



Editorial 2006

Welcome to the Journal of Dermatological Science (JDS) and our January 2006 issue. This is my fourth year as an Editor-in-Chief, and I have been making every effort to improve the Journal in both scientific and practical aspects. While JDS is the official journal of the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology (JSID), the purpose of the Journal is to contribute to international skin science. I am now pleased to introduce to you the latest changes in JDS.

(1) Fast publication policy

I believe one of the most important tasks for investigative journals, such as JDS, is to publish high quality scientific articles in as short a time as possible after submission. The better the quality of the work, the sooner the authors would like to see their important scientific data published. I have always tried to minimize publication times, and yet keep a backlog of accepted articles to the minimum where possible. Although the acceptance ratio of JDS is just below 50%, I do promise a quick decision, and quick electronic and hard copy publication, once accepted. I am proud to announce the total time from submission to online publication has considerably shortened, to 22 weeks on average.

(2) Section editor system: a quick and high quality reviewing process

The biggest change to JDS in 2006 is the introduction of an international section editors' panel. Please see the front cover page where the names of the 20 section editors are published. Each of them is a well-known, active, young skin scientist. The reason I started this system is simple. Along with the increasing number of JDS submissions, it is now essential for JDS to introduce a section editor system to maintain the fast, high quality reviewing process. From January 2006, your submission will be handled by one of these section editors, whom I shall choose depending on the subject of the paper.

(3) JDS is a monthly journal

We are now seeing a reduced time to publication and minimizing of the backlog of accepted articles.

In 2005, JDS underwent significant changes to become a monthly journal, increasing from nine issues per a year in 2004 to the current 12 issues.

(4) Free color publication, free submission, no publication charges

For the past 3 years, I have made various modifications to the JDS publishing style. These include a policy of free color figures, a two-color font, and a web-based submission and reviewing system. With these changes, JDS has further increased its scientific impact as well as impact factor (ISI). In addition, we can publish your e-only content such as videos, color figures and data sets.

(5) Free JDS subscriptions for JSID members

If you join the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology, you will receive a free JDS subscription, both with print and online services, only with your 15,000 yen (130 US dollars) membership fee. If you have interest in joining the JSID, please go to the JSID website: <http://www.jsid.org/english/index.html>.

If you have any comments or any inquiries concerning JDS, please access the JDS website or feel free to contact me at the JDS office.



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