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Editor's Note

I am honored to have the opportunity to provide the Editor's Note for the present issue of the International Journal of Applied Glass Science (IJAGS) which has the theme "Glass and Light." This issue is especially noteworthy as 2015 has been designated by the United Nations as *the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies* (IYL). While significant in its scope and of great interest to scientists, engineers, and the general public at large, IYL is especially relevant to the American Ceramic Society (ACerS) as our Glass and Optical Materials Division (GOMD) comprises a diverse cross section of researchers examining interactions between glass and light. ACerS/GOMD members and worldwide colleagues are advancing our knowledge of how glass can reflect, absorb, transmit, emit, and guide light of all types across the spectrum. Understanding this paradigm is of fundamental importance to technologies involving energy, information transfer, health, architecture, and defense applications.

I am grateful and proud that my career has been based on the education and training of many who have chosen to study advanced uses of infrared transmitting, nonoxide glasses. The exposure of our community to such advances both within and beyond ACerS in other professional societies and organizations, clearly highlights the importance of future efforts to advance our

understanding of glass and its application/role in other fields. Whether oxide or nonoxide, optical or technical, the engineering of glass properties in support of basic problems in modern society will allow our work to be of great interest and relevance throughout this century.

The cross section of topics, authors, and international affiliations of the contents of this and the next issue of IJAGS highlight the importance of glass within our worldwide light-based community. While not always readily apparent, today's advances in the field of glass and light have the potential to fuel the next great technology, including perhaps, the optical computer. Light is simply a venue or more specifically, the conduit, where these contributions are leading to significant advances. As the authors share herein, these findings will certainly lead to other novel applications beyond the use of glass in today's light-based areas.

A special thank you to the authors, Associate Editors, reviewers, and the Editorial Staff of ACerS for their great help in making possible this special issue that highlights the importance of glass and light and its many contributions to modern society.

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