



## AER Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT) Division

### VRT News Summer, 2019

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#### **Message from the Chair**

Greetings colleagues, friends, and vision rehabilitation professionals alike,

IT IS STILL SUMMER! Siri told me autumn begins September 23<sup>rd</sup> and Siri is always right, right? Bless those of you who are in a school system and are enduring the last few warm days of summer in the classroom! Here, though, on the coast of southern Maine there is not denying that fall is well on its way. I hope you all were able to take some time in the past few months to rejuvenate if not just play and have fun!

With that said, our AER executive director, Janie Blome, noted in the last edition of the AER Voice, fall is a time of fresh starts and new beginnings! It is time to brush the sand off and wash the salt water away. We are on the move and ready to go! I'll be waiting until October for the pumpkin spices though...

Be well,

Amber Mooney, M.Ed. CVRT  
AER VRT Division Chair

## **WATERCOOLER!**

When: Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30 EST

WHY: FREE continuing education credit!!!

What: **Making Sense of the Myths and Miracles of Marijuana**

With an increasing number of states legalizing the use of marijuana for medical as well as recreational purposes, it is important to understand fact versus fiction regarding the use of marijuana to treat glaucoma, other visual impairments, and a variety of health issues. This presentation will discuss some of the facts regarding the legal use of marijuana as well as legal, efficacy and ethical issues related to the use of marijuana by our clients. This session will help you to identify resources and information concerning the laws regarding the use of marijuana in various states. In addition, you will explore the treatment effect marijuana has on glaucoma, discuss ethical and efficacy issues to address possible situations; and learn how to respond to inquiries from clients.

Who: YOU

### **Susan M. Dalton, M.A.Ed., CVRT**

Susan Dalton is a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist currently on the faculty of Northern Illinois University's Department of Special and Early Education. She has worked in early intervention as a developmental therapist, teacher of visually impaired and directed a state-wide transition program for teens with visual impairments in Illinois for 17 years. Sue has been teaching courses in Special Education, Activities of Daily Living and Home Economics for Persons who are Visually Impaired since 1998.

### **Jennifer Ottowitz, M.S.Ed., CVRT**

Jennifer Ottowitz is a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist and senior learning expert with the Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She also works as an associate lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the College of Health Sciences to co-teach classes related to vision impairments and their effect on daily functioning to students in the occupational therapy program. Prior to joining the staff of the Hadley Institute, she worked as a vision rehabilitation therapist (VRT) at Vision Forward Association in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for over 15 years and for 4 years in Rockford, Illinois.

### **DON'T MISS OUT!**

Can't make it? No worries there will be another opportunity in December!

**Save the Date!**

**Save the Date: July 22-26, 2020 St. Louis, MO Union Station Hotel**

Themed "Gateway to Community," the AER International Conference 2020 is sure to be AER's best conference ever! We want a conference that reflects your needs and interests. Are there topics that you want to have covered during the AER International Conference 2020? Is there something that you would like to learn more about during the conference? Click "*Topics & Interests*" and tell us your needs and every effort will be made to have it covered! [Topics & Interests](#)

### **International AER also means AWARDS!**

It is never too early to start thinking about the CVRTs you know who deserve to be recognized for:

- The Bruce McKenzie Award for lifetime achievement
- The Elizabeth Lennon Award for Meritorious Achievement; The Alice Raftary - Rising Star Award to recognize talented teachers who are new to their careers
- The Susan & Paul Ponchillia Publication Award for VRT division members who have written and published work regarding VRT

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019** Deadline for articles for next issue of VRT News. Send articles to Amber Mooney at [amooney@theiris.org](mailto:amooney@theiris.org).

### **Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Division Board Contact Information**

Chair: Amber Mooney, M.Ed., CVRT  
[amooney@theiris.org](mailto:amooney@theiris.org)

Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or errors regarding the VRT newsletter.