

GUEST EDITORIAL

ANOTHER NEW BEGINNING

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It's been a busy time at the OEP Foundation. A year ago we held the 6th International Congress of Behavioral Optometry (ICBO). It was the successful conclusion of years of planning and months of frenetic activity by the OEP Foundation staff. While we hoped that things might calm down following the completion of that major event, it became the springboard for increased Foundation activities.

Although not a part of the official meeting program, the ICBO provided opportunities for face-to-face discussions among representatives from various groups that promote the behavioral aspects of optometry internationally. Some of these were impromptu get-togethers while others were scheduled specifically and well in advance of the meeting.

The OEP Foundation maintains working relationships with many groups around the world. Many of these relationships span several decades and they have grown and developed to address changing situations both here and abroad. One of the most productive partnerships is the close relationship between the OEP Foundation and the Australasian College of Behavioural Optometry (ACBO).

ACBO sponsors an active program of meetings in its own region. It has also been an active participant in many international initiatives to promote the behavioral aspects of optometry. Together with the OEP Foundation, ACBO has hosted two of the six International Congresses. They have also provided for the delivery of the OEP Foundation's educational materials, including the *Journal of Behavioral Optometry (JBO)*, to all ACBO members.

For many years ACBO has published its own journal, *Behavioural Optometry*. Publishing a journal is a source of pride and often a hallmark of belonging to a professional group, but it also presents many challenges for any organization. Competent editors and support staff must be selected. Competition with other publications for original articles and authors, who want the broadest circulation for their work, are ongoing challenges. Printing and mailing expenses also favor a large circulation.

ACBO has persevered in the publication of *Behavioural Optometry* for many years with a completely volunteer effort. When so many resources are committed to one endeavor, it becomes difficult to address new and important opportunities as they arise. The 6th ICBO provided the opportunity for ACBO and the OEP Foundation to look for ways to strengthen our relationship while improving the ability of each organization to meet its own unique mission. One such proposal was to merge ACBO's *Behavioural Optometry* with the OEP Foundation's, *JBO*.

As President of the OEP Foundation it is my pleasure to announce the accomplishment of that merger. In the coming months several ACBO members will be appointed to *JBO*'s Editorial and Peer Review Boards. While the OEP Foundation provides editorial leadership and staff support, ACBO will actively solicit articles from their members and their region for submission to the *JBO*. The News section of the *JBO* will also carry information about ACBO members and activities. The aim is to make this a joint effort with a truly international flavor. Or is it flavour? As you can see there are still

a few details - and a wayward "u" or two - that need to be worked out.

All of us at the OEP Foundation look forward to many more years of partnership with ACBO in promoting optometry and an understanding of the pervasive role of the visual process in human behavior.

(Editorial Note: As this issue of the Journal was going to press we learned of the tragic accident that took the life of ACBO President Mrs. Susan Larter. Mrs. Larter was to have submitted a guest editorial for the next issue of JBO on the merger of the OEP and ACBO journals. Instead, that issue will include a tribute to Mrs. Larter honoring her for her commitment to ACBO, OEP and behavioral vision care.)



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