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## Editorial

**E**numeration of the achievements, activities, honors, and publications of Dr. Bernard Becker would readily fill the columns of many pages. Such an accounting would be frowned upon by the man who, for ten years, labored to make every page of print in *INVESTIGATIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY* fully productive. The admiration, gratitude, and affection of all of his colleagues and former students, represented or not in this issue, is immense. Yet, its expression will not represent the fulfillment of his basic goals. How can one honor a scientist whose most pleasurable moments appear to be exemplified by the subtle smiles that occur after conjuring up an appealing hypothesis to be tested, obtaining new data proving the point, or stimulating others to do likewise? We can't give him another Diamox, ciliary body transport system, or genetic corollary to glaucoma. We can only wish him success in his quest for the solution to the problems of primary open-angle glaucoma.

However, we can enunciate some of the special characteristics of Dr. Becker in the hopes that they will serve as a model not only for those of us who have had the privilege of his personal guidance, but for those who wish to try to follow his route. Here is a man who is the perpetual student, reading vociferously in all fields, retaining the maximum, and innovatively applying what is relevant to the problems at hand. Every piece of this vast fund of knowledge is tucked away in organized pockets of memory to be applied now or often far into the future. Seemingly unrelated basic science observations frequently surface and become applicable to this or the other disease state. He knows the interests of his

colleagues and students, who often find a stack of a dozen journals on their desk, as if by magic, with their names appended, and conveniently folded down page corners marking articles in their field. If you have a problem, he knows the right questions to ask; if you have a question, he knows the right answers to give; if you have an answer, he is receptive and usually asks a host of pertinent questions which will keep you occupied for months in answering. Dr. Becker is always thinking, even we suspect during his daily swims. Telephone calls at odd hours containing fascinating new research ideas are not unusual. In fact, his endless research ideas, both laboratory and clinical, provide constant stimulation to his entire department. A marvelous teacher, impromptu organized lectures which hold the attention of staff and neophyte alike frequently are prompted by a case or a comment. A superb administrator, although where he finds the time is a mystery, he has nurtured, fed, and molded an ever-growing department.

Dr. Becker may not read this small tribute for quite a while as it undoubtedly will be relegated to the third stack of material on his desk, that containing reading matter of relatively minimal interest such as *Saturday Review* and the *New Yorker*. Nevertheless, the comments herein are only a small measure of what we feel.

Steven M. Podos\*  
Allan E. Kolker  
Morton E. Smith  
Marguerite A. Constant  
Ronald M. Burde

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\*Dr. Podos is principally responsible for having organized and edited the content of this issue.