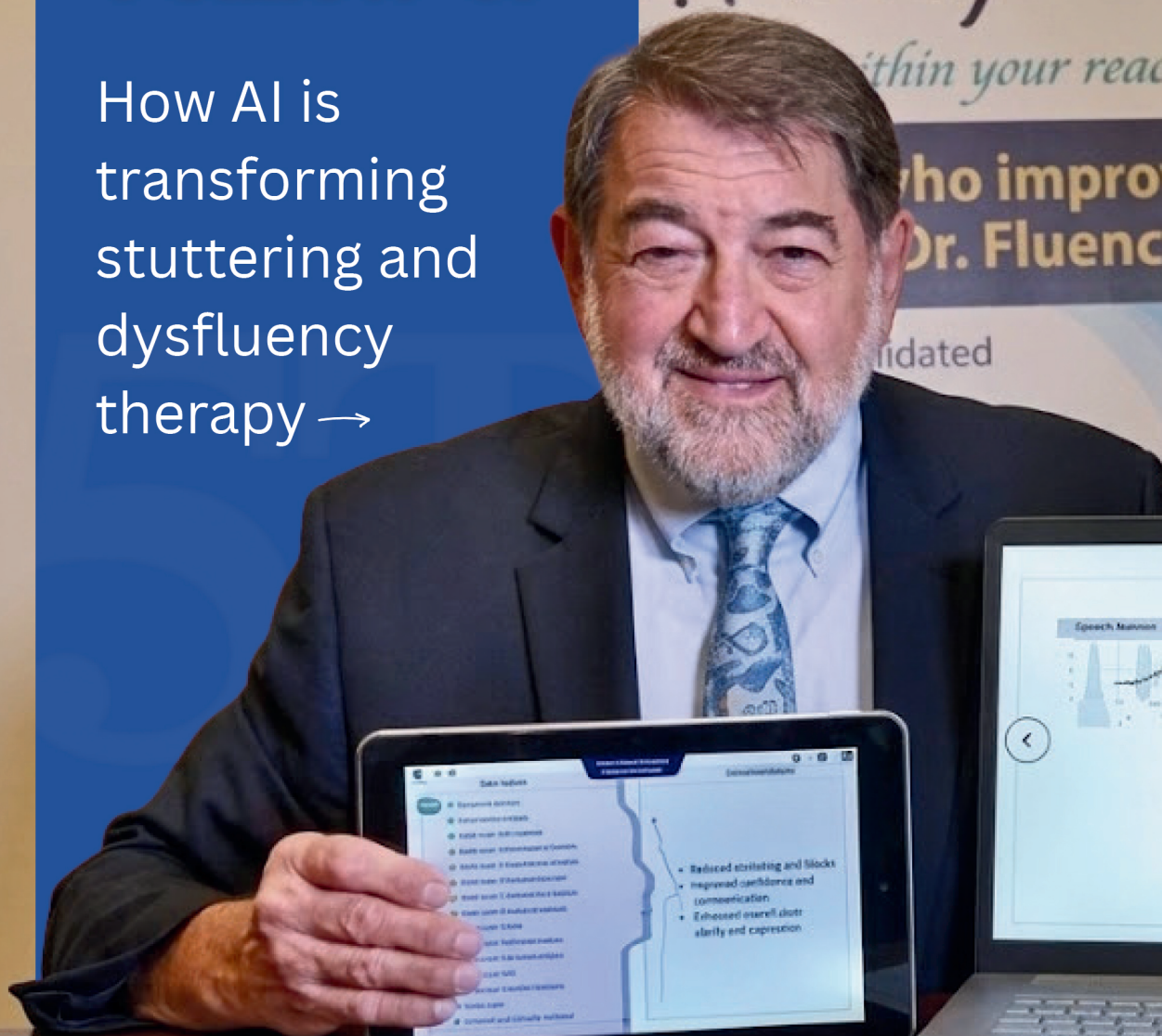


DR.FLUENCY FOLLOW-UP

How AI is
transforming
stuttering and
dysfluency
therapy →

STTT



SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 9

MORE THAN TWO YEARS LATER: THE DR. FLUENCY STORY CONTINUES

BY LARRY GORDON

More than two years ago, readers were first introduced to Dr. Fluency and its breakthrough approach to treating stuttering and dysfluency—one that combines professional speech therapy with innovative, AI-based technology designed to help patients develop more fluent speech. The technology also provides patients with the necessary precise feedback while they practice at home.

At the time, Dr. Fluency had already spent many years treating thousands of children and adults in Israel, while its New York operation was only beginning. The concept was straightforward: Learning the correct speech techniques during therapy with the Dr. Fluency technology is merely the first step. Patients must practice those techniques correctly every day and eventually learn to use them naturally at school, at work, on the telephone, and in ordinary conversation.

The idea began more than 20 years ago with a young physicist named Aryeh Friedman. After years of struggling with severe dysfluency, Aryeh

attended an intensive three-week program at Hadassah Hospital and, for the first time, experienced fluent speech. Months later, however, much of that improvement disappeared.

Aryeh eventually discovered that although he had faithfully continued practicing, without the hospital's equipment providing feedback, he had gradually begun performing the exercises incorrectly.

That experience led to the question that ultimately became the foundation of Dr. Fluency: What if computer technology could make the treatment available in local clinics and allow the feedback to go home with the patient?

Aryeh later joined forces with David Harris, whose expertise in software development was in the field of computer recognition that was the beginning of AI technology. Together, they developed what eventually became the Dr. Fluency system.

Today, the specialized Dr. Fluency tablet provides the Dr. Fluency cer-

Continued on Page 160

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tified speech-language pathologists the ability to teach, monitor, and reinforce the necessary fluency skills throughout the treatment program using the real-time biofeedback. Then Dr. Fluency goes home with the patient, enabling effective daily home practice.

Dr. Fluency's New York presence has continued to grow. Clinics are now operating on Long Island and in Brooklyn, while the program—which has treated approximately 3,000 people over more than two decades—continues to develop in the United States.

But perhaps the most meaningful way to understand what has happened during the past two years is not through statistics or explanations of technology. It is by speaking with the people who have actually completed the program.

When we first wrote about Dr. Fluency, many of the patients at its New York clinics were just beginning their journeys. More than two years later, some of those children and adults have completed the program. We went back to several of them—and their parents—to ask a simple question: What has changed?

David Rosen was 14 when he first walked into the Dr. Fluency clinic more than three years ago. At the time, he struggled to even say his own name.

"I started Dr. Fluency at 14 years old after experiencing severe dysfluency," David said. "I had gone through many speech therapies in New York, but none of them helped me. Dr. Fluency was a miracle for me because it allowed me to speak again and helped me realize my full potential."

Today, David hosts The Speech Collective Podcast, which is featured on all major platforms as well as the Dr. Fluency's website. On the podcast, he speaks openly about his earlier struggles with dysfluency. He is now attending an Ivy League college.

"Thanks to Dr. Fluency, I have managed to overcome my dysfluency," he said. "Before starting the program, I couldn't have dreamed of speaking fluently the way I do today."

Moshe, another parent, brought his son to Dr. Fluency approximately 2 years ago. Sruli was about 9 years old at the time.

"It could take him half a minute just to begin a sentence," Moshe recalled. "Sometimes, while struggling to speak, he would also make movements with his hands or



David Harris and the Dr. Fluency Technology



The Long Island Dr. Fluency team

head."

The family did not expect an immediate transformation. During the first few months, Sruli was learning and practicing the program's foundational techniques.

"At first, as we were told to expect, we didn't see much change," Moshe said. "But after about three months, we began seeing major progress. Over the next two months, he became like a totally different person. This changed his life."

Moshe emphasized that the improvement required determination and consistent work from his son.

"It isn't a trick," he said. "He had to work very hard, and for a child, that isn't easy. But once he saw that it was helping him—and that he could speak in class—he became motivated to continue. After that, we hardly recognized him. He was a completely different person."

David's brother Eli Harris, CEO of Dr. Fluency USA, saw Sruli's progress firsthand.

"When he first came to us, he could barely speak," Harris said.

He explained that the beginning of the program is devoted to building the skills necessary for lasting improvement, so families may not immediately hear a dramatic change.

"It is like learning chords on the piano," he said. "Until you know the chords, you cannot really begin to play."

Once Sruli developed those foundational skills, his progress became increasingly evident during group-practice sessions.

"At first, he could hardly speak during the group sessions," Harris said. "Slowly but surely, he began participating—and although his *mama lushin* is Yiddish, his ability to communicate in English also im-

proved tremendously."

Harris believes much of the credit belongs to Moshe, who practiced with his son every day and remained deeply involved throughout the program.

"His father was like an angel," Harris said. "He worked with him every day to make sure Sruli was doing the work. I named him 'Father of the Year.' When his son attended sleepaway camp, he drove to the country twice a week so they could continue practicing together." Before his son had even completed the program, Moshe called Harris with exciting news: Sruli, then 10 years old, had been given a speaking part in his camp play—something his family could not have imagined a year earlier.

"For this boy to stand in front of an audience and speak with confidence, compared with the way he first walked through our door, made us incredibly proud," Harris said. "He had become a totally different person."

Harris said similar transformations can be seen throughout Dr. Fluency's broader community of graduates.

"You wouldn't recognize many of them," he said. "Some once spoke so softly—and became stuck so frequently—that you could barely hear them. Today, they are getting up in front of others, davening for the amud, speaking publicly, and giving shiurim. It is remarkable."

That description rang true for another graduate, Aron, a married father in his twenties with two children. He began the program more than two years ago.

"When someone is unable or uncomfortable speaking, it affects him every day and in virtually every part of his life," he said. "Dr. Fluency completely changed my life. Today, I am comfortable speaking—not only while standing in line at the grocery store, but in every area of my life."

Encouraged by his early progress, he devoted himself intensely to the program, completing approximately three months' worth of work in a matter of weeks. He said the improvement affected every part of his daily life, including ordinary interactions that many people take for granted.

Asked to name the achievement that best represents how far he has come, he answered simply:

"I now give a *shiur* in kollel. That is something I never dreamt I would be able to do."

Continued on Page 162



Dr. Fluency's graduates speak before a large crowd at their annual graduation



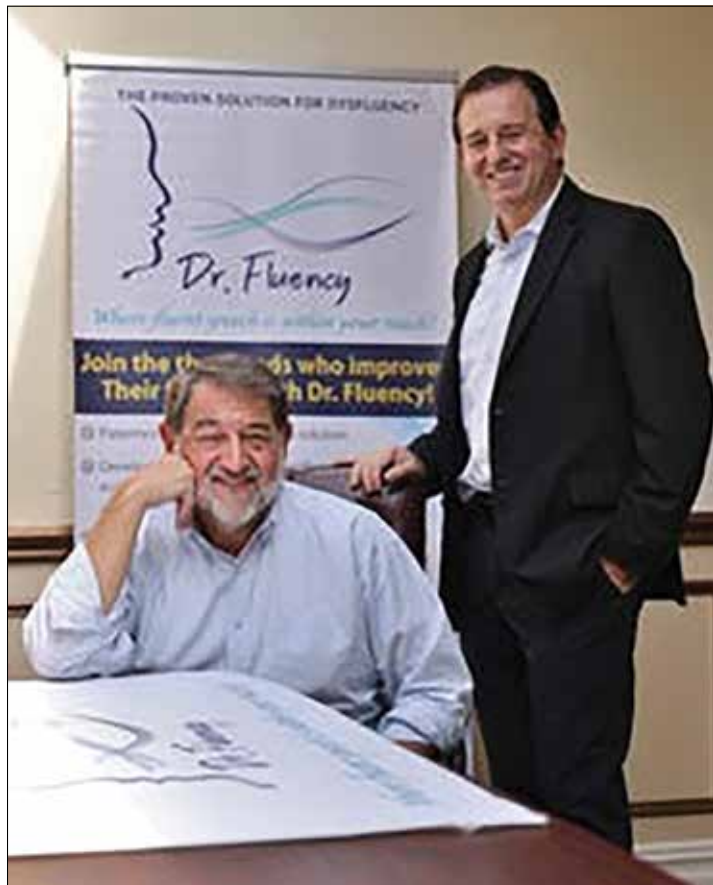
A close-up view of the Dr. Fluency technology

He said he will always be grateful for the skills and confidence the program gave him.

Rachel Lehmann, a

possible to treat this problem. And the profession practically gave up on helping people improve their fluency," says David Harris, President and founder of the Dr. Fluency project.

"Now finally in the U.S.,



David and Eli Harris

speech-language pathologist, now working as a Dr. Fluency therapist, previously worked in a charter school with students who struggled with stuttering. Since joining Dr. Fluency, she said she has witnessed a level of progress she had never previously seen.

"When my clients put in the work, the results are incredible," Lehmann said. "It is extremely rewarding to watch not only their speech improve, but also their confidence grow—and to see the effect that has on their everyday lives."

Another parent, a speech therapist by profession, said she had spent years trying to help her own son but was unable to produce the improvement she had hoped for.

"This program has greatly improved our son's confidence and social standing," she said. "Watching him grow since beginning Dr. Fluency has shown us that it was a worthwhile investment. His discipline and hard work truly paid off."

More than two years after Dr. Fluency was first introduced to readers, its central message remains the same: "As with many problems, technology is key to dealing with dysfluency. Since without the advancement introduced by Dr. Fluency, it was not

speech-language pathologists have the ability to help their patients truly improve their fluency and communication skills, with long lasting results. The tablet of course does not do the work for the patient. It requires commitment and support from the family, but *baruch Hashem* there is hope now for anyone suffering from this truly debilitating problem"

For David Rosen, that work helped take him from struggling to say his name to hosting a podcast and attending an Ivy League college. For Sruli, it meant standing onstage and delivering his lines in a camp play. For another graduate, it meant being able to give a *shiur* in kollel.

Their circumstances are different, but their stories share a common thread: They all feel that Dr. Fluency saved their lives. The ability to speak more fluently did more than change the way they sounded. It changed how they participated in school, family life, and their communities—and how they saw themselves. The other thing they all share, like most Dr. Fluency graduates, is their willingness to personally speak to anyone about their experience...

To learn more or schedule a free evaluation, visit DrFluency-USA.com or call 516-284-0199. ■

POLITICAL ROUNDUP

Attorney General James Encourages New Yorkers to Claim Compensation for Inflated Generic Drug Prices

New York Attorney General Letitia James joined a bipartisan group of 47 other attorneys general in urging eligible consumers to submit claims for compensation from generic drug manufacturers that illegally colluded to raise prices. The U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut recently preliminarily approved the coalition's plan to distribute tens of millions of dollars to consumers who overpaid for certain generic drugs as the result of a massive, long-running scheme to inflate drug prices while reducing competition in the pharmaceutical industry. Attorney General James and the coalition's investigation found that dozens of companies illegally colluded behind the scenes to increase prices for a wide range of generic drugs used by millions of consumers. Attorney General James is urging eligible New Yorkers to submit a claim by March 8, 2027 to receive compensation.

"For years, dozens of pharmaceutical companies cheated New Yorkers with shady backroom deals that raised prices," said Attorney General James. "These companies inflated generic drug prices and forced hard-working families to pay excessive amounts for essential medications. I encourage all New Yorkers who purchased eligible generic drugs to submit a claim to receive compensation."

Eligible consumers must submit their claim by March 8, 2027 to receive compensation. To submit a claim for payment, consumers can visit www.AG-GenericDrugs.com and follow the directions to fill out and submit a claim online. Consumers can also request a form from the claims administrator directly by emailing info@aggenericdrugs.com, calling 1-866-290-0182, or mailing the address listed on the webpage.

The settlements are the result of three lawsuits filed by Attorney General James and

the coalition against dozens of generic pharmaceutical companies and individuals alleging years of conduct impacting the prices of over 100 drugs. The first complaint was filed in 2016 against 18 corporate defendants and two individual defendants and concerned 15 generic drugs. The second complaint was filed in 2019 against 22 of the nation's largest generic drug manufacturers and 16 individual senior executive defendants. The third complaint was filed in 2020 and focused on 80 topical generic drugs that account for billions of dollars of sales in the United States and names 26 corporate defendants and 10 individual defendants. Seven pharmaceutical executives have been cooperating to support the coalition's claims in these cases.

The lawsuits allege these companies engaged in a broad, coordinated, and systematic conspiracy to fix prices, avoid competition, and rig bids for more than 100 different generic drugs. The companies maintained an interconnected web of industry executives where these competitors met with each other during industry dinners, "girls' nights out," lunches, cocktail parties, and golf outings, and communicated via frequent telephone calls, emails, and text messages that sowed the seeds for their illegal agreements. Defendants used terms like "fair share," "playing nice in the sandbox," and "responsible competitor" to describe how they unlawfully discouraged competition, raised prices, and enforced an ingrained culture of collusion.

The drugs included in the scheme span all types—including tablets, capsules, creams, and ointments—and classes—including antibiotics, anti-depressants, contraceptives, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. They treat a range of diseases and conditions from basic infections to diabetes, cancer, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, HIV, ADHD, and more. In some instances, the coordinated price increases were over 1,000 percent. For example, Digoxin, an essential heart medication manufactured by Heritage, tripled in

price, causing patients to pay hundreds of dollars more for the drug.

Attorney General James and the coalition have secured \$96 million from Apotex and Heritage, Bausch and Lannett, and Glenmark Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. As part of the settlements, the defendants have agreed to cooperate in the ongoing multistate cases against the remaining corporate defendants and individual executives, as well as to make reforms to prevent future misconduct and ensure fair competition and compliance with antitrust laws.

Joining Attorney General James in securing the settlements are the attorneys general of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, the District of Columbia, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For New York, this matter is being handled by Assistant Attorneys General Bob Hubbard, Saami Zain, and Ben Cole, and Legal Assistant Arlene Leventhal of the Antitrust Bureau, under the supervision of Deputy Bureau Chief Amy McFarlane and Bureau Chief Elinor Hoffmann of the Antitrust Bureau. The Antitrust Bureau is part of the Division for Economic Justice, overseen by Chief Deputy Attorney General Christopher D'Angelo and First Deputy Attorney General Meghan Faux. ■

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