As the summer of 2020 draws to a close, my family and I are trying to make the necessary adjustments to post-pandemic life now that Ontario is at Stage 3. My oldest grandson is due to start pre-kindergarten while his little brothers may be going to daycare. As members of the most vulnerable demographic, my wife and I are looking at how contact with our grandchildren may be affected as a consequence. I am sure that many of you are facing the same type of dilemma as you resume practice, complicated by the need to outfit yourself with personal protective equipment that you were never trained to use with your diagnostic equipment and all the changes to your office workflow and layout that physical distancing and new regulations have mandated.

COVID-19 has had a profound effect on our personal and professional lives, and yet the world must go on. In that light, it was encouraging to see how our profession moved quickly to ensure that optometry students got the clinical experience that they needed and that our patients’ needs were also addressed. Our optometric academic institutions are moving on with post-pandemic life as well. The School in Waterloo has finally been given the go-ahead to fill two long-standing vacancies in its faculty complement, while the School in Montreal has a new Director, Dr. Langis Michaud. I would like to congratulate Dr. Michaud, and thank his predecessor, Dr. Christian Casanova, for his service.

I have spent much of this summer in discussions about what kind of PPE health care workers need. Several national and international standards bodies are developing requirements and test procedures to ensure that clinicians and support staff are appropriately protected. Eye and face protection figure prominently, and it is surprising how little awareness there is across the health care sector of the risks and consequences of using inappropriate eye and face protection. This is one subject you should discuss with your own patients who are health care providers.

This issue covers a wide range of topics which I hope you will find interesting and thought provoking. Last year, we published clinical guidelines for periodic eye examinations in children 0 to 5 years of age. We have several letters to the Editor in response. Our lead article analyzes the consequences of acute diffuse lamellar keratitis and we have a clinical presentation of how prism can improve posture. We also present a memorial to Dr. Daniel Forthomme, a former Director of the School in Montreal.

This year was supposed to be our celebration of vision and eye care. So far, it has been anything but. We’ll see how the last quarter of 2020 goes. Stay safe and healthy.

B. Ralph Chou, MSc, OD, FAAO
Editor-in-Chief