

1. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

September 10th and 11th 2010

Technical University of Dortmund (Germany)

Visual problems in children with brain damage. What is new?

Visual impairment due to damage of the brain has a strong impact on child development. Providing appropriate assessment and support from an early age is necessary to prevent social and educational disadvantages.

Scientific findings in neuroscience, neurology and psychology constantly alter knowledge about the human visual system. Paralleling the growth of knowledge on visual processing researchers learn more about its deviations and the influence on child development.

Problems in visual processing are the main cause of visual impairment in industrialized countries. Functional assessment in educational settings has shown that visual problems such as face and line processing, as well as space perception, have a strong influence on children's performance in communication, learning and orientation. Moreover, as visual problems in children with brain damage are far more complex than previously known, we need to continuously update our assessment and special education. Indeed, understanding children's vision is compelling, considering that visual perception is highly subjective and children born with brain damage or isolated processing problems can seldom tell what makes their vision different from that of other children. Before going through training for tests and observation, professionals need to develop a sound/profound understanding of visual processing and visual perception in children. Based on this, they can better understand and develop observational settings themselves, choose suitable tests and interpret their findings.

By hosting the conference at the TU Dortmund, **Professor Dr. Lea Hyvärinen** and **Professor Dr. Renate Walthes** continue interdisciplinary and international communication and exchange of knowledge. The lectures focus developmental, ophthalmological, neurological, and neuropsychological foundations of visual processing as well as assessment and observational strategies.

Application deadline: August, 6th 2010

Programme and registration information can be found at:

<http://www.zfw.uni-dortmund.de/kongresse/VisualProblems2010.html>

For further information please contact verena.petz@tu-dortmund.de

Preliminary Programme

Friday, 10th

Moderation Prof. Amanda Hall Lueck, PhD (USA)

8.30 am	Registration
09.30 – 10 am	Opening session Prof. Renate Walthes, PhD (GERMANY) Greetings Rector TU Dortmund University Ministry of Health NRW
10 – 10.30 am	Overview of vision loss due brain damage, especially visual processing disorders. Prof. Elisa Fazzi, MD, PhD (ITALY)
10.30 – 11 am	Face processing in children Prof. Gudrun Schwarzer, PhD (GERMANY)
11 – 11.30 am	Coffee break
11.30 am – 12 pm	Abstract space of children with problems in perception and awareness of concrete space at special schools Prof. Lea Hyvärinen, MD, PhD (FINLAND)
12 – 12.30 pm	The impact of baclofen on perception and awareness of space and motor functions Ilari Koussa (FINLAND)
12.30 – 1 pm	Learning math: from difficulties to practice Eija Häyrynen (FINLAND)
1 – 2 pm	Lunch
2 – 2.30 pm	Assessment of vision for early intervention; who does what? Namita Jacob, PhD (INDIA)
2.30 – 3 pm	Visual disorders and their assessment in children with CVI at the Vision Rehabilitation Clinic in Tübingen Prof. Susanne Trauzettel-Klosinski, MD (GERMANY)
3 – 3.30 pm	Coffee break

3.30 – 3.50 pm	Developing observational skills in early intervention and kindergarten teachers. Verena Petz (GERMANY)
3.50 – 4.10 pm	Assessment of visual functioning in children with intellectual disabilities. Laurent Dura (LUXEMBOURG)
4.10 – 4.30 pm	Subjective theories of parents with children with CVI Henner Frebel (GERMANY)
4.30 – 4.50 pm	Devices for Children with visual disorders Stefanie Holzapfel (GERMANY)
5 – 6 pm	Closing session: Transdisciplinary team work Prof. Lea Hyvärinen, MD, PhD; Prof. Renate Walthes, PhD

Saturday, 11th

9.00 – 11.30 am	Three parallel workshops
Workshop 1	Case-discussion Stefanie Holzapfel & Verena Petz (GERMANY)
Workshop 2	Team work - what should teachers ask doctors and vice versa Margot Campbell (SCOTLAND), Markku Leinonen (FINLAND), Sabine Hoeft (GERMANY), Christiane Freitag (GERMANY), Eija Häyrynen (FINLAND)
Workshop 3	Assessment and planning for early intervention for infants with probable brain damage, the first weeks and months Namita Jacob (INDIA) & Deborah Gleason (USA)
11.30 am	Closing session Summary (plenum)