

# **The Journal of Investigative Dermatology - A review.**

The Journal of Investigative Dermatology edited by David A Norris, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver USA, is the official organ of the Society of Investigative Dermatology (SID), the most prestigious research orientated dermatological society in the United States of America. Those engaged in serious research programs both in the USA and abroad would aim to present work at the annual SID Meeting. The Journal is also the organ for the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR), the European equivalent of the SID, Associated editor for the ESDR is Klaus Wolff, Vienna.

The Journal publishes original scientific research into cutaneous biological events and is widely regarded as having very high quality publications. For those engaged in active dermatology research, membership of both DIS and ESDR is usual and attendance at the meetings essential to keep abreast of rapidly evolving research. Publication of work in the journal ensures international respect for the research methods as acceptance standards are high. Though journals proliferate on specialist subjects, the JID is broad based and accepts work on any aspect of dermatology provided the standard of the work is appropriate. Associate editors are respectively specialists in keratinocyte biology, melanocyte biology, immunology, extracellular matrix, biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, pharmacology, percutaneous absorption, biophysical

properties, oncogenesis, virology, photobiology, carcinogenesis, biological structure and function and dermatopathology providing a formidable panel of experts from both the USA and Europe.

The Journal itself makes fascinating reading, and I have yet to come across an issue that did not have at least several utterly relevant insights into the understanding of diverse disease processes in skin. Apart from publishing standard research, 10% of submissions are designated "high impact" and receive expedited review and publication ensuring immediacy of dissemination of important findings. Another "rapid communications" category allows rapid publication of concise accounts of work of unusual interest these two sections add greatly to the interest of the journal. All too often exciting developments presented at a meeting take two years to appear as a paper and the impact is greatly lessened by the delay, or indeed other groups have pipped one to the post by submitting to a lesser journal with a shorter acceptance to publication time.

Clinicians with no interest in disease mechanisms may find some of the JID publications abstruse, but it is now clear that many diseases may only be understood in immunological or molecular biological terms. The JID gives the reader just the insight and justly merits the high regard in which it is held.

G Murphy

Department of Dermatology  
Mater Hospital  
Dublin 7