

VISION CARE NEWS/ACTUALITÉ OCULO-VISUELLE

IOOL News Ranges From Great to Gloomy

Dr. Roland C. des Groseilliers, a past President of CAO, is currently Vice President of the International Optometric and Optical League. Recently, he provided us with a variety of news items that indicate once more just how fortunate the optometric situation is in North America when compared with its dilemmas elsewhere.

(1) Optometry in Recession

- England's House of Commons, as of this writing, has given second reading to a bill that totally eliminates "sight testing" from that country's National Health insurance program.
- Australia has decided that its own health care plan will now fund eye care to the tune of one examination every two years, a change from the previous arrangement which covered an annual examination.
- Under a new law in France, optometrists there can now fit contact lenses only on patients referred to them by an ophthalmologist.
- And in Greece, if you practice Optometry, you are guilty of a crime — the profession has been declared illegal.

(2) Opening the Eyes of the World

In response to what it correctly perceives as a growing professional crisis, the IOOL has launched an international campaign for members and for support of a number of worthwhile objectives:

- responding to the increasing numbers of unqualified sellers of optical products, "off-the-shelf" spectacles and fitting contact lenses without following thorough examination procedures;
- encouraging national governments to reverse anti-optometric legislation for the sake of public protection;
- supporting international efforts to establish and develop Optometry.

The IOOL fears that, if current statistics are projected through one more generation, the world will contain over 100 million blind people. Restrictive legislation, they maintain, is preventing the early detection and treatment that could prevent many of these incidences.

(3) Patron? International Patron?

As part of its campaign, the IOOL has established two new categories of "closely involved" membership, noted above. A £500 donation to the League earns the International Patron designation, while a Patron is an individual who donates £250. Both donations will be acknowledged by a special certificate signed personally by Dr. G. Burt Holmes, IOOL President.

Payments can be made (i) as a one-time donation or, in the case of the International Patron donation, split over two payments in the course of a year; (ii) via VISA, Master Card, Access Card or Barclaycard.

The IOOL is a federation of 56 national optometric associations all with the common goal of fostering and encouraging optometric growth and development.

For further information (Remember, however, to send any cash or cheque donations to CAO in Ottawa to ensure your receipt of tax deductibility. We will ensure the full amount is then forwarded directly to the League.):

The International Optometric and Optical League
10 Knaresborough Place
London, SW5 0TG
ENGLAND

(4) Convention Preview

The 1989 Annual Meeting of the IOOL will be held in Luxembourg.

(5) World Optometric Education Needs Help

The IOOL is also seeking any used vision and eye care textbooks for use in optometric training institutions around the world.

In addition, on World Optometry Day, the League is asking anyone and everyone to donate old spectacles for distribution to Third World patients.

(6) Corporate Donation to Promote IOOL in US

Bausch and Lomb recently gave a grant of \$12,000.00 to the American Optometric Association, of which current IOOL President Dr. G. Burt Holmes is a member, for purposes of promoting the League to the AOA membership.



Alberta Optometric Advocates

Elsewhere in this issue, CAO President Dr. Scott Brisbin, in his *President's Podium*, announces the formation of the Alberta Chapter of the CAO Optometric Advocates, although still to be constituted formally as a national Section.

Shown here following the Optometric Advocates' inaugural meeting are: (L-R) from the newly elected Executive: Cathy Dawdy (Secretary Treasurer); Anita Patel (Vice President); Calli Brisbin (President) and special guest Alana LaRock, President of the American Optometric Association Auxiliary.

CAO members interested in pursuing the establishment of an Advocates' group in their own province are invited to contact Dr. Brisbin directly.

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Sola Ophthalmics Wins Patent Infringement Judgement

As a result of a recent ruling by the US District Court in Phoenix, Arizona, two companies, Paragon Optical and Wilsa Incorporated have been judged to have infringed on a number of gas permeable contact lens patents held by Sola Ophthalmics.

Specifically, Paragon's Paraperm O₂, O₂ Plus and EW contact lenses and Wilsa's Optacryl 60, K Ext and Z Contact Lenses and lens materials were ruled to have infringed on Sola's US patents for its own line of gas permeable lenses.

The presiding judge also awarded damages to Sola of \$18.1 million through 1985, which he then doubled to \$36.2 million in determining that the infringement had been willful.

Damages for the years 1986 and 1987 have yet to be determined.

—From a Sola Ophthalmics news release received at CAO
November 9, 1987

Lens Opacity Measuring Instrument from IntraOptics

A new instrument from IntraOptics, Inc. is being introduced as "the first instrument to objectively measure and document the degree of opacity in the human eye".

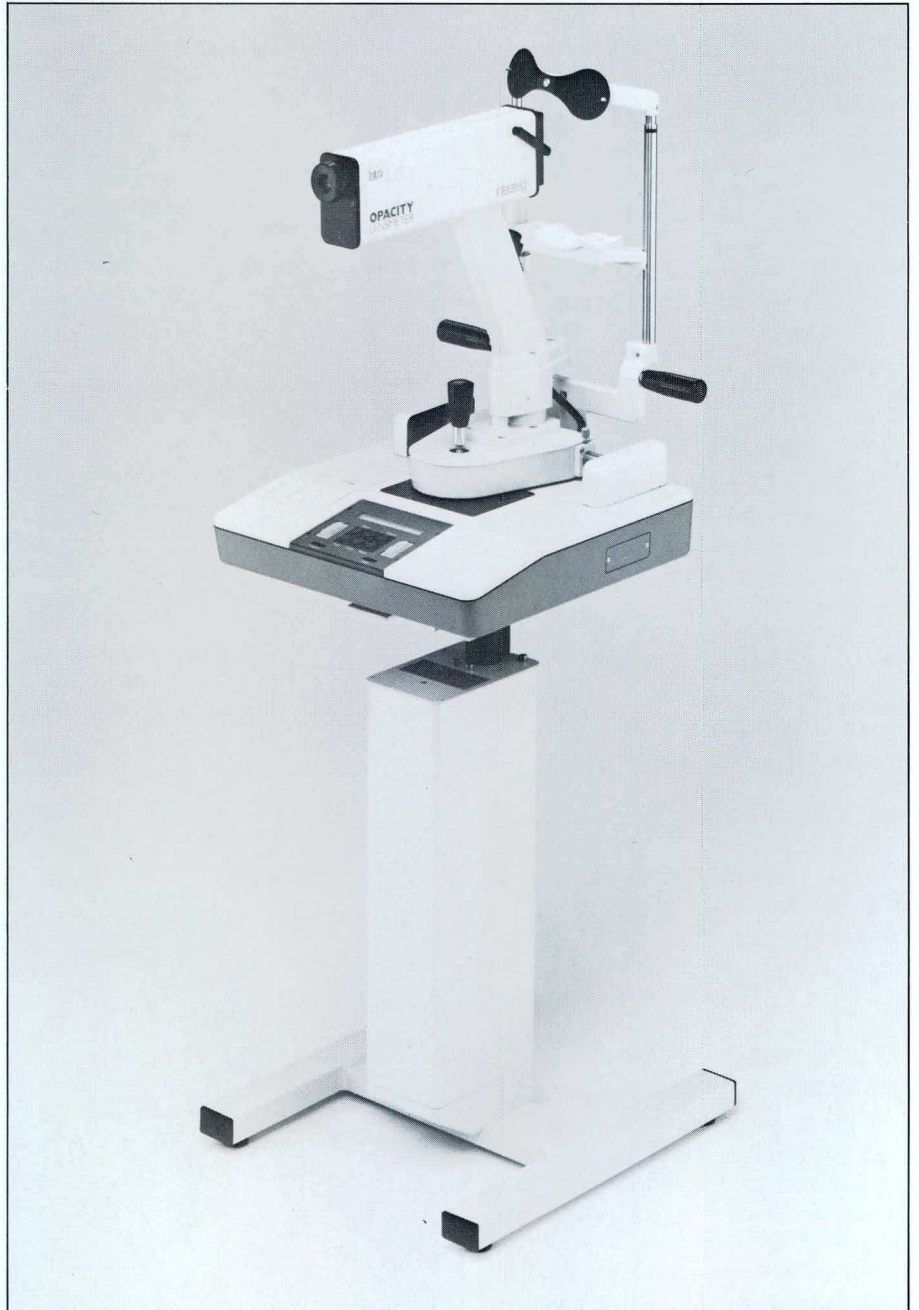
The Opacity Lensmeter is designed to enable practitioners to track cataract development through accurate, quantitative measurement of opacity, and to produce a printed record (a digital printout based on a calibrated opacity scale of 1-99) of the measurements.

IntraOptics' President, James R. Cook, M.D., said in a recent news release that the instrument can be used to detect a cataract condition even in its early stages of development.

The Opacity Lensmeter was developed originally to enable monitoring of the lenticular effects of topical, oral or injectable steroids, some of which have been suspected of causing cataracts or glaucoma.

Information:

Peter Molinaro
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PO Box 317



Huntington, West Virginia
25708, USA
Tel. (304)528-2000

KW Optical Consulting Services helping optometrists in Practice Management

In this issue, *CJO* * *RCO* readers will note the return of KW Optical to our

advertising pages (inside front and back covers).

KW has unveiled a new corporate arm — KW Optical Consulting Services.

According to a company representative, more than 50 years of providing services to optometric clients and students has revealed a need for consultation in the many aspects of running a successful practice. Accordingly, KW Optical Consulting Services has been established as a division of the company. Acting as a confidential referral service, KW Optical