

EDITORIAL

On course

Dear readers and members of the transplantation community,

Transplant International has now completed its second year after a major overhaul. One of the signs of the journal's growing success is that manuscript submissions in 2006 have doubled over those in 2004. Because of the very welcome increase in both number and quality of submitted manuscripts, a stricter selection has become possible and indeed necessary so that currently, approximately 30% of submitted original articles are published. Our efforts now focus on maintaining what has been achieved and on gradually expanding the quality of the journal.

Transplant International's average time from submission to first decision is 23 days and, thanks to Blackwell Publishing's efficient production management, the time from final decision to on-line publication is a mere 42 days. Paramount to Transplant International's success has been the extraordinary contribution by our team of Associate Editors. The team was further strengthened last year by Jan Langrehr from Berlin. Equally, the excellent performance of our reviewers has been pivotal to the rapid improvement in quality of the journal. In acknowledgement of their outstanding performance, we have welcomed six of our best reviewers as new members to the Editorial Board: Patricia Burra from Padova, Thierry

Carrel from Berne, Costas Fourtounas from Patras, Berhard Krämer from Regensburg, Steven Paraskevas from Montreal and Johann Pratschke from Berlin. Over the coming years, we will continue this policy of inviting distinguished reviewers to join the Editorial Board. A new policy concerning the declaration of author roles will also be implemented as of 2007: an authorship contribution statement indicating the specific contribution of each author will be mandatory for manuscripts submitted after 31 December 2006.

We would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasize our long-standing policy that only manuscripts adhering to the highest international ethical standards will be considered for publication regardless of where the manuscripts come from. This pertains in particular also to all ethical issues and concerns related to organ donation practices.

We would like to invite the members of ESOT and ELITA as well as all readers to contribute to Transplant International's upward trend, be it by submitting high-quality work, contributing as reviewers or by supporting the journal in any other way deemed appropriate.

Ferdinand Mühlbacher
Editor-in-Chief

Thomas Wekerle
Co-Editor-in-Chief