Discovery 2005
The Low Vision Conference
November 3-5

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The Holiday Inn Mart Plaza
350 N. Orleans St.
Chicago, Illinois 60654
(312) 836-5000

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A Comprehensive Perspective on Low Vision and Vision Rehabilitation

Designed to bring together people with vision impairments of all ages, their families, educators, doctors, rehabilitation professionals and vendors.

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Continuing Education Credits are available
This is a program of *Discovery Conference, Inc.*, a coalition of non-profit organizations and government agencies working together to bring you the best in low vision education:

- Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Blind Services
- The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired
- The Deicke Center for Visual Rehabilitation
- Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness
- Illinois Blind Service Planning Council
- Illinois Eye Institute (Illinois College of Optometry)
- Macular Degeneration International
- American Optometric Association Low Vision Section
- Blind Service Association
- National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments
- Illinois Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments
- National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation
- National Association of Vision Professionals
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Prevent Blindness America
- Illinois Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
- The Guild for the Blind
- Illinois Consortium for Leaders of Vision Support
- The Hadley School for the Blind

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- **Dr. Gerald Fishman** – Honorary 2005 Conference Chairperson
- **James A. McKechnie, Jr.** – Chair, Board of Directors
  Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness
- **Bettye Odem-Davis** – Vice President, Board of Directors
  Illinois Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments
- **James M. Kesteloot** – Treasurer
  Illinois Department of Human Services/Office of Rehabilitation Services
- **Dawn E. Turco** – Secretary and Program Committee Chairperson
  The Hadley School for the Blind
- **Leah A. Gerlach** – 2005 Conference Chairperson
  The Deicke Center for Visual Rehabilitation
- **Barbara Hunt** – Exhibits Committee Chair
  Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2005

7:30 am – 4:30 pm  Registration

9:00 am – 10:30 am  Opening General Session
  Welcome Message
  Leah Gerlach, 2005 Conference Chairperson
  James A. McKechnie, Jr, Chair, Discovery Conference, Inc.
  Rob Kilbury, Associate Director, Illinois Department of Human Services,
  Office of Rehabilitation Services

  Keynote Address – “What You Need to Know About Treatment
  Strategies for Retinal Diseases”
  Dr. Gerald Fishman, University of Illinois at Chicago

10:30 am – 5:00 pm  Exhibits
  Be sure to visit them all to learn the latest in services and technology.

10:30 am – 11:00 am  Morning Break

11:00 am – 12:00 pm  Concurrent Sessions

T1A. Guide Dog Travel for People with Low Vision
  This interactive workshop encourages participants to ask questions
  relating to their specific circumstances and share information that can be
  helpful to all participants.

  John Dettloff, Field Representative, Guiding Eyes for the Blind
  Becky Barnes, Manager, Consumer Outreach and Graduate Support,
  Guiding Eyes for the Blind
  Bill Jurek, Graduate Council Member, Guiding Eyes for the Blind
T1B. **Update of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act**  
Parents, family members, teachers and other professionals will gain the latest information on the re-authorization of IDEA in an interactive session.

*Mary Zabelski, President, National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI), Director of Educational Services at The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who are Blind or Visually Impaired*  
*Betsy Brint, Regional Representative, NAPVI*

T1C. **Frequently Asked Questions About the Low Vision Exam**  
This presentation will discuss what is involved in a low vision examination, and how it differs from other types of eye examinations.

*John Rimkus, OD. Director, Low Vision Rehabilitation Service, The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired*

T1D. **The Impact of the ADA Legal Decision on Employment Opportunities for Those Who are Visually Impaired**  
A look at how the courts are viewing the issue of reasonable accommodation in job retention cases.

*Dan Helpingstien, Program Manager, Job Readiness and Placement, The Chicago Lighthouse For People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired*

T1E. **Internet Search Strategies: Finding What You Are Looking For**  
This presentation will discuss how the Internet is used to find personal and professional information of interest when visually impaired.

*David Flament, MS. Manager of Computer Training, Guild for the Blind*

T1F. **The Implantable Miniature Telescope**  
This clinical trial for persons with age-related macular degeneration was a multi-center study. A miniature telescope implanted in the eye brought good results as over 200 patients participated beginning in 2003. Study
results, training regiment and future considerations of who would best benefit will be discussed.

Thomas B. Perski, Southwest Low Vision, Tucson, AZ

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm    Lunch Break (on your own)

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm    Concurrent Sessions

T2A. Age-Related Macular Degeneration Update
This update on AMD will assist patients, rehabilitation professionals and health care providers in diagnosing, treating and coping with this condition.

Joseph J. Pizzimenti, OD, FAAO. Associate Professor, Nova Southeastern University, The Eye Institute

T2B. On the Road to Independence: Strategies for Paving the Way
What are the roles of students, families and educators in transition planning? We’ll provide some valuable suggestions to help you on this exciting journey.

Susan Dalton, Transition Specialist, TransVision Program, Illinois Bureau of Blind Services

T2C. Going Places Alone and With Others, You Can Do It All
This presentation will explore the various resources and opportunities for safe travel for people in all stages of vision loss.

Mae Michels, MS Ed, COMS. The Deicke Center for Visual Rehabilitation
Linda Zagula, MS Ed, COMS. O&M Specialist, Berkeley, CA

T2D. New Low Vision Devices
Review of new devices available in low vision rehabilitation, both optical and electronic.

Tracy Matchinski, OD, FAAO. Illinois Eye Institute, Low Vision Rehabilitation Service; The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired
Janis E. Winters, OD, FAAO. Illinois Eye Institute, Low Vision Rehabilitation Service

T2E. Self-Help Support Group Network
Illinois Consortium Leaders for Vision Support (ICLVS)

T2F. Classes Online, the Distance Learning Interface
A panel discussion on using adaptive technology and effective techniques for taking or giving classes and receiving training online.

David Porter, President, Comp-Unique, Inc.

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm  Afternoon Break

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm  Concurrent Sessions

T3A. “Cane” is Not a Four-Lettered Word
Through simulations and hands-on activities, learn how the cane can improve safety and esteem for those with low vision.

Sandra Stirnweis, COMS, CLVT. Senior Mobility Specialist, Foundation for Blind Children

T3B. Optic Nerve Hypoplasia
Dr. Lawrence M. Kaufman, University of Illinois at Chicago

T3C. Vision, Aging and Driving
R. Tracy Williams, OD. The Deicke Center for Visual Rehabilitation
Walter M. Jay, MD. Department of Ophthalmology, Loyola University Medical Center
Anne Hegberg, OTR/L, Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist, Marianjoy Rehabilitation Center.

T3D. Connecting to the Sighted World Through the Arts and Other Media
A presenter with low vision provides a multi-sensory program using simulating goggles and techniques to experience the visual and performing arts.
Rana McMurray Arnold, Co-Founder/Director of Sight Loss Center
T3E. Making Your Home More Livable: Environmental Modifications to Enhance Low Vision
A practical “do-it-yourself” guide to 25 ways one can modify their home to enhance independent life with low vision.

*Judy Mullen.* PACE, Inc., Center for Independent Living

**4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**  Reception

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2005**

**7:30 am – 4:30 pm**  Registration

**8:00 am – 5:00 pm**  Exhibits

**9:00 am – 10:15 am**  Opening General Session

“*The Psychology and Reality of Low Vision*”
*James Kesteloot,* President/Executive Director, The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

**10:15 am – 10:45 am**  Morning Break

**10:45 am - 12:00 pm**  Concurrent Sessions

**F1A. Promoting Effective Pediatric/Geriatric Low Vision Rehabilitation: Comparisons and Contrasts**
Evaluation and management of pediatric and geriatric low vision patients have interesting commonalities and differences. The presenters address this topic from a lifelong learning and personal growth perspective.

*Alfred A. Rosenbloom, OD.* The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

*Susan Gormezano, OD.* Chair, AOA Low Vision Rehabilitation Section, Low Vision Associates, Bingham Farms, MI

**F1B. Developmental Assessment of the Visually Impaired Child: What to Expect in Early Intervention**
*Marla Gartska, Anne Peccia Levy, Sharon Williams, Susan Kuranishi.* Early Intervention Teachers, The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

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F1C. **When Stronger Glasses Don’t Help: Consider Telescopic Devices to See Better**
Learn how the “close-up” effect of many kinds of telescopes can restore detail to faces, signs, and scenery. Hand-free/autofocus, video camera and simple binoculars can help. Come explore the telescopic world.

*John D. Coalter, OD; Connie Arends, MS Ed, RTC. The Deicke Center for Visual Rehabilitation*

F1D. **All In The Family**
This panel discussion addresses the importance of the family’s approach to nurturing a visually impaired child to achieve maximum independence.

*Cindy Brown, The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired*

F1E. **Self-Help Support Group**
Illinois Consortium Leaders for Vision Support (ICLVS)

F1F. **Low Vision Enhancement: Eccentric Viewing**
This hands-on workshop will teach new principles of eccentric viewing while showing you ways to enhance your remaining vision.

*Deborah Zelinsky, OD, FC, OVD*  
*Mary Scully, Senior Program Manager, Blind Service Association*

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm   **Lunch Break** (on your own)

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm   **Concurrent Sessions**

F2A. **Work Adjustment: A Twenty-Year Perspective**
A discussion of the trends and evolution in blind vocational services over the past twenty years.

*Robert Mantsh, The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired*

F2B. **Functional Secondary Education Curriculum for Students Who Are Blind with Multiple Disabilities**
How high school students at The Chicago Lighthouse Child
Development Center are demonstrating progress toward their IEP goals while enrolled in a standards-based functional academic curriculum.

Jacqueline Rickman Sacco, Carol Hampe-Bailey, Thomas Bakjian, The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

F2C. Developing a New Image: What Photography Can Mean in a World of Darkness
An inclusive approach to photography for all who are interested in the subject.

Paul Wohfeil, BBS. Training Director, Illinois Department of Human Services

F2D. The Day My Life Changed Forever
A woman in her 50s gets her first guide dog and soon discovers that her life and her personality will never be the same.

Roxanne L. Calibraro, Director, Alternative Dispute Resolution Division, Better Business Bureau of Chicago-Northern Illinois

F2E. Low Vision and Cessation of Driving
The significant pending problem of transportation for seniors, resources on the topic, myths about vision and driving, and strategies for transportation with cessation of driving.

Derrald G. Taylor, OD, MS. Illinois Eye Institute
Ginger Irwin, The Hadley School for the Blind, SEDOL (Special Education District of Lake County)

F2F. Maximize Your Vision & Stay Independent Despite Your Vision Loss
How older Americans maintain independent lifestyle in non-traditional setting, or the “Birth of a Program.”


2:30 pm – 3:00 pm Afternoon Break
3:00 pm – 4:15 pm Concurrent Sessions

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F3A. **Think Outside the Box: Expand Your Career Options When You’re Visually Impaired**
A panel discussion emphasizing non-traditional careers and ways of thinking about personal and professional goals for those with visual impairments.

*Lauri Dishman*, Manager of Career Services, Guild for the Blind.

F3B. **Through the Looking Glass; Use of Low Vision Aids With Young Travelers**
Learn how to introduce and teach the use of low vision aids to young children (focus on 2-6).

*Sandra Stirnweiss*, COMS, CLVT. Senior Mobility Specialist, Foundation for Blind Children

F3C. **The Doctor Is In**
*Questions and Answers from a Panel of Doctors on Low Vision, Eye Disease, Treatment, and Research*

F3D. **“I Just Need Stronger Devices” vs. Benefits of a Visual Rehabilitation Program**
A caring rehabilitation team can guide you to vital skills that solve problems, conserve limited energy, and help you build coping strategies. This “whole person” approach can also restore a more hopeful outlook.

*John D. Coalter, OD; Connie Arends, MS Ed, RTC*. The Deicke Center for Visual Rehabilitation

F3E. **Benefits Planning Assistance Outreach**

*Michelle Lawrence*, Benefits Specialist, DHS/Division of Rehabilitation Services

F3F. **Assisting Toward Independence: The Chicago Lighthouse Deaf-Blind Program**
Two-deaf-blind individuals will relay their own personal experiences on living independently accessing services and resources and demonstrating equipment.
Joann Rushing, Veramarie Baldoza, MA. Deaf-Blind Community Outreach Specialist, The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

Allen Sugar, Manager of Vending at Railroad Retirement Board

Alice Pepperdine, Deaf-blind consumer

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm  Eye Condition Networking

These sessions will provide an opportunity to meet others with similar conditions, share your unique experiences, and learn. More than one group will meet in each room:

Age-Related Macular Degeneration
Macular Dystrophies
Histoplasmosis

Cataracts
Diabetes – Diabetic Retinopathy
Vitreo-retinal disorders

Retinitis Pigmentosa
Leber’s Congenital Amaurosis

Glaucoma
Optic Nerve Atrophy
Optic Nerve Hypoplasia
Septo-Optic Hypoplasia
Deaf-blind
Usher’s Syndrome
Other multi-sensory disorders

Aniridia
Anophthalmia
Microphthalmia
Coloboma
Cortical vision impairment

Albinism
Retinoblastoma
Retinopathy of Prematurity
8:00 pm  Theatre (for those who purchased advanced tickets)
Victoria Garden Theatre

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2005 - Pre-Registration Required

9:00 am – 1:00 pm  HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

1. Technology Madness
   We will have a Saturday filled with technology fun. After a short introduction covering the importance of understanding your eye condition and how it relates to adaptive technology, participants will branch off into one of three areas: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Those new to adaptive technology will learn about CCTVs, magnification software, screen readers, PDAs and notetakers. The intermediate group will learn how adaptive technology can be used at its fullest capacity in everyday living. The advanced users will learn about the most recent equipment available—just when you thought you had everything you needed. Vendors will be present to answer questions about their products.

2. Sports and Recreation: Get Out there!
   George Abbott, Ginger Irwin, The Hadley School for the Blind
   Do you want to be more active in sports and recreational activities, but feel limited by your visual impairment? Do you provide services to visually impaired people or are a parent of a visually impaired child and want to become more knowledgeable about what resources are available or how to modify activities so that all may be included? Join us in an informative and highly interactive workshop on ways to become more physically active, individually or in groups. Specialized equipment and adaptive techniques will be demonstrated. Local resources will be highlighted. So dress comfortably and join the fun.

   Don Golembiewski, The Hadley School for the Blind
   Marcia Trawinski, MS Ed, ICLVS

1:00 pm  END OF PROGRAM