

Editorial ► Behind the Scenes ... A Big Thank You!

Marc B. Taub, OD, MS, Southern College of Optometry, Memphis, Tennessee

Optometry & Visual Performance is entering its fourth year of publication, and we have published approximately 100 articles. Case reports, research of discovery, and literature reviews come from all over the globe and have to work through the review process to land on the pages of the journal. As you might imagine, the amount of work that goes into the editing process can be daunting. This task does not only fall on Dr. Pam Schnell as the Managing Editor and me as the Editor-in-Chief. There is a team of editors that helps in the process for the love of the profession. I wanted to bring their hard work from behind the scenes into the forefront and introduce them to you.

Our three Associate Editors come from varied backgrounds and experiences. James Kundart and Sarah Hinkley teach at the Pacific University College of Optometry in Portland, Oregon and the Michigan College of Optometry in Big Rapids, Michigan, respectively. They are didactic and clinical professors, and like Pam and me, interact with students on a daily basis. They also perform basic research, some of which has been published in *OVP*. Steve Gallop is a private practitioner from Broomall, Pennsylvania. He sees patients of all ages and is the author of *Looking Differently at Nearsightedness and Myopia: The Visual Process and the Myth of 20/20*; *A Parent Guide to Strabismus, Eye Muscle Surgery, & Vision Therapy*; and an awesome blog. These three individuals log more time and perform a greater number of article reviews than those on the review board and assist in judging the Optometrists Change Lives™ Writing Competition winners. Oh, by the way, did you catch the newest issue of *OVP* sponsored by Beta Sigma Kappa which featured student writing?

Our Review Board features optometrists from all over the world. I will say, with full bias, that they are the best group of minds I could ever hope to work with and have supporting the journal. They originate from 10 different countries: Nepal, Mexico, Greece, Canada, China, Israel, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the U.K., and the U.S. The Board includes those in academic settings who teach at 16 Colleges of Optometry, as well as many in private practice. The quick-



glance computation of the combined optometric experience of the Review Board members is approximately 500-600 years. They have written papers and books, taught thousands of optometrists, and lectured all around the world. I sometimes pinch myself to wake up that I get to interact with these individuals on a daily basis.

A typical Review Board member serves a 2-year term but can be asked to serve longer depending on the make-up of the Board and their participation. Each article is sent to two reviewers, so the numbers can add up for each reviewer quickly. I try to match article topics to the reviewer to ensure a quality review. These individuals work to return a review in about 1-2 weeks and may be asked to review the same article again if major edits are requested.

Some of the names you would recognize, but others you might not. Let me introduce you to some of them by sending you to <http://bit.ly/OVPReview> on the *OVP* website. Some of the reviewers have been with *OVP* from the inaugural issue, while others are new to the Board this year. Generally, 3-5 Review Board members rotate off yearly. While I do not get to see some of these individuals regularly, we communicate easily by email and Skype. We do not allow the distance to deter our working relationship.

A final unsung group is the Oversight Committee. These individuals are the final sets of eyes for each issue and protect the interests of ACBO and OEPE. They are our official consiglieri; they advise us and keep us out of trouble. I want to thank Paul Harris and Ed Howell for serving in this capacity over the past few years. I am thrilled to welcome Steve Leslie from Perth, Australia; Sarah Sweeney from St. Louis, Missouri; and Mark Bullimore from Boulder, Colorado to the committee, and I look forward to their interaction and advice on how to make *OVP* even better!

A sincere thank you to all of the Associate Editors, Review Board members, and those who have served on the Oversight Committee over the first three years of *OVP*! We could not have done it without your hard work and dedication!

Good luck and good health always.