Recent Developments at the Journal of Investigative Dermatology

My editorial team has now been active for half a year, and I would like to keep you updated on some of the activities and recent developments concerning our Journal.

The Journal of Investigative Dermatology (JID) has been the home for the work of skin researchers in many different fields for more than eight decades. Similar to every comfortable home, a scientific journal needs an overhaul from time to time—the start of the new editorial team in 2022 offered the opportunity for a new look at the JID and to initiate some refurbishing.

Giving a face to the authors of commentaries
Commentaries serve well to highlight and give alternative views on articles published in the Journal. The authors of commentaries are experts in their fields, and their names are well-known to the readership from the scientific literature. To give faces to their names and to better connect our readers with commentary authors, their photographs are now included in the articles.

A new type of commentary
To stay abreast of emerging trends and developments that are unrelated to the Journal’s contents but are of interest to our readership, the JID now features a new type of commentary. In the section News and Perspectives, timely comments on arising topics concerning scientists in different areas of skin research will be published. Although the editorial team will identify topics and invite experts for these comments, we also encourage readers to alert us to up-and-coming issues that deserve wider attention and discussion (JIDEditor@sidnet.org). Similar to all other content of our Journal, manuscripts for News and Perspectives will undergo editorial review. The first such commentary on Monkeypox by Matthew Brewer et al. (https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jid.2022.08.030) is available online now. Look for a commentary on Venture Capital Investment in Dermatology by Aneesh Agarwal and Seth Orlow to be published online soon.

The JID and social media
In the fast pace of scientific discoveries and the rapidly growing volume of scientific publications, social media activities have become indispensable to alert the scientific community to the discoveries published in our Journal. The swiftly changing landscape of social media has prompted us to rearrange some of our activities. Although we will no longer be present on Facebook, we have recently started our Instagram page. Focus points of the Journal as well as our tables of contents will be regularly available at @jidjournal. As in the past, our Social Media Editors with the help of Anita Judd, our editorial consultant, will continue posting Journal content regularly on Twitter (@theJIDJournal). If you are active on social media yourself, we would appreciate your help by amplifying the journal’s messages.

Under the surface
As you most likely have spotted already, starting with January, we have changed the JID’s cover. Cover pages are traditionally used to highlight a specific article to guide the interest of the readers. For the upcoming issues of the JID, we will put the skin itself at the center of interest and draw attention to what thrives below the skin surface—cells of different lineages and structural elements of the skin. The first in this series of images, kindly provided by Adelheid Elbe-Bürger and Małgorzata Anna Cichoń, of the Medical University of Vienna, Department of Dermatology, Austria, shows an immunofluorescence staining of epidermal Langerhans cells in situ. Epidermal Langerhans cells were chosen because they are arguably the most prominent members of the skin immune system and have kick-started the careers of numerous dermatoimmunologists. The cover images can be downloaded from our website, and you may use them for educational (or decorative) purposes. If you would want to contribute to future covers of the JID, I invite you to submit telling high-resolution images of different aspects of skin biology/physiology/pathology from your laboratory. Contact us with your interest at JIDEditor@sidnet.org.

The elephant in the room
A scientific journal’s impact factor (IF) generates over-proportional interest and importance in academic life, especially in Europe and many Asian countries. The 2021 IF was released in June 2022. Our Journal saw a small drop in its IF compared with the IF of the previous year: from 8.5 to 7.59. When looking at the long-term development of JID’s IF, a steady upward trend over the past 20 years is evident (Figure 1). JID is now in position 5 in the category Dermatology, which comprises 94 journals, 25 of which have no IF allocated. However, among the top 5 dermatology journals, the JID is the only one that regularly publishes articles on both clinical and basic skin research. Although not beyond dispute, the IF is still the most prominent and widely used metric to evaluate not only the standing of a journal but also
the scientists who publish in it. Our goal of course is and will be to raise the IF of our Journal further over the next several years. To accomplish this, we count on your submissions of leading-edge research for publication in the JID.

I wish you a successful start into the new year and thank you for your loyalty and support.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST
The author states no conflict of interest.

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