



A joint venture of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and the Department of Communication Science and Disorders at the University of Pittsburgh

Stuttering Center News

Clinician / Researcher Partnerships

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Craig E. Coleman, M.A.
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At the 2005 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention, Stuttering Center Co-Directors Craig Coleman and J. Scott Yaruss conducted a seminar on building effective partnerships between clinicians and researchers. Coleman and Yaruss provided an overview of the collaboration model currently used at the Stuttering Center of Western PA, discussed possible adaptations to the model, and led a discussion of those in attendance about ways to support and enhance collaborative efforts between clinicians and researchers.

Coleman and Yaruss emphasized the fact that clinicians and researchers will need to partner with one another if our profession is going to thrive in the future. With the increased focus on evidence-based practice (EBP), both clinicians and researchers will benefit from such partnerships. For example, if a clinician has a treatment approach that they view as effective, they can work with a researcher to prove the value of the treatment. Additionally, clinicians, who are typically asked to be a "jack-of-all-trades" (particularly in school settings) may benefit from having access to someone who specializes in a certain area as they work to gain knowledge and comfort in a new area.

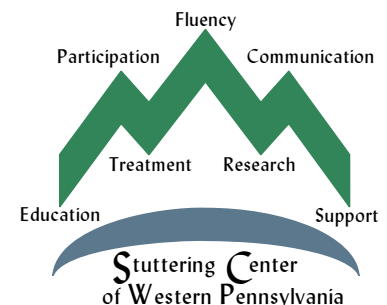
Researchers also benefit from partnering with clinicians. Researchers often need access to participants for their investigations, and clinicians often have access to potential study participants. Clinicians can also help researchers ensure that evidence-based treatment approaches are being implemented in real-world in clinical settings.

In discussing partnerships between researchers and clinicians, the importance of matching personalities was discussed. Often, partnerships may be formed based on geographical convenience. While these partnerships may be successful, it is often the personalities of those involved that help determine the success or failure of this type of partnership.

In looking toward the future, audience members were encouraged to build clinician-researcher relationships based on common interests and by matching personalities, rather than geographical convenience.

During the coming year, Coleman and Yaruss will be working with ASHA to facilitate the development and expansion of clinician / researcher partnerships, such as the one we enjoy here at the Stuttering Center. Check our website and newsletters throughout the year for further updates. If you're interested in joining us in this effort, send an email to craig.coleman@chp.edu.

For a copy of the entire handout from the ASHA seminar, visit our website at www.stutteringcenter.org/presentations.htm. You can also view handouts of other 2005 ASHA presentations by Stuttering Center staff by visiting our website and clicking on *presentations!*



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Information for Physicians

Craig Coleman, M.A., CCC-SLP

The *Stuttering Center* has developed information handouts for physicians and health care providers. This handout, titled *Stuttering at a Glance: Physicians and Health Care Providers*, outlines background information about stuttering and also provides referral guidelines for helping physicians decide when to refer children who stutter for an evaluation by a speech-language pathologist who is qualified to help children who stutter.

Physicians often represent the first line of defense in treating childhood stuttering, for they may be among the first professionals to hear parents' concerns. Physicians play an especially important role for preschool children who stutter because of the benefits of early intervention. Ample research has shown that appropriate early intervention leads to more successful outcomes.

Because physicians (particularly pediatricians) can play such a central role in the identification of childhood stuttering, it is important that they recognize and understand the risk for long-term stuttering, if treatment is not carried out at an appropriate time.

The new *Stuttering Center* handout for physicians explains that young children should be referred for an evaluation by a qualified speech-language pathologist if any of the following signs are present:

- a family history of stuttering or other speech/language concerns
- time since onset of stuttering of six months or more
- awareness, frustration, or concern, on the part of the child or parents, with stuttering or with the child's communication difficulties
- Negative reactions to stuttering by others in the child's environment
- Concomitant speech or language disorders

The handout stresses the fact that early intervention is critical and that the old idea of "waiting to see" whether the child will recover is a potentially harmful myth! Children who are treated at a young age are far more likely to achieve normal fluency. Early intervention can reduce, or even eliminate, the need for more lengthy and costly speech therapy when the child is older.

In 2006, the *Stuttering Center* will continue to share this and other needed information with physicians. If you have any suggestions or ideas that have helped you interact with physicians and health care providers, please let us know. In future issues of the newsletter, we would like to share some of these ideas so we can all be more successful in educating others about the importance of early, appropriate intervention for children who stutter.

In addition, the National Stuttering Association (www.WeStutter.org) and the Stuttering Foundation of America (www.stutteringhelp.org) also have excellent publications for physicians and health care providers that can help.

One strategy that we have found to be effective is to send a copy of the information handout to the child's physician when sending copies of diagnostic evaluations or discharge summaries. This helps to provide information that may be useful for future referrals, while providing timely information about current patients that physicians often need. The more times physicians see accurate information about stuttering, the more likely they are to make appropriate referrals!

You can view our handout for physicians, as well as other handouts from the *Stuttering Center* at our website at www.stutteringcenter.org. Just click on the "Resources" tab on the left column of the home page.

Message From the Stuttering Center

Craig Coleman

J. Scott Yaruss



Happy Holidays! All of us at the Stuttering Center of Western PA wish you the best for this holiday season. We hope you have a happy and healthy 2006!

Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions. You can also submit articles or ideas for future articles. We now have over 700 people who receive the *Stuttering Center News* and we look forward to more joining us soon!

Awards / Recognition for Stuttering Center Staff

The Co-Directors of the Stuttering Center, Dr. Scott Yaruss and Craig Coleman have recently received significant awards and recognition for their work in fluency disorders.

At the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Annual Convention in San Diego, CA, Dr. Yaruss was honored with distinction as an ASHA Fellow. Dr. Yaruss has demonstrated excellence in teaching, research, and clinical service. In addition to his role as Co-Director of the Stuttering Center, Dr. Yaruss also serves as an Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

In October, Craig Coleman achieved Specialty Recognition in Fluency Disorders. He joins a group of approximately 230 individuals who hold this distinction. To learn more about how you can become board-recognized specialist in fluency disorders, visit www.stutteringspecialists.org.

Congratulations to Scott and Craig!

It's Not too Late to Visit the Online Conference

The 8th Annual International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) online conference was held in October, 2005. Papers from all over the world were presented under the theme "Community Vision for Global Action."

All papers from this conference, as well as from the previous 7 ISAD online conferences, can be viewed on the *Stuttering Home Page* (SHP) at www.stutteringhomepage.com. The SHP is an amazing resource for all sorts of information about stuttering. If you haven't visited the SHP before, now is the time!

The ISAD conference is organized by Judy Kuster of the Minnesota State University in Mankato. Judy continues to do an amazing job each year finding relevant topics for those who stutter and the professionals who serve them. We are grateful to her for her ongoing efforts and we encourage you to take advantage of this unique learning opportunity.

2006 PSHA Convention

The 2006 Pennsylvania Speech and Hearing Association Convention will be held in Valley Forge, PA at the Radisson Convention Center. The Convention will run from April 6, 2006 through April 8, 2006. Staff from the Stuttering Center will be providing numerous seminars on stuttering, legislation, and advocacy.

Specifically, Stuttering Center staff will provide a 3-hour seminar on the evaluation and treatment of fluency disorders in children. The seminar will focus on specific protocols, objectives, and activities that can be utilized in various clinical settings for children who stutter. Audience members will also have the opportunity to discuss fluency cases with the presenters.

Staff of the Stuttering Center will also co-present a seminar on working with children who stutter in the school setting. Finally, a poster session on parents' identification of stressors in young children who stutter will be provided.

For convention information, and information on how to become a member of PSHA, visit the PSHA website at www.psha.org

Future PSHA Conventions will be held in State College, PA (2007) and Pittsburgh, PA (2008).

Upcoming Events

Stuttering Center staff will present several workshops in the coming months. For more information, check out our website at www.StutteringCenter.org

Practical Treatment Strategies for School-Age Children who Stutter (J. Scott Yaruss)

January 12, 2006: Cherry Hill, NJ
January 13, 2006 Annapolis, MD
January 26, 2006 Raleigh, NC
January 27, 2006 Columbia, SC
February 2, 2006 Collinsville, IL
February 3, 2006 Oak Lawn, IL
February 16, 2006 Cerritos, CA
February 17, 2006 San Diego, CA

Evaluation and Treatment of Children who Stutter: Objectives and Activities for Success (Craig Coleman)

February 23, 2006 Minneapolis, MN: 26th Symposium on Intervention for Persons with Special Needs

Working with Parents of Children with Communication Disorders: Achieving Optimal Progress (Craig Coleman)

February 24, 2006 Minneapolis, MN: 26th Symposium on Intervention for Persons with Special Needs

2006 Pennsylvania Speech and Hearing Association Convention (Craig Coleman)

April 6-8, 2006: Valley Forge, PA; Numerous presentations on stuttering throughout the conference by Stuttering Center Staff

Visit our website to view handouts from previous talks! To schedule a seminar, contact Craig Coleman (craig.coleman@chp.edu) or Scott Yaruss (jsyaruss@csd.pitt.edu)

Stuttering Center: Staff Update

Craig Coleman, M.A., CCC-SLP

As we all look forward to 2006, and the start of another year, I thought about an appropriate article to end this “double issue” of the newsletter. When we started this newsletter 2½ years ago, 15 people received the original copy via the email distribution list. This time, there will be over 700 people receiving these newsletters via email!

Just as the newsletter has grown, so too has our entire program. I know that “extra” items such as this newsletter, presentations, papers, workshops, and other opportunities would not have been possible if it were not for the superb staff that I am fortunate enough to be involved with.

In the past year, our staff has become even more involved in helping with contests, writing articles for newsletters, and giving presentations on stuttering. I want to thank Rebecca Roccon, Kristin Pelczarski, Debra Butkiewicz, Shannon Plowey, Kristine Campbell, and Dave Hammer for all their efforts this year.

I would also like to thank Rosemary Wilson, Hilary Clark, Sherrie Koch, Ann Schneider, Amy Lutz, Stephanie McFerron, and Laura Haibeck for all their work in the contests, for taking the time to participate in more training, and for getting even more involved soon!

We will continue to profile staff members in the newsletters and on our website so you all have the opportunity to meet the amazing people that I am lucky enough to work with everyday.

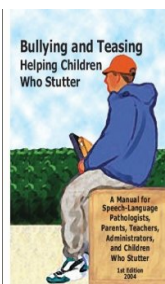
In addition, I want to thank all the University of Pittsburgh students who have worked with us during the past year. They all have worked diligently. Thanks to Stacie Graham, Kelly Dorey, Carrie Fertig, Kirra Mediate, and Allyson Barabe.

We will also continue to feature articles by students so you can meet them, too. They often present an insight that other students can identify with and help us see things through various perspectives.

I hope that 2006 will present new opportunities and challenges for us all. We all look forward to working with all of you and to continuing to develop our programs. Best wishes to all for a Happy, Healthy, and Rewarding 2006!

Recommended Resource for Bullying and Teasing

New from the National Stuttering Association is a comprehensive booklet designed to minimize bullying and hurtful teasing for children who stutter. Written by



Bill Murphy, Bob Quesal, Nina Reardon, and J. Scott Yaruss, the manual includes separate sections for parents, teachers, school administrators, SLPs, and, of course, children who stutter. For more info, see the NSA’s website www.WeStutter.org.

New Stuttering Film

A new film, directed and produced by Dr. Phillip Schneider, is now available from the National Stuttering Association (NSA) (www.WeStutter.org).

The film, *Transcending Stuttering: The Inside Story*, follows seven people who stutter on their life journey of learning to deal successfully with stuttering.

The film provides valuable insights into both the negative consequences of stuttering and the positive life choices that can help lead to a successful journey as a person who stutters. The film is a great resource for people who stutter *and* for those looking to learn more about stuttering!

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The Stuttering Center offers evaluation and treatment for children who stutter through Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh in Oakland and at our satellite offices in Bethel Park, Monroeville, and Wexford. Visit the Children’s Hospital website at www.chp.edu for directions.

Find us on the Web!

www.stutteringcenter.org

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Send us your questions
and comments!!

Submit your Nominations for ASHA Awards and Leadership Positions

Nominations are now being accepted for 2006 ASHA Leadership Elections. Nominations are sought for positions on the ASHA Executive Board and Legislative Council. For more information, visit the ASHA website (www.asha.org)

Nominations for 2006 ASHA Awards will begin in January 2006. Information and nomination forms will be available on the ASHA website.