

# ISLRR VIEW

## February 2022

*News from the International Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation*

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### **From the Editor**

The Covid-19 situation seems to change on an almost weekly basis, but as things stand it looks as though lots of us will be meeting face-to-face in Dublin in July, which is very exciting!

Because the pandemic has delayed this conference by so much, our next international meeting will be next year, in Denver. Add the dates to your calendar now! It is likely that the International Conference will take place every two years after Denver, in 'odd' years – 2023, 2025 etc. Watch this space...

Elsewhere in this issue you will see an update on the Low Vision Timeline, which is a fascinating and very useful resource, and a call for information on how ISLRR members are providing patient care using telephone or video consultations: a very timely question.

Please keep your submissions for the newsletter coming. For the next issue we would particularly like to hear from the next generation of low vision specialists: so if you are a student, a postdoc, or someone closer to the start of their career than the end, we would love to hear your thoughts. Just email them to me on the address below.

Keep looking at [www.vision2022dublin.com](http://www.vision2022dublin.com) – and I'll see you in Dublin!

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## From the ISLRR President

As we look forward to a great conference in Dublin this July, it occurred to me that we need a special edition of ISLRR VIEW to get back on track and set off into our collective future. What better way, I thought, than devoting the “conference issue” to The Next Generation. The Star Trek franchise has not pursued me thus far for “borrowing” the term for Vision 2008, so let’s risk it again!

I hereby invite all graduate students in either basic research or professional preparation programs, post-doctoral fellows whose research is focused on aspects of visual impairment, and any one who has been employed in the academic or rehabilitation field for under 5 years to submit an article to this issue. You don’t have to be a member of ISLRR – you have to be dedicated to any or all aspects of Low Vision Research & Rehabilitation. We want to know about you.

Please note that we don’t want a research article or even an article based on your clinical training or practice. What we want to know about is YOU!

- Who are you and what are your origins – personal and academic?
- Where are you now (geographically & at what university/agency)?
- How far along are you in your current program/job?
- What attracted you to this field?
- What has kept you in this field despite the doubtless challenges that you have faced?
- What is your ultimate goal?

Please send a photo of yourself in case we decide to have a contest at the conference. Trust me – it won’t be a traditional pageant. Also, please note that we still want you to submit an article (& photo) even if you will not be able to attend the conference in person.

I encourage you to spread the word about this project and get your friends, colleagues, former co-students, etc. to come along for the ride. Remember that every conference participant will receive a copy of this special edition (hard copy or electronic, depending on their mode of attendance). Your introduction to the world of Low Vision!

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## Vision 2022

The website [www.vision2022dublin.com](http://www.vision2022dublin.com) is being updated frequently – keep looking at the site for updates on:

- Registration
- Accommodation
- Day tours
- Keynote speakers
- The social programme

...and more!

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## Low Vision Timeline

The Low Vision Timeline History was created to recognize and record important events in the evolution of the field of low vision. The first presentation of the Timeline, by Goodrich and Ardit, was as a poster at ISLRR's 1999 International Low Vision Conference, held in New York City. Since then the Timeline has been periodically updated and published.

It can be argued that the low vision field is relatively young with the first low vision clinics opening less than 75 years ago, but precursor events occurred much earlier. In the years since consumer and professional organizations have formed, low vision devices have proliferated, research has advanced, and comprehensive services have emerged. All while the number of individuals having visual impairments has dramatically increased. But the field of low vision encompasses not just devices and services. It includes the experiences of individuals who are visually impaired and how their social setting influences their lives. The Timeline seeks to compile these events as a record of how the low vision field has evolved.

Conceived as a living document, the Timeline has been updated several times including in 2005, 2008, 2011, and 2014. It is subject to challenge and change. This is an acknowledgement by the Timeline's authors that they may not know all events and that they may have an unrecognized bias in interpreting the importance of events. Thus, there is a potential that the Timeline may record something as important that is not or omit something that is. To provide a mechanism to correct such potential

errors we invite suggestions from anyone regarding new items to include or items to delete. All of these comments will be carefully evaluated and incorporated into future updates to the Timeline as appropriate. This process will hopefully allow the Timeline to be an accurate and evolving representation of our field.

Look out for an update to the timeline at [Vision 2022!](#)

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## **Denver is the place to be in 2023!**

For the first time over two decades, The International Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation (ISLRR) conference will be held in the United States of America. We are pleased to announce that Vision 2023 will be held in Denver, Colorado, from July 23-27, and hosted by the [University of Colorado Department of Ophthalmology](#) and [Anchor Center for Blind Children](#).

The theme: **Low Vision Rehabilitation Across the Life Span**

Vision 2023 will provide a robust program for the diverse group of professionals who work with and research those impacted by visual impairments. Each attendee will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge, share ideas, and gain different perspectives on how we can work together to enhance the lives of people with low vision and blindness, from infants to the elderly and every age in between.

For more information and updates as we approach registration and abstract submission deadlines, please visit: [www.vision2023denver.com](http://www.vision2023denver.com)  
Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest news.



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## **Telerehabilitation survey**

How are you providing care during the pandemic: by telephone, online, face-to-face, or a combination of all of these? Please complete our survey at [tinyurl.com/teleLVA](https://tinyurl.com/teleLVA) to help us learn more.

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## **Gary Rubin: A celebration of his career**

On Wednesday 20 April 2022, Gary's colleagues in London are arranging a celebration of his career. There will be a mixture of online talks and reflections on Gary's seminal work in low vision research. Coronavirus restrictions permitting, this will be a hybrid meeting: UCL staff, Gary and his family will attend an in-person event and other attendees will participate by Teams. Please contact [m.crossland@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.crossland@ucl.ac.uk) for more information.