Hans F. Merk, Aachen
Editor

Hans Schaefer, Clichy
Founder of the journal and
Honorary Editor

Editorial

Since the founding of the journal *Skin Pharmacology* more than 10 years ago, this research area in dermatology has developed dramatically and new, most promising drugs and therapeutic concepts are coming up. Examples for this development include immunosuppressive topicals, new strategies in the therapy e.g. of malignant diseases including melanoma or wound healing, just to mention another most fascinating example.

New concepts have also been developed in traditional areas of skin therapy and care, e.g. cutaneous physiology-related active compounds. They lead to new discussions about key words such as 'cosmeceuticals' in the United States, 'quasi-drugs' in Japan or the discussions around the 6th Amendment of the Cosmetic Regulation in the European Union. Another example is the still open question of the last Gordon Conference on skin barrier whether the horny layer is 'dead or alive'. This question itself demonstrates

that even stratum corneum is a developing target offering new approaches and proves the need for an international scientific forum and journal which highlights the importance of pharmacology and physiology of the skin. This is also important to prevent that skin care including prevention of e.g. allergy or skin ageing is based on science and not on fantasy. All these important and fascinating developments may explain our decision to broaden the title of this journal to *Skin Pharmacology and Applied Skin Physiology*.

We highly appreciate the fruitful cooperation with the publisher Dr. Thomas Karger and his team and we are grateful for their continuous major support of this journal.

Finally, we appeal to all dermatologists as well as pharmaceutical chemists, pharmacologists, toxicologists, and others interested in the subject to submit their best research work and to participate in the project to have an international forum for these exciting areas.

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