

NYSTAGMUS NETWORK (UK) NETLETTER
June 2005

FOCUS 67 SYNOPSIS

We're often asked by parents how their children will cope in later life. Well, the June issue of our Focus newsletter has an article by Paul Gillett, who graduated in his 40s and is now a management accountant with the NHS. News from our Open Day in May also feature large in Focus, including two articles on research and one on Low Vision Services in the UK.

Focus is sent free to all NN members and is available in different formats.

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HOPE

HOPE -- Help Obtain Professional Equality -- is a new support group for disabled medical staff. HOPE has a website at www.hope4medics.co.uk, which is particularly useful for visually impaired professionals.

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RNIB NYSTAGMUS TRAINING DAY

The RNIB is organising a training day on nystagmus in Birmingham on June 22. The speakers are Debbie Wiggins, post graduate research student at Cardiff University's Department of Optometry and Vision Science, NN Information and Development Manager Paul White and NN vice president John Sanders.

Both Debbie and John have nystagmus, while Paul is well versed in the condition having worked for NN for over two years and brought up two sons with nystagmus.

The training day is aimed at all professionals (education, medical and social services staff) working with people who have nystagmus as well as people who have nystagmus themselves or children with nystagmus.

For further details contact Rory Cobb at the RNIB on 0121 665 4222 or via email at Rory.Cobb@rnib.org.uk

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Nanotechnology Focus Group

The BA (British Association for the Advancement of Science) the UK's nationwide, open membership organisation dedicated to connecting science with people, are interested in recruiting participants for a focus group, to discuss issues surrounding nanotechnology.

They are looking for people who are either patients or carers of patients affected by a genetic condition. You do not need to know anything about nanotechnology as there will be a science journalist who will do a short summary of the issues as well as a scientist working in the bio-medical field of nanotechnology in attendance too. Once delegates have been briefed you will be asked to discuss how you think this new technology could impact on your life and also what the benefits could be for looking into your disorder, developing new treatments and eventually cures.

Each delegate will receive £30 in thanks for their attendance.

The discussion group will be held at the Dana Centre, South Kensington, London on Thursday 9th June between 18.30 - 20.30 (food and drinks will be available from 18.15).

If you are interested in attending this focus group please call Alice Taylor-Gee, Science in Society Officer on 020 7019 4940 or email alice.taylor-gee@the-ba.net

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EUROPEAN BIOMETRICS FORUM SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL Special Interest Group (SIG)

The European Biometrics Forum (EBF) an independent European organization supported by the European Commission is establishing a Social and Environmental SIG (Special Interest Group) focused on providing a platform for the discussion of biometrics issues relating to the public. They would welcome participation from any relevant persons.

The objective of the EBF is to raise public awareness, to address concerns, and to promote the development of user-friendly, socially acceptable, and ethical biometrics. The primary aim of the Social & Environmental SIG is to investigate and report on issues and concerns which might arise from the mass implementation of Biometric Systems across the European Community, from the end user perspective.

Some of the issues for discussion in the SIG include

- Usability of biometric systems
- Health & Safety and medical issues
- Cultural, religious and ethnic concerns
- Accessibility issues regarding disadvantaged groups
- Issues of trust and confidence

The SIG will have regular quarterly meetings, beginning Jul/Aug 2005 and will provide a focus for, Biometric Social & Environmental issues.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please email manager@eubiometrisforum.com

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Technology News

Technology news for people with vision impairment is available at (<http://www.headstar.com/eab/>), which is sponsored by RNIB (<http://www.rnib.org.uk>).

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Contributions

Please send contributions, ideas or links for the NetLetter to Gill Taylor at gill@taylors.uk.com