8TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BEHAVIOURAL OPTOMETRY

Speaker:	Curt Baxstrom
Credentials:	OEP,NORA,COVD,BOAF
Time/Date Scheduled:	1330 – 1500 on Sunday, 29 April
Location:	Plenary
Biography:	Dr. Baxstrom received his O.D. degree from Pacific University and a MA degree in Reading from Seattle Pacific University. He opened a vision therapy/vision rehabilitation practice in Federal Way, Washington in 1992. In addition, he consults at two local Rehabilitation Hospitals providing Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation services. He is also an adjunct professor at Pacific University is the Director of the Vision Northwest Vision Therapy/Rehabilitation Residency sponsored by Pacific University. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, the College of Optometrists in Vision Development and the Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association.

Presentation Title:	**Important Considerations In The Evaluation And Management Of Visual Fields**
Abstract:	Visual field recovery and rehabilitation is based upon an initial diagnosis including description of location and size, an evaluation of treatment options based upon the diagnosis which could be a true visual field loss along a continuum to pure unilateral spatial inattention. The importance of doing this is to truly document whether the recovery is based upon spontaneous improvement or if it did in fact improve secondary to our treatment plan. A true visual field loss may improve secondary to improvement of other brain function or increased blood flow to the affected area. There are some treatment programs that have demonstrated improvement such as Vision Restoration Therapy(Novavision) that had initially claimed improvements in visual field loss. But upon further testing with fixation controlled, they were found to have improved microsaccades which then allowed the patient to improve performance on threshold testing. Likewise, unilateral spatial inattention(USI) may spontaneously improve, but often improves quicker and more fully with appropriate therapy. In cases where the patient may have both visual field loss and a USI component, the evaluation may be even more challenging.

This presentation will provide a overview of visual field loss vs. unilateral spatial inattention and provide differential testing for the two based upon observations, CT/MRI findings and visual examination to help provide a background for appropriate therapies. These may include compensatory strategies to allow better function and also treatment including the use of lenses, prism, visual rehabilitation and syntonics.