

Contact information:

Samuel Dunsiger
Communications Director, Stutter Social
sdunsiger@stuttersocial.com
<http://www.stuttersocial.com>

**For Immediate Release****STUTTER SOCIAL HOSTED VIRTUAL STUTTERING INFORMATION SESSION
WITH THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR STUTTERING**

(Monday, February 13, 2012 - Toronto, Canada and Los Angeles, California) Stutter Social hosted a virtual stuttering information session on Google+ on February 2, featuring Dr. Heather Grossman, clinical director of the American Institute for Stuttering.

“We are so thankful that Dr. Grossman gave her time to the Stutter Social community,” co-founder David Resnick said. “Having someone of her experience creating a forum for our users to learn more about stuttering was very valuable.”

The session involved about 15 people, from the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Croatia, who asked a variety of stuttering-related questions to Dr. Grossman.

“The participants asked many good questions related to theories of stuttering, and the newest research and treatments that are available,” Dr. Grossman said.

Self-help activities for people who stutter are beneficial in the management of stuttering, according to recent research in the *Journal of Fluency Disorders*. Dr. Grossman herself has been active in the self-help arena. She has presented workshops in forums, including conventions of the National Stuttering Association and FRIENDS- the National Association of Young People who Stutter, and presented papers on stuttering at both national and international conferences, including those of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the International Fluency Association.

“I think Stutter Social is a great forum for connecting people who stutter and providing opportunities to learn about current research and available treatments,” she said.

The session also featured questions such as the likelihood of a person who stutters (PWS) having a child who stutters, tips on self-managing your stutter and advice on disclosing your stutter to others.

“The discussion was informational and enjoyable for me,” said Christine Dits, one of the participants, a PWS and speech-language pathologist assistant in Indiana. “Dr. Grossman shared some thoughts on how I could disclose my stuttering to my co-workers, which I believe will help me accept my stuttering even more so.”

Resnick hopes this was the first of more information sessions to come about stuttering.

About Stutter Social:

Stutter Social is a support group that connects people who stutter through Google+ Hangouts (group video chats). In the Hangouts, participants share similar stories, laugh about tense feelings, learn about speech techniques, and build self-acceptance. Its membership community is international, with participants from countries including the United States, Canada, Mexico, England, Scotland, France, Croatia, India, and New Zealand. There are four weekly Hangouts and occasional special guest Hangouts. Stutter Social also promotes awareness and understanding of stuttering to the public. For more information, please visit <http://stuttersocial.com>.

About AIS:

The American Institute for Stuttering (AIS) is the only 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the United States that offers state-of-the-art speech therapy to people of all ages who stutter, guidance to their families, and much-needed clinical training to professionals. AIS offers a range of services, including early intervention therapy for children as young as two years old, support to school-age children (who are more often bullied than their peers), group therapy courses that accommodate diverse schedules, and a unique three-week intensive treatment program. AIS also teaches their innovative therapy approach to speech-language pathologists, who traditionally are inexperienced in treating stuttering, to meet the great need for specially trained therapists. AIS is committed to advancing public understanding of stuttering and worked in Washington, D.C. to increase federal funding for research of the disorder. For more information about AIS, please visit <http://stutteringtreatment.org>.

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