Comment

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Editor's Comments

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Many points raised by Wolf et al. are well taken. They illustrate the concern of many young and bright colleagues who think they cannot fully express their skills due to the 'vicious circle' described. One way for them to avoid being kept out of the access to publication is to obtain grants for training in the 'privileged centers' as quoted by Wolf et al. There are two other ways to limit the vicious circle:

One is in the hands of the potential author. Dermatology still allows good clinical research without having extensive basic science support; the problem with a good clinical research is the time needed for providing significant results: many are discouraged to embark in sound clinical prospective studies as they wish to have them published as quickly as possible as it is necessary for their personal curriculum vitae.

Another way to limit the vicious circle is in the hand of the editors, who have to keep a very open mind when the observation appears to be sound and interesting; this is the trend many editorial boards take whenever possible.

The comments of Wolf et al. raise the ever debated issue on the peer review system; many think this system is similar to Sir Winston Churchill's views on democracy, a bad system, but the only one that is acceptable.

2 Wolf/Wolf/Politi Comment