

Many Thanks to Murray; and a Warm Welcome to Victoria

After working as an ophthalmologist in Afghanistan, first in 1969 and 1970, then from 1975 to 1981, **Dr Murray McGavin** joined the International Centre of Eye Health in 1987 with the aim of creating a Resource Centre that would provide continuing education materials for ophthalmologists and eye workers in developing countries. This goal was realised in 1988 with the first issue of the *Journal of Community Eye Health* and two years later with the establishment of the International Resource Centre. After 15 years, the Resource Centre has grown and helped establish five Regional Resource Centres in Pakistan, India, South Africa, Tanzania and Colombia, and Murray has edited and produced 47 issues of the *Journal of Community Eye Health* which have been freely distributed to eye care professionals in more than 170 countries.

Murray has imbued his work with a lively sense of humour, warm personal qualities and a caring nature, which has endeared him to his team, colleagues, students and Journal correspondents through his years at the Resource Centre. It is, therefore, with thankfulness for his own personal vision of an International Resource Centre, and with appreciation for his dedication to producing a high quality, freely available *Journal*



Murray McGavin

of *Community Eye Health*, that we say farewell to Murray as he returns to his beloved Scotland. We wish him happiness and fulfilment in his well deserved retirement.

We are very pleased to welcome **Ms Victoria Francis** as the new Editor of the *Journal of Community Eye Health*. Victoria worked first as a lecturer in Professional Communication for medical students in South Africa and then trained further in Health Education in London. She then worked in Zimbabwe before moving to England where in 1987 she joined with Erica Sutter and Allen Foster at ICEH to write '*Hanyane - A Village Struggles for Eye Health*'. Subsequently, Victoria



Victoria Francis

obtained a Masters in Social Research Methods and Statistics and worked on Trachoma in Kenya, co-produced *The Healthy Eyes Activity Book* for schoolchildren, as well as undertaking consultancies and publications relating to broader health issues, including Sexual and Reproductive Health. Victoria's work has always focused on finding ways to bridge the communication gap between medical interventions and the community. It is a great privilege for all of us at ICEH to welcome Victoria as the new Editor of the *Journal of Community Eye Health*.

Allen Foster

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SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY of IAPB - NEW DATES 15-20 February 2004 - Manama, Bahrain

The Seventh General Assembly of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), earlier scheduled to be held in September 2003 in Manama, Bahrain, has been postponed due to the recent global events and apprehensions expressed by several people about travel to Bahrain. After discussions with all concerned and further review of the situation, the Assembly will now be held from **15 to 20 February 2004** at the same venue in **Manama, Bahrain**. Further details will be sent out soon. Please note the new dates and also circulate the information among your partners and other associates, and encourage participation.

For further information please contact the IAPB Secretariat at:

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