

2007 Florida Literacy Conference Keynote Speakers



Sabrina Kurtz-Rossi, M.Ed.

Ms. Kurtz-Rossi is the former Director of World Education's Health and Literacy Initiative and is the current Coordinator of the Medical Library Association's National Health Information Literacy Research Project. She has worked for over ten years with literacy teachers and adult learners all over the country, piloting curricula and programs that integrate health and literacy education into adult basic education, family literacy, and ESOL programs. She also works with health care providers and health educators offering training on low literacy materials development and how to communicate most effectively with patients with limited literacy skills.

Opening General Session, 9:30-11:00 AM Wednesday, May 2

Health Literacy: A New Field with New Opportunities

The world has made tremendous advances in medicine and public health in the past few decades, but with these advances has come added challenges. One of the most significant is that everyday health information and knowledge has become increasingly complex. Doctors' instructions, drug labels, test results, and informed consent can be bewildering to the best of us. But imagine if you had never learned to read or did not speak English well. Adults who lack these skills have even greater difficulty understanding health information and making important health decisions for themselves and their families.

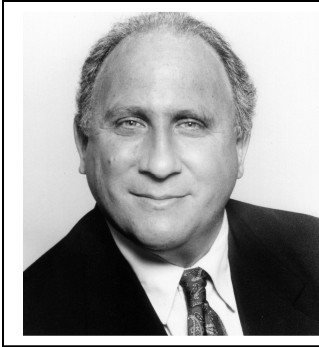
In this opening session Ms. Kurtz-Rossi will demonstrate how poor health literacy in the U.S. impacts access to health information and services and present some of the strategies public health advocates and adult literacy practitioners are using to improve communication and understanding between patients and providers. Integrating health and literacy education in adult literacy settings offers new opportunities for teacher development, learner persistence and success, and community collaborations. It is our hope that by the end of this session you and your program will be energized to engage in new and exciting work in health literacy.

Concurrent Session, 10:30-11:45 AM Thursday, May 3

Family Health and Literacy: A Guide to Easy-to-Read Health Education Materials and Websites

Are you interested in integrating health and parenting information into your literacy curriculum? [*Family Health and Literacy: A Guide to Easy-to-Read Health Education Materials and Websites*](#) is an online resource for literacy teachers who work with parents with limited literacy skills. The guide includes ideas on how to engage learners in discussing health topics, how to enhance literacy and language skills using health content, and how to collaborate with local health agencies. There are listings of easy-to-read health information websites, health literacy lesson plans and activities to use in class, and online activities and games on a health topics of interest to families for parents and children to use together. This session will take *place* in the computer lab and include a virtual tour of the *Family Health and Literacy: A Guide to Easy-to-Read Health Education Materials and Websites* as well as an opportunity for participants to explore the guide in pairs and discuss

the application of what they find to teaching literacy, health literacy, and computer literacy in practice.



Glenn Young

A recognized authority on adults with learning disabilities, Mr. Young has served as a specialist on disabilities and adult education with the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institute for Literacy, where he was instrumental in the development of the National Adult Literacy and Learning Disabilities Center.

As a long-term advocate for adults with disabilities, from both a professional and "consumer" perspective, Mr. Young served on the

Board of the Learning Disabilities Association of America and has been featured on NPR's *Talk of the Nation*, CBC's *As It Happens* and in *US News and World Report*.

Closing Luncheon, 11:30-12:45 PM Friday, May 4

Reducing Failure of Persons with Learning Disabilities- Introducing "Universal Design" to Adult Literacy

Reports indicate large numbers of adult education populations have LD, while systems still tend to make only minor adjustments to address LD. What would a 'learning disabilities focused' approach really look like? Can it be done in a cost effective manner?

Concurrent Session, 10:30-11:45 AM Thursday, May 3

Elimination of the Myth of Gender and LD

What we think we know about LD is based on boys. This exclusion of females in research has created a field that is extensively gender biased with expected dire consequences.

Concurrent Session, 1:30-2:45 PM Thursday, May 3

LD and Spanish Speaking Populations

Recent research has developed a validated screening tool for LD in Spanish Speaking Populations. This session gives the background for the tool and research's profile of LD in Spanish Speaking Populations.