

## From the Editors

### Clive Peckar, FRCS, FRCOphth



In this issue we report on the work of Barbara Brody and her colleagues at the Shiley Eye Centre in San Diego previously reported in the Archives of Ophthalmology. This article highlights the value of a community based self-management programme in helping patients with age related macular degeneration learn to cope with their disease. The study demonstrated that patients in the self-management programme experience significantly less emotional distress, had better function and increased confidence compared with a group of control patients. As Ophthalmologists we are fortunate that we generally do not have to deliver a lot of 'bad news' to our patients, however, it is important to remember that the support

services for our blind and partially sighted patients should also be developing alongside technological advances in treatment we directly deliver.

The ESCRS Winter Refractive Meeting in Rome was once again a success - delegates (over 800) and Industry found the programme enjoyable and thought provoking. Many discussions in the corridors focused on the NICE and Interparliamentary Committee reports in the UK and the inevitability of continued calls for additional regulation in the area of refractive surgery. The ESCRS wants to participate actively in this discussion and hopefully play a part in promoting future training and self-auditing initiatives.

Meanwhile my January editorial on 'LASIK and Regulation' has attracted some interesting responses from our readers which are printed below. Rather than reply directly myself to the issues raised by our colleagues I would like our readers to develop the discussion and debate the advantages and difficulties of 'independent long-term studies' on the effects of refractive surgery.

We are pleased to translate for publication any correspondence that we receive in a language other than English.

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