

# Change and Continuity

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In 1976, thanks to the joint effort of Irwin M. Freedberg, John P. Strauss, and Klaus Wolff, the JID became the official journal of both the Society for Investigative Dermatology and the European Society for Dermatologic Research. This union was formed because they felt that investigative skin biology and dermatology would be better served by having one high-quality journal rather than having the excellence in this field split between two journals. Since then, the contribution of European and other non-American authors to the JID has been increasing. As a result, the JID has become a veritable international publication platform and has defended its position as the premier journal in dermatology and skin biology. In 1996, the search committee for a new editor, which consisted of members of both societies, elected the first non-American editor for the JID. The tolerance, open-mindedness, and generosity of the American committee members in particular should be applauded. These qualities, in addition to fairness and a critical sense for science, all values that American scientists have fostered and upheld, should continue to remain the basis for running the JID.

In order to preserve these qualities and because scientific knowledge has been growing exponentially, the editorial process for the JID will change. In addition to the editor, there will be nine section editors, experts in the different fields of research that are published in the JID. These section editors will decide on publication of the majority of the manuscripts sent to the new editorial office in Geneva, Switzerland. The editor and the associate editors will decide on the remaining manuscripts. We thank in advance the individuals who have accepted this task.

The organization of the editorial office will also be modified in that the JID will have a managing editor. Joy Moore, who has previously done excellent work in the Chapel Hill office, will take over this task. She will help the editor with regard to administrative and technical organization. She has made a significant contribution in developing the new review system that the JID will adopt using new electronic media. Manuscripts submitted to the Geneva office will be posted for review on a World Wide Web site with highly

restricted access. Only the section or associate editor and the reviewers assigned to an individual manuscript will have access to that manuscript. Reviewers and editors will also be able to fill out their comment and recommendation forms at the web site and submit them through it.

To facilitate the new review process, requirements for the submission of manuscripts will change as of June 1, 1997. Please refer to the new Information for Authors in this issue or on the JID web site (<http://www.med.unc.edu/jid/>). With this innovative system we hope to speed up the reviewing process and to save on express mailing costs. The two societies, together with the new editorial office and the publisher, are presently working together to have the JID on the web and in electronic libraries once the reviewing and production processes have been established.

The JID will continue to publish regular articles, high impact manuscripts, communications, review articles, mutation reports, letters to the editor, and announcements. As the scientific quality of clinical research has improved and because the JID publishes manuscripts on all aspects of research in dermatology and skin biology, authors of high-quality clinical research manuscripts are encouraged to submit their work to the JID.

The preparation of this new reviewing process and the office transition have required considerable effort, which would not have been possible without help. Edward O'Keefe, in addition to doing an excellent job as editor of the JID and as teacher of the new editor, has been seminal in having the electronic organization of the JID at a level that made the introduction of electronic reviewing possible. Professor Daniel Bertrand (Centre Medical Universitaire, Geneva, Switzerland) and Joy Moore were crucial in realizing this project. The institutions and industries who helped financially to set up the Geneva office and the electronic reviewing process are mentioned in the *Acknowledgments*.

With this new vehicle, I hope that the JID is prepared to sail safely into the age of new electronic communication. It is now up to you to provide its substance!

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