Following an important agreement between the International Society of Refractive Keratoplasty and the European Refractive Surgery Society (ERSS) together with Slack Incorporated, Medical Publishers, New Jersey, USA, the Journal of Refractive Surgery has become the only official publication of both societies.

This Journal is published bimonthly and contains original articles and material concerning the field of refractive surgery. Beginning with the first issue of 1988, the Journal of Refractive Surgery is being sent free of charge to all members of the ERSS. This will promote a continuous exchange of information and news about techniques, instruments, and results between the United States and Europe in the field of refractive surgery. This also will improve knowledge, spread news of experiences and research, increase amounts of statistical data, and provide a more rapid estimate of the best surgical procedures and greater impetus to produce better advances for all refractive surgeons.

Since the beginning of refractive surgery, thanks to the work of Jose Barraquer and Svatoslav Fyodorov, there is no doubt that our surgeon friends in the US had a great impact on refractive surgery. Yet I strongly feel that Europeans are now performing this work with great responsibility and skill.

This is not a question of competition, but rather one of cooperation. Daniele Aron Rosa, Jean Luis Coudrèc, Jorg Krumeich, Luis Menezó, Fernando Navarro, Lucio Buratto, and Fabio Dossi are researchers well known outside of Europe, and they already have begun studies and experiments with American colleagues. I hope that others will soon join them.

The ERSS will have its own European Editorial Board headed by Lucio Buratto. They will review articles before they are forwarded to the Journal of Refractive Surgery. Dr. Buratto and several other members of the ERSS also have been added to the Editorial Board of the Journal.

Thus it will be possible to publish original European articles, case reports, letters to the Editor, and consultations questions in English only, in the same format that has been used until now. All submissions will be peer-reviewed by experts in the field, and articles will be published as rapidly as possible.

European material to be published should be sent to Lucio Buratto, Piazza della Repubblica 21, Milan 20124, for approval by the European Editorial Board. The annual fee for membership in the ERSS will be $80; the advantage of receiving this important journal regularly is well worth the cost.

Umberto Merlin, MD
President
European Refractive Surgery Society