

MISCELLANY

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100 years of Clinical and Experimental Optometry

In the July, 2017 issue of *Clinical and Experimental Optometry* (volume 100, number 4, pages 303-312), Barry L. Cole wrote about the history of that journal in an article entitled "Serving optometry for 100 years: the story of Clinical and Experimental Optometry." The journal is currently the official journal of Optometry Australia in partnership with the New Zealand Association of Optometrists, the Hong Kong Society of Professional Optometrists, and the Singapore Optometric Association.

The first issue of the Australian national journal, which was to become *Clinical and Experimental Optometry*, was published in March of 1919 when the regional journal *The Optometrist of New South Wales* changed its name to *The Commonwealth Optometrist*. Subsequent changes in the name of the journal were *Australasian Journal of Optometry* in 1930, *Australian Journal of Optometry* in 1959, and *Clinical and Experimental Optometry* in 1986.

The journal started publishing its articles online in 2002 while retaining print publication as well. In 2016, it started publishing online only. Cole observed that the shift was not a difficulty for persons in academia, but its status as a professional journal as well as an academic one was a concern because some clinicians "browse the print copies at lunchtime or in an armchair at home..." or "needed a print copy lying around to

remind them to read it." All back issues except for 11 from volume 1 have been scanned and made available online.

The journal has had eight editors since 1919, the longest serving being William George Kett, from 1920 to 1962. The second longest serving is its current editor, H. Barry Collin, who has held that position since 1994.

Cole noted that the journal progressed from originally being "a parochial national journal reporting news and publishing articles to inform Australian optometrists" to a journal which today "is read and used for scholarly discourse worldwide" while retaining a "uniquely Australian and regional flavor." The July, 2017 issue of *Clinical and Experimental Optometry* also contains some recollections of five former editors and an editorial which reproduces a few pages from the March, 1919 and March, 1920 issues.

History of visual electrophysiology

The April, 2017 issue of *Advanced Ocular Care* featured an article entitled "A History of Visual Electrophysiology" (volume 8, number 3, pages 30-32) by Jerome Sherman. He credits William M. Ludlam, with whom he worked at State University of New York in the 1970s, as the first optometrist to use testing with the visual evoked potential (VEP), also known as visual evoked response (VER). In the 1980s, research was conducted on how various diseases and retinal anomalies affected the VEP.

Sherman also discusses pattern electroretinography (PERG) and notes that in 1982 he published an article describing how PERG and VEP testing could be performed simultaneously. The article mentions improvements

in PERG electrodes and advances in technology which have made simplified commercially available electrophysiology systems possible. The article is well-referenced including citations of ERG papers from the 1940s and 1950s and VEP papers from the 1970s and 1980s.

A note on the history of vision correction requirements for driving

A March 2, 2018 article titled "The Long, Scary History of Driving Without Vision Correction" on the Vision Monday website (www.visionmonday.com) by Ted Gioia highlights some information and photographs on the topic from the archives of American Optical at the Optical Heritage Museum in Southbridge, MA. The author notes that in early motoring days, driver's licenses could be obtained by mail in Georgia or purchased at a gas station in Missouri.

Until the late 1920s, there were no vision requirements for driving. At about this time, American Optical distributed window displays stating "Motorists! Have Your Eyes Examined!" to optometrists and ophthalmologists. The author observed that automobile fatality rates declined in the 1930s after state laws had been passed requiring vision testing, but he cautions that there is a current risky trend toward deregulation in which nine states have eliminated vision testing for license renewal. New York was the first state to require vision testing for a driver's license, but in 2011, they were the first state to eliminate that requirement for license renewal.

A mother-daughter practice

I can remember an older generation optometrist who grew up during the Great Depression telling me that he had become an optometrist because an optometrist uncle was the only person in his family making a living. Although times are different today, seeing a family member happy in his or her work, making a decent living, and having a positive impact on people's lives is still a strong influence in a young person's life. Having a successfully managed vision problem and having a family member who is an optometrist are probably the most common reasons for students going into optometry.

A May, 2017 article on reviewofoptometry.com ("Inside the Office, Mother and Daughter Call Each Other 'Doctor'") features the optometry practice of Linda Bennett and her daughter Rebecca Maida. Their practice includes four women optometrists in a six-exam-lane office. Both Dr. Bennett and Dr. Maida were school teachers after finishing college, but they each followed the example of a parent and decided to pursue optometry. Linda Bennett is the daughter of OHS member Irving Bennett.

We would like to hear the stories of multi-generation families of optometrists. Please consider writing an article for *Hindsight* if you are the member of a family with multiple generations of optometrists and tell about your experiences and those of other members of your family through the years.



Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of OHS

The founding of the Optometric Historical Society was announced to the optometric community in the fall of 1969, and its first newsletter, the quarterly publication that became *Hindsight*, was published in January, 1970. We are planning a theme issue of *Hindsight* for next year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the OHS. Please consider writing a note or an article for that issue. Examples of some of the topics that may be included in the theme issue are: (1) Remembrances of OHS co-founders Maria Dablemont and Henry Hofstetter;

(2) Remembrances of personal involvement with the Optometric Historical Society; (3) Personal experiences that demonstrated how knowledge of optometry history has influenced you and benefited your optometric work; (4) Essays on archives, museums, libraries, websites, or other resources which have been or may be helpful in conducting research on optometry history; and (5) Essays

on the importance of knowledge of optometry history as a guide for decision making and optometric directions in the future. Authors who wish to have their articles considered for inclusion in this theme issue should submit them by October 15, 2018, on the journal website or in an email to the editor at dgoss@indiana.edu.