Promoting the Advancement of Refractive Surgery

As January arrives and the International Society of Refractive Keratoplasty enters its sixth year of existence, it gives me time to reflect on its future goals. A true "international society" must attempt to encourage new refractive surgeons from every corner of the world to join our fold. We have attained a small success in this area by boasting an international membership of approximately 180 in addition to publishing in our *Journal of Refractive Surgery* original articles from international contributors such as Barraquer, Ruiz, and Arciniegas (Colombia), Momose (Japan), Krumeich (Germany), Brodsky (Argentina), Franks (Australia), Akefmaghraby (Saudi Arabia), and others.

Another indication of our success was the large number of South American participants that attended our annual meeting prior to the American Academy of Ophthalmology in New Orleans in 1986. Ophthalmologists in South America, and particularly in Brazil, have been actively performing radial keratotomy for 3 years and have formed two different refractive surgery societies. Outside of the United States and Russia, South America is the most active refractive surgery country. Many of our European colleagues have recently begun performing refractive surgery techniques and there is renewed interest in refractive surgery in Asia. Refractive surgical techniques are sure to proliferate and spread to other parts of the world.

As the new President of ISRK, I would like to invite these new surgeons to join us in our scientific endeavor to promote the advancement of refractive surgery by contributing to our Journal, thereby sharing with us their original work. The Journal's editorial staff will do major or minor revisions for those that are not fluent in English. I further invite them to help us teach others refractive surgery techniques by participating in our courses and workshops. Our Program Chairman, Richard Lindstrom, would welcome more international participation in our scientific program.

I further hope to improve services to our international members by providing faster means of receiving their newsletters and journals, the organization of small satellite meetings in Spain, France, Japan, and so forth, and by stimulating and encouraging international administrative participation. We are looking forward in the next 2 years to participation in national and international meetings. These include the combined CLAO/ISRK Meeting in January 1987 in Las Vegas, the European Implant Society Meeting in Jerusalem in September 1987, ISRK/American Academy of Ophthalmology in Dallas in November 1987, and the French Implant and Refractive Surgery Society Meeting in Cannes in February 1988.

It seems appropriate that the field of refractive surgery whose origin was outside the United States (Japan, Russia, and Colombia) is now beginning to return to the very countries where it had its beginnings. The ISRK extends its welcome to join with us to help this new field of refractive surgery to grow and prosper.

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