

# Editorial

## Farewell

This is the end of my second and final term as Editor of *Optics Letters*. It has been a great privilege to have had the opportunity to serve the optics community in this role. During my six years as Editor, our journal has seen many changes. The rate of manuscript submission has more than doubled and is now running at over 100 per month. (In fact, in looking through my records, I see that over 6,000 manuscripts have crossed my desk during my time as Editor!) The numbers of subject categories and Topical Editors have substantially increased.

Throughout this period, we have made the reduction of publication delays a top priority. There have been ups and downs in this continuing struggle, but with the best efforts of the editors, reviewers, and OSA manuscript office staff we have succeeded in bringing the average publication delay down from the greater than six months level of several years ago to the four months of today. It is important to note that we are accomplishing this while still requiring two reviews for each manuscript. This emphasis on rapid publication and quality review is a key to the high regard in which *Optics Letters* is held by the optics community.

Anthony M. Johnson has served *Optics Letters* well for many years as a Topical Editor. It is a pleasure for me to welcome him to the position of Editor, and to wish him the best of success as he guides our journal into the future. It is in good hands.

Peter W. E. Smith, outgoing Editor  
University of Toronto

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It is indeed an honor and privilege to follow in the footsteps of Bob Terhune, Paul Kelley, and Peter W. E. Smith in assuming the role of Editor of *Optics Letters*. In addition to the fostering and indeed enhancement of the quality of *Optics Letters*, under Peter Smith's leadership publication delays were reduced from an average of six months to four months. The October 1, 1995, Editorial on Acceptance Criteria was indicative of Peter Smith's long-standing goal of maintaining *Optics Letters'* status as the premier letters journal for the rapid dissemination of important new results in optics. I have had the pleasure of serving 6½ years as a Topical Editor under the guidance of Peter Smith—he is the proverbial “hard act to follow.”

I have been given the enormous responsibility of guiding *Optics Letters* into the future. This task cannot be accomplished without the critical support and diligence of the Topical Editors and the staff of the OSA Manuscript Office. Of course, *Optics Letters* would not be a premier journal without the submission of outstanding papers and critical and timely reviews. I look forward to receiving suggestions from the optics community on ways to further enhance the quality of *Optics Letters*.

Anthony M. Johnson, incoming Editor  
New Jersey Institute of Technology