



MAY 2005
SPRING NEWSLETTER

UCLID Advocacy Network

THE UCLID CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Leadership for an Inclusive Society

THE UCLID CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

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A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FAMILIES & ADVOCATES WHO PRESENTED IN THE SPRING:

- DJ Stemmler, OT
Clinical Coordinator,
Center for Assistive
Technology
- Rob Oliver, MA
Coordinator, FISA
Foundation
- Julie Hladio
Alliance for Infants &
Toddlers.
- Jim DelBianco
School of Education,
University of Pittsburgh
- Jeffrey Miller, Ph.D. ABPP,
Associate Professor of
School Psychology, Du-
quesne University
- Joe McAllister, Jr., Ph.D.
Director, Psychological
Services, The Watson
Institute
- Charlene Trovato, PhD
Education, UCLID Faculty

DISABILITIES MEDICINE SEMINAR

Most people wouldn't expect to check out cars during a UCLID Disabilities Medicine Seminar. Well, that's exactly what happened this spring when **Rob Oliver** spoke about assistive technology! Rob, whose spinal cord injury limited the function of his arms & legs, illustrated how assistive technologies impact his daily living. With his modified van, Rob showed us how those with wheelchairs are able to drive.

UCLID presents the monthly Disabilities Medicine seminars as a part of the Area of Concentration in the School of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. Medical & graduate students regularly attend these sessions. With the help of our

speakers, we broaden the perspective of students preparing for health care careers serving children & adults with disabilities. UCLID strongly believes students benefit when individuals with disabilities share their experiences, both about health care & everyday life. **DJ Stemmler**, for example, a woman of short stature, spoke candidly about her career as an occupational therapist & the challenges of being a single mother. We learned firsthand from DJ about the secondary problems, such as hip & shoulder conditions, that develop indirectly from being a person of short stature.

Caregivers of individuals with disabilities often feel com-

pelled to become advocates. **Julie Hladio** is a perfect example. She eloquently illustrated her experience in raising a child born 14 weeks prematurely. Julie now promotes better care for those born low birth weight by working with Alliance for Infants & Toddlers.

Over the past four months, 47 students & colleagues attended the spring Disabilities Medicine seminars. We will begin a new series of seminars in September & are looking forward to another inspiring group of presenters. Please let us know if you are interested in attending or contributing to our Disabilities Medicine Seminar series!

INTERDISCIPLINARY CLINICAL PROGRAM

In UCLID's Clinical Program, students have opportunities to gain knowledge about the challenges faced by individuals with developmental disabilities & their families. Students also spend several sessions with **Charlene Trovato**, examining their personal style of leadership & learning about leadership qualities.

In one of the clinic seminars, **Jim DelBianco** shared tips on how to support adolescents & adults with disabilities in sexuality & forming relationships. He provided important community resources for professionals & families.

Jeff Miller led an informative session on how

to administer & interpret the results of neuropsychological testing.

Wrap-around services are an important support for families. **Joe McAllister** discussed other relevant practical approaches to the treatment of children & adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**A VERY SPECIAL
THANK YOU TO OUR
FAMILIES &
ADVOCATES WHO
PRESENTED IN THE
SPRING:**

- Nancy Murray, MS
Area Director, Western
Program Operations, Office of
Mental Retardation
- Dorinne Kinnunen, R.N.
Spina Bifida Coordinator
- Lucy Spruill, MSW
Coordinator, Attendant Care
Program, United Cerebral
Palsy
- Kate Seelman, Ph.D
Associate Dean, Disability
Programs, University of
Pittsburgh
- Ashli Molinero, D.Sc.
Systems Analyst, University
of Pittsburgh
- Becky Kronk, CRNP, MSN
Nursing Faculty, UCLID
Center
- Robin Grubs, PhD, CGC
Associate Director, Genetic
Counseling Program
- Betsy Gettig, M.S.
Associate Director, Genetic
Counseling Program
- Bill Cohen, MD
Down Syndrome Center,
Children's Hospital of
Pittsburgh
- Peter Bulova, MD
Down Syndrome Center,
Children's Hospital of
Pittsburgh
- Sheila Cannon, MEd
Down Syndrome Center,
Children's Hospital of
Pittsburgh
- Susan VanCleve, CRNP, MSN
Children's Hospital of
Pittsburgh
- Michelle Zimmer, MD
Children's Hospital of
Pittsburgh

CHECK OUT THE
UCLID WEBSITE @
WWW.UCLID.ORG
FOR A SCHEDULE
OF EVENTS!



ABOUT THE UCLID CENTER

What is UCLID? Simply, *Leadership for an Inclusive Society*.

UCLID is an acronym that stands for **U**niversity, **C**ommunity, **L**eaders & **I**ndividuals with **D**isabilities. Our mission is to educate a new generation of leaders in the field of disabilities & to forge partnerships to improve the

lives of individuals with disabilities & their families.

Faculty members who make up the UCLID core team come from various schools within the University of Pittsburgh such as: public health, social work, health & rehabilitation sciences, education, medicine, dental medicine, & nursing. To carry out the goal of

educating leaders in the field of disabilities, our team teaches classes on disability & leadership. The UCLID website (www.uclid.org) is a great resource for families & healthcare professionals as it provides information on community services as well as details about the training program.



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH SEMINAR

The UCLID Center hosts a Maternal & Child Health Seminar series each year entitled, *Systems of Care for Children with Disabilities*. These seminars educate students from a variety of disciplines on topics related to the delivery of healthcare, education, & social services to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities & their families. This year, we've adopted the theme, *From Biology to Policy*, class discussions focus on selected prevalent disabilities and related to broader issues. For each disorder, the first session was about the biological basis; the second session covered issues related to policy. This spring, we addressed the following disabilities: ADHD, Hearing Loss, Mental Retardation, Spina Bifida, Fragile X, Down Syndrome, & Autism.

Parents & professionals from the community played a major role in course

instruction. For example, **Lucy Spruill, Kate Seelman, & Ashli Molinero** teamed up for a fascinating presentation on assistive technology. This session was held at UCP of Pittsburgh and concluded with a tour of the facility.

The use of case studies is considered a primary instructional method in this course. The parents &/or community professionals who attended the seminar were also able to provide us with their insights about the cases. **Sheila Cannon**, a mother of a daughter with Down Syndrome and **Susan VanCleve**, both of the Down Syndrome Center, discussed several cases in which coordination of care was of the utmost importance to the individual & family.

In the world of advancing technology, ethical dilemmas are becoming a more frequent occurrence.

Betsy Gettig & Robin Grubs shared their experiences & perspectives on the current state of affairs in genetic counseling & the growing field of genetics. Our students learned about the policy concerns regarding genetic testing, around issues ranging from informed consent, confidentiality, insurance coverage and discrimination.

