

## EDITORIAL

**Off to New Horizons**

Dear Readers and Members of the Transplantation Community,

In order to remain competitive in the field of medical science publishing Transplant International has, in the past year, undergone substantial renovation.

In the future, we will focus all the more intently on the aims of the European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT), the promotion of transplantation research and the distribution of information, yielding better service to our readers by publishing more relevant transplantation-related articles in a shorter time. We want Transplant International to become more attractive to authors of high quality papers. Gearing up the review process should move us forward by a big step, followed by high-quality and constructive feedback from reviewers.

Consequently, we have expanded our staff and restructured the Editorial Office. Most importantly, six new, highly respected Associate Editors will assist the Editor-in-Chief in the future. Furthermore, the Editorial Office will now solely be in charge of maintaining the flow of manuscripts and related administrative tasks. Language and copy editing will be outsourced. To accelerate manuscript handling and to improve the editorial office working schedule, Manuscript Central, the internet-based journal hosting software by ScholarOne, will be implemented in January 2005. All manuscript submissions will be facilitated through Manuscript Central in the future; however, for a transition period of 6 months, e-mail submissions will be accepted until 30 June 2005. Please note, however, that no paper submissions will be admitted as of January 2005. The internet access to Transplant International will be at <http://www.transplantinternational.com> and links will be provided through the ESOT homepage.

After 17 years of successful cooperation with the Springer Publishing Company, the ESOT Council has decided



on a new publishing strategy with a greater emphasis on overseas marketing and shorter production times. We are optimistic that a change from Springer to Blackwell as our publisher will help us to accomplish this aim.

Transplant International has suffered a major drawback in the SCSJ listing in 2003. One of the reasons might lie in the increase of the amount of published articles by 50% in 2002, while citations did not increase at the same rate.

The treasury of a scientific journal is its reviewer panel. We are indebted to our reviewers and would like to express our gratitude and thanks to them, who have contributed so much to the progress of this journal in the past. I would now ask them to please take the step forward with us into the electronically guided review procedure. I hereby also cordially invite new active scientists to join our reviewer staff to lessen the workload of each reviewer and at the same time to increase the quality of reviews.

Finally, I would like to invite the readership, the authors and all our reviewers to share our efforts in advancing Transplant International towards a strong, European-based scientific journal in the field of transplantation.

Ferdinand Mühlbacher  
Editor-in-Chief

Thomas Wekerle  
Co-Editor-in-Chief