

## *Proposal for an annual international day for the best journals of dermatology, and the best dermatological articles*

To assess the quality of the dermatological journals and articles has always been difficult, and, to an excessive degree, determined by the market. To many dermatologists the so-called impact factor of journals is overestimated and detrimental to a fair assessment of the articles themselves.

We propose that an international forum be established for dermatological journals and articles that would relate to our field of professional expertise in that same way that the Oscars relate to the film industry (1), or the Miss World contest relates to female beauty. The latter, started by Eric Morley in 1951 (2), grew into one of the world's biggest and best-loved events.

To ask 'which is best?' will always be problematic for as long as there are not enough objective criteria. As the number of journals increases, many face a struggle to survive while others, that have an established repu-

tation and impact factor, tend to monopolise the field. But impact factor alone should not be the sole criterion that determines the success of a journal (3), and a contest could attract the attention of a researcher to a particular journal. There is already proof of the benefit of this tendency (4).

And competition between journals will inevitably lead to better performance and higher quality, and help to establish objective criteria for their evaluation. In a recent article we proposed that the 19<sup>th</sup> May, the day of St. Job, be recognised as International Dermatology Day (5). It would provide the best moment and opportunity to announce which journal and article has been chosen and awarded by the international dermatological community with some glamour and style.

We make this proposal with an open mind, and we invite further suggestions.

### REFERENCES

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2. [www.missworld.com](http://www.missworld.com)
3. [www.isinet.com](http://www.isinet.com)
4. [www.drugindermatology.com](http://www.drugindermatology.com)
5. Stransky L, Broshtilova V. The Annual International Day of Dermatology: A Proposal. *SkinMed Derm Clin* 2003; 2: 147.

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