Welcome to the Kohn Vision Science Library Newsletter

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Partners in Patient Care

Last night, just as I was leaving the Library, I received a telephone call. It was from a doctor who was seeing a patient the next morning. He was considering a certain treatment, but wanted to consult the latest medical literature on the topic. Yes, I was on my way out the door and I have lots of other work I could be doing. But truth be told, finding information on patient care was always, and always will be, my first love. My initiation into the world of health resources was in an AIDS information center. We were on the front lines of that health crisis, and getting medical professionals access to the very latest on treatment options, including alternative therapies, as well as delivering consumer health resources to patients was what we did. It was exciting and incredibly rewarding.

Every health professional needs the latest information. Every patient who walks through the door has the possibility of presenting something that is just a bit different from what you’ve seen before. And that’s where the Kohn Vision Science Library comes in. We have access to the latest information, and trained librarians who can find research that answers your questions, so your treatment will always be state-of-the-art. We can help your patients too, with access to patient-friendly information on a variety of conditions. Just call the library or email me directly (ewells@sunyopt.edu). We can usually respond to your request the same day...sometimes even within a few hours.

And to the Class of 2015, congratulations and remember that the Library is still here for you!

As Library Director, I plan budgets, buy resources, and fix jammed printers. But as a Librarian, I fill information needs. And today, I had the opportunity to help a doctor provide the best possible treatment to a patient. That’s what I call a good day at work.

Elaine Wells, MA, MLS, AHIP
Library Director
ewells@sunyopt.edu

MedlinePlus (Inclusion of these information sources in the Kohn Vision Science Newsletter does not imply endorsement by the Kohn Vision Science Library or SUNY College of Optometry)

Kids’ Eye Injuries from Air, BB and Paintball Guns on the Rise

Gene Therapy Shows Promise for Inherited Eye Disease

Surge in Pollen May Spur Many Cases of Dry Eye
Better Diabetes Blood Sugar Management Leads to Fewer Eye Surgeries

Keep Your Vision Healthy: Learn About Comprehensive Dilated Eye Exams

Brain’s Visual Center Similar in Sighted and Those Blind from Birth

Americans Get Too Many Tests Before Cataract Surgery

Most American Unaware that Common Drugs, Light Colored Eyes Can Increase Vulnerability to UV Related Eye Disease

Diabetes Drug Metformin May Lower Glaucoma Risk

New Publications in the Library


**Natural Eye Care**, a comprehensive manual for practitioners of Oriental medicine, Grossman, M., New Paltz, NY, Vision Works, Inc. 2002


**Parent guide to strabismus, eye muscle surgery & vision therapy**, Gallop, S., Optometric Extension Progress Foundation, USA, 2014
Recollections of Participation in the first Year-Long Optometric Residency Program

In 1974, I was in my fourth year at Pacific University. The state of optometry was very different. There were no DPAs, or TPAs. A single slit lamp was in a room designated as “special testing.” Timoptic was not yet known and glaucoma was treated with miotics. Ocular Pathology was a cursory course that consisted of a myriad of items that we really did not need to know. Hard contact lenses, according to my contact lens professor, made patients “blink like a frog in a hailstorm,” and soft contact lenses were just an emerging and unknown entity. The majority of my peers were sitting in a dark room parroting which is better “#1 or #2”. The most interesting course in my curriculum was binocular vision.

I had the privilege of participating in a newly formed clinic. Bill Ludlam from the Optometric Center of NY (now University Eye Center) started a strabismus clinic at Pacific University. I saw him straighten out an eye with some simple procedures, and had my optometric religious experience.

On a bulletin board at the college there was an announcement that SUNY College of Optometry had announced they were starting a one year residency in vision therapy. This was a monumental step for optometric education, as prior residencies were post-graduate courses that one enrolled in for a fee.

For the first time in history, optometry was following the medical model of one year post graduate education as a salaried position. I applied, and was accepted.

Irwin Suchoff joined the faculty of the new SUNY State College of Optometry. This caring and gifted optometric educator’s concept of “relaxing” was to give 150% to this program and to be mentor and lifelong friend to all who followed in our path. Irwin Suchoff is the father of optometric residency programs.

The jewel of optometry in 1974 was functional vision care/vision therapy, and the SUNY Optometry Center of New York was the place to experience it. The talented faculty gave and shared with colleagues, students, and new residents. We worked with giants in the field of vision training, including: Irwin Suchoff, Arnold Sherman, Martin Birnbaum, Ira Bernstein, Nat Flax, Al Rappaport, Myron Weinstein, Alan Cohen, Israel Greenwald, and Carl Gruning.

I had the privilege of meeting A.M. Skeffington and interacting with Bob Kraskin, Gerry Getman, and Don Getz. These interactions were priceless. We rotated through a one-of-a-kind Infants Vision Clinic under the expert guidance of two giants of developmental vision, Elliott Forrest and David FitzGerald.
Friday afternoons were special in that we attended weekly seminars on timely topics of functional vision. The residents had the opportunity to visit the offices of the private practitioners with whom we interacted at SUNY. We saw first that those who teach were also successful in the private sector.

Achievements, such as a Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry and the College of Optometrists in Vision Development were not lofty goals but a natural progression of professional development. When interviewed for both of these organizations, I sensed that my short but enriched experience might have been nearly equal to that of the examiner.

My residency allowed me to partner with a former president of the NYS Optometric Association in professional practice. Opportunities were evolving in Federal service at the VA and Alan Cohen invited me to join his emerging optometry service at Northport VAMC.

I have practiced 36 years in private practice and optometric education and for 30 years in Federal service as part of the medical staff, supervising two orthoptic clinics, and teach orthoptic therapy to our residents in rehabilitative optometry. Students from both SUNY and New England College of Optometry rotate quarterly in the program.

My residency evolved into 36 consecutive years as an optometric educator and as a private practitioner. Looking back, there was nothing more dramatic in shaping my professional career than participating in the first residency program.

I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Norman Haffner, the first president of SUNY Optometry. It was through his vision and determination that the Optometric Center of New York, the creation of the SUNY State College of Optometry and the creation of the first optometric residency program in the country became realities.

I start my 36th year with the same enthusiasm in functional vision, clinical teaching and patient care, that I had the very first day of my residency program.

Article written by Estren, Harvey, O.D. Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Originally published in HINDSIGHT, Journal of Optometry History, October, 2010, Volume 41, No. 4. Reprint with permission. Edited for this newsletter by Kim Oliver.
A clinical trial is a research study involving human subjects that is designed to answer specific questions about the safety and efficacy of a medical intervention (drug, treatment or device) or new ways of using a known drug, treatment or device. We all benefit every day from clinical research. Any medical treatment you receive is available to you because of research that showed the treatments are safe and effective.

The CVRC in partnership with the SUNY faculty are working together on research to advance all aspects of vision care. Clinical research studies need volunteers of all ages and backgrounds in order to help researchers develop new and better medical treatments. The following opportunities are currently available. Participants will receive compensation for their time and may receive eye exams, glasses and/or contact lenses or study medication no charge.

**Dry Eye – OPUS3**
Adults 18 years of age or older who have dry eye symptoms in both eyes may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effectiveness of an investigational drug for dry eye disease. Five visits over 14 weeks. Up to $500.00

**InFocus - Myopia Control**
Children 7-11 years of age may be eligible to participate in a study to see how certain glasses and contact lenses might slow the progression of nearsightedness. Participants will receive compensation for their time and may receive eye exams, glasses and/or contact lenses or study medication at no charge. Enrollment for this multi-national, NIH-funded clinical trial will be ending soon. We encourage you to consider this unique opportunity for your patients.

**Amblyopia – ATS18**
Children 5-16 years of age may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effectiveness of using a game played on an iPad® or putting a patch over the good eye to treat amblyopia. Five visits over 16 weeks, up to $250.00

**Contact Lenses – CLAY**
Age 18-33 years. Current soft contact lens wearer. Present with a symptomatic untreated Corneal Infiltrative Event. One visit up to $50.00.

To find out more about these studies, please contact us at clinicresearch@sunyopt.edu. SUNY Optometry Clinical Vision Research Center, 33 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036, 212 938-4052.
Kohn Vision Science Library Information,
SUNY College of Optometry
The Kohn Vision Science Library
33 West 42nd Street
New York, NY 10036
212 938-5690
212 938-5696 (Fax)
Website: www.sunyopt.edu/library  Alumni: www.sunyopt.edu/library/adjunctsdb.shtml
Adjunct: www.sunyopt.edu/library/adjunctsdb.shtml

Hours of Operation: Please check our website for our current hours.
For more information about new books and audio visual materials, please contact Ms. Jill Locascio at 212 938-5692 or by email: jlocascio@sunyopt.edu

Follow us on Twitter, our address is Twitter@kohn_library

Library Borrowing Privileges for Alumni and Adjuncts
All SUNY Optometry alumni have borrowing privileges and can take out any book that circulates. If you can’t make it to our library, we can still get the book to you. Just go to your nearest public or academic library and give the librarian the name of the book you want. A request will be made via interlibrary loan (from whatever optometry school is nearest to where you live) and the book will be sent to the library that requested it for you. They will also handle returning it. So you can pick it up AND return it close to home.
As for e-books, you will need a login for those. But we are happy to provide you with a guest login if you come to our library.

Electronic Table of Contents. If you would like to see what is being published in your field of interest, sign up for electronic Table of Contents delivery. This can be done directly at the website of your favorite journal. If you want to know what journals focus on your particular area of expertise, please contact Ms. Kim Oliver at koliver@sunyopt.edu or 212 938-5515 and she will tell you which journals may be best for you to follow.

We would love to hear from you! If you are interested in contributing to the Kohn Vision Science Library newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact Kim Oliver: koliver@sunyopt.edu  If you have not already done so, please fill and out return the following Alumni Library Privileges form and return it to the Library via email, snail mail or fax. A user id and password will be created and sent to you. This will allow you to have access to a number of publications in the library.
Alumni Library Privileges Information Form

Name: ___________________________________ Address: __________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________

Where did you obtain your O.D. degree? ___________ Graduation Year: _______________

Did you attend a Residency Program? _____ Where? _______ Graduation Year: ______________

Colleges Attended: ____________________________ Graduation Year: __________________

Degree(s) ____________________________

Where did you obtain a Ph.D. (if applicable) or other advanced degrees:

__________________________________ Graduation Year: ________________Degree(s) ________________

Email: ___________________________________

(If you have multiple accounts, please indicate which one you would like us to use)

Telephone (Daytime): _____________________________

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Materials will be delivered electronically when possible. For print documents, please indicate your preference for delivery:

☐ Pickup at the Library ☐ Mail: (if address is different from the one above please provide:

☐ email: (Please provide current email address)

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

General areas of professional interest: ____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Questions: Please email us at: www.optlib@sunyopt.edu

The Harold Kohn Vision Science Library
SUNY College of Optometry
33 West 42nd Street
New York, New York 10036
212 938-5690