

EDITORIAL

Full speed ahead

Dear Readers and Members of the Transplantation Community,

The past year was one of great activity and achievement for Transplant International. The innovations and restructuring measures announced at the beginning of last year were carried out with the aim of improving the quality of the Journal and making it competitive again. We are happy to report that the results of these changes so far have exceeded our expectations.

We are highly indebted to our Associate Editors who have shown great commitment, discernment and effort in their work for the Journal. We gladly welcome three Associate Editors, Per Pfeffer from Oslo, David Adams from Birmingham and Wojciech Rowinski from Warsaw, who have joined our team recently and who have already started sharing the increased workload. The expansion of the Editorial Team, the restructuring and re-staffing of the Editorial Office as well as the introduction of online submission and review through ScholarOne's Manuscript Central have led to a dramatic reduction in the average time from submission to first decision, currently at 21 days. These decision times have been achieved despite a – very welcome – increase in manuscript submissions by 65% compared to the same time span last year. The Editorial Office is now manned 6–7 days a week and its Staff is committed to monitoring the progress of each and every manuscript submitted to the Journal as well as to providing quick and efficient attention to any problem or question that might arise in the course thereof. This has led to a positive synergistic effect whereby authors are now also returning their revised manuscripts much more

quickly, resulting in a mean lead-time of 66 days from submission to final decision. Due to Transplant International's change to Blackwell Publishing, we can also report an equally positive development in the average production time: 120 days from submission to online publication and 144 days from submission to publication in print. These figures compare favourably with any in the field and strengthen us in our long-term goal of positioning Transplant International among the leading scientific journals in the field of transplantation.

Among all these positive developments the Impact Factor remains a source of concern for the time being. Due to the way it is calculated, it reflects more accurately the condition of the journal 2 years ago rather than its current state. We hope that if the positive developments are successfully continued over the next years it will increase in due course.

Transplant International is dependent on the good-will, support and confidence of its readership, authors and reviewers. The past year has been very busy and also very successful, putting Transplant International on the right track, moving towards our goal of becoming an increasingly strong European-based scientific journal in the field of transplantation. We would like to thank all our readers, authors and reviewers for their valuable support of our Journal in this past year and extend an invitation to continue doing so in the one to come.

Ferdinand Mühlbacher
Editor-in-Chief

Thomas Wekerle
Co-Editor-in-Chief