

## EDITORIAL

# Introducing the Wiley Transplant Peer Review Network

The Editors-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Transplantation*, *Artificial Organs*, *Clinical Transplantation*, *Pediatric Transplantation*, *Transplant Infectious Disease*, *Transplant International*, and *Xenotransplantation* are delighted to announce the recent launch of the Transplant Peer Review Network (Tx PRN). The Network comprises these seven transplantation journals, published by Wiley, and was formed to simplify, streamline, and speed the review and publication of transplantation research—ultimately making these processes faster, easier, and better for researchers in the field.

## Why Tx PRN?

The Tx PRN was created in an effort to ease the ever-growing burden placed on both peer reviewers and authors throughout the scholarly publishing process, particularly by reducing the number of times a manuscript is reviewed. By providing authors with a referral recommendation, and sharing manuscripts and peer reviews with referral journals, the Network aims to provide the transplant community with efficient and comprehensive peer review, as well as a more rapid publication process for authors.

## How does it work?

When submitting their manuscripts to one of the seven Tx PRN journals, authors have the option to indicate their preferred second- and third-choice participating journals, should their manuscript not be accepted at their target journal. At the editors' discretion, papers that are not accepted by one journal in the Network may be recommended for referral to another participating journal. To expedite a rapid review, the paper and associated reviews are automatically transferred to the referred journal on the authors' behalf.

If the submitting author accepts the referral recommendation, they can quickly finalize the submission process at the referred journal. A transfer does not guarantee acceptance, as the referred journal will still undertake evaluation of the paper. But by reducing the

number of times a manuscript must be reviewed, the Tx PRN reduces the workloads of reviewers and editors and speeds up publication time for authors.

Once the author completes the submission process at the referred journal, the editors of the journal may use the transferred reviews at their discretion. They may use those reviews directly to make a rapid decision, but may also request additional reviews if they feel it is warranted. Further, if the editors of the referred journal think the original reviews lack sufficient depth, they may choose to disregard them and invite new reviews. Figure 1 provides an infographic of the Network referral mechanism.

## A true network

In addition to making the review and publication of transplant research faster, easier, and better, the Tx PRN journals have further streamlined many elements of the peer-review process, such as submission questions and reviewer scorecards. These shared elements uniquely mark the Tx PRN as a true network of journals, a consortium of publications that together offer authors and reviewers a streamlined experience, and thus further strengthen and support the transplant research community. Although the Tx PRN has just been formed, the response from the transplant community has been swift and positive—the Network saw its first referral in less than 24 hours following launch, and 15 referrals in less than one month.

## For authors

All journals participating in the Network have introduced a set of shared, standard submission questions. These common questions make the submission process for authors consistent among the journals and facilitate the automatic transfer of manuscripts, ultimately enabling faster decisions. During the submission process, authors are asked to acknowledge that their manuscripts and associated reviews will be transferred if the editors decide to reject and refer their manuscripts to another journal in the Network.

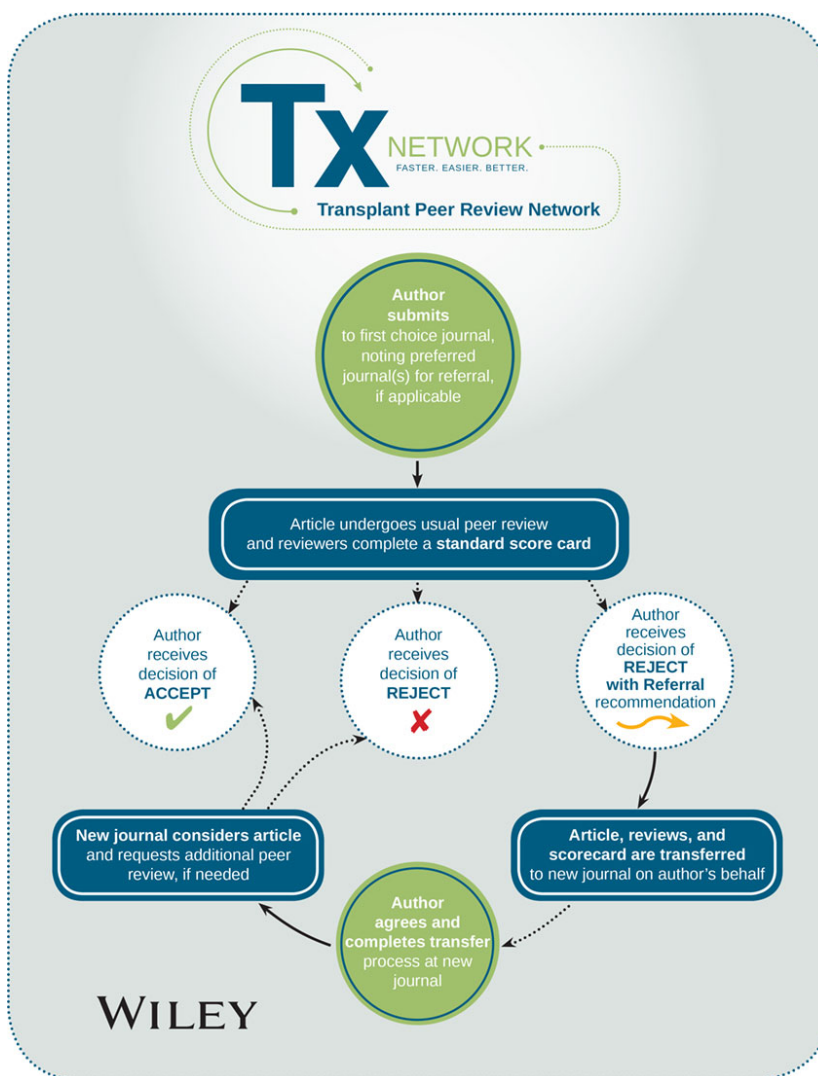


Figure 1 Infographic of the Network referral mechanism.

### For reviewers

Similarly, all participating journals in the Tx PRN have implemented a new, universal peer-review scorecard. This universal scorecard will make the peer-review process for reviewers consistent among the journals and will ensure that all information is easily and consistently shared during the review transfer process. Reviewers will see that a new “Reject and Refer” option is now included in the recommendation portion of the scorecard; reviewers should select this option if they determine that the paper is of high quality, but not suitable for publication at the target journal. Reviewers will also be asked to acknowledge that the content of their reviews will be forwarded if the authors receive and accept a referral decision.

### The journals

*American Journal of Transplantation* publishes new, high-quality data in organ and tissue transplantation and the related sciences; the journal is directed at scientists and clinicians in transplantation but also at those in other fields who wish to follow transplantation.

*Artificial Organs* publishes original research articles dealing with research, developments, and clinical applications of artificial organs including organ replacement, recovery, and regeneration.

*Clinical Transplantation: The Journal of Clinical and Translational Research* serves as a channel of rapid communication for all those involved in the care of patients who require, or have had, organ or tissue transplants. Its scope focuses on the complete spectrum of present

transplant therapies, as well as also those that are experimental or may become possible in future.

*Pediatric Transplantation* aims to advance the science and practice of transplantation in children worldwide, by providing a forum that highlights the most recent advances in clinical and basic science related to this field.

*Transplant Infectious Disease* is aimed at disseminating the latest information relevant to the infectious disease complications of transplantation to clinicians and scientists involved in bone marrow, kidney, liver, heart, lung, intestinal, pancreatic, and composite tissue transplantation.

*Transplant International* strives to be the premier European-based scientific journal in the field of transplantation, focusing on the promotion of transplantation research and the distribution of information.

*Xenotransplantation* provides its readership with rapid communication of new findings in the field of organ and tissue transplantation across species barriers. The journal is not only of interest to those whose primary area is xenotransplantation, but also to veterinarians, microbiologists, and geneticists.

### What's next?

The launch of the Transplant Peer Review Network was just the first step in our journey to improve the review and publication process for our community. We are actively monitoring the Network and will seek to continuously refine and improve the experience for our authors, reviewers, and editors. In the coming months,

we are looking forward to rolling out several key updates and improvements to the Tx PRN, including harmonizing the journals' author guidelines, submission requirements, keywords, and layouts. These updates will offer additional benefits to authors and reviewers, further simplifying, streamlining, and speeding the publishing process for the transplant research community—making this process even faster, exceptionally easier, and remarkably better.

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