



AJT

Instructions to Authors

Effective November 2017

1 Overview

The *American Journal of Transplantation* (AJT) is the official journal of the American Society of Transplantation and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons. AJT seeks to provide its readership with literature of the highest quality and impact through a process of careful peer review and editorial comment. All papers, including those invited by the Editorial Board, are subject to peer review. AJT's average turnaround time from submission to decision is 20 days.

AJT participates in the Transplant Peer Review Network, a consortium of seven journals in the field of transplantation. In addition to the adoption of a shared list of ethical policies and principles, the journals share a set of standard questions to make the submission process consistent between journals and to facilitate the automatic transfer of manuscripts to enable rapid decisions. High-quality papers not suitable for publication at their target journal may receive a decision of Reject with Transfer Offer to another journal in the Network.

On submission, authors should choose one or two referral journals, in the order of preference, or "no referral." When a manuscript is referred, all reviews and recommendations are sent with the manuscript to the receiving journal. Authors must then complete the submission process at the receiving journal. For more information, please visit wileytxnetwork.com.

2 Manuscript Submission

All manuscripts must be submitted through ScholarOne Manuscripts™ at mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajt.

AJT charges a standard fee of \$50 USD for all unsolicited submissions with the exception of revised manuscripts and Letters to the Editor. This fee covers expenses for the processing and evaluation of submissions by the Editorial Office and Editors. AJT participates in the Wiley **Transplant Peer Review Network (TxPRN)**, a consortium of 7 journals formed to simplify the publication process for authors and reduce the time and effort involved in the peer review of transplantation research. Payment does not guarantee external peer review or network referral.

2.1 File upload

1. **Cover letter** (optional)
2. **Main body document** is the most important file that you will upload. It must be double spaced. For most manuscript types, the main body should contain the following:
 - Title Page
 - o Title
 - o Authors' full names
 - o ORCIDs
 - o Affiliations
 - o Corresponding author email
 - o Abbreviations
 - Abstract
 - Main Body Text
 - Acknowledgments / Funding
 - Disclosure
 - Figure Legends
 - Description of Supporting Information
 - References
3. **Tables and Figures** can be included at the end of the main body document or uploaded separately. Do not embed them within the text. Each table and figure should appear on its own page, and tables and figures should not be mixed.
4. **Supporting Information**

Format: Uploaded files must be saved as DOC, DOCX, or RTF, as our publisher requires one of these formats in the event of acceptance. *Do not upload PDF files for the main body document.*

Why your paper may be unsubmitted: The Editorial Office reviews your paper after submission to verify its adherence to the word limits and other guidelines stated in this document. If your paper exceeds the limits or does not meet formatting requirements, it will be unsubmitted. You will be given an opportunity to correct the issues and resubmit your paper. It will retain the manuscript number assigned during the initial submission.

3 Manuscript Types

This table lists the types of manuscripts AJT publishes. Descriptions follow below.

Type of Submission	Text Word Limit*	Abstract Word Limit	Reference Limit	Figure Limit
Brief Communication	3000	200	30	N/A
Case Report	2000	200	20	N/A
Images in Transplantation (CME)	250	N/A	5	3
Letter to the Editor	500	N/A	5	1
Minireview	3000	200	40	3
Original Article	4000	200	N/A	N/A
Personal Viewpoint	3000	200	30	3
Special Article	3000	200	30	3
By Invitation of the Editorial Board				
Book Review	650	N/A	5	0
Comprehensive Review	6000	200	N/A	N/A
Editorial	800	N/A	5	1
Meeting Report	3000	200	30	3

* includes abstract and main text only

3.1 Manuscript types

Brief Communications should convey singular novel, factual observations that have been tested with the same rigor as required by Original Articles. This format is appropriate for observations of limited scope; it is not appropriate for items that have been incompletely tested or preliminary observations that remain speculative in nature.

Case Reports highlight exceptionally unique clinical observations made on one or a small number of patients that convey generalizable insights about the practice or science of transplantation. Rare, but otherwise typical, clinical scenarios or particularly difficult clinical situations are generally not appropriate unless they inform a broader concept in the field. Notable first cases or new applications of transplantation will be considered to the extent that they support a non-intuitive conclusion.

Images in Transplantation is a learning opportunity built around one or more key images and is a Continuing Medical Education (CME) activity certified for 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. The first author of the article can claim 10 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* per article, directly from the American Medical Association. Please see the full instructions for this manuscript type at amjtransplant.com/CME.

Letters to the Editor are appropriate to convey thoughts about and/or publicly question recently published material or current events. The time limit for submitting a letter regarding an AJT article is one month past the date of print publication. When an accepted letter specifically refers to an article in AJT, the authors of the cited article may be given an opportunity to briefly reply. Letters are also appropriate for a brief, definitive, scientific or clinical observation that is supported by data and adequately conveyed in this abbreviated format.

Minireviews present a concise review of an area where there has been recent (generally within the past 5 years) significant progress by a number of investigators and/or laboratories. They should be broadly based, and not a review of one or two centers or laboratories. With rare exceptions, references should be from peer-reviewed journals with no unrefereed proceedings, personal communications, or unpublished

results. When appropriate, the first few references should be review articles that direct readers to older literature on the subject matter. Most Minireviews are invited by the Editorial Board; however, proposals may be submitted to the Editorial Office for consideration. Proposals should be approximately 250 words and include major references to be cited.

Original Articles should be original factual observations important to the practice of transplantation or its related science that have been rigorously tested using the scientific method. Original Articles must follow the standard presentation format as detailed in the Manuscript Preparation section below, and they must present results in sufficient detail for their merit to be judged by the authors' peers and for the experiments to be repeated by others. The use of supplemental information is acceptable in cases where the word limit constrains the authors' abilities to provide sufficient detail. The Discussion should convey the significance of the findings with minimal extrapolation or hyperbole, allowing the empirically tested facts to support the commentary.

Personal Viewpoints collegially convey the opinion of an author or group of authors and inform the practice of transplantation or its related science. While liberty is given to extrapolate beyond the usual confines of a scientific manuscript, opinions must be reasonably fact based and contain logical inferences. Opinions about clinical practice or scientific data are appropriate where there are barriers to actual prospective testing of an issue, but should not be used to advance thought that could be reasonably tested experimentally.

Special Articles highlight a topic of special relevance to the entire field of transplantation, emanating as an official policy of a relevant governing body, or conveying important consensus recommendations for clinical or academic practice (e.g. practice guidelines).

3.2 Invited manuscript types

Book Reviews are based on an author's firsthand reading of a book. New publications of likely interest to the readership of AJT may be submitted to the Editorial Office to be considered for a Book Review. The review should guide readers with regard to the book's strengths and weaknesses, as well as the readership to which the book is likely to appeal.

Comprehensive Reviews focus on major advances shaping the field today. The expanded format allows authors to pay some appropriate homage to the seminal history of the topic to the extent that it informs the evolution of the present practice. The manuscript should demonstrate the relationship between the relevant biology and the clinical phenotypes defining the field. A section on likely future developments is appropriate.

Editorials are commissioned to comment on a recently accepted manuscript, published work, or event. The Editorial should place its referenced work in a broader perspective, provide a balancing interpretation, or highlight important features or consequences that may be insufficiently apparent.

Meeting Reports focus on the prevailing outcome of a congress or consensus meeting of special relevance to the field of transplantation. Manuscripts may also discuss how the meeting changed thought; they should not be an account of the proceedings.

4 Manuscript Preparation

Please adhere to the instructions below, as failure to do so may result in your manuscript being unsubmitted. Revised manuscripts have additional requirements noted in the next section.

Uploads are restricted to 100 MB per manuscript (all files combined).

4.1 Language and terminology

English language services: Authors are responsible for linguistic and grammatical editing of manuscripts before submission. Authors for whom English is a second language may choose to have their manuscript professionally edited before submission. Our publisher, Wiley, offers one such service. Visit wileyeditingservices.com/en/english-language-editing for more information.

Trade/brand names: In general, no trade or brand names should appear in titles or abstracts. Please use generic or chemical names whenever possible. If it is necessary, for clarity, to stipulate a particular name, it may be mentioned in the Materials and Methods section of a manuscript with the manufacturer's name, city, and state or country. Deviations from this policy may be appealed to the Editor-in-Chief, and will be considered in circumstances where the trade name is absolutely required for scientific accuracy.

Transplant terminology: Please use the following suitable terminology. For further guidance, refer to the glossary maintained by the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/resources/glossary>.

Unacceptable	Preferred
Harvest, retrieval	Recover, recovery, procure, procurement
Cadaver	Deceased donor
Life support	Mechanically assisted, ventilated, organ-perfusion support
Non-heart-beating donation	Donation after circulatory death

4.2 Manuscript sections

Title page (mandatory)

- Title:** Use sentence case and do not exceed 186 characters. Abbreviations are discouraged.
- Authors:** List the full names of all authors. There is no limit to the number of authors, except for Images in Transplantation; however, all authors must meet the guidelines for authorship in section 7.3.
- ORCIDs:** ORCIDs are unique identifiers authors can use to be sure their work is linked. Get more information at orcid.org.
- Affiliations:** List the department, institution, city, and state/country of the individual authors where the work was performed.
- Corresponding author email:** Provide the email address of the author to whom correspondence should be directed after publication.
- Abbreviations:** Include an alphabetical list of all abbreviations used. All terms should be spelled out at first mention in the text.

Abstract (if applicable)

- Abstracts should clearly describe the purpose, methods, findings, and conclusions of the study.
- No headings (such as "Background" or "Materials and Methods") are permitted.
- Abstracts are limited to 200 words and must be a single paragraph.
- Abbreviations are discouraged.
- Brand names are not allowed in the abstract.
- For prospective randomized trials, include the clinical trial registration number at the end of the abstract.

Main body text

- Suggested sections for Original Articles are Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion. These sections should be numbered 1–4, with subsections 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, etc.
- Materials and Methods**
 - Publication generally implies that reagents (e.g. monoclonal antibodies, transgenic animals, etc.) used by the authors and critical to the conclusions will be made available to bona fide researchers for assessment of reproducibility of findings.
 - It is the authors' responsibility to have the research study approved by the proper institutional review board (IRB). The submission must state the IRB approval if the paper describes human subjects or experimental animals. For human studies, the IRB approval number and protocol number should be listed. In the case of a multi-center study, the statement may be a global statement reinforced with supplementary material listing the individual approval numbers.
 - Describe any hazardous procedures or chemicals involved in the studies and what precautions were taken to avoid injury to subjects and investigators.
 - Provide a brief but complete description of the statistical methods used, including which tests were used to analyze which variable.
 - If your manuscript describes data obtained by microarray analysis, include the accession number.
- Results and Discussion**
 - Results presented in the Results section should not be repeated in the Discussion section.
 - Restrict comments and discussion to the Discussion section.

Acknowledgments

Funding sources and personal acknowledgments should be listed in this section. Authors are strongly encouraged to list all sources of funding used for the preparation of their manuscript and are responsible for acknowledging funding sources that require acknowledgment as a condition of funding.

Disclosure

Authors must disclose any conflicts of interest as well as the involvement of a commercial organization in manuscript preparation or funding. AJT defines a conflict of interest as a financial interest that may affect,

or appear to affect, the presentation or content of a publication, thus calling into question its credibility or importance. Financial interests may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Research Funds:** Funds received for operations, supplies, salaries, travel, etc. from organizations that may gain or lose financially as a result of the publication.
- **Employment Funds:** Funds received for employment during the time that the research was conducted or promise of future employment from organizations that may gain or lose financially as a result of the publication.
- **Personal Financial Interests:** Owning stocks or shares in organizations that may gain or lose financially as a result of the publication, or having patents or patent applications in progress whose value you may increase as a result of the publication.

One of the following statements must be included in the Disclosure section:

1. The authors of this manuscript have no conflicts of interest to disclose as described by the *American Journal of Transplantation*.
2. The authors of this manuscript have conflicts of interest to disclose as described by the *American Journal of Transplantation*. [The conflicts must then be described.]

Figure legends

Include a page in your manuscript that lists every figure and its title and description. Number figures according to their order of appearance in the text. Figure legends should allow interpretation of the figures without reference to the text.

Supporting information (description)

This section should indicate if the Supporting Information will be hosted on a third-party site; if not indicated, Supporting Information will be hosted by the publisher, Wiley. This section must include this statement: "Additional Supporting Information may be found online in the supporting information tab for this article," as well as a list of the information available.

References

AJT uses AMA style (see examples below). In the text, number references in order of appearance. Include the names of up to three authors before using "et al."

Journal article:

1. Nankivell BJ, Renthawa J, Sharma RN, et al. BK virus nephropathy: Histological evolution by sequential pathology. *Am J Transplant.* 2017;17(8):2065-2077.

Book chapter:

2. Blumberg EA. Diagnosis and treatment of multidrug-resistant bacteria. In: Kumar D, Humar A, eds. *The AST Handbook of Transplant Infections*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell; 2011:81-83.

Abstract:

3. Uehara M, Azzi J, Bahmani B, et al. Emerging applications of active immune targeted delivery in transplantation [abstract]. *Am J Transplant.* 2017;17(Suppl 3):208.

References to unpublished material, such as personal communications and unpublished data, should be noted within the text and not cited in the References. Personal communications and unpublished data must include the individual's name, location, and date of communication.

Tables

Tables must be cited, but not embedded, in the text and numbered according to their order of appearance. Each table should appear on its own page with self-explanatory titles and footnotes as needed.

Figures

Figures should clarify the text. The use of color is strongly encouraged to enhance clarity and readability of the displayed data. All figures should be cited, but not embedded, in the text in numerical order. When submitting more than one figure, please include the figure number on the page for DOC, PPT, and PDF files. For other file types, enter the figure number in the Caption/Legend field during the file upload process. Details must be large enough to retain their clarity after reduction in size. After reduction, illustrations should preferably fill single-column width (81 mm), although in exceptional cases 2/3 page width (120 mm) or full-page width (168 mm) will be accepted.

Vector graphics (e.g. line artwork) should be saved in Encapsulated Postscript Format (EPS), and bitmap files (e.g. photographs) in Tagged Image File Format (TIFF). Line art must be scanned at a minimum of 600 dpi, photographs at a minimum of 300 dpi. For more information, refer to the Wiley Author Services document at https://authorservices.wiley.com/asset/photos/electronic_artwork_guidelines.pdf.

Supporting information (files)

Data sets or additional tables/figures that will not be published in the print edition of the journal, but will be published in the online edition, can be submitted as Supporting Information. Access to these files must be provided with the manuscript to be included in the peer review process. Supporting Information must be uploaded separately during the file upload step of manuscript submission. Publisher guidelines for these files are available at authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/Prepare/manuscript-preparation-guidelines.html/supporting-information.html.

Unless otherwise indicated, Supporting Information will be hosted by the publisher, Wiley. It will be published as submitted and will not be corrected or checked for accuracy, typographical errors, or functionality.

Videos: AJT encourages submissions with video content. Videos are subject to the same rigor of peer review as all other submissions. Please use the following guidelines when creating and uploading files for review.

- **Format:** Although the system allows submission of a variety of formats, AVI, MPG, and MPEG are preferred since these formats are viewable by both Macintosh® and Windows® users. The MPG and MPEG formats provide the most economical video delivery (reduced file size) without compromising quality.
- **File Size:** Uploads are restricted to 100 MB per manuscript (all files combined).
- **Content:** The video must function as a stand-alone feature. Use captioning, annotation, or voiceover commentary to explain what is happening.

5 Revised Manuscripts

5.1 Time limit

AJT strives for prompt adjudication and publication of accepted manuscripts, and thus requires that revisions occur within a time frame deemed reasonable for the requested changes. Manuscripts requiring substantial revisions and/or new scientific data will be given 90 days from the decision date to be resubmitted. Manuscripts requiring minor revisions or grammatical/stylistic changes will be requested in 14 days. Resubmission within the specified time frame is required to maintain the original manuscript number. After this time, the manuscript will be treated as a new submission. Requests for an extension to the designated time limit will be considered by the Editor-in-Chief. Please submit your request to the Editorial Office.

5.2 Files

Revised manuscripts must adhere to the same word and reference limits as first submissions. Three files are required for revised manuscript submissions:

1. **Response to reviewers:** A point-by-point response to the previous round of review must be provided. This response should be itemized, as detailed as possible, and address all of the Editors' and reviewers' concerns. This document should be uploaded in step 1 and in step 6 of the submission process. During the file upload process (step 6), choose Response to Reviewers for this file.
2. **Marked copy:** This copy of the manuscript will be used by the reviewers and Editors and must have the changes highlighted or underlined. It is not necessary to indicate deleted text. Do not strike through text or use the "track changes" function of Microsoft Word if making extensive changes.
3. **Clean copy:** This copy will be sent to the publisher if the manuscript is accepted. There should be no underlining or highlighting as this copy will be used for typesetting. This file cannot be a PDF.

Both copies of the revised manuscript should be labeled as "main body" during the file upload process (step 6). Older versions of files not pertinent to the current submission should be deleted.

6 Accepted Manuscripts

6.1 One-sentence summary

AJT strives to add value to the Table of Contents by providing a one-sentence summary that states what was done and what was found in the study. Readers get an overview of the recent progress in a variety of areas of transplantation research and practice, and can more easily target their perusal of the issue. Upon receipt of your acceptance letter, email

your sentence to the Editorial Office as soon as possible. It should be one sentence, present tense, third-person voice, with no abbreviations. The Editors will finalize the wording of the summary. (Summaries are not required for Letters to the Editor, Images in Transplantation, or Book Reviews.)

6.2 Publicity

At authors' request, AJT will tweet about an article published on Early View. AJT will assist authors in creating a Visual Abstract. Email amjtransplant@duke.edu for more information.

6.3 Embargo policy

For manuscripts considered to be in press or approved for publication, *the public release of information should not precede the actual publication of the work*. The publication date is defined as the date the paper is posted full-text online in Wiley Online Library (amjtransplant.com/earlyview). This embargo policy protects the peer review process and the newsworthiness of the scientific content of published articles, and it minimizes the chance for the appearance of misinformation in the lay press. The policy also ensures that scientists have access to all relevant information at the same time as the public. These restrictions do not apply to the presentation of the work at scientific conferences or symposia that precede the actual publication date. Although news reporters may be present at such meetings or symposia, authors should not provide information, tables, or figures that in any way duplicate the content of a manuscript submitted for publication or in press to reporters. In particular, press conferences should not be held before the embargo date. The official release of video presentations and electronic prepublication of articles on the Internet should adhere to the embargo policy. Violations of these policies are legitimate grounds for withdrawal of the manuscript from publication or other measures that AJT may choose to take.

6.4 Copyright transfer agreement (CTA)

The corresponding author will receive an email from Wiley Author Services with a request to sign an electronic CTA form on behalf of all authors.

6.5 Accepted Article publication

AJT utilizes Wiley's Accepted Article publication service. Articles that have been accepted, but not copyedited or typeset, will usually appear online within 10 days of acceptance. These articles are available to be cited.

6.6 Hosting options

Authors have two options for hosting Supporting Information.

1. **Publisher:** Wiley will host material on Wiley Online Library in the format provided by the author, unless data sets are too large for their servers. Although hosted on Wiley Online Library, the responsibility for scientific accuracy and file functionality remains entirely with the authors. A disclaimer will be displayed to this effect with the published Supporting Information. Wiley will not take responsibility for specialty software required to view the file, upgrades to the file as a result of obsolete formats, or content updates. The copyright covering the article does not extend to Supporting Information.
2. **Author:** If the author hosts the material, they must agree to make the Supporting Information available free of charge on a permanent website to which the AJT online edition will be linked. It is the author's responsibility to ensure that the hosting of the material meets this criterion. The author must advise Wiley of changes to the URL where the Supporting Information is located. The content of the Supporting Information must not be altered after the paper has been accepted for publication. Authors are responsible for ensuring that they have the right to publish the material or link to the material online, that publication does not infringe the rights of other parties, and that the material is not obscene or libelous.

6.7 Publication costs

Pages: Seven journal pages are printed free of charge. Each additional page will be charged at \$115 USD. Page charges are waived for invited papers.

Color Figures: Color figures are charged at \$635 USD for the first figure; \$500 each for the second, third, and fourth figures; and \$275 for any subsequent color figures. Charges are waived for invited papers and for Images in Transplantation. Figures may be in color online and printed in black and white at no charge.

When page proofs are available, the corresponding author will receive a payment form. If you have color figures or your proofs exceed 7 pages, please complete the form and email it to the Production Editor at AJT@wiley.com.

6.8 OnlineOpen

OnlineOpen is an optional service available to authors of primary research articles who wish to make their article available to nonsubscribers upon publication, or whose funding agency requires grantees to archive the final version of their article. The author, the author's funding agency, or the author's institution pays a fee to ensure that the article is made available to nonsubscribers upon publication via Wiley Online Library, as well as deposited in the funding agency's preferred archive. In addition to publication via Wiley Online Library, authors of OnlineOpen articles are permitted to post the final, published PDF of their article on a website, institutional repository, or other free public server immediately upon publication. The charge for this service is \$4300 USD. For more information, or to access the payment form, visit authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/licensing-open-access/open-access/onlineopen.html.

6.9 NIH public access policy

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) mandate, all papers reporting research funded by the NIH must be freely available to the public through PubMed Central within 12 months of publication. AJT requires that authors self-identify as NIH funded. During manuscript submission, the submitting author has the option to indicate that the research was NIH funded. When an NIH-funded paper is accepted, Wiley will deposit the final peer-reviewed manuscript in the NIH Manuscript Submission System (NIHMS). Wiley will also send all manuscripts that list NIH funding in the Acknowledgments section or on the copyright transfer form. Authors are responsible for additional steps in NIHMS to complete the process.

7 Publication Policies

7.1 Executed prisoners

AJT does not accept manuscripts whose data derives from transplants involving organs obtained from executed prisoners. Manuscripts written about this practice (e.g. an editorial or a report recounting secondary consequences) may be considered at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief, but require a written appeal to the Editorial Office prior to submission of the manuscript.

7.2 Patient privacy

Patients' identifying information should be omitted unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) has given written informed consent, including being shown the manuscript to be published. Patient data should never be altered or falsified in an attempt to attain anonymity.

7.3 Authorship

Authors should be limited to those individuals who contributed in an important manner to the study design, data collection and analysis, or writing of the paper. Authorship should adhere to the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), found at icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html. Submission implies that all authors have read and approved the manuscript, all authors take responsibility for the manuscript, and the submitting author has permission from all authors to submit the manuscript on their behalf.

7.4 Prior publication

Submission of a manuscript to AJT implies that the content has not been published previously and will not be submitted for publication elsewhere while the manuscript is under review. AJT considers research results (excluding abstracts and student dissertations) to have already been published if they are publicly available with a fixed content (i.e. content is in an unalterable form) and are citable in any language. AJT policy allows for material to be presented in abstract form and to appear in conference abstract books, but not in a citable journal.

7.5 Duplicate publication and scientific fraud

In case of possible scientific misconduct (e.g. suspected fabrication or falsification of data, double publication, or plagiarism), the Editor-in-Chief will attempt to clarify the matter with the authors. Should that fail to resolve the situation satisfactorily, the Editor-in-Chief will contact the

institution of the corresponding author and request an inquiry. Until the matter is clarified, no papers by any authors on the disputed manuscript will be considered for publication.

7.6 Reporting guidelines

Clinical trials: In accordance with the policies of the ICMJE, all papers reporting prospective randomized clinical trials must include evidence of registration as a clinical trial as well as a completed copy of the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) checklist. The CONSORT checklist can be obtained at www.consort-statement.org/consort-2010 and must be included in the file upload step of manuscript submission as a supporting document. The trial registration number should appear at the end of the abstract.

Authors are also encouraged to consider guidelines that have been published concerning appropriate reporting of prospective and retrospective studies including CONSORT, STROBE (STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology), and STREGA (STrengthening the REporting of Genetic Association Studies). Links to the respective guidelines can be found at www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/strobe-strega/.

Statistical guidelines: All manuscripts containing data analyses will be evaluated for the integrity of the statistical methods as well as a sufficient description of the methodological approach. This will entail evaluation of the study design, statistical analysis, and presentation and interpretation of study results. As a general guideline, readers of the manuscript should be able to replicate the analysis with the same data based on the description given in the Methods section. Authors are encouraged to carefully select language in the Discussion that is appropriate given the study design and to refrain from causal inferences from observational (nonrandomized) studies. Authors should also be explicit about the limitations of the study. Failure to disclose important limitations upon submission will be viewed with greater scrutiny than those clearly discussed.

Key elements that should be consistent for all submitted manuscripts include the following:

- Authors should report all *P* values (no use of "NS" to represent non-significant findings). *P* values should not be the sole determinant of null hypotheses.
- Authors should explicitly state the study design in the abstract and in the Methods section.
- For phase III clinical trials, authors must include a justification for the sample size with all assumptions clearly delineated.
- Figures and tables should be interpretable as stand-alone products and should include *P* values, if applicable, and a description of units, axes, and symbols.
- Clinical studies should include a table providing descriptive statistics of the study population.
- The sample size for all studies should be included in the abstract and the Results section along with an explanation of all patient exclusions if applicable (for the latter a flow diagram may be helpful if exclusions appear at multiple steps). Further details about statistical guidelines are available in Author Guidelines at amjtransplant.com/guidelines.

Qualitative research: For manuscripts reporting the results of qualitative and/or mixed-methods research studies, authors should prepare their submissions in a way that reports their validity (or credibility) and reliability. This includes providing reference citations and rationale to support the methods and methodology used. Authors should consult with applicable published guidelines such as the COREQ checklist developed by Tong et al (intqhc.oxfordjournals.org/content/19/6/349). Word limits for qualitative research manuscripts remain the same, thus it is recognized that complete adherence to these guidelines may not be possible. Authors may consider placing illustrative quotations in tabular format to help stay within the word count, but should keep in mind the shortcoming of removing quotations from their context in the body of the manuscript for making sense of the findings.

Biostatistical and bioinformatic analysis of genomics and similar large-scale data sets: Complex data sets generated by current and future technologies for high-throughput functional genomics raise significant new challenges for analysis and interpretation of results. While this element of the field continues to change rapidly, certain general guidelines are still important to describe. In Materials and Methods, authors must provide details of data analysis sufficient for readers to gain a reasonable basic understanding of what has been done and with what tools. A reader, given the raw data, should be able to reproduce the analysis unless a proprietary analysis tool was used, and then this must be described and justified in detail. If word

limit constraints are prohibitive, the details of these approaches can be included as Supporting Information.

Key elements of an adequate data analysis plan for complex data must include a statement of statistical power and an explanation of how this calculation was made and what assumptions were made. Whenever applicable, the issues of user-defined thresholds must be detailed, including normalization protocols, thresholds for signal strengths or fold-expression, and the rationalization for user-defined *P* values. Whenever applicable, the issue of multiple testing corrections must be described. Other variables that can impact complex data analysis (such as clinical values and population characteristics including age, race/ethnicity, center effects, time, disease causes, therapy deviations, or use of investigational agents) must be acknowledged and can be addressed by multivariate analysis or equivalent methods. Whenever possible, authors should demonstrate that results can be obtained by more than one tool for data analysis, or they should acknowledge that only one tool provides a given result and a reasonable number of others fail. In this situation, authors need to explain why only the one tool will work.

While authors are not expected to solve all the issues currently created by complex data analysis, they are expected to use the best current tools for analysis, though that does not require all the possible tools available. Authors are also expected to reasonably acknowledge the issues that might complicate the analysis of the data in their study to properly contextualize any claims.

Public data disclosure requirement: The raw data from coding and non-coding gene expression, proteomics, genetic association studies, exome sequencing, epigenetic profiling, large-scale quantitative PCR "plates," small-molecule screening, siRNA screens, and other similar high-complexity data sets must be made publicly available at the time of publication. It may also be requested by reviewers. In such a case, a request from reviewers will come to the authors from the Editors. The information will be considered confidential and will be destroyed once the review process is complete.

Deposition of raw, high-complexity data in a public site should be modeled after the NIH Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO). GEO will accept gene expression profiling by microarray or next-generation sequencing, noncoding RNA profiling by microarray or next-generation sequencing, chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) profiling by microarray or next-generation sequencing, genome methylation profiling by microarray or next-generation sequencing, genome variation profiling by array (array-CGH), SNP and protein arrays, and Serial Analysis of Gene Expression (SAGE). GEO also allows authors to deposit their data, create a private accession number that can only be used by reviewers, and withhold public access to the data until the manuscript is formally accepted. The European equivalent of GEO is the Gene Expression Atlas maintained by the European Bioinformatics Institute for the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL).

In the case of high-complexity data that cannot be deposited in GEO, authors should seek alternative public data sites and direct readers accordingly. For example, mass spectrometry proteomics data can be deposited in several public databases. Data should be publicly available for one year after online publication, then should be personally or institutionally archived indefinitely so it can be queried by those seeking it for verification.

Starting July 1, 2018, AJT will require manuscripts reporting the results of a clinical trial to contain a data sharing statement. The statement must indicate the following:

- If individual deidentified participant data will be shared;
- What data in particular will be shared;
- If additional, related documents will be shared (e.g. study protocol, statistical analysis plan, etc.);
- When the data will become available and for how long; and
- By what access criteria data will be shared (including with whom, for what types of analyses, and by what mechanism).

Prior to July 1, 2018, AJT expects that data supporting the results in the paper will be archived in an appropriate public repository. Whenever possible, the scripts and other artefacts used to generate the analyses presented in the paper should also be publicly archived. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief for sensitive information, such as human subject data. Authors are expected to provide a data accessibility statement, including a link to their repository, to accompany their paper. Authors can consult the global registry of research data repositories at re3data.org to help them identify registered and certified repositories relevant to their subject areas. Authors may find more information here: www.icmje.org/news-and-editorials/data_sharing_june_2017.pdf.