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Article type : Letter to the Editor

C4: The future of solid organ transplantation from the perspective of young transplant professionals

To the Editor:

With great interest, we read the first C4 Article titled “*Current opinions in organ allocation*”, the result of pioneering work by the editorial board of the *American Journal of Transplantation*.¹ The effort of the editorial board to realize their four C’s goal, establishing a crowdsourced collaboration on current and controversial subjects, has resulted in a state-of-the-art review. Over a hundred transplant professionals contributed to this project, making it a one-of-a-kind, interdisciplinary and cross border collaboration. With the tremendous success of this first C4 Article, continuation of this project seems inevitable. As young transplant professionals, we want to use this opportunity to respond to the call for a second C4 Article topic by Allan D. Kirk, Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Transplantation*.²

As highlighted in two publications by Englesbe et al. in this journal, young transplant surgeons have a key role to play in addressing the many scientific questions in this field.^{3,4} When addressing the future of organ transplantation, with a chance for artificial organs and personalized immunosuppressive therapy, the perspective of young transplant professionals is essential. Young transplant researchers, working as clinicians or as PhD candidates, can be closely involved in groundbreaking clinical trials or laboratory achievements. Above all, they can provide new insights in longstanding transplant-related hurdles, making their status as novice an exceptional advantage.

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In addition, the success of the “*What’s hot, what’s new*” session and subsequent publication at the *American Transplant Congress*, describing the cutting-edge scientific research findings, shows the demand for a concise review of current and future scientific directives.⁵ Up to now, the driving forces behind these types of presentations and articles are predominantly the experienced and honored members of the transplant society. While years of experience in this field has many advantages, a fresh set of eyes, not opinionated by prevailing dogmas, can be of additional value. In line with the innovative design of the C4 Article project, young member of the transplantation society should be encouraged to provide their input, whereas the first C4 Article was mainly written by senior researchers and clinicians.

With the above-stated in mind, a C4 Article written by young transplant professionals with a focus on the future of solid organ transplantation, will result in an overview of the possible scientific paths to take in the coming years. More specific, we propose to focus on the subtopics: machine perfusion, tissue regeneration, artificial intelligence, pharmaceutical advances and innovation in clinical trial design. The goal of this project should be to acquire broad stakeholder input from all fields of solid organ transplantation, with a focus on both clinical and basic science. Professionals who are willing to participate should not feel excluded by an age-limit or the extent of their track record, whereas sharing ideas for the future of transplantation should never be restricted. For the *American Journal of Transplantation*, initiating a second C4 article with this goal is an opportunity to guide the potential future for academic collaborations.

Disclosure

The authors of this manuscript have no conflict of interest to disclose as described by the *American Journal of Transplantation*.

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