Editorial

Thank You One and All —
It's Been Fun

With the publication of this issue of the Journal of Refractive Surgery, my term as Editor comes to an end. It has truly taken a team effort to successfully introduce a new journal focused on an entirely new and narrow subspecialty—refractive surgery. Many thanks are in order.

Five years ago at the American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in Atlanta, the officers and board of the International Society of Refractive Keratoplasty decided that the time was ripe to publish the official journal of the Society. My special thanks to Rick Villasenor, Miles Friedlander, Cas Swinger, Richard Troutman, Herb Kaufman, Jim Rowsey, and others on that board who decided that an inexperienced, naive, apolitical fellow like me could help launch this Journal. Thanks also to my good friend, Don Sanders, who helped put us in contact with our publisher. I believe this proved to be the critical step that insured the timely introduction of the Journal of Refractive Surgery.

Our devoted, hard working Editorial Advisory Board is responsible for the success of the Journal. They have not only conscientiously reviewed articles, they have at times almost completely rewritten papers that had scientific merit, but required extensive revisions in grammar, style, and format. More importantly, most of these physicians have submitted quality articles which easily could have been published in more prestigious and widely read journals. Thank you all for meeting deadlines following our frequent phone calls urging you to come through with last-minute reviews or revisions. A special thanks to Dick Elander for taking charge of and editing the Abstract section and to Dick Lindstrom for doing the same with the Consultations in Refractive Surgery section.

I have been privileged to work with an exceptionally fine, professional, and supportive publishing firm, Slack Incorporated. Without their input, commitment, and encouragement, starting this Journal from scratch would have been virtually impossible. They have managed all the business aspects of the journal—advertising, circulation, promotion, and printing—thus enabling the Editorial Board to concentrate solely on providing the scientific and editorial content. I have enjoyed working with Richard Roash, Peter Slack, John Carter, and Jennifer Johnson. They have all supported the Journal from its inception, and they deserve a great deal of credit for our success. Heartfelt thanks and accolades for my secretary, Donna Jones, who has cheerfully supported my "hobby" these last 4 years.

Although I am proud of our past accomplishments, particularly publishing an issue on time every 2 months for the past 4 years, I am disappointed by one major failing, our inability to obtain a listing in the Index Medicus. I can think of no one more motivated or more qualified to overcome this disappointment than the new editor, George Waring. The ISRK and Slack are fortunate that George has accepted his appointment as Editor of the Journal. George has been a close friend the past few years, has offered encouragement and advice, and has actively supported the Journal as an author and reviewer. He has many exciting and innovative new ideas, and with his leadership I am sure that the Journal of Refractive Surgery will grow and prosper.

I urge all of our readers with an interest in refractive surgery to continue to support the Journal by submitting high quality manuscripts (at least one every year that you might normally submit to a more widely read journal). With your continued support, and with George Waring's editorial talents and commitment, I feel confident that we can achieve our listing in the Index Medicus in the very near future.

My sincere thanks to all of you for your encouragement and support these last 4 years.

JAMES J. SALZ, MD
Editor