

EDITORIAL

Continuous improvement

Dear readers:

At the beginning of the year, we would like to share with you some key facts of *Transplant International's* recent development:

- The number of submissions has increased again in 2010 (+7%). Since its re-launch in 2005, submissions to *Transplant International* have thus increased by a total of ~225%.
- The acceptance rate of original articles currently is at ~20%, so that only manuscripts that are both of high quality and of high interest – as assessed by a rigorous peer review process involving reviewers and editors – are accepted.
- Manuscript processing times are competitive with an average of 24 days until first decision and less than 6 weeks from acceptance to online publication.
- The latest impact factor is now 3.254 (see figure). Notably, *Transplant International* is the only journal in the field of organ transplantation that has had a continuously rising impact factor for 5 consecutive years.

Several steps have been taken with the aim at continuous improvement of *Transplant International* also in 2011:

- For the third time, we have dedicated one issue to a Focus Topic. After focusing on ‘Minimization of Imm-

unosuppression’ in January 2009 and on ‘Liver Transplantation for Malignancies’ in July 2010, we look forward to an issue on ‘Global Strategies to Meet the Organ Need’ (guest edited by Dr. Francis Delmonico) which will appear in spring of 2011.

- As of January 2011, a standardized plagiarism check has been implemented into the electronic submission system. This is intended to strengthen our efforts to maintain the highest scientific standards possible.
- We cordially welcome Dr. Bernhard Banas (Regensburg, Germany) and Dr. Philippe Grimbart (Paris, France) as our newest Associate Editors.

We thank everyone who has contributed to the ongoing success of *Transplant International*, all authors, readers, reviewers and associate editors. Thanks to their efforts *Transplant International* can be counted among the high quality scientific journals in the field. In order to maintain and – as we hope – improve upon this success, we, as always, ask for your continuing support: by reading, citing and submitting to *Transplant International*.

Ferdinand Mühlbacher
Editor-in-Chief

Thomas Wekerle
Co-Editor-in-Chief

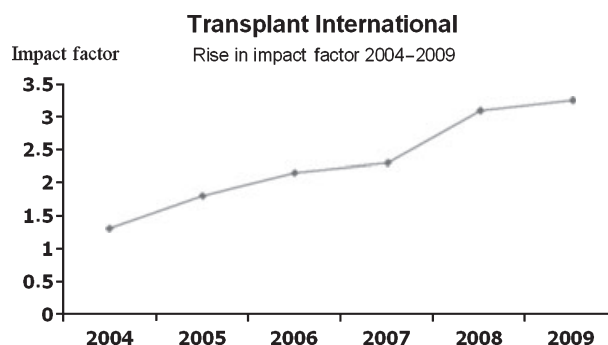


Figure 1 Yearly Impact Factor of *Transplant International*. Source: ISI Web of Knowledge, Journal Citation Reports.