Foreword

The skin is an environmental organ par excellence, protecting the organism from the loss of water and body substances on one side and from the impact of harmful environmental agents on the other. The latter are multiple: from physical (pressure, friction, temperature, ionizing and nonionizing irradiation) to chemical (irritants and allergens) and biological (infectious agents from viruses to parasites). The interaction between these factors and the human skin may be complex: irritation may lead to sensitization, UV irradiation may cause tumorigenesis but suppress dermatitis.

While scientific journals have focussed on single aspects of the exogenous impact on the skin, e.g. only contact dermatitis or photodermatology, this new bimonthly, peer-reviewed journal, the official organ of the International Contact Dermatitis Research Group, will try to give the complete picture. The etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of exogenous dermatoses are covered. A strong emphasis is put on clinical trials and epidemiologic studies in the perspective of evidence-based medicine. The journal serves as a platform of communication between dermatologists, occupational physicians, allergologists, toxicologists, pharmacists, microbiologists and scientists in the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industry.

We hope that this new, integrated and evidence-based approach to exogenous dermatoses will be found useful by our readers and our authors.

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