

President's Letter

by Robert T. Leonard Jr., DO, Cranston, Rhode Island

I wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

There have been a number of important changes in our Society since



our Las Vegas meeting. The most exciting of which is the generous donation by Dr. O'Tar Norwood of the proceeds from the sale of the Hair Transplant Forum International to the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery. By his example and leadership, Dr. Norwood hopes to encourage other physicians in hair restoration surgery to similarly give back to our profession.

On behalf of ISHRS, I sincerely thank O'Tar for his gift.

Equally significant is Dr. Richard Shiell's acceptance of the position of editor of the "new" Forum. He told me that this is his way, as a senior physician in our field, to offer his time, energy and expertise to further the art and science of hair restoration surgery.

We are progressing in staffing the openings in the strategic plan of the

Society. I encourage any member who is interested in participating on a committee to contact me for further information.

Plans are moving forward with our 1996 Annual Meeting, which will be held Sept. 18-22 in Nashville, Tenn. Plan now to make arrangements to attend!

The Opryland Hotel, an attraction in itself, will provide an elegant venue for our exciting single-stranded scientific meeting. The social program for physicians and their guests will include activities to suit all tastes, from golf and tennis to exploration of American historical sites to enjoyment of the world headquarters of country and western music and much, much more.

With the next edition of the Forum, we will briefly introduce the leadership of your Society. As always, I welcome your comments and questions. ■

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Editor's Notes

by Richard C. Shiell, MB, BS

Here we are at the start of the sixth year for Hair Transplant Forum International with new owners, a new mast head and a new editor. Some things will stay the same, however. We are not trying to set up a new medical journal. The Society members are well-



covered scientifically by the Journal of Dermatologic Surgery. I believe the role of Forum is still much the same as O'Tar Norwood envisaged it in 1989. It was to be a

breezy newsletter to provide an open forum for discussion of new ideas and to report on recent advances.

There is often a delay of at least 12 months in the publication of new papers in medical journals. But in a field developing as fast as surgical hair restoration, this is a great drawback and retards progress. Forum provides an easily accessible venue for the rapid promulgation of ideas.

Prior to 1990, on average, there was only a meeting every two years, so Forum helped fill the void between meetings. Of course, there are a lot more meetings now – some say far too many – so perhaps Forum does not have the same role it did in earlier years. This is perhaps true for readers living in North America, where most of the meetings are held. But for the approximately 20 percent of our readers who live elsewhere, Forum still serves as a valuable link with the frontline of

surgical development.

New editors always have a few new ideas, and I am no exception:

- For several years I have been frustrated by the lack of an index to research old reports published in Forum. So, we have commissioned a five-year index of authors and topics, which should be sent to you within the next few months.
- In addition, I have commissioned biographical profiles on the physicians who have contributed most to our field of hair restoration surgery. These

Since Forum is now owned by the ISHRS and is supplied free to members, please bear in mind that this is YOUR newsletter. I appeal to all members of

our Society to become writers as well as readers. You all have something to contribute, and I will be delighted to hear from you – particularly those who have not contributed in the past. My office is fully computerized with Internet address, so you do not even have to put pen to paper, lick a stamp or send a fax. Those traditional methods of communication are still acceptable, however. You can reach me at Suite 203, 34 Queens Road, Melbourne, Australia 3004; or via fax 61-3-9866-3596 or E-mail hairman@werple.net.au.

Let us have some humor as well. Many funny things happen in the life of a practicing physician, so share this with us all.

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