"Dyslexia Interventions: What Do You Do When All Else Fails?"
Matthew Schneps, Ph.D., presenter
1:15-2:30 p.m.
Audience Questions

Session Notes by ***Carol Beninati, Landmark College***

What successes and disappointments have you experienced in teaching students with dyslexia?
Willingness: It's heartening to see the willingness of adults who are dyslexic to go back and start with Orton-Gillingham or Wilson method because they're tired of not being able to read well.

Some students have such poor phonemic awareness that Orton-Gillingham is not the best place to start with them; teachers have had success starting with a more tactile approach.

Even students who advance to med school experience dyslexia challenges that never go away, particularly because of the pace and novelty of material.

Do some fonts reduce crowding?
Spacing the letters helps more than having a particular font. The best fonts have letters which look distinct from one another. Dyslexie works (mostly because it's widely spaced). The free "Open Dyslexia" isn't as effective.

Are some languages easier for people with dyslexia to learn?
Yes, languages with less phonological ambiguity (Italian, Spanish, Japanese). "Transparent" languages, as opposed to those "opaque."

How narrow a screen is best for the people who benefit from a narrower column of text?
iPod width (2-3 words per line), with widely spaced letters. An iPad is too wide. Though, it can be configured to work as well.

Does it matter if you make the line breaks where grammatical changes occur?
It's not necessary. Doing so according to grammatical rules may or may not help because it may add to the cognitive load. Voice Dream Reader (for iOS and Android) breaks text in helpful places.

What can I use to generate the text-to-speech reader that removes words as they are read and that can be used to build reading speed by increasing the audio speed?
It's a feature of Voice Dream Reader, which you can purchase (created by Winston Chen) at www.voicedream.com. We called it "Pacman". Turing this on will turn on this feature.

What technology is useful for writing and note-taking?

Mind maps such as iThoughts, or Presentation is very helpful. Scrivener is a program that has many assistive settings hidden in the preferences file, and this can be very helpful as well.