

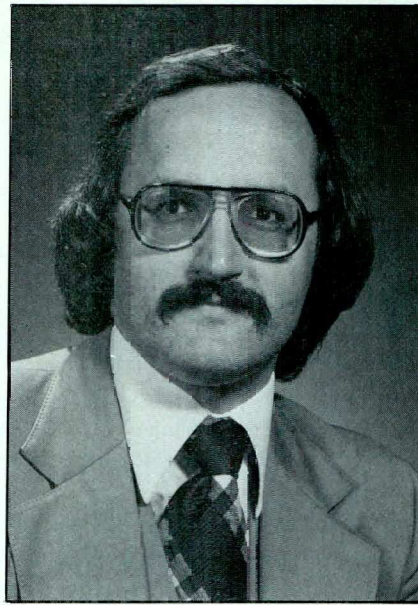
New Optometric Institute of Toronto Looks to Future

In a recent news release, the Board of Directors of the Optometric Institute of Toronto announced that it has received its Letters Patent as a non-profit corporation.

The objectives of the newly-created Institute are as follows:

- (a) To assist in the advancement of the standard of optometrical services in the community and to promote and conserve the vision of the public, and to foster inter-professional coordination in so doing;
- (b) to provide facilities for continuing optometrical study and education for optometrists;
- (c) to promote, encourage and to participate in the advancement of optometrical research and preventative optometry;
- (d) to arrange for the provision of clinical facilities for the practice of optometry for the objects stated in (a), (b) and (c) above;
- (e) to encourage participation of the public in the operation of the Institute;
- (f) to disseminate information to the public for the purpose of promoting and conserving the vision of the public.

The Institute, as indicated by its objectives, will sponsor the provision of the full spectrum of optometric care. Clinical programs will involve general examinations, binocular vision, low vision, contact lenses and special diagnostic procedures. Initially, emphasis will be on primary care services with other areas developing more fully as referral sources increase. Out-reach pro-



Dr. Mitch Samek, newly-appointed Executive Director

grams for underserved segments of the population will receive priority status. It is expected that these clinical programs will be operational prior to July of this year. Additionally, the Institute will provide continuing education programs with a clinical orientation and foster clinical research of importance to examination procedures, diagnosis and therapies. The Institute will serve as a stimulus to learning and as a model for the delivery of optometric care.

In acknowledging the support and co-operation of the College of Optometrists of Ontario and the Ontario Association of Optometrists, the O.I.T. Board said, "They have fullheartedly supported the concept of the Institute and assisted in bringing incorporation to fruition. The School of Optometry similarly has supported the goals and objectives of an Institute. In addition,

more tangible support has been provided by all three; the Association and the College have provided financial support and the School has offered the loan of equipment."

Arrangements are being finalized for the development of our educational/clinical facility in the Danforth and Pape area of Toronto. Approximately 3000 square feet of space have been leased as the initial home of the Institute. Currently, considerable time is being devoted to office and equipment needs as well as to a developmental framework for our future activities.

Dr. Mitch Samek has been appointed as Executive Director of the Institute. Dr. Samek was engaged in private practice for a number of years before returning to graduate school. He received his M.Sc. in 1974, with emphasis in Clinical Epidemiology. Dr. Samek continued his graduate work in the area of continuing education for health professionals, at the University of British Columbia. He joined the faculty of the School of Optometry, University of Waterloo, in 1978. Dr. Samek has published a number of papers in the areas of optometric public health and epidemiology. He is a member of the Ontario Association of Optometrists, The Canadian Association of Optometrists, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry.

The formation of the Institute and appointment of its Executive Director should generate amongst all optometrists excitement and enthusiasm for this opportunity for our profession to enhance its growth and development.

Low Vision . . . from P.80

the practitioner and will result in better care for our visually-handicapped population.

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