

The beginning of *Transplant International's* second decade is an appropriate moment both to look back and to look forward.

After 5 years of 4 issues per volume, *Transplant International* has grown into a bimonthly journal. Here, at the Editorial Office, 50 issues have been compiled, copy and language edited, and sent to the publisher. More than 1350 papers have been submitted, and hundreds of reviewers have given constructive and critical opinions of these papers. This is the power of a journal like *Transplant International*: a strong and consistent flow of manuscripts and excellent reviewers. The rejection rate has remained around 50 % over the years.

Consequently, the impact factor of *Transplant International* has risen steadily, reaching 1.522 in 1996. The effect of the biannual *Supplement* to the Journal (Proceedings of the ESOT Congresses) on the impact factor of *Transplant International* was, at first, confusing and a major concern. We later found out that the *Supplement* was not included in *Medline*. For this reason it was rarely cited. The fact that articles included in the *Supplement* are now both peer reviewed and included in *Medline* can only enhance the value of the *Supplement*.

Another difficulty we encountered with regard to the impact factor arose from the fact that *Transplant International* is a so-called "nonsource" journal. This means that when our Journal is cited in articles published in *Transplant International* itself, the citations do not count for the impact factor. This is contrary to what is done for "source" journals such as *Transplantation*. We have good reason to believe that this unjustified discrimination will disappear in the near future.

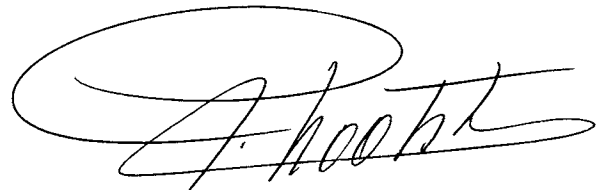
At a recent meeting of our Editorial Board during the ESOT Congress in Budapest, a suggestion was made to add a new rubric to *Transplant International*, one that would allow our readers the opportunity to freely express their opinions on matters of current interest or controversy in the field of transplantation. Thus, starting in volume 11, we will publish "**In my opinion...**". We encourage you to send us your opinions

and to reply to those that appear in this new section of our journal.

Finally, after almost 11 years, I have decided it is time for me to step down as Editor-in-Chief of *Transplant International*, and the ESOT Council has agreed to accept my resignation, effective December 31, 1998. I am very pleased to say that the Council has found Professor Ferdinand Mühlbacher of Vienna willing to take over this position. There will be a transition phase in 1998 as the Editorial Office gradually moves to Vienna and, at the end of the year, the Editorial Office in Maastricht will close.

At the General Assembly meeting in Budapest, Professor Gil Thiel, before stepping down himself as President of ESOT, and acting on behalf of the Council, presented me with a beautiful, inscribed plaque to thank me for my efforts on behalf of *Transplant International*. I was very touched and honored by this kind gesture. I, in turn, wish to thank, in the first place, my two Editorial Assistants, Pamela Falger, MA, and Sylvia van Roosmalen, BSc, for their support and exemplary dedication to the Journal over the past 10 years. I also want to thank once again all those who have contributed to our Journal, either by submitting their scientific work, by serving as reviewers, or (most frequently) by doing both.

Our goal has been reached. *Transplant International* is a healthy, vital journal, serving as a worldwide forum for transplantation science. May it continue to flourish in the years ahead.



Gauke Kootstra, M.D.  
Editor-in-Chief