

THE FIRST YEAR

There were two recent births within a four-month period that were very important to me. On September 25, 1989 my first grandchild, Katie Jane Nietman, was born in Atlanta, Georgia. On January 4, 1990 the *Journal of Behavioral Optometry* made its first appearance in Santa Ana, California and then across the world. My physical presence in the homes of both Katie and the *Journal* is unfortunately infrequent. However, with the good graces of AT&T, I stay quite well-informed and am able to be a part of both lives.

Many similarities existed in the first year of Katie and the *Journal*. There was the initial excitement and joy of a successful and healthy birth, followed by the doubts and worries about whether all the parts were in order and properly working. Later came the wonder of first crawling and then walking, albeit at this time still somewhat unsteadily. And there has been the constant concern about whether we're all doing everything we can to nurture and make sure that both "children" will be the best they can be. But the most significant similarity is the realization that while both Katie and the *Journal* have strong ties to the past--their heritage--both represent a new beginning and must be prepared for and be part of the future.

This has been an exciting and gratifying year. For the *Journal*, many deserve recognition. The Board of Directors and Staff of the Optometric Extension Program Foundation have been supportive and encouraging in every way. The members of the Editorial Board have served with distinction by virtue of their fine reviews and innovative ideas. A publication cannot exist without authors and

my deep appreciation goes to those who submitted their articles during this first year. It took both courage and faith to add one's name to a relatively unknown quantity.

In terms of the *Journal*, two individuals have earned special thanks: Sally Corngold, the Managing Editor, and Bob Williams, the Executive Director of the Optometric Extension Program Foundation.

And for Katie, thank you Patti and Scott.

Irwin Suchoff, O.D.
Editor-in-Chief



Irwin B. Suchoff, O.D.