

# EDITORIAL

## SOME PARTING THOUGHTS

In early 1990 I wrote the first editorial, as editor-in-chief, in the initial issue of the *Journal of Behavioral Optometry*. It was entitled *What, Another Journal?* Now, almost 18 years later I write the final one in this capacity.

My tenure in this position has been a high point in a multi faceted optometric career. I gained much as a writer, and in terms of the many special people with whom I interacted. By and large, virtually all the interactions were positive. I shared authors' joy and enthusiasm when their articles were published after undergoing a rigorous peer-review process. The great majority of authors whose manuscripts were *Not Accepted in the Present Form* graciously took the criticisms and suggestions in the constructive intent they were made. Most of those whose work was *Rejected* understood that the decision was made in the interests of their and the Journal's reputations.

There are several groups I wish to thank. Foremost, are all the authors. Some of these people stand out in my mind: A manuscript by the late Dr. Martin Birnbaum became the lead article in the initial issue of the *Journal*. He subsequently contributed a number of articles and became my special editorial confidant and adviser. Dr. Ken Ciuffreda has been a frequently published author in this *Journal* over an impressive span of years. He has been a valued ardent supporter of the publication and of me. Dr. W.C. Maples' articles in the *Journal* have been particularly noteworthy. He is the current associate editor and soon to be editor-in-chief of the *Journal*. Our longtime collaboration, particularly over the past year, has been excellent and will ensure a seamless transition. Dr. Harold Solan likewise has been one of our long time authors. His contributions to

this and other professional journals have been a source of inspiration to me, and many others. Drs. Jack Richman, Selwyn Super, Leonard Press, and Lynn Hellerstein have been noteworthy contributors of manuscripts over the *Journal's* life. They have given support to this *Journal* and have always been there for me.

The *Journal* has had the good fortune in its dedicated and knowledgeable members of its Peer Review Board. Again, some of these reviewers deserve special recognition. Several have also been frequent contributors of manuscripts and, as peer reviewers, have gone above and beyond what is usually expected; they have volunteered to act as mentors to authors whose manuscripts they've reviewed. Drs. Shelly Mozlin and David FitzGerald and Ms. Patti Lemer are sterling examples of this group. I also wish to recognize the knowledgeable, unbiased, and objective reviews that have been made by Drs. David Goss and Maureen Powers; their recommendations have likewise been more than helpful to authors.

The *Journal* is a publication of the Optometric Extension Program (OEP). I extend my appreciation to all those who have served as officers and members of the organization's Board during the life of the *Journal*. The support, editorial freedom and trust they have accorded me has always been exceptional. Among these people, Dr. Paul Harris has been a proactive agent for the *Journal* by soliciting articles and arranging the *Journal's* section of the OEP web site.

The production of the *Journal* is in the hands of its staff. Consulting editor, Dr. Julie Ryan has provided expertise, office space and equipment for the photographic shoots of many of the *Journal's* covers. Ms. Kathleen Patterson's artistic and

computer expertise have accounted for many others. Without these individual's efforts, the face of the *Journal* would not be as attractive and compelling as it has been. Copyediting is a journal's quality control mechanism. Dr. Koe Johnson and Mrs. Linda Maples have been particularly effective in this domain.

My most personal interactions have occurred with two other individuals in the *Journal's* family. OEP Executive Director Bob Williams has been a part of the *Journal* before it became a reality. He arranged a meeting in 1989 with me and then OEP President Baxter Swartwout to discuss the development of a peer reviewed journal. The outcome was a detailed year-long planning process. The process has continued and resulted in a relationship of mutual respect, trust and friendship. I was

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*Irwin B. Suchoff, O.D., D.O.S.*

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extremely fortunate that OEP assigned Mrs. Sally Corngold as managing editor. This position entails the final phase of the publishing process that involves authors, copy editors and the printing and mailing processes. She and I were on the same wavelength from the first day. I have benefited greatly from her expertise, superb dedication to the *Journal*, and her valued friendship.

My wife Gloria has been an important, but invisible part of the *Journal's* family. I thank her for the support, understanding and encouragement that she has given me as the *Journal's* editor-in-chief, and her partnership in my many optometric career changes.

Please note that the title of this editorial is "Some Parting Thoughts." These are not final thoughts because old professors and editors never die or fade away; they just attain the title of *emeritus*, and go on to other things.