For Excellence in Vision Science Research: Vladimir Kefalov, PhD, to receive 2019 Bressler Prize, Tiffany Schmidt, PhD, to receive 2019 Pisart Award

In March, Lighthouse Guild announced that Dr. Vladimir Kefalov and Dr. Tiffany Schmidt will receive our Vision Science Awards for their significant achievements in vision science research.

Cynthia Owsley, PhD Receives 2019 Oberdorfer Award in Low Vision Research

Cynthia Owsley, PhD, professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Nathan E. Miles Chair of Ophthalmology, has been awarded the Oberdorfer Award in Low Vision Research for 2019.

Vision Loss Has Significant Impact on Use of Hospital Resources and Costs for Older Patients

Visual loss or blindness affects nearly 4 million people in the United States. A national study with broad implications has found that older patients with vision loss who are hospitalized for common disorders are often not identified as requiring special attention, which can affect outcomes, resource use and costs. The study appeared online in the April 4, issue of JAMA Ophthalmology.
authored by Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD, President and CEO of Lighthouse Guild, and co-authors William Seiple, PhD, Paul P. Lee, MD, JD, Joshua D. Stein, MD, MS and Nidhi Talwar, MA.

Behavioral Health

César A. Alfonso, MD, Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Columbia University Medical Center and Behavioral Health Services Chief Psychiatrist, published an article in Psychiatric Times called “PTSD and Suicide After Natural Disasters.” Citing the devastation in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria in September 2017, Dr. Alfonso noted that the prevalence of PTSD among victims doubles after a natural disaster and lasts for two years afterward.

eLearning Course Helps Older Adults Adapt to Vision Loss

Vision loss can present different challenges in older adults compared with younger clients. Lighthouse Guild offers an online continuing education course called Low Vision in Older Adults: Foundations for Rehabilitation (Second Edition). The program helps occupational therapists (OTs) recognize how different types of visual impairment in older adults can affect daily activities; learn about treatment strategies for these individuals; and identify approaches and adaptive devices that help clients maximize their remaining vision.

Online Education for Professionals

Advances in the care of people with vision loss are happening at an exciting pace. Healthcare professionals can keep up — on their own time, at their own
pace, in their office or home — through online educational programs offered by Lighthouse Guild.

We offer:

- **Incorporating Vision Rehabilitation into Practice**, a 2-hour program for optometrists. Approved for 2 credits from COPE.
- **Introduction of Vision Rehabilitation**, 2-hour program for ophthalmologists and residents. Available in both English and Spanish.
- **Understanding and Addressing Vision Loss**, a 2-hour program for social workers. Approved for 2 credits from NASW and CCMC.
- **Vision Loss: A Patient-Centered Approach to Care**, a 1-hour program for nurses and case managers. Approved for 1 credit from ANCC and 1 credit from CCMC. **FREE until June 30.**
- **Integrating Visually Impaired Students into Preschool Classrooms**, a 1-hour program for preschool teachers.
- **Accommodating Students with Visual Impairment**, a 2-hour program for existing and emerging music teachers.

Coming soon:

- **The Impact of Vision Loss on Child Development**, a 1.5-hour program for occupational therapists. In partnership with AOTA. CE from AOTA.
- **Traumatic Brain Injury and Vision Loss**, a 30-minute webinar for neurologists and their staff.

**Register or learn more about our eLearning programs**

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**Research: Could Virtual Reality Be Useful as a Rehabilitation Tool for Patients with AMD?**

Marine Raphanel, Gabrielle Shaughness, William Seiple, PhD and Angelo Arleo, PhD

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is among the most common causes of vision loss, this disease accounts for a majority of patients enrolled in low vision rehabilitation. By helping the patient adapt to, and optimize the use of, his residual visual function, this therapy increases independence and improves quality of life in people with vision loss.

In this study, researchers investigated demographics and practice patterns of low vision rehabilitation providers and identified barriers to the creation, development, dissemination, and implementation of Virtual Reality (VR) technology as a tool in low vision rehabilitation.

**Read More**

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**Lighthouse Guild Highlights**

Edward Ross, LSCW-R, has been named the director to lead Lighthouse Guild’s Behavioral Health Services. He recently moderated panels focusing on trauma — “Pivotal Trauma Vignettes Leading to Creative Solutions” and “The Nature of Psychological Trauma”— at American Association for Psychoanalysis.
Mr. Ross has been with the program since 2013 and has played a major role in developing its treatment services. He has over 36 years of experience in the mental health field, specializing in chemical dependence and rehabilitation and social services with an emphasis on coexisting disabilities.

At the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Conference, April 2019: Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD, President and CEO, presented “Integrating Vision and Healthcare Services for Older Adults.” in a minisymposium on Aging with Vision Loss: Understanding the aging consequences of visual impairment, led by Bonnie Lin K. Swenor, PhD. Dr. Morse and William Seiple, PhD, Chief Research Officer of Lighthouse Guild Research Institute, with Annie Mao Wu, Nidhi Talwar, Sean Hansen, Paul P. Lee, Joshua D. Stein presented “Association Between Vision Loss and Receipt of Mammograms to Screen for Breast Cancer Among Women with Medicare.” Dr. Morse and Dr. Seiple also presented “The Effects of Feedback on Eye Movement Control Training” with Paul Kilbride, PhD.

Dr. Seiple authored with Alexandra Selivanova, BSc, Eva Fenwick, PhD, Ryan Man, PhD, Rong Guo, and Mary Lou Jackson, MD (2019), Assessment of patient-reported outcomes after comprehensive vision rehabilitation in a usual care setting using vision-related quality of life questionnaires: IVI and NEI VFQ-25. Optometry and Vision Science, 96:87-94.

Yu-Pin Hsu, OTR/L, EdD, SCLV, Vision Rehabilitation Project Manager, Maggie Walters, MPH, CHES Program Manager, Education and Training and Annemarie OHearn, MPA, Vice President, Education and Training presented the results of the “Falls Prevention Program for Older Adults with Vision Loss” at the 2019 American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Annual Conference.

Maggie Walters, also presented “Understanding Clients with Low Vision” at the New York State Occupational Therapy Association (NYSOTA) Annual Conference.

Lighthouse Guild collaborated with the National Eye Institute and the American Optometric Association on a Facebook live event entitled “Set Your Sights on Vision Rehab.” Ed Plumacher, Assistive Technology Expert and Jenn Novak, Social Media Manager, presented on a panel that included Dale Lervick, OD, FAAO and Mark Wilkinson, OD.