

In the past decade, *Transplant International* has developed into a well known and widely respected journal in the field of transplantation, devoted to clinical and experimental research. This success is entirely due to the consistent and constructive work of Gauke Kootstra and his team in Maastricht, who deserve all the credit for their achievement. Acknowledgement, however, is also due to the many reviewers who gave advice to the editor and to the authors, thus generously promoting progress and education.

After more than 10 years of devotion to the journal, the Editor-in-Chief has handed over his responsibility to me and the new editorial office in Vienna.

What are our future plans for the journal? When appointing the new Editor-in-Chief, the ESOT council ranked continuity as our primary goal. The council decided to continue the successful cooperation with Springer-Verlag, thus guaranteeing a smooth transfer of responsibilities to the new editorial office.

Besides maintaining continuity, our ambition is to further improve *Transplant International's* position in the field of medical journals. Our aim is to increase our readership and to raise our impact factor. The journal is to become more attractive to readers and authors. Authors will be attracted by rapid processing of their manuscripts, by constructive criticism by the reviewers, and by the opportunity to publish in a top-ranked medical journal. Readers will obtain high-quality, up-to-date information on transplantation research. In addition, there will be a new section in the journal called "**In my opinion...**", which will provide a forum for readers to express their views and to freely discuss issues of common interest. We plan, furthermore, to give more room to transplantation pharmacology, a field of increasing importance both for research and clinical application.

Obviously, the Editor-in-Chief is dependent upon the continuous support of his reviewers, and I would like to ask all of the reviewers who have contributed so much to the development of this journal in recent years to continue their efforts for our common project, *Transplant International*. I also cordially invite the commu-



nity of transplant researchers to seriously consider submitting their manuscripts to *Transplant International* and, thus, to further develop this important forum of research communication.

I look forward very much to fulfilling the challenging and interesting position of Editor-in-Chief of *Transplant International*, and I hope that the past cooperation will continue for the benefit of transplantation research.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ferdinand Mühlbacher". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat stylized.

Ferdinand Mühlbacher
Editor-in-Chief