Introducing . . . FAST TRACK

This issue of the Journal of Investigative Dermatology (JID) features the first article that has been evaluated via a FAST TRACK review process. The article is identified by the logo to the right, and you can locate it by scanning the Table of Contents for the same logo.

We are excited about this new feature of the JID, and I want to take this opportunity to explain it in some detail.

The Editorial Board aspires to increase the JID’s value to its readership, to the scientists who publish their work in it, and to the entire field of investigative dermatology and cutaneous biology. One way we believe that we can accomplish this goal is by rapidly publishing papers that are of great interest. To that end, we have implemented FAST TRACK review. Papers that are favorably reviewed via the FAST TRACK review process will be published online within 30 days of initial submission. Adhering to this timeline will necessitate that FAST TRACK papers be acceptable for publication with minimal, or no, revisions.

How will the FAST TRACK review process work?

Original Articles (or possibly Letters) will be selected for FAST TRACK review by the Editor or the Principal Deputy Editor. Peer review will be conducted by 2 or more of the approximately 30 subject matter experts who constitute the JID Editorial Board’s Section and Deputy Editors. Additional ad hoc reviewers will be engaged if necessary. Reviewers will be required to commit to submitting their comments within 10 days of invitation, and decisions will be rendered very soon thereafter. Possible favorable decisions include acceptance or a request for minimal revisions. Less favorable decisions include a request for more extensive revisions (that would be incompatible with continuation in the FAST TRACK review process) and even outright rejection (although this outcome may be unlikely). Authors who receive favorable decisions will need to be responsive to editor and reviewer requests also requests for publication materials from the JID Editorial Office, if FAST TRACK publication of individual manuscripts is to be achieved.

How do I arrange for my paper to be considered for FAST TRACK review?

Corresponding authors will not be able to choose FAST TRACK review for their submissions, but they are invited to request it and provide justification for it in the cover letter that accompanies the submission. There is no FAST TRACK “quota,” but it is currently anticipated that only a minority of papers will be selected for FAST TRACK review. This could change, however, if the nature of papers submitted to the JID were to change dramatically for some reason. We continue to encourage members of the Society for Investigative Dermatology and the European Society for Dermatological Research, and others, to submit their most interesting work to the JID. Perhaps the existence of FAST TRACK review will encourage such submissions.

The Editors will do their best to select the most appropriate papers for FAST TRACK review and to review them objectively. Because this process is not algebra, we can anticipate that some imperfect decisions will be made. As always, we invite submitting authors and readers to provide feedback on their experience with the JID and what they read in these pages. I can be reached at JIDEditor@sidnet.org.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author states no conflict of interest.

Mark C. Udey
Editor