

EDITORIAL

Looking Forward

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An opportunity to create something special was what I was given only 18 months ago. I was named Editor-In-Chief (EIC) of the *Journal of Behavioral Optometry (JBO)*; only the third person to hold this illustrious title. I worked my entire career toward this goal and consider myself lucky to be trusted with such an awesome responsibility.

With the help of so many people, I am happy to say that the *JBO* has become all that I have hoped and much more. The articles that are being published are of the highest level. There are research-based and clinically-related articles, case reports, guest editorials, and viewpoints. The history of developmental editing begun under Editor Emeritus Irwin Suchoff has continued; authors new to writing have been able to find their voices. The number of international authors has increased, and we are reaching into parts of the world that have been previously silent.

The launch of *JBO* online has been an exciting adventure. Mirroring society, publishing is being driven increasingly into a digital format. Having great vision, the board of the Optometric Extension Program Foundation saw a future for the *Journal*, and allowed the future to be now. In this new format, articles can be enhanced with extra content such as pictures, text, and videos. Readers have the opportunity to learn about research findings from the author themselves. For the first time, authors can demonstrate the techniques that they are describing. How to actually perform vision therapy procedures is no longer a mystery!

As the EIC, my role includes not only helping authors find content online, but, performing interviews and editing the video clips. Technology is astounding, and we are lucky to live in a time when we have it literally at our fingertips. I can

speaking with an author from the comfort of my own house or office, and they can be just as relaxed. The distance between myself and the authors is not a concern. I have been able to interview authors in Japan and Australia as if they were in the same room, once I figured out the time zones. Connecting with authors in this way honestly has been a blast; getting to speak with many of my optometric idols is beyond words.

By the time I took over as EIC, there had already been the first unofficial discussions between representatives of ACBO, COVD, and OEP about bringing together the three organizations in creating a joint journal. Once the EIC transition had taken place and the online format debuted, these discussions began to heat up. Over a period of 18 months, the details were ironed out during countless meetings and discussions. Ultimately, *Optometry and Visual Performance* was born.

Instead of lamenting the loss of another journal, please celebrate the birth of what will be the most exciting and best journal in the optometric profession. Dr. Dominick Maino and I, as co-editors in chief, along with Mrs. Kelin Kushin, the managing editor, will bring you six issues of *OVP* throughout the year. These issues will include articles, viewpoints, and editorials. These six issues will be delivered electronically in the same format as *JBO* and in print to those who do not choose to opt out. In 2014, the print edition will be by subscription only. In addition to six issues of *OVP*, four issues of *Visual Performance (VP) Today* will be delivered in electronic format only. *VP Today* will include organizational and meeting news; book, product and literature reviews; and so much more. It will be the voice of the three founding organizations: ACBO, COVD, and OEP.

It is with both a sense of sorrow and a sense of joy that I am writing what is the final editorial in the 23-year history of *JBO*. I consider the last nine issues of *JBO* to be perhaps the most exciting and challenging experience of my career. I have enjoyed every minute of it. The prospect of being part of the creation of *OVP* is tremendous. Being able to bring to life a new voice in the profession is truly the opportunity of a lifetime. Please enjoy this final issue of *JBO*, but stay tuned for *OVP* and *VP Today* as I can promise that the best is yet to come. Good luck and good health always and see you in 2013!