Important Information for Prospective JID Authors (and JID Readers, and JID Reviewers, and JID Editors)

The following italicized paragraphs are copied verbatim from the portion of the Journal of Investigative Dermatology (JID) website that provides instructions for authors. As we begin a new calendar year and a new volume of the JID, I want to comment briefly on the anticipated scope of JID content going forward as well as several changes in the submission and review processes that you may not be aware of.

The JID website reads as follows:

The Journal of Investigative Dermatology (JID) publishes high impact reports describing original research related to all aspects of cutaneous biology and skin disease. Descriptions of important findings that result from basic, translational, or clinical research are appropriate for submission. Clinical research can include, but is not limited to, interventional trials, genetic studies, epidemiology, and health services research.

Standard features of the Journal include Original Articles, Review Articles, and Letters to the Editor. Perspectives and Commentaries are invited by the Editorial Board. Online features enhance JID content, making it more relevant and accessible, especially to non-scientists, trainees, and clinician-educators.

The JID places a high priority on publication of new insights into basic cutaneous biology, disease pathogenesis and treatment. Reports that describe a new methodology, technique, or tool in combination with mechanistic insights into the problem that is being investigated are encouraged. It is possible that occasional descriptions of novel technology, methodology, or resources that are of special interest or utility to JID readers could be competitive for publication, even in the absence of new mechanistic insights. Reports describing novel mutations in known genes with no new mechanistic data will not be sent for review. Case reports or case series, unless they provide new biologic insights, are rarely appropriate for the Journal.

Initial submissions of Original Articles must adhere, in principal, to JID manuscript guidelines but they need to not be formatted specifically for the JID. The following sections should be included: Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Results, Discussion (Results and Discussion may be combined), Materials and Methods, Conflict of Interest Statement, Acknowledgements, References, Tables, Figure Legends, and Supplementary Material. Figures and figure legends may be inserted directly in the text where they are first referred to. Formatting requirements will be imposed at the time of first revision…

At the Editor’s discretion, submissions may be considered via a newly instituted fast track review process. This could lead to online publication of Original Articles within 30 days of the initial submission. It is anticipated that only a minority of Original Article submissions will undergo fast track review.

As I have read and considered new submissions to the JID in my first 6 months as Editor, I have been reminded that the members of the Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID) and the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) and the readers of the JID constitute a diverse group. Individuals’ interests are diverse, their primary professional activities are diverse, and the types of research that they engage in are also diverse. When I began to read the JID almost 35 years ago, publications therein exclusively, or almost exclusively, described the results of laboratory research. Some articles described studies that used samples from patients or healthy volunteers or laboratory animals, but many relied entirely on in vitro approaches. Articles that reported results of “clinical research” were not featured in the JID, perhaps because there was not a strong tradition of bona fide clinical investigation in the specialty at that time. The content of the SID’s annual meetings was similarly focused on laboratory research, and this mirrored the interests of the annual meeting’s attendees—or perhaps vice versa.

From my perspective, the recent past has witnessed significant evolution of investigative dermatology research, a corresponding broadening of the scope of content that is featured at the annual meetings of the SID and the ESDR, and a broadening in scope of topics of Original Articles and Letters that are submitted to the JID. Reports of clinical research that include
interventional trials, epidemiology, meta-analyses, and health services research are now submitted frequently. Just as all laboratory research submissions are not appropriate for publication in the JID, all clinical research submissions are also not appropriate for publication in the JID. JID Editors are regularly confronted with having to decide on the appropriateness of individual manuscripts, and we seek to be objective and transparent as we make these decisions.

In an effort to minimize the impact of individual biases, going forward the Editors will use an operational definition of content suitability that can be applied to all types of research that relate to investigative dermatology and cutaneous biology. If the type and topic of research that is described in a submission to the JID is, was, or would be appropriate for consideration for oral presentation at the annual meeting of the SID or the ESDR, it will be considered for publication. I recognize that not all JID readers, and perhaps not all JID Editors, will agree with this definition, but I think that it is rational and fair; it can be easily communicated; and, perhaps most importantly, it can effectively be implemented. Adoption of this operational definition will allow for the content of the Journal to evolve over time, in concert with changes that occur in the field, in the memberships of the SID and the ESDR, and in the specialty.

As the scope of the JID increasingly represents the interests and activities of SID and ESDR members, the JID should become more accessible and valuable to its readers. We have also made changes in the manuscript submission and review processes in an effort to attract exciting content that might also be appropriate for other highly regarded, peer-reviewed competitor journals (see above). The most notable of these changes is a fast track review process that could result in online publication of a JID submission within 30 days of its receipt in the JID Editorial Office. Corresponding authors are not offered the choice of fast track review as an option, but they are certainly welcome to request and lobby for it in the cover letter that accompanies each submission.

I conclude this editorial as I have concluded others. The JID is a “society journal.” The success of the SID and the ESDR is influenced by the success of the JID, and vice versa. Please promote the success of the JID by participating as readers, authors, and reviewers. Please also offer your constructive suggestions via e-mail to me at JIDEditor@sidnet.org.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST
The author states no conflict of interest.

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Editor