



Editorial 2004

Welcome to the *Journal of Dermatological Science (JDS)* and our 2004 issues. One year has already past since I became the Chief Editor in January 2003. I hope our readers, including you, have enjoyed and appreciated the *JDS* issues published in 2003, particularly with our new revised style. What I did was to make relatively simple yet important changes to the journal:

- (1) The Journal format was revised into a new, clearer layout, with free color figure publication for all authors. The color figures are of great value in drawing the reader's attention to the articles.
- (2) *JDS* has also incorporated superb invited review articles written by active skin researchers from all over the world. *JDS* also welcomes non-invited review articles that contain valuable and latest information.
- (3) We have also started a new type of contribution called the 'Letter to the Editor' section, which enables authors to publish relatively simple but important research findings with a shorter waiting time.
- (4) All articles are available as 'Articles in Press' on sciencedirect.com. These are papers that are published in advance of an issue, are fully citable (via the Digital Object Identifier number), thus ensuring the quickest publication possible.
- (5) We have established a new dynamic editorial team, including researchers on the international editorial board, and two Associate Editors: Dr. Mike Tidman (Europe) and Dr. Akira Takashima (USA).

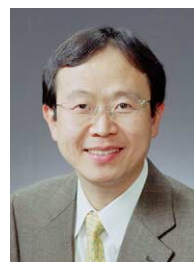
You might well ask me, 'Hey, Hiroshi, so what will you do for *JDS* in 2004?' As the Chief Editor, I would like to promise you two goals for 2004:

- (1) Firstly, *JDS* shall aim to increase not only its impact factor, but also to raise its real scientific impact on global dermatological research. The reasons for these expectations are simple. The number of submitted articles to *JDS* in 2003 rose by 30% compared to the previous year; the number of *JDS* hard copy publications in each issue now exceeds 1000 and the number of *JDS* arti-

cle downloads on ScienceDirect has been steadily increasing throughout 2003.

- (2) *JDS* shall provide a quicker, more efficient and cost effective service for all authors. Why and how is this possible? Because we will be introducing an electronic submission and review system for *JDS* within the year 2004. The authors shall simply submit their papers online, and the evaluation of submitted articles by referees can be done more efficiently via the web-based system. In this way, *JDS* hopes to reduce the mean time period between the Author, Editor, Reviewer and production.

Whilst *JDS* is the official journal of Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology, with more than 1000 members, the scope and aims of the Journal extend further than the society. The pivotal role of *JDS* is to provide fair and convenient opportunities to dermatological researchers on a worldwide basis. I, as the Chief Editor, would greatly appreciate your continued interest and cooperation with *JDS*, and am looking forward to receiving your exciting, novel and attractive *original manuscripts and review papers*, together with your breakthrough ideas in the year 2004. If you have any inquiries or comments for *JDS*, please feel free to contact me at the *JDS* office.



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