Editorial

Do We Really Need Another Journal?

Obviously I feel the answer is "yes," principally because refractive surgery has truly become a sub-specialty of ophthalmology deserving of a forum devoted entirely to this exciting and rapidly evolving surgery. Two papers on refractive surgery that I completed last summer were accepted by major journals and have not as yet even been scheduled for publication. We hope to dramatically reduce this long "turn-around time" so that new ideas, techniques, instruments, and complications can be shared rapidly with interested colleagues.

The JOURNAL OF REFRACTIVE SURGERY is the Official Journal of the International Society of Refractive Keratoplasty. We invite those of you who are interested in refractive surgery to join the Society (see page 33 for membership information). I feel this Journal will fill a need just as the Intraocular Implant Society Journal filled a need in the mid 70s. The proliferation of papers on lens implant techniques justified a journal devoted entirely to that topic. A similar trend seems to be emerging in the field of refractive surgery.

We have assembled an outstanding editorial board composed of national and international leaders in refractive surgery. With their guidance, we hope to be able to provide timely, high quality, "peer reviewed" articles for our readers.

Our first issue contains several important articles. We begin with a statement by Dr. Herbert Kaufman, President of the International Society of Refractive Keratoplasty, on his thoughts on the present and the future direction of refractive surgery.

Jon Franks and Dr. Perry Binder provide us with an extremely well documented and valuable laboratory study comparing the various methods of correcting astigmatism. This article calls attention to the tremendous variations in the results of these procedures.

Dr. G. William Lavery and Dr. Richard Lindstrom provide us with an excellent laboratory study of the dynamics of the Ruiz trapezoidal astigmatic keratotomy procedure.

Then, Dr. Richard Keates and Dr. Curtin Kelley report their initial experience with epikeratophakia techniques. This represents the first report on the "epi" technique outside of Louisiana State University where the technique originated.

Dr. Spencer Thornton provides clinical guidelines for surgical approaches to radial keratotomy patients. This should be of great interest to surgeons who are just beginning to do radial keratotomy and are confronted with the question of what to do on a given patient.

Dr. Richard Villasenor and Dr. Kerry Cox discuss the pros and cons of reoperations for radial keratotomy. Any surgeon considering adding additional incisions in a radial keratotomy patient should benefit from the insights gained in this paper.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Board of the International Society of Refractive Keratoplasty for asking me to be the Editor of this new Journal. I pledge to work very hard on their behalf. A special note of thanks to the authors of our first papers, who were working under a very tight deadline. I hope you will agree that they have delivered timely material for our premier issue.

We invite those of you interested in refractive surgery to submit both clinical and basic science articles pertaining to all aspects of refractive surgery. We hope to publish major articles and brief reports on interesting cases, complications, and instrumentation. Help us to insure the success of the Journal by sending your articles for review. We also welcome your suggestions for future issues.

James J. Salz, M.D.
Editor