

# GUEST EDITORIAL

## 6<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BEHAVIORAL OPTOMETRY

Gregory Kitchener, O.D., President, OEPF



Session at Western University College of Optometry. Go to pages 78 and 79 for ICBO photo essay

The memory of this shared enthusiasm for helping our patients brings me a great deal of pleasure and enormous pride to be part of the profession of Optometry. The opportunity to be part of creating a venue for the expression of this enthusiasm was an honor. There isn't room here to list all the people and organizations that contributed to the success of the 6<sup>th</sup> ICBO, but you know who you are and please accept my thanks. I need to specifically acknowledge Dr. Elizabeth Hoppe, founding Dean of the College of Optometry at the Western University of the Health Sciences and Dr. Don Fong, Past-President of NORA. Lastly, I must express my deepest gratitude to Mr. Robert Williams, Executive Director of OEPF, the OEP staff in California and Maryland, and Dr. Paul Harris, Vice-President of OEPF. Without their help with organization and implementation the "buzz" would have remained an unrealized potential held captive in my private visual process.

I look forward to an even better 7<sup>th</sup> ICBO in Oxford, England, in the year 2014.



Gregory Kitchener, O.D.

**A** great meeting! Over and over again, in one form or another, this comment was echoed by delegates at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Behavioral Optometry - ICBO 2010. A little time has allowed the dust to settle and we can look back with a little different perspective. All in all - "Wow! What a great meeting."

For several of us the meeting began a couple of years ago when we organized a joint effort of OEPF, NORA (Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association), and the new (still in the planning at that time) College of Optometry at the Western University of the Health Sciences. Even before that was finalized we had managed a commitment from V.S. Ramachandran to provide a keynote address to bridge the common interests of these three different organizations.

As this basic structure began to solidify, the next challenge was to meld the talents

and efforts of many professionals and volunteers that would be necessary to accommodate our participants. Our major goal was to provide a venue that allowed for maximum interaction between everyone attending the 6<sup>th</sup> ICBO - presenters with delegates, delegates with exhibitors, and delegates with delegates.

The measure of success was an audible and persistent "buzz." The "buzz" permeated the exhibit hall, every meal and in the hallways at every break. It started on Tuesday during the NORA Skills preconference, gained strength with the formal opening on Thursday, migrated to the campus of Western University and prevailed right through Sunday morning. The "buzz" was the murmur of hundreds of conversations. The conversations were about the last speaker, the next speaker, how do you..., your family, my family, the visual process, the newest product, your office, using lenses, your e-mail and, through all of it, patient care.