



## Is stuttering characterized by subtypes?

Ehud Yairi, Ph.D.  
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With few exceptions, every entity in the universe can find its place within a system of classification. These have an important role in the organization and enhancement of knowledge. Although certain features of stuttering are relatively consistent, such as the age at onset of the disorder and the presence of certain core speech disfluencies, there are large differences in many aspects of the disorder across people who stutter, including variations in expression of symptoms and their severity.



Ehud Yairi, Ph.D.

In addition to symptom diversity, in many ways the disorder of stuttering is interwoven with linguistic, phonetic, cognitive, social, emotional, physiological domains, as well as other domains. It has also been explained as emerging from a wide range of possible etiologies. Still, for a

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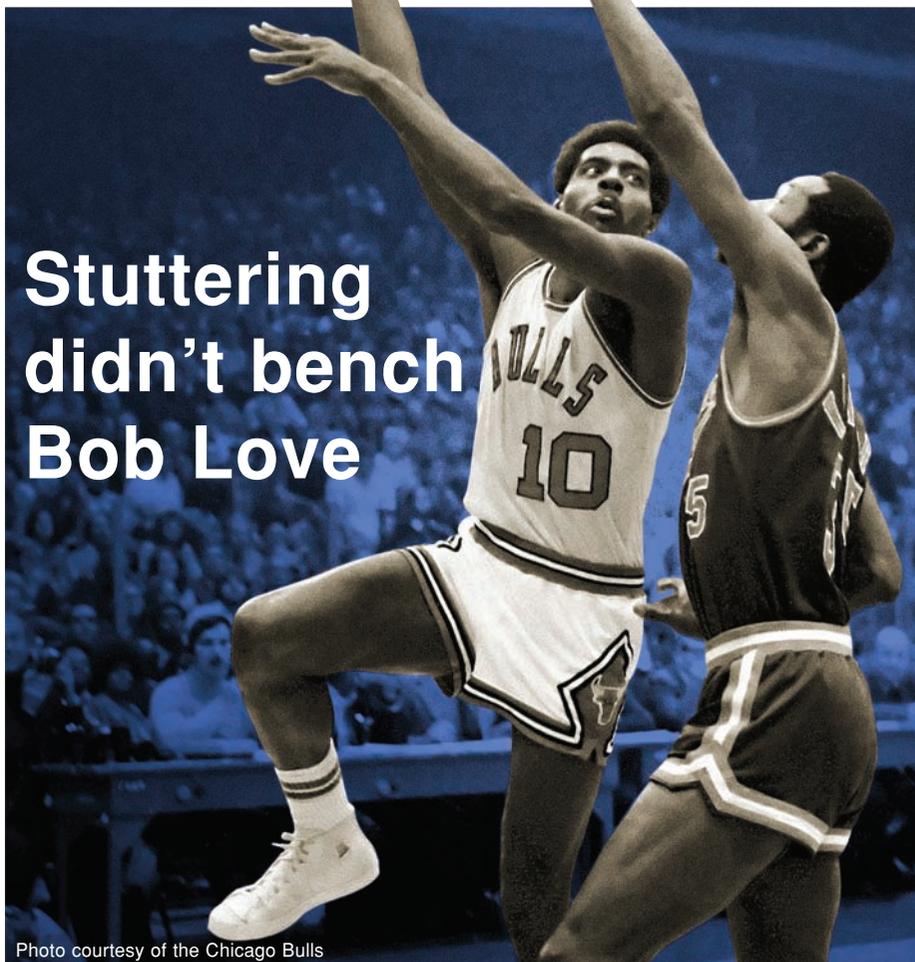


Photo courtesy of the Chicago Bulls

## NBA All-Star leads 2007 campaign

NBA All-Star Bob Love will lead the 2007 campaign for National Stuttering Awareness Week, May 14-20.

Love knows first-hand the experiences of someone who stutters. He has overcome considerable frustrations and setbacks since his glory years with the Chicago Bulls.

“Bob is more than a great basketball star and community leader,” said Jane Fraser, president of the 60-year-old Stuttering Foundation. “He was chosen to serve as chairman because his courage in coping with his speech impediment serves as an excellent role model for the millions of people worldwide who stutter.”

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### FACTS ABOUT BOB LOVE

- ▶ **Seasons with the Bulls:** 1968-1977
- ▶ **Jersey number:** 10
- ▶ **Jersey retired:** Jan. 14, 1994
- ▶ **Career highlights:**
  - ▶ NBA All-Star 1971, 1972, 1973
  - ▶ All-NBA Second Team 1970-71, 1971-72
  - ▶ NBA All-Defensive Second Team 1971-72, 1973-74, 1974-75
  - ▶ Led the Bulls in scoring for seven straight seasons
  - ▶ Ranks third among Bulls all-time scorers (12,623 points)
  - ▶ Currently serves as the Bulls director of community affairs.

Source: [www.nba.com](http://www.nba.com)

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## Studies in a unique community give new genetic insights into stuttering

By Dennis Drayna, Ph.D.  
NIDCD

A study by researchers in Illinois has recently been published that provides new support for genetic factors in stuttering. The researchers were led by Dr. Nancy J. Cox at the University of Chicago, and the study, published in the *Journal of Fluency Disorders*, had major contributions from researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

These investigators studied a religious group known as the Hutterites, currently living in South Dakota. The group of Hutterites that were studied are members of a remarkable family



Dennis Drayna, Ph.D.

tree that contains over 1600 individuals, and can be traced back 13 generations. At the roots of this family tree are a group of 64 founding individuals, who came to the United States from Europe in the 1800's and settled in the Northern United States. Their descendants have intermarried extensively over time, and such populations often provide unique insights for geneticists.

The Illinois researchers tested genetic markers, which allowed them to track all of the chromosomes inherited through these families. These marker studies showed regions on several chromosomes, including chromosomes 3, 13, and 15 that appear to carry genes that help cause stuttering in this population. These results will help guide future studies that will attempt to identify the specific causative genes, and thus help researchers better understand the causes of stuttering. □

## SFA launches new public service campaign

### Tillis educates public

The new year ushered in a new radio campaign by the Stuttering Foundation.

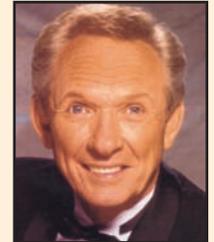
This year, the Foundation sent public service announcements featuring country music singer Mel Tillis to every country music station in the United States.

"Our radio PSAs have certainly resonated with listeners. The response has been tremendous," said Susie Hall, resource coordinator for the Stuttering Foundation. "We have received calls from people across the country seeking more information on stuttering."

Foundation President Jane Fraser added, "We look forward to being a leading source of continuing public education through PSAs and through all aspects of our comprehensive awareness campaign. And we invite others to join us in bringing attention to stuttering."

Last fall, the 30-second spot recorded by 20/20's John Stossel went out to ABC radio stations nationwide. Many continue to air John's upbeat message about where and how to find help for stuttering.

"This educational campaign has been a wonderful way to reach people who otherwise may be unfamiliar with the help we offer," said Fraser. "The radio stations have been most generous in providing air time."



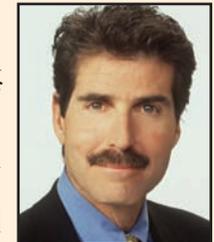
Mel Tillis

## Stuttering makes national news

As seen on the screen, Dr. Phillip Schneider represented the SFA to discuss how to react when speaking with someone who stutters and the pros and cons of a device for stuttering on *ABC News Now* in January.

*ABC News* linked to the Stuttering Foundation as a source of additional help and information.

View the interview at [www.stutteringhelp.org](http://www.stutteringhelp.org). □



John Stossel

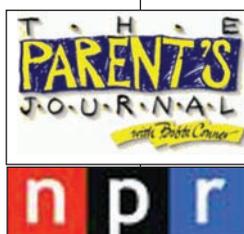
## Help for parents airs around the country

Bobbi Conner, host of *The Parents Journal* on National Public Radio, spoke with Foundation President Jane Fraser about childhood stuttering.

"The more you know about stuttering, the more comfortable you are," Fraser told parents. "The more comfortable you are,

the better it is for children who stutter."

She emphasized that parents need to take the time to educate themselves about stuttering and suggested many of the free resources — including tips for parents — available at the Foundation's Web site, [www.stutteringhelp.org](http://www.stutteringhelp.org). □



# New drugs for stuttering may be on the horizon

Gerald A. Maguire, M.D.  
University of California,  
Irvine School of Medicine

A medication for stuttering? This question has plagued clinicians for years with the general consensus that it could never be attained. With advancements in neuropharmacology, medical science is now closer than ever in the development of medication treatment for stuttering.

In the last ten years, studies suggest that dopamine-blocking medications are effective in reducing stuttering symptoms.

These studies employed the gold-standard of being placebo-controlled and double-blind (meaning that the subjects and clinicians did not know if the specific individuals were receiving a real pill or a fake pill).

These studies were of relatively limited subject size so further research is warranted before these medications are to be routinely used in stuttering.

No one medication is without the potential of side-effects and this class of medication is associated with weight gain and the potential for blood sugar increases.

However, a novel medication, pagoclone, holds promise as an effective, well-tolerated medication for the treatment of stut-

tering.

Pagoclone is a medication under development from Indevus Pharmaceuticals.

In May 2006, Indevus released results of the largest pharmacologic trial of stuttering ever completed. Pagoclone affects a natural neurochemical in the brain known as GABA which has been postulated to play a significant role in stuttering.

The study utilized a double-blind, randomized design of over 130 adult individuals who stutter. Pagoclone was found to improve stuttering symptoms in over 50 percent of the individuals treated—statistically greater than those receiving a placebo.

Pagoclone was found to be well-tolerated with only minor side-effects of headache and fatigue reported in a minority of those treated.

In this study, pagoclone not only improved the fluency of speech but also reduced the social anxiety that often accompanies stuttering.

More studies of this compound



Gerald Maguire, M.D.

are being planned, and Indevus is working closely with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to achieve approval so that this medication may one day be routinely available from a physician's prescription.

For the time being, it is only available as part of a research study. The next study of pagoclone will begin this summer, and one can learn more by accessing [www.stutteringstudy.com](http://www.stutteringstudy.com).

In addition, the University of California, Irvine, has received a generous gift from the philanthropists, Granville and Sidney Kirkup, which will support further research on the medical treatment of stuttering.

The University of California, Irvine will participate as a site in the pagoclone study, but will also be investigating other medications for the treatment of stuttering as well.

For further information, please e-mail [gerald.maguire@uci.edu](mailto:gerald.maguire@uci.edu).

*Even though medications for stuttering may be on the horizon, no form of therapy for stuttering is a cure. Therefore, future treatment will likely involve the combination of medication with speech therapy to achieve the optimal results.*

## Annual Audit of Foundation

The annual audit of the Stuttering Foundation financial reports for 2006 was recently completed by the accounting firm of Cannon and Company, Certified Public Accountants, Memphis, Tenn. Following is a recap of funds and expenditures for the year.

The 3.8% of expenditures for administration and general expenses and the 6/10 of 1% for

fund raising are very low, and since we are fortunate to have an endowment which more than covers our overhead expenses, donors can be assured that their gifts will go directly to support our program services.

The Foundation is a private operating foundation which expends its funds on its own programs and does not make grants to other institutions.

### Funds expended for:

|  |                    |                       |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Creation, production, printing and distribution of educational materials . . . . . | \$509,589          | . . . . .39.7%        |
| Public information and education . . . . .   | 339,594            | . . . . .26.5%        |
| Educational symposia for professionals and research . . . . .                      | 170,451            | . . . . .13.3%        |
| Therapy program . . . . .  | 127,428            | . . . . .9.9%         |
| Maintain Web site and toll-free information hotline. . . . .                       | 79,444             | . . . . .6.2%         |
| <b>Total for Program Services:</b> . . . . .                                       | <b>\$1,226,506</b> | <b>. . . . .95.6%</b> |
| Other expenditures:  |                    |                       |
| Administration and general . . . . .   | . . . . .48,326    | . . . . .3.8%         |
| Fund-raising expense . . . . .   | . . . . .8,273     | . . . . .0.6%         |
| <b>Total Expenditures:</b> . . . . .   | <b>\$1,283,105</b> | <b>. . . . .100%</b>  |



## Spread the word

With National Stuttering Awareness Week May 14-20, now is the perfect time to order posters, books, brochures, DVDs, and even T-shirts to spread the word about stuttering.

## Elisabeth Versteegh remembered

Our readers will be saddened to learn that Elisabeth Versteegh passed away on March 9, 2007, at her home in Geldermalsen, The Netherlands. She would have been 90 on Aug. 17.



Elisabeth Versteegh

Els, as she was known, was recognized as one of the leading speech therapists in the world.

"I met Els by chance in 1981," said Jane Fraser, SFA president. "Her niece, Betty Vermeij, Dean of Admissions at Bryn Mawr College, stayed at my home overnight and headed to Geldermalsen the next day to visit Els. When I mentioned my interest in stuttering, Betty quickly said that her aunt, Els Versteegh, specialized in stuttering."

This resulted in a lifelong friendship. Els participated in the 1982 Stuttering Foundation week-long conference and wrote a seminal chapter for the book, *Stuttering Therapy, Transfer and Maintenance*. She greatly influenced others who attended that meeting: Bill Perkins, Joe Sheehan, Einer Boberg, and Malcolm Fraser.

Jane remembers, "My father noted at week's end that 'Els is the brightest woman I have ever met and certainly the most knowledgeable about stuttering.'"

"In later years, Els translated Eelco DeGeus' children's book, *Sometimes I Just Stutter*, from Flemish into English and sent it to me," added Jane. "I was as impressed with it as Els was and the Stuttering Foundation decided to publish it."

The fact that it was now in English made it more accessible to others, and this in turn led to its being translated into a host of other languages throughout the world.

This is just a small example of the many ways that Els reached people who stutter. She was a wonderful warm person who enriched the lives of all who were fortunate enough to know her. □

## Putts benefit excellent cause

Memphis-based Shelby Railroad Services Inc. donated an amazing \$3,854 on Nov. 2 to the Stuttering Foundation following the company's annual Tin-Cup Tournament.

The Stuttering Foundation was selected in honor of Ruth McGuinness Tarver, the late mother of company president and founder John Tarver. Ruth stuttered from the time she was a young child, said Kirk Tarver, the company's vice president and John's son.

"She was a great lady," Kirk said. "It didn't matter to us, but it embarrassed her. Back in the '30s, there wasn't any help."

"On behalf of the Stuttering Foundation, I would like to thank everyone who donated to this worthwhile cause, to John and Kirk



John and Kirk Tarver stand with Jane Fraser during the golf outing.

Tarver, and to Shelby Railroad Services," Fraser said during the event. "I am thrilled to receive this tremendous gift. This is a wonderful tribute to Ruth McGuinness Tarver and also to the good work that Shelby Railroad Services does."

This was the fifth year Shelby Railroad teamed with the Foundation to make a difference for children who stutter. □

## Papers, magazines spread the word

It seems to be spreading. But that's a good thing in this case.

The Stuttering Foundation's public service ads are popping up nearly everywhere you look.

While SFA public service ads have been found in magazines for years, newspapers are now starting to join the cause.

*Newsday* of Long Island, N.Y., and the *New York Post* have run the Foundation's ads several times.

P l u s , *Newsweek*, *Time*, *ESPN*, *Cosmopolitan*,

*Cosmo Girl*, *New York*, *AARP*, *Seventeen* and *Ladies Home Journal* have all generously donated space to help spread the news to millions of readers about stuttering. *Good Housekeeping* even ran the PSAs two months in a row!

Among those featured in the ads are 20/20 co-anchor John Stossel, basketball legend Bob

Love, conservationist Alan Rabinowitz, Winston Churchill, TV star Nick Brendon and country music singer Mel Tillis.

PSAs provide a unique way to reach those who otherwise may not be familiar with the help available for stuttering.

Combined, these publications reach more than 60 million readers.

The SFA provides publications with several sizes and choices of public service ads.

This year, the Foundation also designed

the PSAs using new computer software. This assures the PSAs are compatible with every computer system.

The newspaper and magazine PSAs are in addition to the radio announcements and online ads provided free by Google Grants.

Next time you read a newspaper or magazine, be on the lookout. □



# Alarming statistics show training urgently needed

A dismaying number of speech-language pathologists have little training in fluency disorders, according to a recent survey of 255 school speech-language pathologists from 16 counties in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Virginia. The survey comprised of 49 questions was conducted by Glen Tellis, Ph.D., and his colleagues at College Misericordia, Dallas, Pa.



Glen Tellis, Ph.D.

Nearly half of those responding to the survey indicated they were “not comfortable working with children who stutter.”

Plus, a majority of respondents did not know how to teach most stuttering modification techniques, didn't know about genetic research on stuttering and were unaware of how to find support for those who stutter.

Many of those surveyed did not even realize that ASHA has a Special Interest Division (SID) for fluency disorders.

Since graduating from college, 44.7 percent of the respondents hadn't attended a half-day stuttering workshop; 40.9 percent never attended a full-day stuttering workshop. On average, the SLPs had only attended 1.68 half-day workshops since graduating.

“The findings of this survey show why training workshops and conferences are more important now than ever,” said Jane Fraser, president of the Stuttering Foundation. “School clinicians just aren't getting the basic training they need to make a difference in children's lives. It is frustrating for all concerned — SLPs, children and parents.”

Stuttering Foundation training workshops can be found online at [www.stutteringhelp.org](http://www.stutteringhelp.org). □

## A LOOK AT SURVEY RESULTS

By Glen Tellis, Ph.D., College Misericordia, Dallas, PA

There were 255 respondents. Of these, 87.8% had MA/MS degrees and 9.4% had BA/BS degrees.

▶ 64.7% had their Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC).

▶ A majority (95%) had previously taken courses in fluency disorders.

▶ The average SLP experience was 16.37 years and the average experience working with children who stutter was 10.96 years.

▶ In the 16.37 years, most SLPs attended fewer than 2 workshops in stuttering.

▶ On average, the SLPs had only treated 12.12 children who stuttered throughout their careers and on average had 2.02 children who stuttered on their caseloads.

▶ The SLPs had only attended an average of 1.68 half day fluency workshops since graduating from college and 1.60 full day workshops.

▶ 46.3% of respondents had never heard of ASHA's Special Interest Division in Fluency Disorders - Fluency Specialist Certification and 68.4% did not know how to contact a specialist.

Of the SLPs who had taken a full semester of graduate course work in stuttering, a cause for concern is that:

▶ 66.4% did not know how to contact a Fluency Specialist.

▶ 36.6% indicated that they would not treat initially because the child may spontaneously recover.

▶ 53.1% indicated that they would not treat when disfluencies are first noticed.

▶ 27.7% agreed that parents

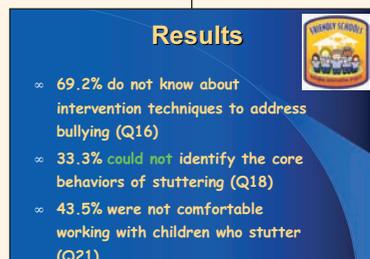
should tell children who stutter to speak slower to reduce stuttering.

▶ 64.4% do not use attitude scales to assess stuttering.

▶ 69.2% do not know about intervention techniques to address bullying.

▶ 33.3% could not identify the core behaviors of stuttering.

▶ 43.5% were not comfortable working with children who stutter.



▶ 42.5% could not differentiate between the two main approaches (fluency shaping and stuttering modification) to stuttering therapy.

Of the SLPs who had ASHA's CCC, a cause for concern is that:

▶ 64.5% did not know how to contact a Fluency Specialist.

▶ 39.3% indicated that they would not treat initially because the child may spontaneously recover.

▶ 55% indicated that they would not treat when disfluencies are first noticed.

▶ 22.3% agreed that parents should tell children who stutter to speak slower to reduce stuttering.

▶ 68.1% do not use attitude scales to assess stuttering.

▶ 71.5% do not know about intervention techniques to address bullying.

▶ 32.6% could not identify the core behaviors of stuttering.

▶ 43.8% were not comfortable working with children who stutter.

The full report can be found at [www.stutteringhelp.org](http://www.stutteringhelp.org).

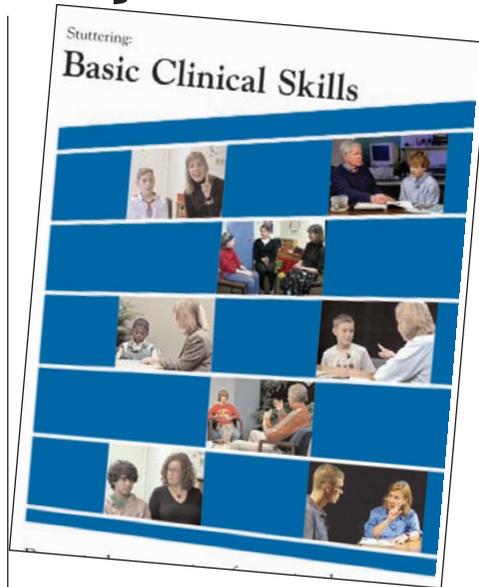
# New DVD already a blockbuster resource

It was just released in March, and already *Stuttering: Basic Clinical Skills* is a winning production.

This DVD features more than two hours of demonstrations of speech management strategies for speech-language therapists working with children and adults who stutter.

It includes footage on identification, exploring stuttering, exploring change, soft starts, changing rate, voluntary stuttering, holding/tolerating the moment of stuttering, pullouts, cancellations, transfer, and disclosure.

"The new DVD shows a remarkable range of therapy techniques and clinical skills for use with people who stutter of all ages," says Carroll Guitar, one of the producers of the DVD.



"These well known and well respected professionals demonstrate fluency shaping and stuttering modification techniques

in clinical settings. It is as though you are in the therapy room with them. *Basic Clinical Skills* is an excellent addition to SFA's collection of materials."

"It was a joy to premiere this DVD at the Texas Speech-Language and Hearing Association's annual convention at the end of March," adds Carol Ecke, who represents the SFA at many state conventions. "Since people know the high quality of the SFA materials, this DVD was rapidly scooped up by enthusiastic attendees. The title may say 'basic,' but the detailed therapy clips and instructional commentaries by specialists in the area of stuttering are excellent for all professionals. This product will be around for a long time. □

## Yairi

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long time stuttering has been considered to be a unitary disorder. St. Onge and Calvert's (1964) remark that stuttering has been viewed as a "pathognomonic monolith" nicely summarizes this perspective.

These two scholars posed the questions: "What are we studying when we study stuttering? Whatever it is, is it one, several, or many?" Thus, the issue of whether stuttering is a single disorder or one that includes discrete subtypes gains great importance. If subtypes exist, do they differ in terms of etiology or relative contributions of various factors? Do they follow different developmental courses? Does the nature of the disorder vary significantly among them? The implications to theory and research design are obvious. Not less important is the question of whether subtypes respond differentially to various treatments.

The concept of stuttering subtypes was already entertained several hundred years ago when it was proposed that the disorder

is caused by either brain hyperexcitability or by emotionality. New classifications have surfaced throughout the modern history of speech pathology as reflected in the writings of Froeschels (1943), and the more recent work of Riley and Riley (2000) and Alm (2004), reflecting diverse views on the issue.

These classifications can be grouped in many ways. For example, based on:

(a) **etiology**, such developmental stuttering in children and acquired stuttering when onset occurs in adults, or on several subtypes of psychogenic etiologies (Brill, 1923),

(b) **prominent stuttering characteristics**, such as repetitions vs. sound elongations (Froeschels, 1943; Schwartz & Conture, 1988), or exteriorized vs. interiorized stuttering (Douglas & Quarrington, 1952),

(c) **biological characteristics**, such as sex (Silverman & Zimmer (1979), family history of stuttering (Poulos & Webster, 1991), or cerebral lateralization (Hinkle, 1971; Sommers, Brady, & Moore,

1975),

(d) **concomitant disorders**, such as stuttering associated with motor or with language deficits (J. Riley, 1971),

(e) **developmental course**, such as Van Riper's (1971) scheme that differentiates among four different tracks.

Although a good number of ideas have been offered, only limited research concerned specifically with stuttering subtypes has been conducted. More typically, researchers have focused on a single dimension of stuttering, e.g., disfluency characteristics, motor skills, personality, brain hemispheric lateralization, thereby over-looking the multifaceted character of the stuttering disorder.

These studies were also limited to small groups of participants, and often fell short of adequate experimental controls. Perhaps due to these limitations they have not succeeded in generating strong evidence for straightforward typologies. So far, none of the proposed classification systems for stuttering as a disorder has been adopted

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# Actor Michael Palin joins celebration

Actor Michael Palin joined the December celebration that kicked off the beginning of a partnership between the London centre named for him and the Stuttering Foundation.

“I am enormously proud of the painstaking way in which our therapists, children and parents confront and deal with the problem together as a team,” the actor said. “This shared approach is the reason why our many years have been so successful.”

The Stuttering Foundation and Michael Palin Centre joined forces in a transatlantic alliance as a way to help researchers, clinicians and children.

A newly released DVD, *Stuttering: Basic Clinical Skills*, includes footages from both sides of the Atlantic.

Palin, an actor, writer, and television host, has been involved in a number of TV programs, movies and travel films.

Some of his most notable include *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, *Ripping Yarns*, *Brazil*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Sahara with Michael Palin*, *Pole to Pole* and *Himalaya*. □



Michael Palin spends time speaking with children.



Michael Palin with Member of Parliament Emily Thornberry and Jane Fraser.



◀ Travers B. Reid (left), life president and co-founder of the Association for Research into Stammering in Childhood, and Tom Hughes-Hallett, chairman of the board.



▲ Willie Botterill shares a laugh with Luke Jeans, who recently shot footage for SFA's new DVD *Stuttering: Basic Clinical Skills*.



◀ Frances Cook (left) and Willie Botterill.



Jane Fraser with Travers B. Reid.

Michael Palin, Tom Hughes-Hallett and Jane Fraser ▶



▲ Michael Palin, Emily Thornberry, Jane Fraser and Tom Hughes-Hallett.



◀ Michael Palin holds up a computer showing the Web site for the Michael Palin Centre.

## Book really takes off

*The Elps of the Airport* is a wonderful 96-page book written by noted speech-language pathologist Peggy Marks Wahlhaus, who attended the 1988 Workshop for Specialists from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In the book, you'll meet the Elps – small invisible people who live at the airport and love to fly but have been living under a terrible spell for a long time. Can a little ElpBoy who stutters



summon all his courage to bring freedom and happiness to all the ElpFolk? This charming book tells a unique story about bravery, community, and friendship.

For more information and to order, visit [www.australian-bookgroup.com.au](http://www.australian-bookgroup.com.au) or e-mail [pegwahl@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pegwahl@bigpond.net.au).

## NSSLHA bake sale: A tasty idea

The National  Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association chapter at the University of Cincinnati held a pizza and bake sale to raise money for the Stuttering

Foundation.

The event not only raised funds, but raised awareness of stuttering because chapter members handed out posters and flyers to go with those yummy treats.

## Nick Brendon update

Popular actor Nick Brendon continues to amaze. The SFA spokesperson starred in *Fire Serpent*, which debuted in February.

Also, his series *Kitchen Confidential* will be released on DVD in May.



Nick  
Brendon

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by a significant number of either researchers or clinicians.

The current decade, however, has seen renewed theoretical and experimental interests in stuttering subtypes. For example, Feinberg, Griffin, and Levey (2000) studied people who stutter with a focus on the old idea of clonic vs. tonic stuttering; Foundas, Corey, and Hurley (2004) investigated brain lateralization; Yairi and Ambrose (2005) further pursued their persistent and naturally recovered subtypes; and Suresh, Ambrose, Roe, et al. (2006) looked at chromosomal markers.

Currently, a large research project devoted to the subtypes notion, supported by the National Institute On Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, is being carried out at the University of Illinois Stuttering Research Program with the participation of several other centers (e.g., Universities of Chicago, Iowa, Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Arkansas, Northern Illinois, Eastern Illinois, and the Michael Palin Center in London).

Contrary to most previous research, this project incorporates multiple aspects, such as epidemiology, speech, language, motor,

personality, and more, and includes a large corpus of children and adults who stutter. Along the lines of multiple factors, variables not previously examined simultaneously in the same individuals over time are being explored.

If subtypes of stuttering are identified and recognized, then our theories and models of stuttering will need to be sufficiently dynamic to accommodate the requisite divisions and subdivisions. As mentioned above, significant practical implications to counseling, treatment, and research design may result.

Although we are enthusiastic about the prospects, one must keep in mind the possibility that the difficulties encountered thus far in isolating stuttering subtypes could mean that stuttering is, after all, a unitary disorder and that well-defined subtypes may not exist.

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## Dr. James Frick

As we go to press, we are saddened to learn that Dr. James Frick died April 16, 2007.

He was a recognized authority in the field of stuttering and a longtime friend of the Foundation.

He attended the planning sessions for the first SFA weeklong conference that was held in Delray Beach, Fla., Dec. 27, 1956, to Jan. 3, 1957.

His complete obituary will appear in the next newsletter.

## Bar Mitzvah gifts make a difference

Dylan Levin of Chicago wanted to do something special for his Bar Mitzvah in March.

In lieu of gifts, he asked his guests to donate to the Stuttering Foundation.

Dylan, who has had a speech disfluency since he was 5 years old, says he feels connected to the Stuttering Foundation and wanted to help others.

Dylan wrote to the Foundation about the Bar Mitzvah. "It was a wonderful day and evening for me."

He continued, "I would hope that this money will help in some way toward research, therapy, and other resources that can assist in helping people of all ages."

"Dylan's thoughtfulness will help other young people who stutter," said Jane Fraser, president of the Foundation. "It shows what an exceptional young man he is." □

*See page 15 for a list of donors.*



Dylan Levin at his Bar Mitzvah in March.

## Jigger gives stuttering help the green flag

When *AutoWeek* recently ran an article featuring Stuttering Foundation friend and ambassador-at-large Jigger Sirois, the response was outstanding.

As a person who stutters, Jigger—well known in the world of car racing for some very fun reasons — spends his time these days advocating for public awareness of stuttering, education and early intervention.



Jigger Sirois

It was his failed attempt to qualify his car at the Indy 500 in 1969 that ironically gave him his claim to fame.

He was mistakenly waved off a lap early in a run that would have been fast enough to qualify and won him the pole position.

The "Jigger Award," that no driver really wants to win, is given annually before the Indy 500 to the driver with the worst luck that season.

Jigger credits therapy in 2000 with helping him overcome a life-long stuttering problem.

Now he enthusiastically speaks out whenever and wherever he can to let people know there is help and hope.

Promoting the Stuttering Foundation in the article created a huge number of calls to the Foundation.

Jigger was born into a racing family in Shelby, Ind., and named Leon Duray after an Indy 500 driver his dad admired. He acquired his nickname after a Speedway mechanic, Jigger Johnson.

Jigger dreamed of winning the Indy 500, but today feels grateful for his "accidental fame" as it gives him an opportunity to reach more people on his favorite subject: help for those who stutter! □

## Fibiger solves mystery gift case

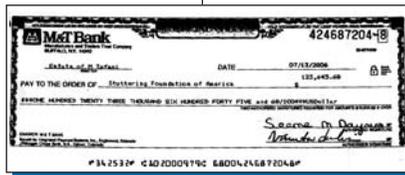
Thanks to detective work by specialist in stuttering Steen Fibiger of Denmark, we now know more about Maurice Tofani, whose \$123,645 bequest reached the Foundation last year.

Mr. Tofani was born in Italy in 1928 and came to the U.S., where Fibiger tells us he attend-

ed Columbia University and graduated with a degree in linguistics.

His claim to fame is a thesis titled *A Linguistic Approach to the Acculturation of Italians in New York City*.

We assume but cannot be certain that Mr. Tofani was a person who stuttered. □



### Love

*Continued from page 10*

greatest chance of success."

Today, the comeback is complete. Bob Love rose from dishwasher to Nordstrom's corporate director of health and sanitation for its restaurants nationwide.

In 1988, the National Council on Communicative Disorders awarded him its Individual Achievement Award.

And, in 1990, the NBA Players Association chose Love to receive the Oscar Robertson Award for

achievement outside basketball. Today, Bob Love remains very active with the Bulls. He travels to schools and other places discussing issues important to children and adults alike.

"There is no 'cure' for stuttering, but therapy and hard work often can help those affected to speak more easily and fluently," notes Fraser. "Bob Love joins an impressive list of famous people who have not let stuttering hold them back from important careers and rewarding lives. Now he is helping others." □

**Love***Continued from front page*

National Stuttering Awareness Week was established by Congress in 1988 to promote public information and understanding concerning this complex speech disorder.

"I know how important it is to receive speech therapy at an early age," Love said. "My grandmother Ella used to swat me in the mouth with a dishrag and say 'Spit out those words, Robert Earl,'" he recalls.

"That approach didn't work very well, but it underscores the public's misunderstanding of stuttering that is still prevalent," said Love, who now speaks out about stuttering awareness regularly and has been featured in many of the Stuttering Foundation's public service ads.

Difficulty in finding a job for those who stutter is nothing new to Love. In the 1970s, he made the NBA All-Star Team three times and led the Chicago Bulls in scoring seven straight years. But he still stuttered, and there were fewer media interviews or endorsements than a player of his caliber would normally receive.

"After my retirement from the NBA, reaction by potential employers to my speaking difficulty turned the

usually tough post-sports career adjustment into a living nightmare," Love relates. "I had a college degree and a well-known name, but personnel managers seldom call back someone who stutters on the telephone. For years, I

was either in poor-paying jobs or out of work."

By the end of 1984 — some seven years after millions had watched him play NBA basketball — Love took the only job offered to him. He would wash dishes and bus tables for a Nordstrom department store in Seattle.

Yet it was here that Love's story began a slow, grinding and difficult turn for the better. First, there was the corporate manager of Nordstrom's restaurants, who offered to have his company pay for speech therapy. Enter speech-language pathologist Susan Hamilton, who would guide Love through countless hours of therapy in which he learned to manage his moments of stuttering and speak more fluently.

"Gradually, I learned how to work my speech and to prepare mentally for speaking situations," Love says today. "I began accepting a few speaking invitations and told whoever would listen about the trials of those who struggle with stuttering."

"More than 20 years after his first speech therapy session, Bob's story continues to inspire people in all walks of life. It provides hope to children and adults who stutter, reminds speech pathologists of the importance of their life's work, and challenges us all to work on our individual problems so that we may experience their hidden gifts," said Hamilton.

"My message to young people who stutter and their parents is direct: Don't wait, like I did," Love emphasizes. "As the Stuttering Foundation points out in its publications, speech therapy during childhood has the



Photo courtesy of the Chicago Bulls

Bob Love, second from left, is among the Chicago Bulls legends whose numbers have been retired.

## DOCUMENTARY ABOUT BOB LOVE

America's Film Fund is producing a one hour documentary which will chronicle Bob "Butterbean" Love's battle to overcome his most formidable opponent: his stuttering affliction, to become one of the most sought after motivational speakers in the country.

This documentary will be released in the fall of 2007 and initially distributed to school children throughout the country. The message of the documentary will be about achieving one's goals, no matter how difficult, and the importance of an education in reaching those goals. He currently speaks to more than 200,000 young people every year about the importance of education and perseverance over adversity.

This documentary is being made available to schools and youth organizations nationwide at no charge. It will feature key people who have supported Bob and who have been touched by his life-affirming story, including NBA Commissioner David Stern, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, Chicago Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf, Chicago Bulls superstar Michael Jordan, and Arne Duncan, CEO of the Chicago Public Schools.

Stay tuned. The fall newsletter will have more information on this exciting production. □



*Continued on page 9*

## Steamy in Miami: ASHA 2006 a hot spot

Warm weather and white-sand beaches with magnificent ocean waves were all part of the setting for the 2006 ASHA Convention, which took place in Miami Beach, Fla., in November.

The Foundation was a big part of the convention.

The Foundation's booth was wildly busy with a number of items proving to be very popular, including the new DVD series *The Child Who Stutters: Practical Ideas for the School Clinician*.

Again this year, Susan Hamilton and Lisa Scott raised nearly \$1,000 for the SFA by selling Cookie Lee Jewelry during the convention.

The many volunteers who helped staff the booth made it a great success.

Thanks goes to Joe Donaher, Peter Ramig, Kim and Thom Krieger, Joan Babin, John Ellis, Ryan Pollard, Lisa Scott, Lisette Betancourt, Courtney Byrd, Jennifer Watson, Kathy Scaler-Scott, Rita Thurman, Patrice Carothers, E. Charles Healey, Rachel Williams, Susan Cochrane, Judy Kuster, Diane Parris, Courtney Byrd, Tom and Kristin Chmela, Liz Mendez-Shannon, Carol Ecke, and Sheryl Gottwald. □



Above: Carol Ecke (left) and Liz Mendez-Shannon suggest books to a conference attendee.



At left: Kathy Scaler-Scott is all smiles.



Patrice Carothers and Rita Thurman



Peter Ramig answers a question.



E. Charles Healey speaks with a customer. □

## Film is *Unspeakable*

Winnipeg filmmaker John Paskievich has created a documentary on a subject he knows about firsthand: stuttering.

His production *Unspeakable* explores the everyday trauma endured by those who stutter.

He interviews people who stutter, and even explores treatments and therapies. Using hidden cameras, he was able to capture the reaction those who stutter often receive from others.

Paskievich believes society needs to be better educated and more accepting of this disorder.

For more information, please visit [www.nfb.ca](http://www.nfb.ca).



## Popular book now in Czech

Thanks to Dr. Elisabeth Peutelschmiedova, Stuttering Foundation books are readily available to people who stutter in The Czech Republic.

Her latest translation effort is Dr. Frederick P. Murray's classic book *A Stutterer's Story: An Autobiography*.

Dr. Murray couldn't be happier that his book is helping those in the Czech Republic.

"It's exciting to get it into another language," he said. "It's a way to help others. The feedback has been very positive."

His book is also available in English, French, Italian and Japanese.

Other books translated by Dr. Peutelschmiedova into Czech include *Do You Stutter: A Guide for Teens*, *Stuttering Therapy: Transfer and Maintenance*, *Advice to Those Who Stutter*, *Sometimes I Just Stutter*, *Treating the School-Age Child Who Stutters: A Guide for Clinicians* and *Self-Therapy for the Stutterer*. □





# Dear SFA: Reader Response

Send letters to SFA, P.O. Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749 or email [info@stutteringhelp.org](mailto:info@stutteringhelp.org).

## Friends, teacher a big help

Dear SFA:

My name is Gage. I live in Ohio. I'm 10-years-old. I'm in the fourth grade. I started stuttering at age 2. I feel my stutter has gotten a little better. It does not make me feel bad. My teacher and my friends help me. It is not a problem for me. I have very loyal friends. I've never been teased. It does not stop me from talking in class. It does not keep me from doing things I want to do. I do go to speech. It does help me. When I grow up, I want to be an actor so I can challenge myself. My advice is not to think about stuttering.

Gage

Amelia, Ohio

## Stuttering is like gum

Dear SFA:

Sometimes my stutter feels like my shoe is stuck in gum. I feel real sad. Sometimes kids tease me a lot. And I really feel bad about it.

I was brave enough to give a presentation to my class to tell them about stuttering. I taught them about "bouncy" talking, "sticky" talking, and "long" talking. And I taught them about famous people who stutter, like Bo Jackson and James Earl Jones (the voice of Darth Vader). We talked about if they were teased before and how did they feel when



Devon, 8, of Beloit, Wis., drew this picture because he says stuttering feels like when your shoe is stuck in gum.

they got teased. I told them ways to help me when I stutter. They can give me a signal to tell me to take a deep breath and let some air out.

Now kids don't tease me that much. If they do, I tell them to come back when they can stutter better than me!

Devon, 8

Beloit, Wis.

## A love for horses

Dear SFA:

When I was 5, I started to like horses a lot. Then when I turned 9, my

mom signed me up for H and H. This is a group that practices horseback riding. We do hurdle jumping and barrel racing. Once when I won a big race, I had to make a speech in front of everyone. I realized that I started to stutter. Then I told my cousin what I wanted to say and she told everyone. I felt embarrassed that I couldn't speak well and I was thankful for my cousin. My stuttering is better now than it was before. I hope that people who read my story will realize that other people can be very helpful.

Shelly

Salem, Ore.

## Essay a real winner

Dear SFA:

This is Alicia and I wrote the poem on stuttering in the last newsletter. I just wanted to let you know that I have won first place for the city-wide PTA contest.

Alicia

Virginia Beach, Va.

## Friends are important

Dear SFA:

My name is Chandler and I'm 10 years old. When I'm mad at my stuttering, I go outside and go to my friend's house. He makes me feel good. He stutters like me and we are best friends. He keeps saying that I

*Continued on page 13*

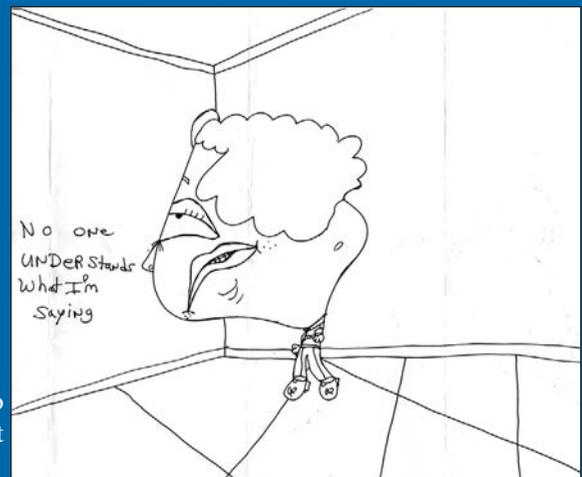
## Picture perfect



Isaiah drew this picture and wrote, "When I stutter, my boat is bouncing on a wave."

Tracey sent us this picture that includes a caption that says, "No one understands what I'm saying."

Do you have artwork to share? E-mail it to us at [info@stutteringhelp.org](mailto:info@stutteringhelp.org).



## Letters

Continued from page 12

should try to quit and some people say, "Why do you say words over and over?" I say I stutter a lot. I go and sleep to help me stop stuttering. Some people call me "stutter-mouth" or call me "stupid." I like the way I am! I have a favorite teacher who helps me with my speech. Here is a helpful hint: Try to have a friend just like you!

Chandler

Email

**Huge Star Wars fan**

Dear James Earl Jones,

I am a big *Star Wars* fan and I can't believe that you had stuttering problems. You did an awesome job as the voice of Darth Vader!

I have stuttering problems, too. I started when I was 6 or 7. I just want you to know that you aren't the only one with stuttering problems. I never would have guessed that you had trouble with stuttering if I did not read about it.

Zane

Chester Springs, Pa.



James Earl Jones

**Celebrities excite students**

Dear SFA:

My students have really enjoyed reading issues of the newsletter and other information on your Web site ([www.stutteringhelp.org](http://www.stutteringhelp.org)). It is wonderful to have such a great resource for these young students. Their eyes light up when they read about famous people who stutter and other students who are going through some of the same experiences that they have been through at school and home.

Cindy Lawler

Greenville, Ms.

**Weatherman shares story**

Dear SFA:

For many years as a child, I stuttered. My parents had me visit a speech pathologist for several years during elementary school. While I still stuttered going into adulthood, it wasn't a crutch nor did it hold me back. Today, I'm a weatherman for News Channel 7 and CookevilleTV.com.

Michael Detwiler, Jr.

Cookeville, Tenn.

## Eric and Julia Roberts share many things — including stuttering

Eric and Julia Roberts are a brother-and-sister act that is unique in the world of acting. They are only the third brother-and-sister act to be both nominated for Oscars for acting. Eric was nominated for Best Supporting Actor for his 1985 role in *Runaway Train*. His sister Julia won the Oscar for Best Actress for her role in *Erin Brockovich* in 2001, after receiving previous nominations in 1989 and 1990, for *Steel Magnolias* and *Pretty Woman*, respectively. Only two other brother/sister combos have done the same thing. Lionel and Ethel Barrymore both won Oscars, while Warren Beatty and his sister Shirley MacLaine received multiple nominations as actors. MacLaine won Best Actress in 1984 for *Terms of Endearment*. While Beatty has never won an Oscar as an actor, he won one as Best Director for *Reds* in 1981.

While the public knows much about the careers of Eric & Julia Roberts, as well as their estrangement over family issues, the public is largely unaware that this distinguished brother-and-sister act are both entered on the SFA's list of "Famous People Who Stutter". The Roberts siblings stuttered as children and ironically give credence to the factor of the heredity/genetic link in the stuttering equation. Julia has stated in public several times that she stuttered as a young girl. However, it seems that she has not gone into much detail. On the other hand, Eric has spoken very candidly about his childhood speech, and one could surmise that he not only stuttered into more advanced years of childhood than his sister, but also that his stuttering was more severe.

Eric appeared on the cover of Andy Warhol's *Interview* magazine in October 1986, a period in time

which could be considered a high point in his career. In the interview he did with the magazine, he said, "I read a lot when I was little because I had the worst stutter in the world — "The the the wa-wa-wa-wa-wa-wa-water is cold". And the class cracked up. I suppose it was funny, but it was so painful for me. So I read because it was a solitary thing where I didn't have to be cracked up at."

Similarly, the 2004 biography *Julia: Her Life* by James Spada goes into detail about Eric's painful stuttering several times throughout the book. Spada wrote, "Eric had not ut-

tered a word until he was five, then suffered from a nearly crippling stutter." Spada quotes a family friend as saying, "When I knew Eric, he was so eager to please, he was a delight — he was this really cute kid who stut-

tered and who tried so hard." The book then goes on to say that Eric was so afraid of taunts at school that when his teachers went from pupil to pupil to read out loud in class, Eric would strategically figure out his passage in advance and then memorize it because he would not stutter when speaking from memory.

There was talk of putting Eric into a special ed class, but when his father, an acting teacher, saw him reciting memorized lines in front of a mirror without stuttering, he immediately decided that acting was the route for his son.

The fact that both Eric and Julia Roberts appear on the SFA's list of "Famous People Who Stutter" no doubt has inspired young people struggling with the problem. Maybe someday in the future they might consider becoming spokespeople for the SFA. Until then, the worldwide stuttering community will continue to be proud to have such a unique brother-and sister combo among our ranks.

**CELEBRITY CORNER**

Eric Roberts



Julia Roberts

## NEWS BRIEFS

▶ The Stuttering Foundation two-day conference for speech-language pathologists, *Best Practices in Preschool Stuttering*, will be held on June 16-17, 2007, in Cincinnati, Ohio. For an application form, call the Stuttering Foundation at 1-800-992-9392 or check [www.stutteringhelp.org](http://www.stutteringhelp.org).

▶ The Stuttering Foundation's two-week Workshop for Specialists will be held at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. The workshop is filled. This year's event is directed by Patricia Zebrowski, Ph.D., and Toni Cilek, M.A. Guest speakers include Frances Cook, MSc, Reg HPC, Cert CT (Oxford), Reg UKCP (PCP), and Willie Botterill, MSc, Reg HPC, Reg UKCP (PCP), of the Michael Palin Centre

for Stammering Children, London, and Lisa Scott, Ph.D.

▶ The 5-day workshops, held this year in Boston and Portland, are filled. The Boston workshop is directed by Diana Parris, M.S., Sheryl Gottwald, Ph.D., and Adriana DiGrande, M.A.. Guest speakers are Edward G. Conture, Ph.D., and David Luteran. The Portland workshop is directed by Susan Hamilton, M.A., Jennier Watson, Ph.D., and Ellen Reuler, M.A.

▶ The *10th Annual Convention of Friends* will be held July 5-7, 2007, in St. Louis, Mo., at the downtown Crowne Plaza. For information and registration, visit [www.friendswhostutter.org](http://www.friendswhostutter.org) or call 866-866-8335.

▶ The *NSA Annual Convention* will be held June 28-July 1, 2007, in Atlanta, Ga. For more information and registration, call 800-937-8888.

▶ The British Stammering Association announces the *6th ELSA Youth Meeting* in July 2007 in Nijmegen (Goesbeek) in The Netherlands. Please visit [www.stammering.org](http://www.stammering.org) for more information.

▶ The *International Stuttering Association World Congress* will be May 6-10, 2007, in Dubrovnik, Croatia. For more information, visit [www.stutterisa.org](http://www.stutterisa.org).

▶ *Clinical Training in the Lidcombe program* will be June 27-28, 2007, with Barry Guitar, Melissa Bruce and Rosalee Shenker. Evidence-Based Treatment for School-Age Children will be June 29, 2007, with Sarita Koushik. Call (514) 489-4320 or e-mail [info@montrealfluency.com](mailto:info@montrealfluency.com) for more information.

▶ 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](mailto: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.

▶ For those wanting to obtain a copy of *Self-Therapy for the Stutterer* in Japanese, write to Dr. Shokichi Nakajima, 2-21-1 Ogawa Machida-shi, Tokyo 194, Japan, telephone/fax:

0427 (96) 5092.

▶ *Self-Therapy for the Stutterer* is available in French. Write to the Association des Begues du Canada, 2596 A rue Chapleau, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2K 3H6; 1-877-353-1042. Please enclose \$20.00 Canadian to cover printing, postage, and handling costs.

### Books on Stuttering or Related Topics Available from Bookstores:

▶ *Entry to Fantasy: A Journey into Dreamland* by Saga. 2006. Saga, a person who stutters, wrote this book as a collection of experiences built on real-life trials. Available from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.forbesbookclub.com](http://www.forbesbookclub.com).

▶ *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](http://www.LWW.com)

▶ *Stuttering Recovery Personal and Empirical Perspectives* by Dale F. Williams. 2006. Available from Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Mahwah, NJ, [www.erlbaum.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.newharbinger.com).

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

▶ *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](http://www.ablongman.com). 2003.

▶ *Les begaïements: Histoire, psychologie, evaluation, varietes, traitements* by Anne Van Hout and Françoise 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., 800-683-9713 or [www.apollopress.com](http://www.apollopress.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](http://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 the Stuttering Foundation at 800-992-9392.

▶ *Stuttering: Its Nature, Diagnosis, and Treatment* by Edward G. Conture, Ph.D., published by Allyn &

Bacon, Needham Heights, MA. (781) 433-8410.

▶ *Successful Stuttering Management Program*, Second Edition, by Dorvan Breitenfeldt, Ph.D., published by EWU Press, Cheney, WA, (509) 235-6453.

▶ *Synergistic Stuttering Therapy: A Holistic Approach* by Sister Charleen Bloom and Donna K. Cooperman. Published by Butterworth Heineman, Woburn, MA.

▶ *Stuttering Intervention: A Collaborative Journey to Fluency Freedom* by David Allen Shapiro, published by Pro-Ed, Austin, Texas.

▶ *Clinical Decision Making in Fluency Disorders* by Walter H. Manning, Ph.D., published by Singular/Thomson Learning.

## 2-Day Conference Best Practices in Preschool Stuttering

June 16-17, 2007  
in Cincinnati

With Barry Guitar, Ph.D.,  
and Kristin A. Chmela, M.A.

800-992-9392

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