Against the Current
My Life with Cerebral Palsy
by Dr. Bob Segalman,
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Book available April 2009
For additional information: check the on-line web site.
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Born in 1942, Dr. Bob Segalman’s parents insisted on mainstreaming him several decades before inclusion was even conceptualized. As a result, Dr. Bob received two doctoral degrees and is the successful—and for the most part, the sole—advocate for the implementation of Speech-to-Speech phone services for people with speech disabilities, which have since, thanks to his relentless efforts, been adopted across the country. This is his story”.

All Dr. Bob’s profits from this book will go to Speech Communications Assistance by Telephone (501c3) so that more people with speech disabilities can learn to use the telephone with Speech-to-Speech.

Book available April 2009
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A Fantastic New Book Against the Current My Life with Cerebral Palsy By Dr. Bob Segalman

A book About the Amazing life of Dr. Bob Segalman and the his tremendous ability to succeed with humor and style.
Soon after completing my degree and getting my first real job (post docs don’t count), I again had the urge to drive a car. At the time, I had already been driving an electric car designed for people who are older which has a top speed of 20 m.p.h.

I wrote the local driving school (as my CP speech impedes telephone calls) and they dispatched a frightened young man in a car with no hand controls. Fortunately, he was able to refer me to a driving school that owned a car with hand controls.

After many months of intermittent lessons, as I found every excuse to delay each lesson, I was finally ready to take the test. My teacher had prepared me well, but the Department of Motor Vehicles examiner was so nervous that he made me nervous. My driving teacher spent 10 minutes instructing the examiner in “Cerebral Palsy 101,” we were both relaxed and I passed the test with ease.

Buying a car wasn’t easy. I took a friend with me; several people took him aside to try to convince him not to let me drive – as if anyone could stop me! I never thought I would meet used car dealer who would try to avoid a sale.

After I bought the car, I discovered that one insurance company even had special low rates for drivers with disabilities and good records.

Now came the hard part – telling my parents. Would you expect that a 30-year-old man with a Ph.D. and a full-time job as a social worker would be afraid to tell Mom and Dad that he was driving? I sure was! I piled my poor, chain-smoking, driving teacher into my “new” four-year-old American Motors Ambassador and drove the 50 miles to my parent’s house. It’s a good thing they both still had their original teeth, as anything else would have fallen out.

They were both good sports about it although, to this day, I prefer to have them drive if we go places together. Their nervousness about their son driving makes me nervous.

Driving did help me accomplish my original goal. It gave me mobility to make it easier to date. Five years later I met a wonderful lady. We are now married and she does the driving! The thrill of driving is gone; I guess that’s a milestone too.