

## EDITORIAL

### Research Reviews from the Institute of Ophthalmology

The Institute of Ophthalmology is 40 this year and the publications committee of EYE kindly donated a special issue of their journal to celebrate our birthday. We would like to extend our thanks to the editor Mr Peter Watson and the publications committee for their generosity in providing us with this commemorative issue. In addition we are indebted to the editorial secretary Ms Margaret Hallendorf who has worked tirelessly on our behalf. The special issue editors, in particular, are aware of how much effort Margaret has had to put in to turn our scraps of paper into a polished end result!

It was decided from the outset that instead of submitting conventional papers to make up the special issue, the staff of the Institute would publish review articles. It was intended that the reviews cover work which is currently ongoing at the Institute, involve Institute personnel and be, as far as possible, thought provoking. We have as a final tally of 22 review articles involving 42 authors all of which have appointments at, or are affiliated to, the Institute of Ophthalmology.

The articles are wide ranging reflecting a diversity of research interest and originate from all four departments of the Institute: Visual Science, Pathology, Clinical Ophthalmology and Preventive Ophthalmology. Visual Science is a broad-based basic science department with interests which vary from anatomy to psychophysics and biochemistry to physiology. The Pathology department incorporates the subdepartment of Virology. It provides a service commitment to Moorfields Eye Hospital and a histopathological service to hospitals outside the London area. Its research specialises in electron microscopy, tissue culture and immunology. The Clinical department is partly based in Moorfields Eye Hospital and partly in the Institute functioning as the main artery by which Ophthalmologists in training can get exposure to either clinical or laboratory research. Electrophysiology, electron microscopy, laser research and tissue culture are important components of their research effort. Preventive Ophthalmology specialises in epidemiology and eye problems of the third world. It provides a comprehensive teaching programme for Ophthalmologists coming mainly from the underdeveloped nations.

The review articles in this issue are so varied that it has been extremely difficult to make meaningful groupings — and we are far from sure that we have succeeded! In the end we have collated the reviews into five sections, the theme of each is fairly loose. The first section includes an article on epidemiological methods and three evaluative papers. Section two consists of four papers which concentrate on infective agents whereas section three contains overviews of equipment and disease problems. Section four is a group of basic laboratory research reviews and the final section (section five) embraces vision research.

We hope that the readers of EYE will find these articles both stimulating and informative and will acquire a greater understanding of some of the work that is being conducted at the Institute. We say “some” advisedly because several important areas of Ophthalmic research within our Institute like genetics and eye disease, retinitis pigmentosa, macular oedema etc are unrepresented in this issue.

Finally we would like to thank Professor Norman Ashton for his foreword overviewing our 40 year history and to our Dean, Mr. Rolf Blach, who has tried to look into the “crystal ball” and see the Institute of Ophthalmology of the future.

Ian Grierson      Mike Boulton