



NEWS

EUROPEAN *Dyslexia*
ASSOCIATION
AISBL

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EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN YEAR OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES 2007

In response to the request of Delegates at the EDA's General Assembly, held in April this year, for the **EDA Board** to be more active within the European Disability Forum (EDF), the EDA Board will discuss at its next meeting the adoption of the following strategies for the European Year:

- to use the European Year to promote the proposal in favour of an EU Disability Specific Directive both at EU and national levels
- to encourage and support disability organisations in organising events under the European Year
- to support national disability organisations to ensure disability representation within national co-ordination bodies to be set up in view of the Year
- to ensure visibility of disability within activities organised throughout the Year
- to seek co-operation with other minority groups targeted by the Year and to ensure that they to seek co-operation with other minority groups targeted by the Year and to ensure that the Year benefits all groups of disabled people.

Jennifer and Robin Salter
Joint Editors

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THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

The **EDA** has worked with **The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)** for many years in support of its work for making libraries more accessible to the disabled and disadvantaged members of society, particularly for those who are dyslexic. **IFLA** is holding its **72nd Convention** in Seoul, Republic of Korea this month, and **Michael Kalmar**, the **EDA** President, has written to IFLA expressing the EDA's continued support for its work. **Gyda Skat Nielsen** from Denmark, a former President of the EDA, will read out the full text of Michael's letter.

He has re-affirmed "that dyslexic people often need assistance to access the written word and the library services form a vital bridge to help ensure that dyslexic people across Europe enjoy reading as an interest and as a means for self-development."

The **EDA** has nearly forty organisations in twenty-three countries represented across Europe and its collective knowledge can provide a helpful partnership with IFLA in jointly working together. In his letter of support to IFLA, Michael Kalmar expressed his wish for a successful Convention and said that although he could not be present in person, he wanted to ensure that the EDA welcomed the IFLA initiatives, recognised the progress IFLA has made already and offered the EDA's help so that together the EDA and IFLA can make further improvement to the lives of dyslexic people.



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Any unauthorised use of either the EDA's name or Logo will result in legal action and will be considered as acceptable ground for termination of membership of the European Dyslexia Association in accordance with Section Two, Article Five of The Statutes of the European Dyslexia Association.

EU

Application for funding

Steve Alexander, the **EDA Treasurer**, has made a bid to the European Union for 100,000 euros to help develop the EDA's infrastructure. The grant request was made under the heading of "European Associates acting at a European level in the field of Education and Training".

The request is made because all the work of the EDA has been done voluntarily which has been a limiting factor in the past in what the EDA has been able to offer its members. With this added financial support the EDA would be able to develop its infrastructure to provide better support and publicity for its members. The EDA Members will be advised of the outcome of the application.

New URL for the EU from 9 May 2006

In case Members missed the new URL mentioned in our last issue of **EDA NEWS**, we repeat it, as follows:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/Socrates/comenius/natagenc_en.html

This could be important for our Members who wish to make applications for funding from the SOCRATES Comenius and Grundvig programmes.



EDA Board Meeting in Brussels 30 April 2006



Left to Right: Karin Brünger, Michael Kalmar, Steve Alexander, Carina Carlsson, Marija Kavkler



PRESS RELEASE

The Editors are grateful to **Karin Brüngrer** (Germany) for arranging for them to receive the text of this Press Release.

European Congress of Radiology

Inaugural meeting

Vienna 3 – 7 March 2006

The following edited Press Release is an extract from the lecture by **Prof. Sidney Wallace** (Texas, USA) at the Inaugural Meeting in Vienna of the **European Congress of Radiology**.

Until his retirement in August 1996 after 30 years work, Prof. Wallace was Professor of Radiology; Chairman of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology; Head of the Division of Diagnostic Imaging and Deputy Division Head for Research of the Division at the University of Texas, M.D.Anderson Cancer Center. He is now **Professor Emeritus**.

With the help of radiology, millions of dyslexic people have been freed from the label of being stupid or lazy. Through **MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scans** it has been verified that there is a neurological basis to reading disorders and that the brain is not dysfunctional but simply works differently.

The highly decorated academic tracked the impact of disease on the course of history and on the people who made it. There is on the one-hand **dyslexia**, tackled by Sir Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, and Nikola Tesla but there is also **haemophilia** within the line of Russian Czars or Franklin D. Roosevelt's **poliomyelitis**.

The focus of the speech lay on the role of radiology and the way it is able to influence the lives of so many people with diagnosis and treatment. With regard to radiologists themselves, it is possible that dyslexia led many of them to that professional path, because, as Prof. Wallace explained, dyslexia is more often than not accompanied by an outstanding visual talent. Among radiologists one is likely to find many dyslexics stated Prof. Wallace. After all, the interpretation of images is daily business for radiologists – thus visual talent is likely to be crucial for choosing this profession.

He also stressed that dyslexia can be overcome with adequate training. There are many historic examples of dyslexics who managed to develop other compensatory talents. Winston Churchill, for example, was an extremely bad student, Prof. Wallace told the audience, but in the course of years he developed various other strengths and became the outstanding personality that went down in history.

When it came to delivering speeches Churchill's dyslexia might even have been an advantage. Since Churchill was not able to read from a manuscript he had to deliver them freely and that he did, excellently, as we all know.

Reading disorders are widespread in all social ranks and affect about 10 to 20% of the population, most of them children. Obviously, not all of them are suffering from dyslexia which, according to the newest scientific findings, has a strong genetic component. Dyslexia does not always present itself in the same way; most commonly, however, it expresses itself by letters 'dancing' in front of one's eyes. The reason for that lies in the fact that the connection between visual and linguistic regions in the brain of dyslexic people work differently. Consequently, the brain has a hard time in breaking words down into sound units. In other words, into 'letters'. Experts are talking about 'phonetic disturbance'. To assign single letters to a specific sound, however, is one of the first and most important steps a brain has to master so to be able to read text. It is only afterwards that a brain assembles the letters into meaningful groups, that is 'words'.

Today, the most important diagnostic tool for diagnosis of dyslexia is functional MRI (**Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging - FMRI**). It is coming into use more and more frequently, explained Prof. Wallace. By functioning through magnetic fields, FMRI also has the huge advantage of not emitting any radiation. This makes it an adequate diagnostic tool for diagnosing children which is especially important because the earlier training starts the better the chances of overcoming the problem. The principle of FMRI is that nerves active in the brain need more oxygen and glucose. In order for those to be provided, blood supply is being elevated. This in turn can be captured as an image with the help of FMRI. It allows us to watch the brain at work.



A REMINDER !

EDA CALENDAR 2007

The EDA Board has invited all Members to participate in providing photographs of well-known dyslexic people **IN THEIR COUNTRIES** for the **EDA Calendar 2007**. The people chosen must give their written consent to be in the Calendar. All photographs and written consents must be sent for publication to:

Marta.bogdanowicz@wp.pl

NEWS

British Dyslexia Association

(The Joint Editors acknowledge that the following information comes from the BDA's 'NOW' quarterly newsletter for July 2006 and 'DYSLEXIA CONTACT' No.3 for September 2006)

The BDA has welcomed its new Chief Executive, **Judi Stewart**, who is dyslexic with two dyslexic children.

A successful Spring Conference was held at York on 3 June 2006. The Delegates were the first to hear of the brilliant results of research into Literacy Development in Children at Family Risk of Dyslexia by **Prof. Maggie Snowling**. Workshops were enthusiastically received with **Hugh Payton** leading on Befriending and with **Neil Mackay** and **Rachel Ingham's** double act which will surely be repeated. The first Young Peoples Awards were announced and collected by inspirational young dyslexic people following their outstanding achievements. The Exhibition stands were as popular as ever and time was given for networking by meeting-up with 'old' friends.

The **Local Associations Board** now has a committee of young dyslexic people considering how the BDA can address their needs.

Four runners ran in the **London Marathon** in April to raise funds for the BDA.

The **Dyslexia Friendly Schools Pack** was given in a **Welsh Version** at its launch on 2 May 2006 to **Jane Davidson**, the **Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning**.

The BDA's Annual General Meeting has been postponed from 26 November 2006 to 27 January 2007; details will be announced later



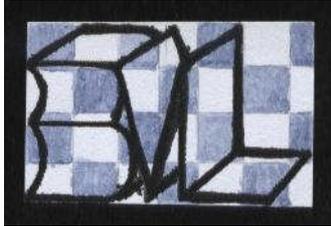
EDA MEMBERS

PLEASE !

**SEND INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT
YOU ARE DOING IN YOUR COUNTRY
AND CONFERENCE REPORTS TO THE
JOINT EDITORS**

PLEASE !

IN ANY LANGUAGE



BVL-aktuell 3/06 **Informationen für die EDA-News**

Der Bundeselternrat (BER) – the Federal Parents Council (FPC)

The Federal Parents Council (FPC) is an association of all the federal parents' associations in the Federal Republic of Germany. The Council is not bound to any party or political or religious directives. Its members aim to support the parents in their local or federal work. The main task is to enforce the parents' right of cooperation with the school.

The Federal Parents Council (FPC) demands better regulations for dyslexic and dyscalculous pupils from the Council of Ministers of Education (CME).

The right of education must not be refused to anybody (European Declaration of Human Rights 1952). The demand for support linked to this statement means support for all children, each child being encouraged to develop its own and individual abilities in their school and professional education.

But there are educational disabilities which cannot be completely cured by any school support. They are recognised as disabilities by the WHO. Amongst them are dyslexia and dyscalculia. Children who suffer from these disabilities have the same right as any other children to have access to an education – be in school or later professional – that meets their potential and allows them the best possible results.

There are far more than 500,000 such children in Germany. They must be given their due compensation of disadvantages during their whole school and professional educational life.

Therefore the FPC demands federally issued and binding regulations from the CME concerning

- diagnosis
- acceptance
- support
- and compensation of disadvantages

for all dyslexic and dyscalculous children..

The FPC supports the demands of the German Dyslexia and Dyscalculia Association (BVL).

National Union of Teachers - United Kingdom

The United Kingdom's **National Union of Teachers** has called for the end of the policy of '**Inclusion**' in schools and demanded that the policy of closing Special Schools be stopped. This is a dramatic change following recent research at Cambridge University which has suggested that 'inclusion' is harming children with special educational needs. The Union has called upon the UK's Government to carry out an urgent review of the present policy and practice of 'inclusion' for those children who need specialist teaching.

International Conferences & Symposia

Country	Organisation & subject	Venue and date
<u>2006</u>		
AUSTRIA	Österreichischen Bundesverband Legasthenie (ÖBVL) XIV interdisziplinären Fortbildungslehrgang 06/08 <i>Email: info@legasthenie.org</i>	16 Wochenenden WIEN Sept 06 bis April 08
SLOVENIA	2 nd Slovenian International Conference On Specific Learning Disabilities For Teachers, Counsellors, Social Workers And Parents <i>In Slovene and English</i>	Faculty of Education University of Ljubljana LJUBLJANA 29 – 30 September
BELGIUM	EC-OC' Annual Conference will be held at 40 rue Washington, 1060 Brussels	20 October
ALL COUNTRIES	Dyslexia Awareness Week	2 – 8 October
<u>2007</u>		
ENGLAND	A Festschrift for Uta Frith's Retirement CONTACT: Tel: +44 (0)20 7451 2500	The Royal Society 6 – 9 Carlton House Terrace London SW1Y 5AG 2 – 3 January
ENGLAND	British Dyslexia Association AGM <i>Email Contact:</i> admin@bdadyslexia.org.uk (Postponed from 18 November 2006)	Inst. Child Health LONDON 27 January
<u>2008</u>		
ENGLAND	7 th British Dyslexia Association International Conference <i>Email Contact:</i> as above	York University YORK 26 – 29 March

BOOK LIST - additions

The full Book List is available on our website. The Editors will be pleased for any suggestions or recommendations for inclusion in our Book List (**in any language**) which they have read and which are recognised as being of value to parents, teachers and other professionals concerned with dyslexia in their countries.

D = in Deutch E = in English F = in French

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN
E <i>Visual Perception Problems in Children with AD/HD, Autism, and other Learning Disabilities:</i> A Guide for Parents & Professionals	Lis Kurtz	Jessica Kingsley Publishers	1 84310 826 7
E <i>Disorganised Children, A Guide For Parents and Professionals</i>	Ed. Samuel M Stein & Uttom Chowdhury	Jessica Kingsley Publishers	1 84310 347 8
E <i>Dyslexia, THE SELF AND HIGHER EDUCATION</i>	David Pollak	Trentham Books	1 85856 360 7

These books are reviewed in the British Dyslexia association's 'CONTACT' journal for September 2006

NEW DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION IN SPAIN

It has been reported that a new organisation called **La Federation Espagnola de Dislexia** has been formed by representatives from different regions in Spain. Their President is **Mr Inaki Munos**, the Vice-President of the Spanish Dyslexia Association Disfam, and the new Vice-President is **Mrs Irene Ranz** (Madrid). It is hoped to be able to provide more information in the next issue of **EDA NEWS**.

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK 2 – 8 October 2006

HAVE YOU PLANNED YOUR PROGRAMME OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES?

There is available an **EDA DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK LEAFLET** on application to The EDA Secretary, **Maria Potamitis** at: Potamitis@suncare.com.cy

*This is the last page of **EDA NEWS** for September 2006*

