



Still Going Strong! Fifty Years of Publishing: Journals Representing the American Society of Ocularists 1972–2022

INTRODUCTION

The publication that most ocularists simply call “the *Journal*” has now been produced for fifty years. It began as the idea of Joe LeGrand, Sr., a booklet originally intended to be ambitiously published three times annually, called *Today's Ocularist*. The first issue, Winter Edition 1972, had a simple design for the cover, which was improved several times with new editions (Figure 1). Looking through the pages of this first edition is like opening a time capsule. On the inside of the front cover is an advertisement for THE ARTIFICIAL EYE CARE KIT (Figure 2), complete with Ocuclens eye cleaner, storage cup, and Adapt lubricating drops distributed by Burton, Parsons, & Company, Inc. The facing page lists the Board of Directors—Louis E. Lascola, President of the American Society of Ocularists, and Joseph W. Soper, the President Elect. There was just one woman on the Board, Marsha Erickson. There are twenty pages of content including a “New on The Scene” section with a photo and description of the Monoplex buried implant with Teflon mesh (Figure 3). Also reflecting the science of that day, Dr. David B. Soll describes another new implant that consisted



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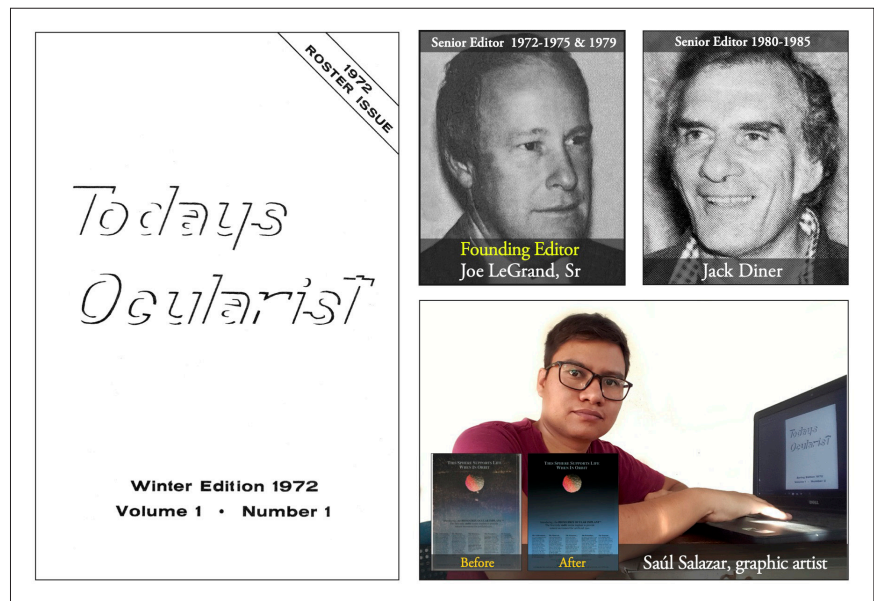


Figure 1. Left: the first edition of *Today's Ocularist*. Top center and right: two Senior Editors who are no longer with us—Joe LeGrand, Sr., Founding Editor, and Jack Diner. Bottom right: Saul Salazar, graphic artist who made digital scans of all past *Journal* issues that were not previously digital in 2022. Insert shows *Journal* image before and after being “cleaned up” by Saul.

Now there's a compact kit with all your patient's needs in one convenient case.

We call it THE ARTIFICIAL EYE KARE KIT. Your patients will call it just plain wonderful. Simple. Neat. Attractive. The Kare Kit includes a 2-oz. Ocuclens artificial eye cleaner; a 15cc Adapt for lubricating; an eye storage cup; a handy plastic Pocket Pack with 3cc Adapt, suction cup and mirror; and an important good hygiene instruction booklet with clear directions on how to care for and handle an artificial eye. All developed and packaged under the highest pharmacological standards by one of the nation's oldest manufacturers of ethical pharmaceuticals.

Sold only through Ocularists AVAILABLE SEPARATELY AS WELL AS IN COMPLETE KARE KITS

THE POCKET PACK
Fits easily in pocket or purse. Contains a suction cup, a mirror, and the new Adapt solution in a 3cc size.

OCUCLENS
2-oz. artificial eye cleaner helps avoid accumulation of heavy mucoid deposits. Specially designed for artificial eyes.

STORAGE CUP
Plastic screw-cap cup, designed for cleaning and storage of artificial eye.

ADAPT
15cc, a new solution for lubricating the eye and providing greater comfort.

Burton, Parsons & Company, Inc. Manufacturers of Ethical Pharmaceuticals Since 1895
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20027 ■ MONTREAL, CANADA ■ MUNICH, GERMANY

Figure 2. From the beginning, the Journal ran ads to help cover its costs.

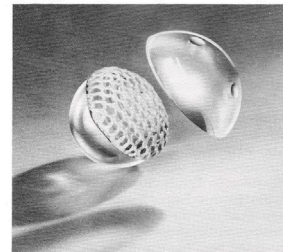
of, "a hollow silicone sphere...the anterior surface is covered with Dacron velour." Other Departments include, "From the Bookshelf..." with reviews of three books including *Oculoplastic Surgery* and *Prosthetics*, edited by Shannon and Connelly, a great resource that some may remember simply as "the red book." Also found in this inaugural edition is a summary of the annual ASO business meeting and a report on Round Table discussions held at the meeting in Las Vegas. Round Table topics included Ethics (with a discussion of stock eye abuse), Methods and Materials, Anophthalmia and Microphthalmia, and Government Agencies. Clearly the future of our profession was coming into focus in 1972. Along with the aforementioned information, there are two significant articles worth mentioning. One is, "Proposal: Educational Program for American Society of Ocularists," written by John Kelley, Sr.¹, and "American Society

New on the Scene

MONOPLEX BURIED IMPLANT WITH TEFLON MESH

This modified spherical implant represents an improvement of the 1950 Monoplex buried implant which incorporated a stainless steel mesh anterior covering. Soft teflon mesh with an open weave overcomes objections of some surgeons in that there is less difficulty in suturing.

Available from Monoplex Division, American Optical Company, Southbridge, Mass. 01550. Ask for Bulletin #51.



HOLLOW SILICONE ENUCLEATION IMPLANT

DAVID B. SOLL, M.D.
Philadelphia, Pa.

A new type of enucleation implant* has been developed. It consists of a hollow silicone sphere and the anterior surface is covered with dacron velour. Four silicone bumps are incorporated between the apex and equator on the superior and inferior temporal and nasal quadrants. A different surgical technique is used in conjunction with the implant.

The implant is available to ophthalmologists and may be obtained by writing to: Mr. Gerald Venn, Market Analyst, Dow Corning Center for Aid to Medical Research, Midland, Michigan 48640.

* Soll, D. B.: Enucleation surgery: a new technique. To be published in *Arch. Ophthalmol.*, 1972.

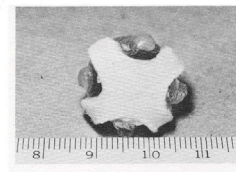
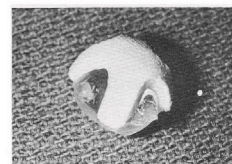


Figure 3. Innovative implants and materials were expected to improve cosmetic results for patients.

of Ocularists, Our Beginning 1956–1962," by Chuck Workman.² These are both treasures, one pointing to the future of the ASO, and the other looking back and documenting our early years.

As a way of celebrating fifty years of the *Journal*, we asked our past Senior Editors, and current Senior Editor, to pick an article they consider to be particularly noteworthy, something that has lasting value for current and future generations of ocularists to read. This proved to be a challenge as most of this group balked at picking just one article. Nevertheless, a collection was created of articles to honor fifty years of publication. By no means are we suggesting that these are the best nor are the only valuable papers. However, in the authors' opinion, these works represent the variety and quality of articles that we strive to bring to our readers with each new edition. We hope you enjoy this walk down "Memory Lane."

Former (and current!) Senior Editors Choose Articles to Inspire Colleagues

C.W. “Bill” Cox, BCO, BADO, FASO (SE-1977–1978)

I enjoyed being the Senior Editor and bringing *Today’s Ocularist* to a full-sized publication. I also appreciated the contribution by my good friend, ophthalmologist Alston Callahan, MD, from *Today’s Ocularist* in 1977: “The partnership of Ophthalmologists and Ocularists”³ (Figure 4). (Bill Cox, BCO, FASO, personal communication, May 2022)

Walter Johnson, BCO, BADO, FASO (SE 1986–1991 and 2017–2018)

I have a tie. “Memories of a Modern Pioneer: Joseph A. LeGrand” Joseph A. LeGrand, Jr., 2007 and the entire Lee Allen *Tribute Journal* from 2009, Michael O. Hughes, SE. So many great pieces to choose from...but these are my favorites! (Figure 5).⁴ (Walter Johnson, BCO, FASO, email communication, January 2022)

Joe LeGrand, Jr., BCO, BADO, FASO (SE 1992–1998 and 2021)

I am very proud to be associated with the 1997 article by Jim Merritt and Randy Trawnik, titled “Prosthetic and Surgical Management of Congenital Anophthalmia.”⁵ The authors present original research to support their approach to anophthalmia and microphthalmia. They give credit to John O’Donnell for creating the foundation for their methods that rely heavily on the ocularist in the child’s early development with eventual placement of a sphere implant by the surgeon around age five. They emphasize the principle of maintaining function of the eyelids and ocular muscles. This is accomplished by carefully fitting progressively sized conformers in order to stimulate growth while avoiding stretching of the socket anatomy. Their approach is conservative, and requires parents to be “all in” due to the many ocularist appointments required. Their long-term results are impressive. I think Randy and Jim really have a heart for helping kids with congenital anophthalmia and it shows in this well-crafted article (Figure 6).

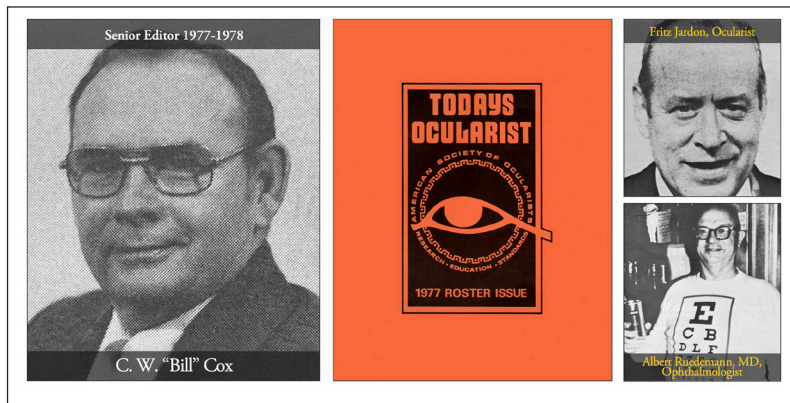


Figure 4. Senior Editor Bill Cox (left), the 1977 Cover of *Today’s Ocularist* (center), far right are two images from the 1977 *Today’s Ocularist* article.

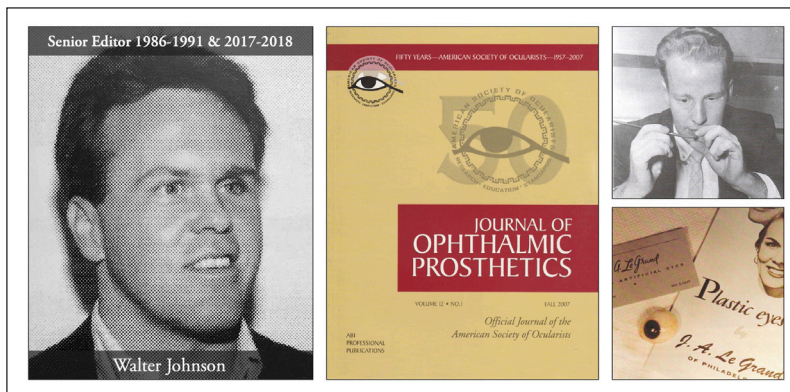


Figure 5. Senior Editor Walter Johnson (left), the 2007 Cover of *The Journal of Ophthalmic Prosthetics* (center), far right are two images from the 2007 *JOP* article which includes an image of Joe LeGrand, Sr. (Top right).

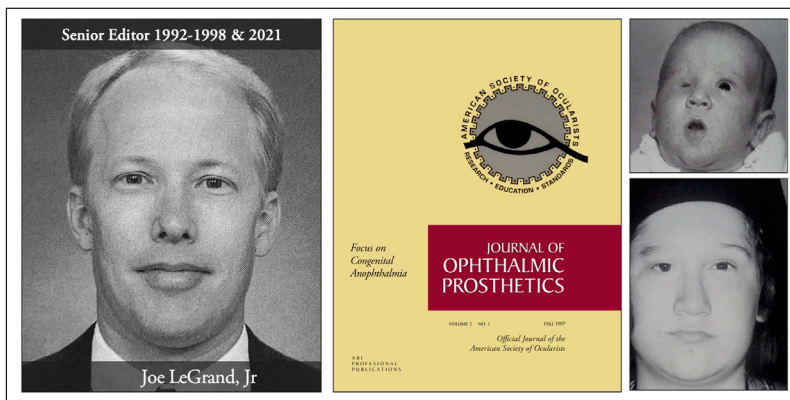


Figure 6. Senior Editor Joe LeGrand Jr. (left), the 1997 cover of *The Journal of Ophthalmic Prosthetics* (center), far right are two images from the 1997 *JOP* article which includes a microphthalmic eye case study.

David LeGrand, BCO, BADO, FASO (SE 1999–2001 and 2013)

Choosing one favorite article from the *Journal of Ophthalmic Prosthetics* is nearly impossible. An easy answer would be “Modified Impression Method of Artificial Eye Fitting” by Lee Allen and Howard Webster, as it is the most vital and instructive article ever written about our profession.⁶ But we only re-printed that masterpiece, so I have disqualified it. I found both Kathy Hetzler’s “Occupationally Induced Carpal Tunnel Syndrome” (1999) and Todd Cranmore’s “Ergonomic Solutions for the Ocularist” (2013) very helpful in the area of work comfort.^{7,8}

However, my two very favorites are my father Joseph LeGrand, Sr.’s “Recognizing the Problem Socket (Rotating Prosthesis)” (1982) and Michael Hughes’ “The Galeski Prosthesis” (1999).^{9,10} The former was an absolutely indispensable resource early in my career, and together with the aforementioned Allen/Webster article absolutely required reading. With “Galeski Prosthesis”, Michael obviously did some serious research to educate our profession about a topic that is a fascinating chapter in the history of plastic artificial eyes. And consider this: two sources of information for Michael were speaking to two ocularists who are now deceased.

Some of this history could have died with them. Later, I wrote an article about the history of scleral cover shells for ASO’s 50th anniversary issue and found written sources lacking. I followed Michael’s lead and interviewed Ray Jahrling and Robert Scott, two great ocularists who are no longer with us (Figure 7). (David LeGrand, BCO, FASO, email communication, February 2022)

Jim Willis, BCO, BADO, FASO (SE 2002–2004)

The *Journal* in its various titles over the years had so many great papers published. But the one paper that over 25 years ago illustrated and reinforced to me the credibility of the *Journal* as a respected professional publication and its ability to accurately demonstrate our work as ocularists was Indications for Scleral Cover Shell Prostheses by William A. Danz, BCO, FASO published in the 1994 *Journal of the American Society*

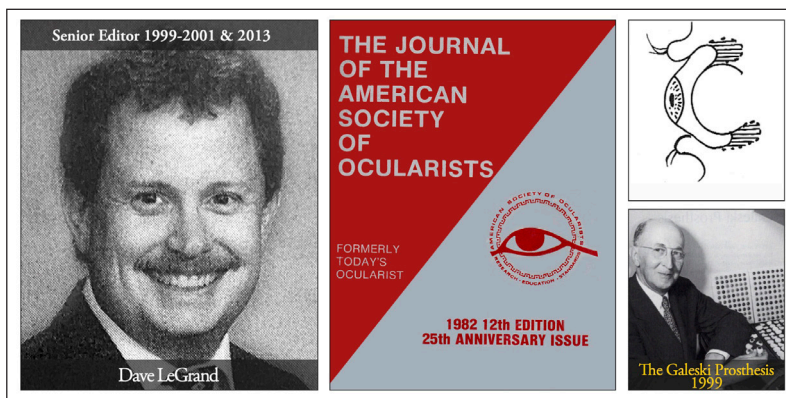


Figure 7. Senior Editor Dave LeGrand, (left), the 1982 cover of *The Journal of the American Society of Ocularists* (center), far right (top) is an image from Joe LeGrand, Sr. article and bottom right is optometrist Joseph Galeski of Richmond, Virginia.

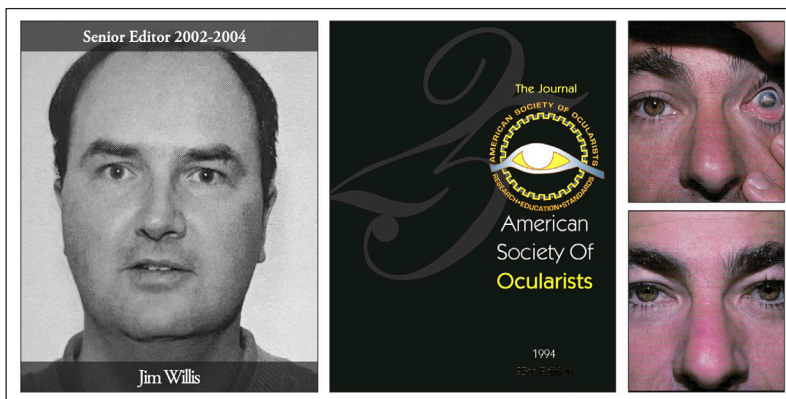


Figure 8. Senior Editor Jim Willis (left), the 1994 cover of *The Journal of the American Society of Ocularists* (center), far right are two images from the 1994 journal article which shows a case study/scleral cover shell prosthesis.

of Ocularists.¹¹ The Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) program assists Albertans with a long-term disability, chronic illness, or terminal illness in maintaining independence in their community through the provision of basic medical equipment and supplies to meet their clinically assessed needs. This Alberta-based program had covered both artificial eyes and scleral shells for a number of years, however, in late 1994 the program determined that scleral shells were a cosmetic device and would no longer be covered by the program. I was able to arrange a meeting with the directors of the program that covered prosthetic devices and show them Willie Danz’s excellent paper on scleral shells. The paper provided them credible documentation that scleral shells were indeed an ocular prosthesis and should therefore be covered and they reversed their decision (Figure 8). (James Willis, BCO, FASO, email communication, January 2022)

Michael O. Hughes, BCO, BADO, FASO (SE 2005–2012)

When I began my professional career, the society's Journals were of great interest to me. I remember reading articles by Jim Strauss, Ray Jahrling and Lee Allen in *Today's Ocularist*—the common thread with these ocularists' writings was that they used many images to illustrate their articles. Years later, inspired by their examples, I too used images to reinforce my writing.

Craig Luce's 2009 critique in the *Journal of Ophthalmic Prosthetics* regarding Lee Allen's ophthalmic illustrations (Revisiting the Ophthalmic Illustrations of Lee Allen) stands out to me—for this article focuses on Lee's talent as a teacher, illustrator and ocularist, which of course includes Lee's ink drawings from his classic, must-read 1969 article, 'Modified Impression Method of Artificial Eye Fitting.'¹² Luce's article reminds the reader of Lee's genius and the diversity of ocularists who come from a variety of technical and artistic backgrounds. (Figure 9).

Stephen Sanders, BCO, BADO, FASO (SE 2014–2016 and 2021)

Since elementary school I have loved the study of history. One of the subjects, within the study of "history", that is most important is Nationalism. Nationalism has often motivated the leaders of a movement, a region within a country, and or a country itself to declare and defend their national pride through the medium of war. The consequences of war on a society in general and upon individuals in particular can be profound. For the combatants that survive but who carry, forever, "The Red Badge of Courage", war has left upon them its permanent mark.

Michael Hughes, writing in the Fall 2008 *Journal of Ophthalmic Prosthetics*, has presented a most interesting article that illustrates this Nationalism as evidenced by our own Civil War and the horrendous consequences when our nation's leaders choose to war against ourselves.¹³

The American Civil War (1861–1865) is the background subject of Michael's article but the battlefield injuries to the combatants is the main

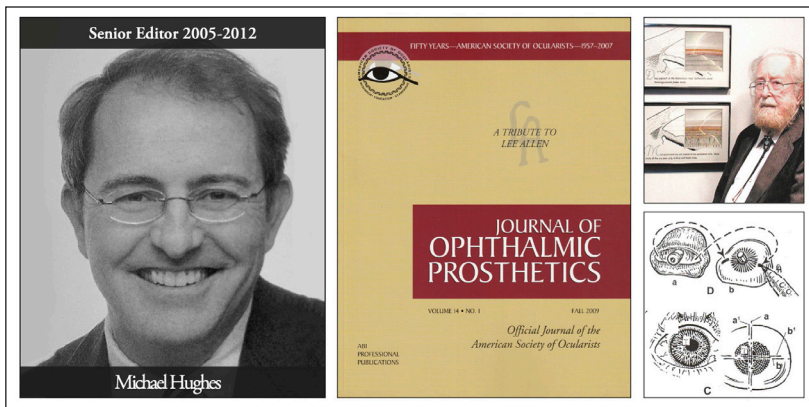


Figure 9. Senior Editor Michael Hughes (left), the 2009 cover of *The Journal of Ophthalmic Prosthetics* (center), far right are two images from the 2009 JOP article which includes Lee Allen top right.

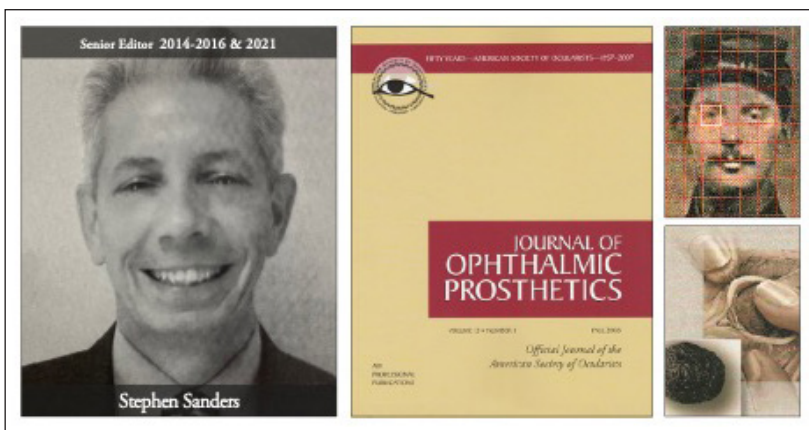


Figure 10. Senior Editor Stephen Sanders (left), the 2008 cover of *The Journal of Ophthalmic Prosthetics* (center), far right are images from the 2008 journal article which includes a Civil War soldier (top right) and a charred bone ocular implant (bottom right).

focus. In his article, Michael introduces the readers to how war injuries, during our Civil War, were dealt with and with a special focus on injuries to the face. Michael writes about how doctors, woefully unprepared for the grotesquely brutal battlefield injuries, struggled to help the wounded. In his writings, Michael also interweaves reference to post Civil War advances in medicine that if these were only available that the time of the Civil War, could have made such a difference in the outcomes of those war wounded.

In addition, and also one of the hallmarks of his writings, Michael supplements his article with outstanding research. In this case so very many period photographs of those brutalized survivors of our war against ourselves including references to those pioneering ocularist who tried to return those war veterans to as normal of an appearance as possible.

Having been asked, as a past Senior Editor of our *Journal of Ophthalmic Prosthetics*, to select one of my most favorite articles, this article by Michael Hughes is my selection. (Figure 10). (Stephen Sanders, BCO, FASO, email communication, February 2022)

Shirley Weyland, BCO, BADO, FASO (SE 2019–2020)

From the 250 articles, I personally do not have a favorite article as I have learned from every article that has been written and they all contribute to our society and practice. “The Modified Impression Method of Artificial Eye Fitting” (by Lee Allen and Howard Webster) is the most vital and instructive article written. “The Health Hazards of Methyl Methacrylate” by Margaret Davis (1986) is a valuable article as we all work with Methyl Methacrylate.¹⁴ There are many articles on Anophthalmia and Microphthalmia that I have found very helpful. The article, “The Use of Diagnostic Imaging in Detecting Prosthesis Ingestion” (2018) by Saori Mitsuyasu stands out as I had a patient ingest his ocular prosthesis just a month before her article came out (Figure 11).¹⁵ (Shirley Weyland, BCO, FASO, email communication, January 2022)

Kori Jahrling Malouin, BCO, BADO (SE 2022)

It is difficult to select a favorite- but one article that I find myself returning to while working is, “Age Related Changes to the Periorbital and Midface: A Case Study” by Stephen Sanders (2020).¹⁶ I am coming up on my tenth year in oculiaristry and have been able to witness the effects of aging on particular patients not just from excellent record keeping by oculiarists before me, but also firsthand, specifically in soft-tissue facial features as described by Mr. Sanders. His writing also subtly implies the common vexation of the oculiarist with a patient lost to follow up for many years. It is not only a commentary on the time invested by the oculiarist in a particular case, but also that effect of time on the patient! (Figure 12). (Kori J. Malouin, BCO, email communication, January 2022)

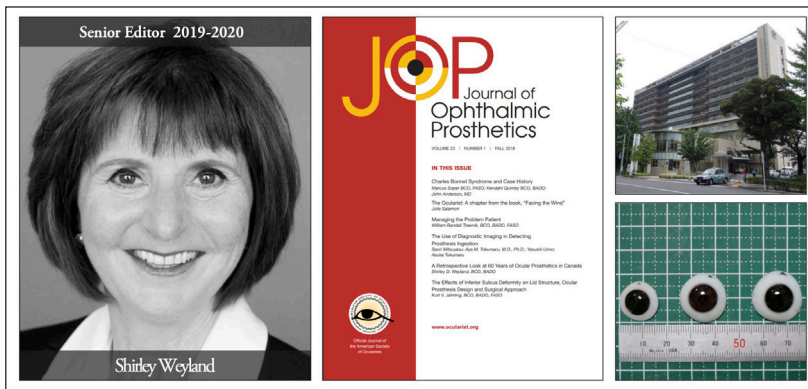


Figure 11. Senior Editor Shirley Weyland (left), the 2018 cover of *The Journal of Ophthalmic Prosthetics* (center), far right are two images from the 2018 journal article which includes prosthetic eye samples (bottom right).

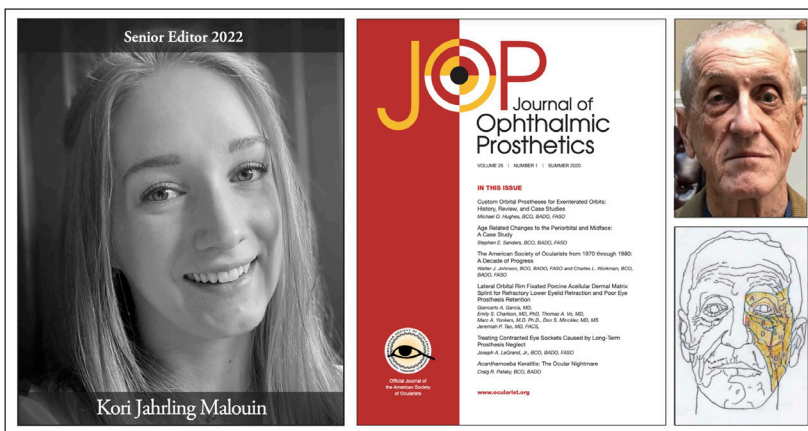


Figure 12. Senior Editor Kori Jahrling Malouin (left), the 2020 cover of *The Journal of Ophthalmic Prosthetics* (center), far right are two images from the 2020 *JOP* which includes the aging process of an anophthalmic patient.

Conclusion

As the *Journal* celebrates fifty years of publication, the authors wish to encourage our oculiarist colleagues to keep the *Journal* in mind as a resource to improve our practices. It is easier than ever to do this with all past issues being available now in digital form. The updated Index of published articles makes it easy to locate articles according to topic. The *Journal* has played an important role in the growth of our very small, personal, challenging, and emotionally rewarding profession. We wish continued success for the next generation of writers and editors.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to acknowledge all former Senior Editors of the journals and all of the writers who have generously shared their ideas regarding our craft. We also wish to mention our former publisher, Mr. Art Brown, and our current Executive Director, Ms. Tina Schott, who have helped create a professional and consistent publication. Finally, we wish to mention our second Senior Editor, Mr. Bill Cox, who, at ninety-four years old, still encourages the next generation of writers and Senior Editors.

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ABOUT JOE LEGRAND, JR.

Joe is a second generation ocularist from the Philadelphia area. He began his training in 1979 under the direction of his Dad, Joe LeGrand, Sr. Joe also followed his father as a Senior Editor of the *Journal of Ophthalmic Prosthetics*, most recently in 2021. Joe has also contributed to the ASO through lectures given, articles written, and student papers reviewed. Joe enjoys time spent with his wife, Debbi, and kids and grandkids. Occasionally he finds time to go fishing.

ABOUT MICHAEL O. HUGHES

Michael is a Board Certified Ocularist who began working in prosthetics in 1982. His primary office is in Vienna, Virginia. He is the principal ocularist at the University of Virginia and maintains offices in Richmond and Roanoke, Virginia. He is fortunate in that his son Neill works alongside of him. Michael is a Fellow Member of the American Society of Ocularists. A special interest of his is the history of the ocularist profession and participating in charitable missions to El Salvador, Central America, with EyeCare International.