



### **Why are so few Communications published in *OE*?**

Looking back at a few issues of *Optical Engineering*, I was remembering the time when I started to publish in a journal that was considered as the only journal on optical engineering. In those times, at least one third of the journal was filled with letters, or what we called communications. It is an enormous contrast with what we now find in *Optical Engineering*.

The first thought that came to my mind was, maybe no one really knows that we accept communications. If that is the case, we must advertise that this type of transmission of knowledge is acceptable and that the Editorial Board of *Optical Engineering* will be happy to publish short notes presenting new results.

Another question also occurred to me. Is a communication considered a publication? I hope so, if the content

is promoting an increase of knowledge. It may give someone a tool to obtain data in a very specific subject by presenting only the new value. It is not always necessary that all papers already published on a specific subject be remade. The art of referencing may reduce the content to the only real new contribution.

As I am preparing a full editorial on the lack of proper referencing in the literature nowadays, I will not go further on this specific point.

However, the purpose of discussing the Communications section of *Optical Engineering* is to promote this form of publication. I would like to see this section more widely used for promoting partial new results that do not require a full-length paper. I hope that many authors will consider using the Communications section of *Optical Engineering* to present their new results, in light of the fact that this is a very good way of promoting their work.

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