On presentation of the Proctor Medal of The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology to Jay M. Enoch

Jay Enoch, one of the world’s most productive vision scientists, was born on April 20, 1929, in New York City. After attending the Bronx High School of Science, he was introduced rather inauspiciously to vision research—at first as a subject for vision studies, and then finally an assistant and draughtsman. Between 1949 and 1950 he worked with Dr. Isadore Finkelstein and Dr. George Smelser at Columbia University. An introduction to some of the more routine aspects of practice, and to the Army occurred when he was assigned to Fort Knox. In spite of the proximity to all this gold, he was not infected by the desire for wealth but rather returned again to academic medicine as a student at The Ohio State University, working closely with Dr. Glenn Fry. After this rich experience with Fry, he worked with Dr. W. S. Stiles in the National Physics Laboratory in Teddington, England, from 1959 to 1960, following which Jay began his own independent career in the Department of Ophthalmology of Washington University in St. Louis.

From 1958 to 1974 he was an outstanding faculty member, a contributor to scientific research, and a teacher of optics and visual physiology with a depth of knowledge possessed by few people in the world, and throughout he devoted himself selflessly to helping visual science in any way possible. Finally, in 1974, he came to my Department at the University of Florida, receiving a Graduate Research Professorship and starting a Center for Visual Studies which he has directed ever since.

In 1951, Jay married the lovely Rebekah Ann Feiss and in the golden atmosphere of Fort Knox began their married life, fathering three children. Jay has received many honors from many very diverse groups.

He also has served on a long list of advisory groups and has been selflessly devoted not only to vision research but also to the maintenance of standards in a series of areas from perimetry to contact lenses.

All of this is background to pay homage to a most distinguished research career. Jay Enoch has worked on a wide variety of areas and has made major contributions to all of them. He has published more than 112 original articles and, in addition, has contributed numerous chapters and presentations enlightening our knowledge. His major contributions in many areas have altered our knowledge in very significant ways and have made him an authority in many fields. He is, through his original development, a leader in the understanding of contact lenses and their practical use. From this kind of applied area he went to work on fundamental research concerning retinal receptors as waveguides and the seemingly abstract understanding of the Stiles-Crawford effect. Characteristically, Jay considered the problems of human perception in both health and disease and found ways to apply this seemingly theoretical early work to receptor orientation studies in patients with retinal detachments and to a variety of other clinical modalities. There are numerous other examples of his dedication to science per se and his clear perception of how apparently abstract science could benefit
mankind. His work today began with perimetric studies and psychophysical testing. It began because these parameters were interesting and important for the fundamental understanding of vision and perception. It has evolved into the dramatic work that will follow this introduction, indicating what fundamental contributions to the understanding of clinical disease can evolve from studies such as this.

Herbert E. Kaufman