Guest Editorials

From the Editor of the European Journal of Implant and Refractive Surgery

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Nineteen ninety-four sees two innovations for the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS): an increase from four to six issues per year of its peer-reviewed journal, the European Journal of Implant and Refractive Surgery, and a journal exchange arrangement with the International Society of Refractive Keratoplasty’s (ISRK) Journal of Refractive and Corneal Surgery. The exchange implies a close working arrangement between a European society and an international society with complementary and common interests. While the European Society places more emphasis on cataract than refractive surgery, both elements of ophthalmic surgery are important aspects of its development. Thus, by sharing with its readership the corneal science that largely reflects the content of the ISRK journal, it will further its subscribers’ education and information gathering. By the same token, exposure of the ISRK members to European activities in both fields will encourage greater global information exchanges. We will grow and become wiser, together.

Nineteen ninety-four also sees control of subscription and distribution of the European Journal from its Dublin office, thus providing the membership control and circulation information essential in this project.

George Waring, as editor of ISRK’s Journal of Refractive and Corneal Surgery, brings a rare talent and enthusiasm for his subject to his reading audience. His unique contributions to the activities of the ESCRs have made him a most popular figure as one of the world’s best teachers and communicators. We are delighted to join forces with the ISRK and contribute to George’s initiative. Many of our meetings share joint occasions to the enlightenment of all.

For those unfamiliar with the ESCRs, I should point out that the society evolved from the former European Intraocular Lens Implant Council (EIIC), which comprised a loose amalgamation of national implant societies within Europe. Each year since 1981, it held an annual symposium in the autumn, in a venue which moved around Europe, adding extra cultural spice to a necessary educational event. Eventually, the Board of the EIIC created the ESCRs, with its base membership still comprising the members of the European national societies, but expanding into individual membership. Further, it has created an efficient organizational structure with its administration based in Dublin. Each annual congress is now coordinated by our own organization and each year the congress, with its full program of courses, symposia, and satellite events, has become the focus of the European cataract and refractive surgeons’ year. The officers and board of the ESCRs are democratically elected for a specified period, thus ensuring a continuum of new enthusiasm within the society.

We look forward to a long and mutually meaningful relationship with ISRK.