

## From the Editor

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Any time is a good time for reflection but at the end of the year reflections are so traditional that I don't even need an excuse and my reflections are entirely pleasant. In a few weeks we will begin Vol. 10, but these remarks will be the final editorial from me. It's always best to leave on a high note, and I'm lucky to be able to do that.

The person we all welcome to take over the lead in electronic publishing at OSA is Michael Duncan from the Naval Research Laboratory. Next month Mike will succeed me as Editor and I know he's aware of the challenges ahead and is eager to capitalize on the opportunities. He's been an *Optics Express* colleague since before the beginning, and in his case this means before the format for articles was decided and before the first-draft software for submissions and refereeing was written, and long before the first issue of *Optics Express* appeared, for which he was the coordinating Associate Editor.

At the same time that we're changing Editors, it's realistic to say that the Associate Editors are the ones who are responsible for keeping the enterprise afloat and on track. They get their fair share of attention too rarely, and we have an exceptional group of Associate Editors now, so a listing here of the Editorial Board for the next volume is appropriate - Govind P. Agrawal, University of Rochester; Miguel A. Alonzo, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; David Boas, Massachusetts General Hospital; Thomas Brown, University of Rochester; Martijn de Sterke, University of Sydney; Mikhail V. Fedorov, General Physics Institute, Moscow; Michael Feit, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; Paul French, Imperial College of Science, London; Joseph W. Haus, University of Dayton; Wayne Itano, National Institute of Standards and Technology; Andrew Watson, NASA Ames Research Center; James C. Wyant, University of Arizona.

I've valued the opportunity to lead OSA into what more and more clearly looks like the future of science publishing, and want to share a particularly nice recent statistic that supports this view. We were surprised to be ranked 10th in impact among international journals in all phases of optics, in the first year *Optics Express* was eligible for ranking. On closer inspection of the rankings, we can even claim to be 8th, because two of the journals ranked above us aren't journals but hard-cover review books. Our impact position is now higher than many longer-established optics journals, and it will be interesting and important to interpret this correctly and a challenge to maintain our position. More than one long-running science journal has closed or been merged out of existence in recent years.

In turning the controls over to Mike, I know he'll value getting the same support I've steadily received, in the way of creative suggestions, occasional criticisms, and an increasing flow of submitted articles. I close with my best wishes to him, and my usual offer to the optics community - send an article or two and enjoy the benefits of 8-week peer-reviewed high-impact publishing.

J. H. Eberly, Editor