussion with students of topics discussed on the video such as "what is stuttering?," "does stuttering bother you?," "is stuttering a big deal for you?," "teasing," "talking openly about stuttering," and "advice for children who go to speech therapy."

After watching the video, he asks each student to write down two things they liked or learned from the film. He then collects the responses and reads them aloud.

Stuttering: Straight Talk for Teachers is another popular DVD that has received nationwide attention. □



Recently, it was featured in *Teaching Pre K-8*, on several Web sites and in a number of other publications.

Complete with handbook, this DVD helps answer common questions educators may have when teaching a child who stutters.

"By presenting a range of perspectives, *Stuttering: Straight Talk for Teachers* can build a shared dialog and a strong educational partnership that includes the therapist, teachers, parents and student," writes reviewer MaryAnn Byrnes, Ed.D.,

University of Massachusetts, Boston. She adds she'll be recommending it to her colleagues in schools.

Both videos can be ordered in VHS and DVD. They are also available as free streaming video at www.stutteringhelp.org.

Notes to the Teacher brochure is another great resource. It answers questions educators may have and includes *9 Tips for Talking With the Child Who Stutters*.

Visit www.stutteringhelp.org to see these products or call toll-free 800-992-9392. □

Windows

Continued from page 2

not speaking. One surprising finding was that when adults who stutter are reading, their brains are processing some aspects of language very differently compared to control participants who do not stutter.

What we are doing now — We all know that stuttering starts in very young children. Over the past five years, we have been developing ways to gather the same physiological measures from young children. By adapting our methods and making them kid friendly, we have been able to test children as young as four. In the current phase of the Purdue Stuttering Project, we are bringing in a group of 50 children who stutter ages 4-5 years. We plan to test these children and a matched group of non-stuttering children over a five-year period (please note that the NIH, because of budget restraints, only gave us 3 years of funding, and we hope to get them to

support the later years!).

We know from earlier research that approximately half of the children who are stuttering at 4-5 years, will persist and have a chronic stuttering problem, while approximately half of these children will recover. By using new experimental windows on how young brains are developing speech, we hope to develop methods by which we can predict which children are likely to have a chronic stuttering problem. In addition we will attempt to determine the factors that play a critical role in the development of chronic stuttering so that better therapies for young children will be available.

Thanks to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communicative Disorders and to the Malcolm Fraser Foundation for their support of the Purdue Stuttering Project, which is co-directed by Anne Smith, Ph.D., and Christine Weber-Fox, Ph.D. It has been exploring new frontiers in the physiology of stuttering since 1989. □

Workshop ‘enriching, engrossing, enlightening’

In June, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), Florida State University, and the Stuttering Foundation co-sponsored the first Mid-Atlantic Workshop in Philadelphia.

Twenty-one speech-language pathologists from California, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Oklahoma, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, Canada, and South Africa met June 21-25 on the CHOP campus to learn how to assess and treat preschoolers, school-age children, and adolescents who stutter.

The workshop was led by co-instructors Joe Donaher, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Kristin Chmela, private practice, Long Grove, Ill.; and Lisa Scott, Florida State University.

The goals of the workshop were to increase participants’ skills and confidence in communicating effectively with children, diagnose the extent and severity of the disorder, develop appropriate treatment plans, design meaningful therapy activities, and learn to model both fluency shaping and stuttering modification tools.

Emphasis was placed on creating relationships with children, families, and teachers that would facilitate the greatest success for children who are working to improve their communication skills. Learning opportunities included traditional lectures, guided case planning, daily small-group practice of the various clinical and relationship skills, and watching videotapes of therapy sessions.

The participants and instructors all agreed that the workshop was a great success. “We were so thrilled to have so many clinicians from a variety of work settings devote a week of their summer to learning more about stuttering,” said Kristin Chmela.

Joe Donaher was especially enthused about hosting so many individuals interested in helping children who stutter, saying that “The dedication of these SLPs to helping kids is inspirational. Many children will benefit from the talents and interest of these individuals.”

Feedback from workshop participants was outstanding, and included comments such as “I really think this week will stand out as perhaps the most significant continuing ed-



Front row (seated): Lisa Scott, Kristin Chmela, Jane Fraser, Joe Donaher; Second row: Kate Eichstadt, Brett Kluetz, Anne Marie Wagener, Astrid Cordero, Lonnie Harris, Roxanne Fleck, Joanne Summer, Terri Hessler, Jennifer Kleinow, Jim Mancinelli, Diedre Dennis, Lori-Ann Acenas Mauricio, Carol Ellis, Kris Kelley, Lori Graca Griffin; Back row: Kris Baines, Stacey Simpson, Dina Lilian, Steffi Schopick, Carolyn Belle, and Maya Brown.



A time to talk about caseloads and network is part of the conference.



Participants watch a video of a therapy session.



Jennifer Kleinow, LaSalle University; Kris Baines, California; and Brett Kluetz, Baltimore, share ideas.



Dr. Judy Gravel and Joe Donaher of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.



Maya Brown, Nova Scotia, Canada, and Lonnie Harris, Kentucky.

ucation experience of my professional career. Thank you for making it possible!”

James Mancinelli of La Salle University said, “My experience at the 2006 Mid-Atlantic Workshop was enriching, engrossing, enlightening, and certainly enticed me to learn more about stuttering and ways to better serve people who stutter.”

Additional five-day workshops are being planned for Summer 2007, as well as the two-week Workshop for Special-

ists held at the University of Iowa.

For applications or more information, contact the Stuttering Foundation at 1-800-992-9392, download applications on the web at www.stutteringhelp.org, or email info@stutteringhelp.org. □



Dear SFA: Reader Response

Send letters to SFA, P.O. Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749 or email info@stutteringhelp.org.

Poem on stuttering

Dear SFA,

Hi my name is Alicia and I'm 13 years old. I've been stuttering since I was 5 years old. I'm from Virginia Beach, Va. Here is a poem I wrote:

The Stuttering Ways

By Alicia

Coming home, covered in tears
 Life swept away by fear
 Can't even say my name
 To worried about playing games
 You're always put on the spot
 Pretending to be someone you're not
 Avoiding words that you can't say
 Is getting worse day by day
 What is happening to my brain?
 It causes so much pain
 Trying to give a class presentation
 Just ruins your reputation
 Trying to do something new
 Is hard while kids are teasing you
 Always fluent when singing
 Never while mingling
 Never press hardly
 Always try to touch lightly
 Speech is like a river flowing
 Until a rock falls in and keeps it
 from going
 I'll never be a lawyer or vet
 I'll deserve more than what I'll get
 Why did this have to happen to me?
 Can't you see that it isn't easy being
 like me?
 Take a walk in my shoes for a day
 Would you want to live my way?

Greetings from overseas



Friends and Family Day in Mauritius.

Dear SFA:

I would like to thank you for all the materials I have received in good order. I have added them to our library so that every member of Parole d'Espoir can use them. I am also glad to include a photo of our group which was taken during *Friends and Family Day*.
 Jim Caroopen
 Mauritius

Fan of James Earl Jones

Dear SFA,

I really like your newsletter and brochures that you have about stuttering. The brochure that tells different facts about stuttering is great. I did not know that so many people stuttered. James Earl Jones is my favorite.
 Damarius
 Greenville, Miss.



James Earl Jones

Wonderful Web site

Dear SFA,

I want to thank you for creating a wonderful Web site that helps people with their stuttering. I have been stuttering ever since kindergarten and now I am in high school.

I've had great speech teachers. I had hard-talking stuttering from age 4 to age 10. Now my speech is clearing up slowly.

It really hurts me that I can't talk like other students.

I just want to say I do not feel bad about stuttering.

Jonathan, 14
 Greenville, Miss.

Mission to Togo



I went to Togo on behalf of the ISA to give conferences on stuttering and train students of the first generation of speech therapists in West and Central Africa. I am happy to announce the Togolese Stutterers' Association was created in June '06 in Lomé.

Anne Marie Simon
 Paris

Editor's note: Anne Marie attended the SFA/NU Workshop for Specialists in 1988 and carries the torch worldwide.

A picture's worth...



The artwork at the left is by Bryce, 8, Amagansett, N.Y., who wrote, "When I talk, a really mean monster sneaks up on me and shoves a rock in my throat. Everything gets tight and I can't talk. The more rocks begin coming up. I sometimes get scared and want to run away. My speech teacher has taught me ways to help when this happens. I take a deep breath and stretch out the beginnings of my words and sentences and then I spit up the rocks! Then I feel much better and I can talk again. I also try not to speak too fast when I get mad or excited. If you try really hard, you can get the monster and stuttering to go away too."



Above: Gage, 10, writes, "My stutter is: car driving on a bumpy road."

Do you have artwork to share? You can e-mail it to info@stutteringhelp.org.

Singer Withers overcame stuttering

While Bill Withers has long been on the SFA list of "Famous People Who Stutter," many people probably didn't realize he stuttered.

The April/May 2006 issue of the magazine *Waxpoetics* sheds some light on the brilliant career of the famed singer and songwriter.

Born in 1938 in Slab Fork, W.V., Withers was the youngest of six children. When his father

died when Withers was small, he was raised by his mother and grandmother, both of whom worked as domestics.

Not motivated in school and struggling with stuttering, Withers dropped out after ninth grade, later to join the Navy. It was in the Navy that for the first time he was able receive adequate speech therapy.

The article in *Waxpoetics* lists, "...his chronic stutter as one of the possible reasons he stayed in the service for so long, because he used the time to become comfortable with speech and gain self-confidence."

After his hitch in the Navy, Withers worked in jobs ranging from aircraft repairman to milkman. Finally in 1967, at age 29, he decided to pursue his interest in music.

The famed Booker T. Jones produced his first album, *Just As I Am*, which was recorded with the MG's as the backing band along with Stephen Stills. Ironically, the lead single *Harlem* failed to chart, but its B-side, *Ain't No Sunshine* went gold. The song also catapulted Withers to stardom in the music world, as he won his first Grammy as a songwriter.

Withers follow-up album *Still Bill* yielded hits such as *Use Me*, *Kissing*



Withers

My Love and *Who Is He (And Who Is He to You)*. However, it is the classic song *Lean On Me*, which is most remembered, topping the Billboard Hot 100 charts for three weeks in July 1972 in addition to topping the R & B charts.

Between 1972 and 1979, Withers put out five albums. In 1981, he teamed up with saxophonist Grover Washington Jr., both writing and performing lead vocals on Washington's hit *Just the Two of Us*, which spent three weeks at number two.

Just the Two of Us garnered him four Grammy nominations that year.

In 1987, Withers received his ninth Grammy nomination and won his third Grammy award on account of Club Nouveau covering *Lean On Me* and taking it to number one on the Billboard charts. It marked the fifth time in the rock era that a song had reached number one by two different artists.

In this case, it was the first time that both artists who recorded the song were African-American. Withers' songs have been recorded over the last 36 years by hundreds of artists, such as Barbra Stresand, Michael Jackson, Aretha Franklin, Sting, Temptations, Paul McCartney, Tom Jones, Joe Cocker and Mick Jagger.

Some articles from past decades credit the newfound fluency that Withers received from his speech therapy in the Navy as giving him the confidence to pursue a career in music.

Unlike many other artists, Withers was able to retain much of his songwriting and publishing rights. *Lean On Me* alone is said to have turned into a multi-million dollar goldmine over the years with use in movies and advertisements, as well as extensive radio play.

He hopes to soon release his first album of new material since 1985. □



Daniel Altman is interviewed by WAVE 3 TV News.

Teen speaks out about stuttering

Daniel Altman, 13, decided to make stuttering awareness the focus of the community service project for his upcoming bar mitzvah. His goal is to tell as many people as possible in the Louisville, Ky., area that stuttering is nothing to be ashamed of.

Daniel took his campaign to Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, who issued a proclamation declaring the Week of May 8 as Stuttering Awareness Week in Louisville and Southern Indiana.

The teenager also hung this year's Stuttering Awareness Week poster featuring 20/20's John Stossel around town.

Daniel wants to place stuttering resource materials in every public library in Louisville before his bar mitzvah, which is on Nov. 4.

In order to further his efforts, Daniel wrote local TV and radio stations asking them to publicize stuttering awareness week.

At least one local station, WAVE 3, featured Daniel and his efforts on their newscast and Web site.

Daniel knows firsthand how difficult stuttering can be. But he told the NBC station he doesn't try to hide it when others try to embarrass him.

"I just kind of lay it out — 'I stutter and I don't appreciate it that you make fun of me. Please stop.'"

Daniel's efforts are especially for other kids who are not yet brave enough to take a stand.

"It's a sad thing, which is why I need to further educate people so that people won't have to cower inside corners. People can feel more comfortable about who they are," he told the Louisville station.

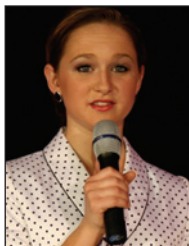
In addition to the on-air segment, reporter Lori Lyle provided links to resources online. □

Woolwine takes her message on the road

Eva Woolwine, who ran for Miss Kansas this summer, is taking time off from pageants to focus on college, and stuttering awareness.

Woolwine, who also performs magic tricks, says she's been very busy.

"This summer I have received more



Woolwine

requests and invitations to speak and perform," she said.

"I have been going everywhere: civic groups, senior citizen groups, classrooms, Retired Teachers Association of Kansas. I have many more coming up in the fall."

Woolwine has served as junior spokesperson for the SFA and participated in last year's National Association of Young People Who Stutter: *Friends* Convention. □

Ehud

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(Ratner, 1997) and the Cognitive Interference Model (Bosshardt, 2002). Investigators have focused their studies on five distinct linguistic variables: (a) phonological aspects, (b) loci of stuttering, (c) language complexity, (d) pragmatics (child's use of language), and (e) language skills. For example, research concerned with the first variable listed above has provided evidence that stuttering is increased as a function of language complexity (Logan & Conture, 1995; Zackheim & Conture, 2003).

Regarding language as risk factor, perhaps most interesting to clinicians and parents has been a relatively longstanding view that stuttering children are more likely than normally speaking peers to have language learning difficulties or impairments (see reviews by Andrews, et al., 1983, and Ratner, 1997). A few current articles continue to propagate this view (Arndt & Healey, 2001; Wingate, 2001). On the other hand, over the past 15 years, extensive longitudinal studies at the University of Illinois Stuttering Research Program have revealed no delayed language development in young children who stutter. To the contrary, we have found that near onset they fall within normal range; in fact, often well above normal (Watkins, Yairi & Ambrose, 1999). Recent research in other laboratories in the U.S.A. and Europe supports this finding (Anderson & Conture, 2000; Häge, 2001; Miles & Ratner, 2001), which seems to agree with many parents' reports that their child had a spurt of language development just prior to the onset of stuttering, speaking in longer sentences and using new words. (They often say that "his brain seemed to be working faster than his mouth" could manage.) Furthermore, we have found that children who eventually persist in stuttering tend to perform above normative expectations at the early stage of stuttering and maintain that level over time. Children who eventually recover, however, tend to perform above normal at the early stage of the disorder but approach the norm as they recover (Watkins et al., 1999, Yairi & Ambrose, 2005). Strangely, then, high language skills rather than low ones might be a risk factor for stuttering, particularly for persistent, chronic stuttering. It is intriguing to theorize that the emergence of stuttering involves some type of trade-off in linguistic resources (e.g., advanced language at the expense of motoric flu-

ency) and that recovery from stuttering would occur as these children reduce their early accelerated rate of language development. If our findings are valid, they will have important clinical implications for parent counseling and therapy programs.

To be sure, there is no consensus at this juncture concerning advanced language skills as a risk factor in early childhood stuttering. Recently, a few studies reported some results that differ from the Illinois findings. These studies, however,

“... high language skills rather than low ones might be a risk factor for stuttering, particularly for persistent, chronic stuttering.”

raise questions concerning their methods. For example, Anderson and Conture (2000) noted that although all their participants had language abilities at or above normal limits, the stuttering children still demonstrated somewhat lower skills in certain areas than normally speaking peers. Watkins and Johnson (2004), however, pointed out that in many past studies reporting lower language skills in children who stutter, the comparison groups of normally speaking subjects were selected in biased ways, often coming from appreciably higher social groups known to have richer language. In contrast, the Illinois studies addressed this problem by comparing the performance of the stuttering children to a much broader base of well-established normative data. It is possible, however, that further research with preschool children using more sensitive tools will reveal discrete language differences between groups. Other examples of disagreement are seen in studies with school aged children who stutter reporting between 9 and 13% of the children to exhibit concomitant language difficulties (Blood, Ridenhour, Qualls, & Hammer, 2003). Keep in mind however, that by this age at least 75% of the original stuttering population had disappeared due to natural recovery. The remaining (persistent) minority has been reported to possess some different genetic components. All in all, at the present, language alone is insufficient for making strong early predictions of eventual per-

sistency or recovery.

In summary, although we believe that associations between stuttering and several linguistic variables do exist, so far no clear causal relations have been established, and there is no consensus on their precise role or contributions as risk factors for the onset of stuttering and its persistence, or their influence on natural recovery. This and several other aspects of the stuttering-language connection continue to be the subject of scientific discussions and controversies (Nippold, 2004; Wingate, 2001). Fortunately, it has attracted very rich and varied research activities, the fruits of which should significantly enhance our understanding and treatment of stuttering.

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School clinician conference gets high marks

The Marriott Conference Center in Lisle, Ill., was the setting for the Stuttering Foundation's annual conference for school clinicians, *Stuttering Therapy: Practical Ideas for the School Clinician*.

Eighty-five people attended this conference representing 13 states and a variety of employment settings, including schools, university clinics, and private practice.

Participants heard presentations from Tricia Zebrowski, Charlie Healey, Peter Ramig, Bill Murphy, Lisa Scott, and Kristin Chmela on topics such as current research in childhood stuttering, practical strategies for measuring progress, counseling children and their families about stuttering, treating children with concomitant communication disorders, and dealing effectively with guilt and shame.

New this year, guided practice sessions were held in the main session room with guided practice leaders seated at each table. This created an intimate and personalized learning environment that made discussion and practice easy. Small group guided practice leaders included Susan Cochrane, Kevin Eldridge, Susan Hamilton, Elise Kaufman, Mary Mantilla, Ann McKeehan, and Jennifer Watson.

Presenters profiled children who stutter through the use of video segments and examples of child responses. The audience responded enthusiastically to these strategies which facilitated greater understanding. Many clinicians were happy to have the opportunity to see techniques and ideas being demonstrated as well as to ask questions of leading experts in stuttering.



Conference leaders: Mary Mantilla, Ann McKeehan, Bill Murphy, Susan Hamilton, Jennifer Watson, Charles Healey, Kristin Chmela, Susan Cochrane, Carolyn Gregory, Kevin Eldridge, Elise Kaufman, Peter Ramig, and Lisa Scott.



Time was set aside during the conference for attendees to share stories.

The unique combination of presentations balanced with small group guided practice make this conference one of the premier continuing education opportunities available to school-based speech pathologists. Evaluations by attendees were consistently positive: "This conference was a huge energizer for me. Probably the best I've ever been to," "This conference was one of the most informational and inspirational ones I've been to," "The hands-on discussion groups were wonderful and were so helpful in being able to share and learn from others."

Another attendee remarked, "This conference has changed my perspective of my own abilities to help children and adults who stutter." □



Several 2006 conference leaders. Seated: Jennifer Watson and Carolyn Gregory. Back row: Ann McKeehan, Susan M. Cochrane, Patricia Zebrowski, Jane Fraser, and Elise S. Kaufman.



New format makes it easier to exchange ideas during guided practice sessions.

For Combined Federal Campaign donors, please note that our code number for the 2006–2007 CFC campaign is **CFC #2539**.

We are proud that over 95 cents of every dollar goes directly into helping those who stutter.

Exciting news out of Russia

For the first time ever, the SFA is included in the *Russian Journal of Special Education*.

The article, by Yulia Filatova, tells the history of the Foundation, describes the workshops for specialists in stuttering, and outlines the SFA's outreaches.

The article includes a picture of the Foundation's first conference in 1957

and a more recent photo from the Iowa workshop.

Filatova, who resides in Moscow, also wrote a book about cluttering that will be published in the fall.



▶ The Stuttering Foundation Five Day Eastern Workshop, *Diagnosis and Treatment of Children and Adolescents Who Stutter: Practical Strategies*, will be held at Boston University, June 20-24, 2007. Workshop leaders are Diane Parris, M.A., Sheryl Gottwald, Ph.D., and Adriana DiGrande, M.A. with guest speaker Edward G. Conture, Ph.D. The Stuttering Foundation pays all tuition costs as well as room and board for this exceptional in-depth workshop.

▶ The Stuttering Foundation Five Day Western Workshop, *Diagnosis and Treatment of Children and Adolescents Who Stutter: Practical Strategies*, will be held at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon, June 20-24, 2007. Workshop leaders are Susan Hamilton, M.A., Jennifer Watson, Ph.D., and Ellen Reuler, M.A. The Stuttering Foundation pays

all tuition costs as well as room and board for this exceptional in-depth workshop.

▶ The Stuttering Foundation two-week *Workshop for Specialists* will be held at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, June 17-29, 2007, directed by Patricia Zebrowski, Ph.D. and Toni Cilek, M.A. Guest speakers include Lisa Scott, Ph.D., and others to be announced. This unique workshop brings together speech-language pathologists from all over the world for its 18th year. As in the five-day workshops, the Stuttering Foundation pays all tuition costs and room and board for the two weeks.

▶ The 2006 National British Stammering Association (BSA) Conference will be held at the Telford campus of the University of Wolverhampton, England, Sept. 15-17, 2006.

▶ The Annual Convention of Friends will be held in late June or early July 2007 in St. Louis. For information and registration, visit www.friendswhostutter.org or call 866-866-8335.

▶ First World Conference on Cluttering: "It's about time" will be May 12-14, 2007, in Razlog, Bulgaria.

▶ The International Stuttering Association will hold the 8th Congress for People Who Stutter May 6-10, 2007, in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Visit www.isa.org.

▶ Dave Germeyer offers a repair service for the Edinburgh Masker. Contact him via e-mail at dgermeyer@earthlink.net, write G.D. Germeyer, 306 S. Baltimore St., Dillsburg, PA 17019-1011, or call (717) 432-3103.

▶ LISTSERV for doctoral students specializing in stuttering. The intent of this list is to serve as an open forum for doctoral students. Membership is limited to doctoral students only. To subscribe, send the following message to listserv@listserv.temple.edu: "subscribe stutterdoc firstname lastname" or contact Joe Donaher at turtlecraw@aol.com.

▶ For those interested in joining Toastmasters International as a way to improve fluency, communication or public speaking skills, their address is: Toastmasters International, Inc., Attention: Membership Department, P.O. Box 9052, Mission Viejo, CA 92690, Telephone: (714) 858-8255; Fax: (714) 858-1207.

You can give online

You can make a one-time donation or set up monthly and quarterly recurring gifts by clicking on the **Donation** tab or **Make A Gift** at www.stutteringhelp.org.

You can donate with a credit card or your checking account. □

Books on Stuttering or Related Topics Available from Bookstores:

▶ *Stuttering: An Integrated Approach to Its Nature and Treatment*, Third Edition by Barry Guitar. 2006. Available from Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 800-638-3030, www.LWW.com

▶ *Stuttering Recovery Personal and Empirical Perspectives* by Dale F. Williams. 2006. Available from Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Mahwah, NJ, www.erlbaum.com

▶ *Speech Therapy for the Severe Older Adolescent and Adult Stutterer: A Program for Change* by George Helliesen. 2006. Available from Apollo Press, Newport News, VA, 800-683-9713, www.apollopress.com.

▶ *The Child and Adolescent Stuttering Treatment and Activity Resource Guide* by Peter Ramig and Darrell Dodge. 2005. Available from Thomson Delmar Learning, Clifton Park, NY.

▶ *Early Childhood Stuttering: For Clinicians by Clinicians* by Ehud Yairi and Nicoline Grinager Ambrose. 2005. Available from ProEd, Austin, TX and amazon.com.

▶ *Begaïement: Intervention preventive precoce chez le jeune enfant* by Anne Marie Simon et al. 2005. Available from the Association Parole Begaïement, www.begaïement.org

▶ *Teach Me How To Say It Right, Helping Your Child With Articulation Problems* by Dorothy P. Dougherty, M.A. 2005. Published by New Harbinger's Publications, Oakland, CA. Available at www.newharbinger.com.

▶ *Troy's Amazing Universe*, by S. Kennedy Tosten. 2002. Published by Brite Press. Order from www.TroysAmazingUniverse.com or amazon.com. A story about a seven year old who stutters.

▶ *The Strong Silent Type*, by C. Kelly Robinson. A gripping novel about a young NFL star coming to grips with his stuttering. Available from New American Library, New York, and www.amazon.com.

▶ *Experiencias para compatir entre padres e hijos* by Karina Couselo Rios, Maria Marta Gebara and Mariela Ginhson. Order from equipfono_gcg@yahoo.com.

▶ *Stuttering Therapy: Rationale and Procedures* by Hugo H. Gregory, June H. Campbell, Diane G. Hill, and Carolyn B. Gregory. Available from Allyn and Bacon, Boston, MA; www.ablongman.com. 2003.

▶ *Les begaïements: Histoire, psychologie, evaluation, varietes, traitements* by Anne Van Hout and Francoise Estienne. Published by Masson, S.A., 120 boulevard Saint Germain, 75280 Paris Cedex 06, France.

▶ *Forty Years After Therapy: One Man's Story* by George Helliesen, M.A. Available from Apollo Press, Inc., 1-800-683-9713 or www.apollopress.com.

▶ *Understanding Stuttering* by Nathan Lavid. 2003. University Press of Mississippi, Jackson, MS. Order from bookstores or amazon.com.

▶ *Programmed Stuttering Therapy for Children and Adults* by Bruce Ryan, Ph.D. Available through publisher Charles C. Thomas or online at www.amazon.com

▶ *Making a Difference for America's Children: SLPs in the Public Schools* by Barbara Moore-Brown and Judy Montgomery. Available from Thinking Publications, Eau Claire, WI. 715-832-2488.

▶ *Ben Has Something To Say* by Laurie Lears, illustrations by Karen Ritz. A book for children ages 5-9. Albert Whitman & Co., Morton Grove, IL. 800-255-7675.

▶ *Sharing the Journey: Lessons from my Students and Clients with Tangled Tongues* by Lon Emerick, Ph.D., available from North Country Publishing, 355 Heidtman Road, Skandia, MI 49885, for \$13.95 plus \$2. postage and handling, call toll-free 1-866-942-7898; or from the Stuttering Foundation at 800-992-9392. □

NSSLHA donations

Our thanks to the University of Cincinnati and Nova Southeastern University chapters of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association for their recent gifts to the SFA.



The generous gift from the student chapter at the University of Cincinnati will help children who stutter.

A student at Nova contributed \$300 in honor of her fellow students.

"I hope this will encourage others to do the same," she wrote. "The Stuttering Foundation is certainly a cause that NSSLHA students can support and know that their gift is making a difference." □

Drug results promising

Indevus Pharmaceuticals announced the results of a Phase II trial for pagoclone in stuttering and the data were quite promising.



Indevus said it was very encouraged by the results of the trial on a number of levels. Very importantly, the safety profile of pagoclone was excellent, as it has been in previous trials, the drug company reported.

Indevus will be meeting with FDA to define the pathway for further development of pagoclone for stuttering. Stay tuned at www.stutteringhelp.org for more information. □

The Stuttering Foundation of America is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is classified as a private operating foundation as defined in section 4942(j)(3). Charitable contributions and bequests to the Foundation are tax-deductible, subject to limitations under the Code.

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