



# Low Vision News

April 2006

## ISLRR Officers:

Aries Arditi, President  
Gary Rubin, Secretary  
Gregory Goodrich, Treasurer  
Susanne Trauzettel-Klosinski,  
Vice President  
Mario Brogini, Deputy  
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Jan Lovie-Kitchin  
Koichi Oda  
Olga Overbury  
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Francois Vital-Durand  
George Woo

## The objectives of the International Society for Low-vision Research & Rehabilitation are:

- To stimulate scientific research in the field of low vision and in the field of rehabilitation of people with low vision
- To promote the exchange of information in these fields

## President's Message

This issue of *Low Vision News* is packed with exciting news about new developments at ISLRR. First, I am happy to report a new "members only" section of the ISLRR web site. Log in now to access this section which will allow you to leave messages for other users, access our membership directory, discuss issues on a new message forum, and access *Visual Impairment Research*, the official ISLRR journal online. This last feature is one that members have been requesting for some time, and I am delighted that we now can offer it to our members. See the box on page 2 for instructions on how to login and how to access the journal.

Second, great progress has been made toward the planning of the 2008 International Conference on Low Vision, hosted by L'École d'Optométrie du Mon-

tréal and L'Institut Nazareth et Louis in the beautiful city of Montréal, in Québec, Canada.

Third, substantial interest has been shown by several organizations in hosting the 2011 conference, including Malaysia and sites in Australia. The decision process for choosing ISLRR conference sites is one of careful consideration and deliberation by the Executive Committee. If you have strong feelings about where the conference should be held, or if you know of an organization that would want to host the conference, please have them contact me or Secretary General Gary Rubin.

Finally, I am happy to announce that the World Health Organization Low Vision Working Group has requested that ISLRR be represented in their group. I recently represented



Aries Arditi, President

ISLRR at their meeting in conjunction with the World Ophthalmology Congress in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and am delighted that we are participating in the extremely important work of this international body, which, among other things, participates in the planning and execution of Vision 2020 objectives.

With best wishes for 2006!

## Membership Renewals Due

It is time to renew your ISLRR membership. Please review the enclosed renewal form, make any necessary changes to your contact information, and return with your dues pay-

ment to ensure your copy of Volume 8 of the *Visual Impairment Research*. Renewals are due by May 15, 2006 to Gregory Goodrich, ISLRR Treasurer, P.O. Box 1481, Union City, CA

94587 USA; fax credit card payments to +01 650 852 3230.

If you have any questions, please contact Lorna Frazier-Lindsey via e-mail at [Lornafl@verizon.net](mailto:Lornafl@verizon.net).

## ISLRR invited to join IFOS

ISLRR was recently invited to join the International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies (IFOS), and we have joined. ISLRR's membership in IFOS will expand our recognition internationally and allow us to have a greater impact on low vision policy worldwide. Susanne Trauzettel-Klosinski, ISLRR's vice president, represented the Society at the IFOS meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in February, and presented a summary of our work in the Oslo Workshop. Specifically she summarized ISLRR's position with respect to low vision as follows:

**Statement of the International Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation regarding the global need for Low Vision services and education.** Presented by Susanne Trauzettel-Klosinski at the WOC/ICO/IFOS general assembly in Sao Paulo, Brazil, February 2006:

1. Access to low vision services is a basic human right at the same level as the right to appropriate healthcare, edu-

cation, and rehabilitation. Thus low vision care should be available to everyone who can possibly benefit from it.

2. Low vision is distinct from blindness (even though domain-specific definitions may overlap), and the use of functional vision should be encouraged and assisted by appropriate devices and instruction, so as to maximize task performance and quality of life where vision is the more efficient and preferred sensory modality.

3. There is a great need for the general public and those with vision impairment (both those who have low vision and those who are blind), to be educated about the causes and functional effects of low vision. All need to be made aware of the possibility of enhancing visual function through low vision services.

4. Low vision needs to be included in the instructional curricula of all professionals, who are likely to be in contact with individuals with low vision.



**Susanne Trauzettel-Klosinski**  
Vice President

The Vision 2020 initiative, which has done an admirable job of unifying the efforts of its many supporting organizational members, already has a mechanism in place for implementing the international blindness prevention effort at the national and district levels and many locales are now implementing these. Our Call to Action includes a plea to the Vision 2020 initiative to incorporate reducing the impact of low vision into their plan as a much stronger and more visible element, one that stands alongside rather than being a subcategory of blindness prevention.

## Mark Your Calendar for Vision 2008



7-10 July 2008

In 2008, the 9th International Conference on Low Vision, organized under the auspices of ISLRR, will be held from July 7 to 10 in Montréal, one of Canada's major cities. The Institut Nazareth & Louis-Braille (Rehabilitation Centre specialized in

visual impairment) and the École d'optométrie of the Université de Montréal will oversee the organization of this Conference in partnership with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. For additional information, visit <http://www.opto.umontreal.ca/vision2008/> and subscribe to the email club for frequent updates.

## ISLRR Web Site Enhancement Includes Several Languages and Downloads

ISLRR's web site has experienced several enhancements, including being able to be viewed in Spanish, French and Russian, as well as in English.

Visitors to the web site can download the report of the Oslo Workshop on Low Vision, "Toward a Reduction in the Global Impact of Low

Vision," as well as a search library of abstracts from the Vision 2002 Conference. Vision 2002 focused on advances in research and practice within all areas of low vision, including basic science, technology, medicine, rehabilitation and education pertaining to visual impairment.



Be sure to visit the site often for updates and important information:

<http://www.islrr.org>

## Member to Access the Journal and Newsletter On-line!

ISLRR members can now access the *Visual Impairment Research* (VIR) Journal and *Low Vision News* on-line through the member's only section of the ISLRR web site (<http://www.islrr.org>). Accessing the member's only information is easy! Each ISLRR member will receive an individualized password to use when logging onto the member's only section.

In order to be certain that ISLRR has your correct e-mail address in our database, we ask that all members send an e-mail to our administrator Lorna

Frazier-Lindsey. Please send an e-mail to [LornaFL@verizon.net](mailto:LornaFL@verizon.net), with a subject line that reads "ISLRR Membership Update," and include your full name, country, and current e-mail address in the body of the message. Once your e-mail address has been verified, you will receive a message with your individualized password.

It is important that we receive member's e-mail updates as this is the last print version of the *Low Vision News* ISLRR members will be receiving. From now on, the newsletter will

be posted on the ISLRR web site and members will receive notification of its availability via e-mail. Those members who cannot access the newsletter through the internet may contact Lorna ([LornaFL@verizon.net](mailto:LornaFL@verizon.net)) to request a print copy of the *Low Vision News*.

The *Visual Impairment Research* Journal will continue to be published in print, but will also be available on the web site. This added member benefit of on-line access to the Journal is terrific for searching and quickly accessing published research!

## A Low Vision Theme Set for World Sight Day 2006



Vision 2020: The Right to Sight, a global initiative which aims to help eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020, has selected Low Vision as its theme for World Sight Day on October 12, 2006. The goals of Vision 2020: The Right to Sight in relation to

low vision are the elimination of visual impairment (binocular vision of less than 6/18 in adults or less than 6/12 in children) and blindness (less than 3/60) due to refractive errors, and visual rehabilitation for those with permanent low vision.

ISLRR supports this initiative and encourages its members to spread the word about World Sight Day! For additional information, please visit the web site [http://www.v2020.org/world\\_sight\\_day.index.asp](http://www.v2020.org/world_sight_day.index.asp).

## Recommend ISLRR Membership to a Colleague

If you enjoy the benefits of ISLRR membership and networking with others who are interested in low vision research and rehabilitation, recommend membership in the Society to your colleagues. Each ISLRR member brings a wealth of information to the organiza-

tion that can help in reaching our goals to stimulate scientific research in the field of low vision and in the field of rehabilitation of people with low vision and to promote the exchange of information in these fields.

A membership form to join ISLRR is provided on the back of this newsletter. Share this publication with a colleague and recommend that they join ISLRR to help strengthen our mission and our field.

The *Low-vision News* welcome article submissions and suggestions from members. Please send a short (500 words or less), informal reports of research results, queries on research methodology or equipment, innovative solutions to problems encountered.

Send Correspondence to: Low Vision News  
c/o Lorna Frazier-Lindsey, ISLRR Administrator  
P.O. Box 1185  
Urbanna, VA 23175-1185  
USA



# ISLRR 2006 MEMBERSHIP FORM

The International Society for Low-vision Research & Rehabilitation

c/o Gregory Goodrich, ISLRR Treasurer

P.O. Box 1481, Union City, CA 94587 USA

www.islrr.org

Please **do not** mail your membership form via certified or registered mail as this will cause delays in membership processing.

Please note: Year 2006 Membership Dues includes Volume 8 of the journal *Visual Impairment Research*

Fax: +01 650 852 3239 Membership inquiries to Gary Rubin, ISLRR Secretary +44 (0) 207 608 6989 E-mail to: inquiries@islrr.org

Member Information		Please type or print clearly			
Preferred Salutation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Prof.	
First Name and Middle Initial:					
Last (Surname/Family) Name:					
Business Information					
Job Title:					
Organization/Institution:					
Street Address:					
City:					
State/Province/Prefecture:					
Postal/Zip/International Code:					
Country:					
Business Telephone:					
Fax Number:					
<b>*Required</b> E-mail:					
Web Address:					
Academic Degree:					
Highest Academic Degree:					
University/Year:					
Other Professional Affiliations:					
Abbreviate designation and included spelled-out versions:					
Payment Information		<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed – Check must be for U.S. \$100.00 drawn on a U.S. bank payable to: ISLRR (Add US\$20 bank fee for wire transfer.)			

MasterCard     Visa    EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ Note: Membership cannot be processed without your credit card expiration date.)  
 Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_