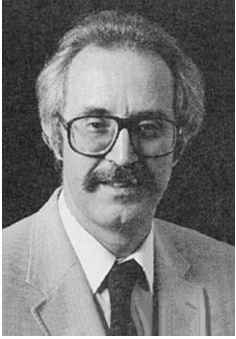

EDITORIAL



Edward R. Dougherty
Editor

It has been the practice of both SPIE and IS&T to provide their respective members with subscriptions to *Optical Engineering* and the *Journal of Imaging Science and Technology* as a benefit of society membership. Members who wished to subscribe to JEI did so in addition to receiving the original journal of their respective societies. Electronic imaging was a newly emerging discipline and the decision to start JEI represented a societal commitment to serve the needs of a growing and dynamic membership. Electronic imaging has come sufficiently far that it truly can be considered a field in its own right, one bridging many areas of science, engineering, and technology. The SPIE/IS&T Electronic Imaging Symposium (once again being held in San Jose during February) provides a forum for presentation of new work in focused conferences, and JEI provides a forum for peer-reviewed papers directed at the electronic imaging community.

Recognizing that many of their members have their main focus in electronic imaging, both SPIE and IS&T have agreed that henceforth current or future society members will have the option to select JEI as their member journal instead of, or in addition to, the original society journals. Members of SPIE can also select the society's new *Journal of Biomedical Optics*. If you are currently a member of SPIE, you will continue to receive *Optical Engineering* until you receive your renewal notification. At that point you can designate the journal, or journals, of your choice. If you are currently an IS&T member, you should have had the opportunity to select your member journal with your recent member renewal mailing. New members will make their selections upon joining one of the societies.

I believe that this new journals option will enhance JEI by giving it wider readership and making it a more attrac-

tive venue for publication. With paper submissions up 75% in 1996 and quality continuing to be a focus of the editorial board, we believe that greater distribution of the journal can only help it to grow in size, distribution, and scientific quality.

Specialization within science is inexorable and, while we might bemoan the continuing partitioning of disciplines and long for the day when Newton was simply a natural philosopher, the demands of our subjects require us to focus sharply. Knowledge simply grows too fast, especially in a subject like electronic imaging that has so many facets and for which there are so many scientific and commercial applications. Perhaps JEI will someday split, say into devices and algorithms, or whatever partition grows out the natural evolution of the discipline. Some of us (perhaps sitting on the sideline by that time) might mournfully look back to the time when we could appreciate most, if not all, of the papers. The fact is, however, that these splits are signs of success, of the dynamism of the discipline.

I encourage members of both SPIE and IS&T whose main interest is electronic imaging to continue to support *Optical Engineering* and the *Journal of Imaging Science and Technology*. As for myself, I will continue to receive *Optical Engineering* and submit papers to it.

Let me close by welcoming four new associate editors to JEI: Paul Gader (University of Missouri), Nasser Kehtarnavaz (Texas A&M University), Ferran Marques (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain), and Giovanni Ramponi (University of Trieste, Italy). The editorial board has been expanded so that we can continue to have timely paper reviews as the number of submissions grows. All of us at JEI hope that further expansion is required by a further increase in submissions.