



## Editorial 2008—Thank you and Farewell!!

Welcome to the January 2008 issue of the Journal of Dermatological Science (JDS). This is my last editorial as Editor-in-Chief of the JDS, and I will cease after my 5-year-term as May of this year at the International Investigative Dermatology meeting in Kyoto, Japan. I am very happy to hand over my editorship to Professor Akimichi Morita, the new Editor-in-Chief of the JDS from May 2008.

Since I became Chief Editor of the JDS, I have focused on upgrading the journal. Over the past 5 years, I believe that the JDS has significantly improved not only its scientific impact but also its quality as an international journal. I would like to briefly mention the five most important changes that were made during my chief-editorship since 2003.

### 1. Both JDS publishing right and copyright belong to JSID

Before 2002, the publishing right and copyright of the JDS belonged to Elsevier. However, after some negotiation when I took over the chief-editorship, Elsevier kindly transferred these rights to the Japanese Society for Investigative of Dermatology (JSID). The JDS thus established its official status as a society journal under the new contract.

### 2. JDS Impact Factor: 2.636

The JDS Impact Factor grew significantly higher from 1.053 (the year 2001) to 2.636 (the year 2006). In terms of Impact Factor, the JDS is now the fifth-most-influential journal among the 39 dermatological journals. I believe that increasing and maintaining a high JDS Impact Factor further encourages submissions. The JDS now receives more than 300 submissions from around the world. This means that

the number of submissions every year has increased threefold over the last 5 years.

### 3. Introduction of section editor system

In January 2006, the section editor system was introduced in order to conduct more fair, efficient and quicker reviews. All JDS submissions are handled by one of the 20 section editors who have different specialties in skin research, and are reviewed and evaluated by multiple carefully selected reviewers from all over the world as decided by each section editor.

### 4. Web-based publication, submission and review system

For quick decisions and publication, the JDS introduced an online submission and review system in July 2004. In addition, the JDS publishes each article on ScienceDirect as an 'Article in press' before the journal is officially printed. After introducing this online system, the JDS considerably shortened the editorial time from submission to publication.

### 5. New publication style of the journal

With start of my chief-editorship, the JDS established a new publication style. The journal changed its size from B5 to A4, and provides free color figure publication for all authors. In addition, the JDS publishes high-impact invited review articles with an author's short curriculum vitae and a passport sized photo in each issue. Furthermore, the JDS has been published for 9 issues up until 2004.

However, in 2005, the JDS became a entirely monthly journal, and now is published in 12 issues over a year.

Finally, I would like to thank all our colleagues, the JDS Section Editors, Editorial Board Members, Reviewers, the Senior Publishing Editor Nicola Garvey, our Editorial Assistant Machika Osanai and last but not at least, all the JDS readers. I could not have achieved all these improvements in my term as a JDS Chief Editor without everyone's combined help.

JDS continues to strive for further improvement as an international journal. I hope all our readers will continue to find the JDS more attractive, both scientifically and in its journal presentation. For more information, please access the JDS website, or feel free to contact me at the JDS office.



Editor-in-Chief  
Hiroshi Shimizu\*

Professor and Chairman

*Department of Dermatology, Hokkaido*

*University Graduate School of Medicine,*

*N15 W7, Sapporo 060-8638, Japan<sup>1</sup>*

\*Tel.: +81 11 706 7387; fax: +81 11 706 7820

<sup>1</sup><http://www.derm-hokudai.jp/>

*E-mail address: [jdsci@med.hokudai.ac.jp](mailto:jdsci@med.hokudai.ac.jp)*

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