

degree (Major: Biology) and O.D. degree at Pacific University. Following five years in private practice I attended Indiana University where I received a Master of Science and Ph. D. degrees in Physiological Optics. I taught in the Division of Optometry at Indiana University for six years prior to assuming my present position three and one half years ago. I have been Chairman of the American Optometric Association Committee on Research for four years.

The Committee on Research of the AOA was created by the House of Delegates in 1945. It was charged at that time with—

1. Reviewing current research in the field of vision.
2. Determining needed areas of emphasis in vision research.
3. Seeking sources of financial support for research.
4. Developing programs to encourage research in the field of vision both within and without the profession of optometry.
5. Encouraging the dissemination of research information to the profession.

From its inception the Committee on Research has been actively concerned with expanding the quantity and improving the quality of vision research. For a number of years the Committee has maintained a directory of researchers in nonpathological aspects of vision. In 1963 a National Conference on Vision Research was held in Washington, D.C. under the sponsorship of the Committee on Research. The broad purposes of this meeting were to familiarize optometric educators and researchers with research programs and research administration in vision research disciplines outside optometry and to meet with representatives of government agencies concerned with vision research. Since that time the Committee has thoroughly re-evaluated its role and has established action programs to help achieve each of the following goals:

1. The development of more centers of excellence for vision research.
2. A marked increase in the supply of capable researchers.
3. Attention to unanswered questions that affect the competent rendering of visual care.
4. Improved methods of disseminating primary information in the visual sciences.

The Committee recognizes that there are severe shortages of manpower and funds for vision research. A program has been instituted for encouraging capable students in schools of optometry to continue their education in graduate programs in physiological optics, psychology, optics, neurophysiology, and public health. The number of students who have entered graduate work after receiving degrees in optometry and increased six-fold in the last ten years. Four institutions offer graduate degree programs in physiological optics. Currently there are forty-two students enrolled in these programs. All of these students have previously received degrees in optometry. Currently thirty-two individuals have earned Ph.D. degrees in physiological optics. Thirty-one of these have published results of original research within the last eighteen months. It is estimated that the number of graduate degree holders in physiological optics will more than double within the next five years.

Two additional trends are developing which will almost certainly improve the quality and expand the quantity of vision research. A growing number of individuals holding degrees in optometry are earning graduate degrees in basic science graduate departments which have a history of important research in vision. Colleges of optometry are also bringing to their faculties individuals who have strong academic and research backgrounds in the biological, physical, and behavioral sciences and whose primary research interests involve vision.

The above developments are offered as examples which indicate that the capability of inter-disciplinary and broad spectrum vision research is growing. The Committee strongly feels that the best interests of visual science and of the public will best be served by the establishment of the National Eye Institute only if all the academic and professional disciplines which have developed competence and interest in vision research are permitted and encouraged to work within the framework of one organization. We can think of no rationale which would justify limiting research administered or sponsored by the National Eye Institute to studies of disease processes; nor can we think of any reasonable justification for excluding optometric participation, particularly since the research capability that is developing under the aegis of optometry is expanding dramatically.

Mr. JARMAN. They will be received for the record. I might point out to you that naturally when the bells ring and we have to go to the