The News of Refractive Surgery—In-Depth

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News about refractive surgery seems to be everywhere—as a dominant presence in ophthalmic newspapers, as a recurring item in the lay print and electronic media, and as an increasingly familiar component of advertising. Unfortunately, for those of us interested in the details of refractive surgery, such news coverage is often at a general level, omitting important details. For example, what were the conditions that the FDA Ophthalmic Devices Advisory Panel placed on its recommendation for the approval of excimer laser phototherapeutic and photorefractive keratectomy? To meet the needs of our readership, the journal is fortunate enough to have three news contributors. Mr Michael Moretti (page 12), the editor of Medical Laser Insight and the president of Medical Insight, Inc, has been providing in-depth news reports on excimer lasers and related topics for the past 2 years. His specialized interest in this subject and remarkable breadth of resources have kept us abreast of many important changes in this market. Ms Lisa Kearns (pages 11, 63) recently joined the journal’s news staff, and brings 19 years of professional journalism experience to her task of providing in-depth analytical and investigational articles on breaking news issues, such as the Federal Trade Commission’s recent investigation of refractive keratotomy advertising. Mr Alan E. Reider and other representatives of the law firm of Arent, Fox, Kintner, Plotkin, and Kahn in Washington, DC, will be contributing articles on medical-legal aspects of refractive surgery in each issue. Their articles will focus on both case law and broad principles that can guide readers of the journal in their practices. We greatly appreciate their help and support.

Each of these contributors wishes to address problems or issues active in the minds of the members of the International Society of Refractive Surgery and its affiliate societies; we solicit your questions and topics for the News Section of the journal.