

Editorial

AFTER more than six years as Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE JOURNAL OF QUANTUM ELECTRONICS (J-QE), it is time for me to step aside, and it is my great pleasure to announce that Dr. Leon Esterowitz of the National Science Foundation has agreed to serve as the next J-QE Editor. His appointment was approved unanimously by the IEEE Lasers and Electro-Optics Society (LEOS) Board of Governors at its meeting at the OFC Conference in Anaheim, CA (March 2002). Leon is well known to the quantum electronics community, not only for his pioneering work in solid-state lasers at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory for more than 28 years, but also for his service to LEOS in several capacities, including Associate Editor of J-QE, as well as to other professional organizations. A few comments would not do justice to Leon's research accomplishments, but the accompanying biographical sketch cites several of the many highlights of his career.

One of the most pleasant aspects of serving as the Editor-in-Chief of any LEOS journal is the opportunity to be associated with outstanding individuals in every facet of the publication process. To our Associate Editors, authors, and reviewers, I wish to express my thanks for your hard work and insistence

on quality. During my tenure as Editor-in-Chief, I have also been privileged to work alongside extraordinarily dedicated individuals in the LEOS Publications Office and IEEE. Foremost among these are Ethel Godonoo (Publications Coordinator), Linda Matarazzo (Manager of LEOS Publications), the former Manager, Fran Jetko, Marlene James, Marilyn Milstein, Laura Van Savage, and Jill Sinay and Ella Kinney of IEEE Publishing Operations. Beyond their selflessness and long hours devoted to ensuring the publication of J-QE on time, I am grateful to each of them for their friendship and good humor. To my associate at the University of Illinois, Kelly Collier, I extend my deepest thanks. Her efforts on behalf of J-QE have consistently been "above and beyond the call of duty."

It has been a distinct honor and my privilege to have served as Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE JOURNAL OF QUANTUM ELECTRONICS. I am pleased that with the appointment of Dr. Esterowitz, the LEOS Publications Office staff, and our Associate Editors, the JOURNAL is in the best of hands.

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Leon Esterowitz (SM'92–F'01) received the B.S. degree from Yeshiva University, Bronx, NY, in 1956, and the Ph.D. degree in physics from New York University in 1963, both in physics.

He was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Yale University, New Haven, CT, researching high-power gas lasers. From 1965 to 1969, he was Group Leader of the Quantum Electronics Group at the Night Vision Laboratory, Fort Belvoir, Virginia Beach, VA, performing research on infrared to visible imaging technology. In 1969, he co-founded CEA Industries, Inc., Fairfax, VA, and directed the design of components for state-of-the-art infrared detection and imaging systems. From 1971 to 1999, he served as Section Head, Branch Head, and Chief Scientist in the Optical Sciences Division of the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, DC. While there, he pioneered the development of compact, low-cost, diode-pumped, solid-state lasers at wavelengths required for biomedical applications and developed new methods of generating highly efficient flashlamp-pumped 2- μm solid-state lasers. He is currently the Program Director of Biomedical Engineering in the Engineering Directorate at the National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA. He has authored 330

papers and has been awarded 33 patents.

Dr. Esterowitz was Guest Editor for the inaugural issue of the IEEE JOURNAL OF SELECTED TOPICS IN QUANTUM ELECTRONICS (Special Issue on Tunable Solid-State Lasers, April 1995), Associate Editor for the IEEE JOURNAL OF QUANTUM ELECTRONICS (1995–2001), and Guest Editor for the JOURNAL'S Feature Section on Biomedical Photonics (February 2002). He has been a LEOS Program Committee Member and Chair for Solid State Lasers (1992–1997), CLEO Technical Program Committee Chair for Solid State Lasers (1997–1998), Committee Chair for the LEOS Symposium on Lasers in Medicine (1995–2000), a CLEO Steering Committee Member for IEEE/LEOS (1999–2001), and a Committee Member for the LEOS Symposium on Lasers in Medicine (2001–2002).