



Editorial

Welcome to the Journal of Dermatological Science and greetings from the new Editor-in-Chief

Last summer, I was elected to succeed Professor Hiroshi Shimizu as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Dermatological Science (JDS). JDS is the official journal of the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology (JSID) comprising more than 1200 scientifically active members. During his tenure as Editor-in-Chief, Professor Hiroshi Shimizu, who initiated the position of Editor-in-Chief in January of 2003, consistently increased the journal's Impact Factor: 1.3 (2002), 1.6 (2003), 1.5 (2004), 2.0 (2005), and most recently 2.6 (2006). The efforts of Professor Hiroshi Shimizu and the board members have made JDS the 5th highest rated journal among Dermatology journals. The number of submitted manuscripts doubled from 154 in 2003 to 305 in 2007.

In January of this year, the editorial office was transferred to Nagoya. My position as the Editor-in-Chief will become official after the International Investigative Dermatology (IID) 2008 meeting, which will be held in Kyoto in May. I am currently handling new incoming manuscripts through my office at the Department of Geriatric and Environmental Dermatology, Nagoya City University Graduate School of Medical Sciences. So far, I have been receiving approximately 40 manuscripts each month. My team, including 20 section editors and the editorial board members, began serving at the beginning of 2008 and will continue for 5 years until the end of 2012. Manuscripts are received from Japan as well as from other countries, including European countries, the United States, Asian and Australasian, South American, and some African countries. JDS is becoming popular among dermatologists and cutaneous biologists all over the world. Thus, the scientific impact of JDS in the field of dermatology is high.

I am pleased to inform you of the current JDS policies.

1. Fast Publication Policy

Based on the 2007 publishing data, the mean total time from submission to online publication in JDS is 22 weeks. The interval between submission to the first decision step is less than 35 days. Although the acceptance ratio at JDS is only approximately 40%, the decision is quick and publication in both digital and paper formats is rapid. Over the next 5 years, both the steps leading to the first decision and those leading to acceptance will be substantially shortened so that high-quality scientific articles may be published even more quickly. Therefore, the section editor system will continue its current rapid, high-quality review processes. Since January 2006, this system has worked efficiently for the initial peer review of submitted manuscripts. Please see the front cover page for the names of the 20 section editors. All 20 editors are well-known, active scientists, including physician scientists.

2. Free color publication and free submission, no publication charges.

JDS policies include free color figures, two color fonts, a web-based submission and review system, and no submission or publication charges.

3. Free JDS subscription for JSID members

As a member of the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology, you will receive a complimentary JDS subscription, with both print and online services, with your 15,000-yen membership fee. If you are interested in becoming a member of JSID, please go to the JSID website. If you are not a JSID member, the personal annual subscription

price for non-members of JSID is now 26,400-yen (2008 in Japan), a price set so that more people will have access to JDS.

4. A new style of article is coming.

Compared to the current 22-week average until publication, the introduction of a “Fast tracking paper” will reduce publication time by half. This category will feature state-of-the-art research that will be published more quickly than in any other dermatology journal. These papers will be submitted directly to the Editor-in-Chief. In addition, a series of review articles will be invited and published as a symposium-in-print. New formats for these article styles will be discussed and approved at the general editorial board meeting in IID 2008.

Please allow me to briefly introduce myself. I was born in Kyoto in 1962. I graduated and received a medical degree from Nagoya City University in 1989, and trained in basic immunology at Aichi Cancer Center, where I received my PhD (TL antigen as a transplantation antigen recognized by TL-restricted cytotoxic T cells, *J Exp Med* 1994). I studied photobiology and photoimmunology at Duesseldorf University as a Humboldt Foundation fellow and discovered UVA1-mediated human T helper cell apoptosis as a fundamental mechanism of UVA1 phototherapy (*J Exp Med* 1997). I have introduced numerous standard phototherapies to Japan. Since 2003, I have been Professor and Chairman at the Department of Geriatric and Environmental Dermatology Nagoya City University Graduate School of Medical Sciences. My research interests include phototherapy, cutaneous immunology, and skin aging. Because I am currently developing a next-generation phototherapy device, I was recently appointed as a visiting professor to the Faculty of Science and Technology, Meijo University.

The JDS office has now moved to Nagoya, which is located in almost the center of Japan and close to “Toyota”. Nagoya is an industrial city and the 4th largest city in Japan. I look forward to receiving your interesting and high-quality research articles in the near future.



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