



Excellence in Vision Services: Past, Present & Future
NYS AER 2012 Annual Conference November 4-6, 2012
White Plains Crowne Plaza-Downtown (914) 682-0050

The 27th Annual Conference sponsored by the New York State Chapter of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired will be held November 4th through November 6th, 2012 in Downtown White Plains, New York. This year's program will reflect New York State's commitment to excellence providing vision education and rehabilitation services to individuals with visual impairments in our past, present and future.

Sunday night offerings have been expanded with 3 workshops and a poster session for CEs. Monday is jammed packed. We start with a Keynote by New York's own Dr. Karen Gourgey, Director, Computer Center for Visually Impaired People Baruch College of The City University of New York at 8:00AM. Also, the Vendor Hour has returned and awards will be celebrated at lunch and dinner.

Vendors will also exhibit all day Monday with breakfast, coffee breaks and a poster session all held together in Ballroom C&D. After a full Monday you can relax at one of two hospitality suites hosted by Hunter College and NYISE. Also returning is the "Not-So-Silent" Silent auction hosted by the incomparable Jim Marshner and Mitch Hansen. Tuesday will include the TVI, VRT and O&M interest groups and concurrent sessions with 5 CE earning workshops. We end with a lunch and a time for networking on Tuesday.

This year we offer more hands-on activities, including on Sunday night an O&M workshop designed to give non-O&Mers and O&Mers the opportunity to don the blindfold or low vision simulators and learn effective travel strategies. Monday, Guiding Eyes is offering a ½ day seminar on working with people with visual impairments and guide dogs.

The 27th Annual Conference boasts 21 workshops covering eight ACVREP CE content areas including: The Visual System and Vision Loss, Professionalism in Vision Education and Rehabilitation, Professional Information, Individuals who are Visually Impaired with Additional Disabilities, Sensory Motor Functioning, Assessment of Persons With Visual Impairment and their Environments, Instructional Methods, Communication, Team-Building, Consumerism, Cultural Diversity, and Working with Families.

Please support the fund-raising efforts by bidding on auction items and buying 50/50 tickets. All proceeds support NYSAER's initiatives. Remember your donations are tax deductible. Thank you for all you do to contribute to New York State's Excellence in Vision Services.

Grace Ambrose Zaken, Conference Chair

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2012 NYSAER CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Please note that at the time of distribution of this conference registration packet, Continuing Education (CE) Credits for the workshop sessions are under review by ACVREP, and subject to ACVREP acceptance. Final approval notice should be completed by October. To check this status, please contact Grace Ambrose Zaken, Conference Chair.

*Room Locations are Subject to Change.

Please check with the registration desk or The Hotel's Daily Listings for changes.

SUNDAY November 4, 2012

1 – 7 PM Arrivals and Registration

Hotel Lobby

6:30 PM Conference Kickoff Reception – Refreshments provided

Pool Patio

7-8:30 PM Sunday Concurrent Session 1

A. What is Optometric Vision Therapy? [CE = 1.5]

Sprainbrook

Samantha Slotnick, Behavioral Optometrist - Terri Optics

Workshop Description: Optometric Vision Therapy is an effective tool in remediating learning-related vision problems. This course introduces Optometric Vision Therapy to those practicing in allied fields. The signs and symptoms of vision problems are identified. The visual skills are identified, beyond “reading 20/20.” Representative cases are shared to illustrate how signs and symptoms present, what the underlying problems are, and what the expected outcome is with a course of Optometric Vision Therapy.

Focus Group: TVI/Educators, O&M, VRT, All Students and Parents



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B. Licensure Why Passage is More Important than Ever [CE= 1.5]

Yorktown

Rudy D'Amigo, CEO CABVI & **Robert Hayne**, CEO AVRE – NYVRA Board Members

Workshop Description: For more than fifteen years, a coalition of advocates, consumers, providers and schools have been working to pass legislation to license vision rehabilitation professionals. In 2005, the New York Vision Rehabilitation Association was formed with one of its goals to get New York State licensure for vision rehabilitation professionals (VRT and O&M). Both locally and nationally there is a strong push for re-directing federal funding from specialized vision rehabilitation agencies to generic disability organizations, such as Independent Living Centers (ILCs). Efforts to support "most integrated setting" legislation is sometimes used to try to eliminate "specialized" services for people who are blind. There is pressure from the New York public schools to reduce and/or eliminate the O&M specialist from their list of covered providers. Doctors are reluctant to refer patients with vision loss to vision rehabilitation services because they are unfamiliar with VRT and O&M and because the professionals are not licensed. Government and private vision rehabilitation agencies and schools have job openings for VRT and O&M that they cannot fill because not enough students are graduating with the degree. We need New York State licensure more than ever. This workshop will cover the importance of licensure to NYS O&M and VRT professionals, agencies as well as the consumers they serve.

Focus Groups: TVI/Educators, O&M, VRT, All Students and Parents

C. Functional Use of Low Vision Optical Devices in an Education, Work, Home and Outdoor Setting [CE = 1.5]

Scarsdale

Charles Hollander O.D.,F.A.A.O., Sight Improvement Center, optometric consultant to the New York Institute for Special Education

Workshop Description: The objective of the lecture is for the participant to understand that different settings require different optical devices for the low vision patient to perform to their maximum.

Focus Groups: TVI, O&M, VRT, Early Childhood Educators, Parents

D. Poster Session I

Hallway



7:45-9:45 PM Program Presentation:

E. Ambrose-Zaken & Other O&Mers: An O&M simulation workshop designed to give non-O&Mers an inside look at the delightful ability of cane travel [CE= 1.5]

Briarcliff

Workshop Description: This session is designed to showcase the effectiveness of cane travel skills and orientation strategies taught by O&M specialists. The design is for those who work with individuals with visual impairments to better appreciate the relative ease one can use the remaining senses to organize space and travel confidently. The focus is also how much fun O&M is to teach and learn.

Focus Groups: TVI/Educators, VRTs, OTs, PTs, SLPs, and Parents

MONDAY November 5, 2012

7:30 – 9:15 AM Continental Breakfast

Ballroom C&D

7:45 - 10 AM Registration

Hotel Lobby

8 AM - 5 PM Visit the Vendors

Ballroom C&D

8 - 9:30 AM Welcome and Introduction for Keynote Address

Ballroom A&B

F. Keynote: Life Long Learning: Bridges to Life: Blindness and Vision Services in the 21st Century [CE= 1.5]

Ballroom A&B

Karen Luxton Gourgey Ed.D., Director Computer Center for Visually Impaired People Baruch College of The City University of New York

Description: This keynote address will include personal reflections; explore current trends in vision services in the 21st century and the implications of the positive and negative changes on the horizon. Critical factors of technology and advocacy will be explored.

Focus Group: All participants

9:30 -10:30 AM Vendor Presentations

Ballroom A&B

10:30- 10:45 AM Coffee Break

Ballroom C&D

8:00 – 5:00PM Visit the Vendors

Ballroom C&D



Monday, 10:45-12:15 Concurrent Session 2

G. The Library of Video Excerpts (L.O.V.E.)Project [CE= 1.5]

Sprainbrook

Dr. Ellen Trief, Professor Special Education Hunter College of The City University of New York

Workshop Description: The purpose of this session is to view and critique exemplary video clips demonstrating best practice in teaching learners with visual impairment and blindness. The 8-10 minute clips demonstrate appropriate teaching techniques in the areas of expanded core curriculum, braille reading and writing, math, social studies, science and other academic areas as well as work with infants and toddlers.

Focus Group: TVIs

H. iPads---What are the Possibilities for the Visually Impaired and Blind [CE = 1.5]

Yorktown

Donna Schneider Assistive Tech Specialist & Local Bookshare Expert, Brewster C.S.D.

Workshop Description: So, you have an iPad, now what? Learn the basics about how an iPad works and accessibilities that are available. Learn about apps specifically geared to the Visually Impaired and Blind and apps that can help everyone become more efficient.

Focus Groups: TVIs, Assistive Technology Specialists, Librarians, Rehab Teachers, Instructional Technology Specialists, O&M Specialists, Low Vision Specialists, School Administrators, Vocational Specialists, Families

I. Learning Experiences in STEM at the Pre-K through 4th Grade Levels [CE = 1.5]

Briarcliff

Marilyn D. Winograd, TVI and **Dr. Lillian A. Rankel**, Science Teacher

Workshop Description: The STEM concepts presented, through a curriculum encouraging a multi-sensory approach to learning, allow kinesthetic opportunities. Children who are visually impaired learn cause and effect through active participation, not passive listening. Materials in these lessons include household items and “dollar” store purchases.

Focus Groups: TVIs, Therapists, School Administrators, Psychologists, Families



Monday, 10:45-12:15 Concurrent Session 2 (continued)

J. Understanding the Individual Learning Needs of Visually Impaired Students: Integration of a Neuroscience-Based Clinical Model into a Specialized Educational Institution [CE = 1.5]

Scarsdale

Dr. **Paul B. Yellin**, MD, FAAP Director of The Yellin Center for Mind, Brain, and Education **Erin O'Reilly**, School Psychologist New York Institute for Special Education (NYISE), **Kimberly Ross**, School Psychologist NYISE and **Patricia Glyptis**, Educational Evaluator NYISE

Workshop Description: We will introduce participants to a neuroscience-based assessment approach for elaborating the specific needs of individual learners who are visually impaired. We will share our experience integrating this model into an institution specializing in the education of children who are visually impaired.

Focus Groups: TVIs, Psychologists, Educational Evaluators, Families, Educators, Paraprofessionals, School Administrators, Low Vision Specialists

K. Poster Session II

Ballroom C&D

12:15- 1:30 PM Awards Luncheon, Scholarship and Membership Presentations

Ballroom A&B

Monday, 1:45-3:15 PM Concurrent Sessions 3

L. Preparing Teens for Job Interviews: An Artistic Approach [CE = 1.5]

Briarcliff

Merrie Balka, Director, Vision Rehabilitation and Youth Services, Lighthouse International

Workshop Description: Job interviews are daunting for young people with little experience! In this workshop, learn how one program integrates Drama and Creative Writing with Career Counseling to build confidence and hone pre-vocational skills.

Focus Groups: TVI, Counselors, Parents, Students



Monday, 1:45-3:15 PM Concurrent Sessions 3 (Continued)

M. Technology for Us, Too: Blind Students with Multiple Disabilities [CE = 1.5]

Nathalie deWit, Teacher Perkins School for the Blind

Sprainbrook

Workshop Description: This session explores teaching basic communication to students with visual impairment and blindness with significant multiple disabilities by using low and high tech assistive devices. Tangible symbols, story box objects, assistive technology devices, and iPad apps will all be explored.

Focus Group: TVI/Educators, paraprofessionals, Students, Parents

N. Working as a Multi-disciplinary Team to Address the Needs of People with Vision Loss

Presenting Complex and Complicated Issues [CE = 1.5]

Nancy Miller, Executive Director/CEO VISIONS Services of the Blind, **Diane Weiss**, Senior Administrator VISIONS,

Bill Hixson, Director of Rehabilitation VISIONS

Yorktown

Workshop Description: Multi-disciplinary teams need nurturing to work on behalf of clients with vision loss. This presentation of two case studies will look at a strengths based model for meeting the needs of clients and their families with complex and complicated problems.

Focus Group: VRT, O&M, students, parents

O. How to Adapt Science Equipment for Students with Visual Impairment [CE = 1.5]

Fay Rahni, TVI NYISE, Linda Ciero, TVI NYISE and Tina Peretti, TVI NYISE

Scarsdale

Workshop Description: Presentation using the tactual models, graphs and power point in order to understand ideas and concepts related to science. We will also cover how assistive technology is used to support science.

Focus Groups: TVI's, Students, Parents, Paraprofessionals, Counselors and Others

3:15- 3:30 PM Coffee Break

Ballroom C&D



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Monday, 1:45-4:45 PM Concurrent Sessions 3 (three hour session for O&M Only)

P. Guiding Eyes: Mini-Guide Dog Workshop for O&Mers [all afternoon] [CE = 3]

Meet Lobby

Dave Hagemann, Field Representative Guiding Eyes for the Blind (GEB), **Bev Klayman**, Manager of Admissions GEB,
Becky Barns, Consumer Outreach and Graduate Support Manager, GEB

Workshop Description: Guiding Eyes for the Blind is offering conference attendees a unique chance to experience guide dog travel firsthand. This is a mini-version of our 1-day O&M seminar offered to professionals at our campus.

Focus Group: O&M

Monday, 3:30-4:45 PM Concurrent Sessions 4

Q. Three Degrees of Separation to Successful Employment for People with Disabilities [CE = 1.5]

Yorktown

Al Farias, Transition Counselor, NYS Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH) and **Cheryl Pacione**,
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, CBVH

Workshop Description: Three degrees of separation is based on the proven strategies of Networking, Task Analysis, and Negotiation in order to achieve success in the development of jobs for people with disabilities. Successful stories will be shared with the audience in a very interactive format

Focus Groups: RC's, VRT's, TVI's, Students, Parents and Others.

R. Best Practices for Enhancing Outcomes for Learners with Combined Hearing and Vision Loss [CE = 1.5]

Sprainbrook

Susanne Morrow Coordinator New York Deaf-Blind Collaborative (NYDBC) and **Emma Nelson**, Education Specialist NYDBC

Workshop Description: Learners who are deaf-blind access their world differently than typically developing children. Best practices that have resulted in significant gains for students with dual sensory loss in educational and therapeutic activities are appropriate hand use, developing rapport, providing access to language, creating access to the environment and transdisciplinary teaming.



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Focus Group: All Participants

Monday, 3:30-4:45 PM Concurrent Sessions 4 (continued)

S. Bookshare: What is it and How Do I Use It? Nuts and Bolts Along with How It Can Help with Students with Visual Impairments [CE = 1.5]

Scarsdale

Donna Schneider Assistive Tech Specialist & Local Bookshare Expert, Brewster C.S.D.

Workshop Description: Do you Bookshare? Join me for an informative session demonstrating how to use it. Step by step directions on how to download reading tools, apps for the iPad and the various formats available from Bookshare will be demonstrated. .

Focus Group: TVI/Educators, VRT, O&M, paraprofessionals, Parents, Students, Counselors, Sign Language Interpreters

Focus Groups: TVIs, Librarians, Rehab Teachers, Technology, School Administrators, Low Vision Specialists, Vocational Specialists, Families

T. Current Research and Practice in Motor Development for Children with Visual Impairments

Briarcliff

Dr. Lauren Lieberman, Distinguished Service Professor in Adapted Physical Education College at Brockport

Workshop Description: Children with visual impairments have consistently demonstrated low gross motor skill performance. This presentation will share the research that is being done in this area in New York State and beyond as well as plans to disseminate educational material to alleviate this issue.

Focus Groups: TVI, O&M, Physical Educators, Rehab Counselors, PT, OT

Monday, 5:00 – 6:00 PM Hospitality Suites

Hunter College Celebrates 70 Years of Personnel Preparation

NYISE Celebrates over a century educating learners with visual impairments



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Monday 6:30 PM: *Awards Banquet

Cash Bar available from 6 - 9

Not So Silent, Silent Auction

*Note: Prior purchase of dinner tickets is required to participate in dinner. The Awards banquet is included in the full conference price. For all others, please remember to check this option on the registration form and send in additional \$45 to cover the full costs OR visit registration desk during the conference to make your reservation and purchase tickets.

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

7:45 - 10 AM:	Registration	Hotel Lobby
7:30 – 9:15 AM:	Continental Breakfast	Ballroom A&B
7:45 – 8:45 AM:	Plenary Session: NYS Chapter Annual Membership Meeting	Ballroom A&B

Tuesday, November 6, 2012 9:00-10:30 AM Concurrent Sessions 5

U. Pedestrians for Accessible and Safe Streets: Building Toward Pedestrian Safety in New York City [CE = 1.5] **Sprainbrook**
Annalyn Courtney Barbier, COMS VISIONS, **Lucas Franck**, Senior Consultant for Special Projects, The Seeing Eye and
Dr. Karen Luxton Gourgey, Director Computer Center for Visually Impaired People Baruch College of The City University
of New York

Workshop Description: Learn about the emerging need for pedestrian safety accommodations in today's streetscapes and the strategies both technical and political that a coalition in NYC is using to improve the conditions that effect independent travel for people with significant vision loss.

Focus Group: O&M, Consumers, Rehabilitation Counselors



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Tuesday 9:00-10:30 AM Concurrent Session 5 (Continued)

V. Students, Educators and False Accusations for Better Decision-making and Risk Mitigation in Education [CE = 1.5]

Briarcliff

David Jordet, O&M Specialist New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Workshop Description: NEVER be alone with a student or client! This has been our only advice to "remain safe" and avoid false accusations -- until now. Using principles of conflict resolution, learn field-tested strategies to reduce the risk of false accusations and become more effective, productive educators.

Focus Group: All

W. Literacy is More Than Words: Emerging Literacy [CE = 1.5]

Yorktown

Shirley Keller, Director Creative Adaptations for Learning (CAL) and **Ellen Rubin**, Early Childhood Special Educator teacher, Consumer/Consultant to CAL since 1990:

Workshop Description: Arts and crafts projects designed to enhance fine motor skills, aid in understanding and interpreting spatial concepts, teach how shapes and textures are important skills for tactile interpretation of their world, and promote reading readiness and hands-on involvement.

Focus Groups: TVI, VRT, Parents

X. Professional Development Through e-Learning Opportunities

Sprainbrook

Mary C. Zatta, Ph.D. Educational Resources Manager, Perkins School for the Blind (PSB), **Betsy McGinnity**, Director of Training and Educational Resource PSB, **Charlotte Cushman** Digital Archives Manager PSB



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Workshop Description: Perkins School for the Blind has developed many eLearning opportunities, including webinars, webcasts, online workshops, and microsites, which are geared toward busy professionals who are interested in continuing education. This presentation will familiarize participants with the range of content and formats available, as well as providing information about how continuing education credits can be earned. This session will discuss ways in which eLearning offers continuing education opportunities to each of these groups.

Focus Groups: Teachers, administrators, and related service providers.

10:30- 10:45 AM: Coffee Break

Lobby Downstairs?

Tuesday, 10:45-12:15, Concurrent Sessions 6

Interest Group TVI

This is a networking session on current state and local issues that impact TVIs.

Yorktown

Interest Group O&M

This is a networking session on current state and local issues that impact O&Ms.

Briarcliff

Interest Group VRT

This is a networking session on current state and local issues that impact VRTs.

Scarsdale

12:15- 1:30 PM: Luncheon, Networking, and final door prizes

Ballroom A&B

1:30 PM: End of Program. Have a safe trip home!

Thank you for registering early for the upcoming NYSAER conference!



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REGISTRATION FORM (please print):

Name:		Discipline/Title:	
Address:			
Agency or School:			
Telephone (work)		(Home)	(Cell)
E-mail:			
AERBVI Membership Number:		Expiration:	
*Must be included to receive the membership rate.			

If not a member, would you like to join before this conference?

Yes - WHY BECOME AN AER MEMBER? Learn more on the last pages of this document. A NYSAER membership application is attached. Include separate membership check with your conference check. The discounted membership rate can then be applied to your conference registration.

No thank you

***Walk-In Registrations Accepted Throughout the Conference**

Please check if you plan to bring an item to donate for the 'Silent Auction' or door prizes. Proceeds go to the NYSAER Scholarship program and special programs for school age children. Remember you can claim this as a tax deduction!

Select Conference Package: Prices reflect early bird registration must be postmarked by **September 30 2012.**

Late registrations past October 19th, will have an added \$10 charge.



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1. **Full Conference:** (Sunday – Tuesday) Full Conference Registration includes Sunday Reception, Monday and Tuesday programs, and all conference meals and breaks: Monday Breakfast, coffee Break, Awards Luncheon, Awards Banquet, Tuesday Breakfast and Luncheon.

AER Member: \$175 Non-AER Member \$225 Students \$50

2. **Sunday and Monday Only (Dinner Banquet tickets sold separately):** Includes Registration for Sunday Reception and program, Monday Breakfast, Monday Programs, coffee break, and Monday Awards Luncheon.

AER Member: \$95 Non-AER Member \$130 Students \$70

3. **Sunday Only:** Conference Kickoff Reception and workshops.

AER Member: \$20 Non-AER Member \$30 Students \$0

4. **Monday Only (Dinner Banquet tickets sold separately):** Includes registration for Monday Breakfast, Monday programs, coffee Break, and Awards Luncheon.

AER Member: \$75 Non-AER Member \$95 Students \$75

5. **Tuesday Only:** Includes registration for Tuesday Breakfast, Tuesday programs, coffee break, and box lunch.

AER Member: \$40 Non-AER Member \$60 Students \$50

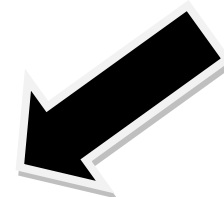
5. **Meals Only:** For those not attending workshops Sunday cocktail reception, Monday Banquet, Monday & Tuesday breakfast & lunch, coffee breaks.

Banquet only: \$45 Sunday-Tuesday \$75 Tuesday only \$15

Help us help you – so the speakers know approximately how many handouts

Please Select Preferred Program Sessions: (Refer to Program to select your session choice, and then write in the letter of this session.)

Sunday, Session 1 ____ Monday, Session 2 ____ Monday, Session 3 ____ Monday Session 4 ____ Tuesday, Session 5 ____ Tuesday, Session 6 ____





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Monday, November 5th, Awards Luncheon: *Buffet Lunch Salad Of Romaine, Arugula and Radicchio served with Shaved Parmesan Cheese, Blended Balsamic Vinaigrette and Caesar Dressing, Apple and Zucchini Slaw, Eggplant Rollatini, Chicken Scaloppine al limone, Medley of Seasonal Vegetable, Served with Grissini and Soft Bread Stick, Chocolate Dipped Strawberries, Strawberry Short cake and Cannoli', Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Assorted Teas and Ice Tea*

Monday, November 5th Awards Dinner: Please select one entrée choice if Awards dinner is part of your registration.

Chicken

Vegetarian pasta.

**Romaine Lettuce served with Golden Croutons, Caesar Dressing, Maple Balsamic Seared Chicken served with medley of vegetables and Chef's Choice of Rice Served with Freshly Baked Rolls with Butter, New York Cheesecake, Raspberry Coulis, Assorted Soda*

Additional tickets available at **\$45** per person! Number of additional tickets needed: _____ for a total of \$_____.

Tuesday, November 6th Luncheon: *The Chef's Buffet: Pre made sandwiches: Ham, Turkey, Roasted Vegetable Baguette or Chicken, Bag of Chips Chocolate Chip Cookie, Apple, Bottled Water*

Please help us to identify any access or accommodations that you will need during the conference.

PROGRAM MEDIA REQUEST: Print Large Print Braille CD

Or download of Conference Program with a: USB device Compact Flash Card

I need: Tactile Map of Hotel Hotel Orientation

Identify other individual needs that will support your full participation in this conference: _____

Make checks or money orders in U.S. currency payable to: **NYSAER** AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____



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SEND REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:

Dan McLaughlin

P.O. Box 663

Auburn, New York 13021

(315) 253 – 3322 or danmcln@hotmail.com

COMMENT:

CONFERENCE QUESTIONS? CONTACT: _____

Grace Ambrose Zaken, Conference Chair

(914) 204-9292 or gambrose@hunter.cuny.edu

OR Michelle Campbell, NYSAER President

(716) 474-4015 (after 2 PM) or mruble@rochester.rr.com

