

EDITORIAL

Ferdinand Mühlbacher: Farewell to an exceptional Editor-in-Chief

2015 will mark the start of a new era for Transplant International (TI), the official journal of the European Society of Organ Transplantation (ESOT). Ferdinand Mühlbacher, who has been TI's editor-in-chief for many years, is retiring and will hand over the journal to a new *interim* editorial team led by Thomas Wekerle, who has served as TI's valued co-editor-in-chief in Ferdinand's last years in post.

Ferdinand Mühlbacher has been an exceptional editor-in-chief and his contributions to the modernization and standing of ESOT's journal have been considerable. Under Ferdinand's efficient leadership, TI has greatly improved its appeal to investigators and established itself as a high-quality journal in the field of transplantation sciences. A new team of associate editors was appointed, with the mandate to reduce response times; a new publisher was contracted; a new App was introduced. These innovations together with his tireless personal efforts to attract high-quality scientific content resulted in a marked increase in the numbers of manuscript submissions, online downloads, and citations—the benchmark of scientific journals. The measurable result is a trebling of TI's impact factor in the past 10 years. ESOT is very grateful for Ferdinand's accomplishments and acknowledges this by his appointment as *editor-in-chief emeritus* of Transplant International.

European Society of Organ Transplantation is also thankful to Thomas Wekerle for having taken over the task of *interim* editor-in-chief. Thomas will serve in this posi-

tion until the spring of 2016. He will undoubtedly bring together a great and dynamic new editorial team and maintain or increase TI's current level of excellence.

Editorial board changes will not be the only novelty for TI in this starting year. In 2015, TI will enthusiastically move to the paperless era and take advantage of the possibilities offered by the virtual world to bring to its readership high-standard science. The upcoming changes will perpetuate the innovative philosophy, which has become the trademark of ESOT in the past years.

In this time of opportunities, ESOT has decided to open a call for an editor-in-chief (http://ce-esot.prod.esot-app1.codeenigma.com/system/files/files/accompanying/news/ti_editor_callforapplications.pdf) who will take his/her position from March 1, 2016. We expect the new editorial board to be dynamic, creative and innovative in taking TI forward and upward, in partnership with ESOT and with the European flair that characterizes the journal.

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