Editorial

The only thing constant in life is change.

Francois de la Rochefoucauld (1618–1680)

In 1982 I was asked by, then Editor, Dr. Eugene Helveston to take over as Editor of the American Orthoptic Journal. I certainly did not expect that that would turn into a twenty-five year commitment! In 1980 and 1981 the AOJ had been published by Charles Slack, Co., following publication by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otalaryngology from its inception in 1951 to 1978. In 1979 the AOJ did not appear as a separate issue but had its contents published as the final (Nov.-Dec. 1979) issue of the Transactions of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otalaryngology. Dr Helveston, as Editor, had "saved" the journal by getting Slack to take over publication, beginning in 1980. Unfortunately, the cost of publication by this private publishing house was too much for the American Orthoptic Council and the American Association of Certified Orthoptists to support. My first job as Editor was to acquire a new publisher that was affordable. Most fortuitously, the University of Wisconsin Press, in Madison, Wisconsin, was looking for another journal to include in their list and agreed to not only publish the journal but to incur any significant costs during the initial years of publication! They would do it for free! Happily they did not have to go in the red, even during the first years thanks to the agreement of both AAPOS and AACO to provide AOJ as a member benefit, an instant subscriber pool. Since we did not have access to the previous list of subscribers from either the AAOO or Charles Slack, this was a great help! (For more information about these early days, see the 50th anniversary issue.)

Once the financial concerns were addressed, it was only necessary to form an excellent and hardworking editorial board to conduct the reviews and make the contributions to the abstracts, case corner, etc. I am extremely grateful to my associate editors over the years, Sally Moore, Jacque Pappas, Jacqueline Frank Shimko, and, most recently, Kyle Arnoldi, for all their hard work as well as all the members of the Editorial Board.

There have, of course, been many changes in the journal during this time, keeping abreast of our electronic world, with its own website (among the first in pediatric ophthalmology journals), and now online and available to all subscribers via the internet.

The addition of the Managing Editor, Jason DeBoer, was necessary to keep up with the many requirements of marketing, advertising, and oversight of papers being processed through the editorial board. It is no longer possible to be a “one-man show”! I am very indebted to all he has done!

But change is inevitable as noted above, and it is now time for me to step down as Editor. I am very happy to tell you that Dr. James Reynolds of Buffalo, New York, has accepted the invitation to become Editor of AOJ beginning with the 2008 issue! I know he will have many ideas as to further improvements and will draw a fine editorial board around him to continue the high quality of our journal. I wish him well!

This issue contains the usual amount of interesting and important papers. The Sunday Symposium brings us up to date on the “modern” understanding and treatment of ambly-

opia. Certainly not without some controversy as we try to understand the best way to help our patients with this common condition. Surgical treatment of anisometropia has come a long way and may now be considered in younger patients as well. Dr. Paysse has two papers discussing this exciting possibility. Dr. Brodsky and Ms. Fray show us a “new” way to do a cover test Change is always with us! And, finally, Gill Roper-Hall gives us new insight to an old friend, Javal!

Probably the most exciting part of being Editor has been to see each issue come to completion. This year, although a bit bittersweet, is no exception! I will miss the opportunity to be significantly involved in each issue but look forward to seeing the coming changes in the American Orthoptic Journal!

Thomas D. France, M.D.
Editor