

March 15, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: WJT_OrganArc_Revision_unmarked.doc).

Title: Organ Assessment and Repair Centers: The Future of Transplantation is Near!

Author: Bryan A. Whitson, MD, PhD and Sylvester M. Black, MD, PhD

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Transplantation*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7731

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Reviewer 1 Comments:

This is an interesting editorial viewpoint on an important solid organ transplantation issue. An analysis of outcomes such as acute and chronic rejection, early organ rejection and the impact on ischemic times should be considered in future studies.

Reviewer 2 Comments:

EVOP is certainly a rapidly advancing technology that will likely be routine in many clinical centers (i.e. ARCs) in the near future. This short review of the application of EVOP in solid organ transplantation provides a brief glimpse into the great potential of EVLP in both assessing and rehabilitating donor organs; especially those that are marginal. In terms of major comments, I feel that there two items not addressed in this review that would be most helpful if the authors could further comment on: First, do you foresee that every donor organ will be assessed via EVOP at an ARC or will it be necessary to only assess marginal/questionable donor organs? In other words, does EVOP offer any advantage to donor organs that are considered optimal (i.e. non-marginal)? Second, there is no mention about the impact that EVOP will have on organ transplant wait lists, which should be huge if this technology can actually increase the percent of donor organs that can be used. EVOP can make a huge impact to two fronts: 1) saving lives of recipients on the wait list and 2) reducing mortality in transplant recipients, especially if one combines EVOP with a therapeutic intervention. One minor critique is that there are numerous errors in grammar and sentence structure in the manuscript. In the first 14 lines alone (page 2) there are at least 5 errors or confusing sentences. I recommend that the authors thoroughly review their manuscript and have it reviewed by a person not familiar with this area. There are numerous errors and places of confusion in the first paragraph alone.

Reviewer 3 Comments:

The Authors suggest a new organization for transplantation Centers introducing regional organ assessment and repair centers. I believe this article anticipates the future setting of transplantation Centers in several Countries; consequently, a prompt publication is indicated. I suggest underlining that the regional centralization is coherent with expensive investment in structures, educations and experimental trials.

We thank the reviewer's for their thoughtful and insightful comments. The points have been addressed in the edited manuscript. At reviewer 2's request, the additional points have been added and sentences revised. If there are additions that the Editor would specifically like to strengthen the manuscript, please let us know. We thank you for your kind review.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Transplantation*

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan A. Whitson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Bryan A. Whitson, MD, PhD

Division of Cardiac Surgery

The Collaboration for Organ Perfusion, Protection, Engineering and Regeneration (COPPER) Laboratory

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

N-813 Doan Hall

410 W. 10th Ave.

Columbus, OH 43210

bryan.whitson@osumc.edu

Ph: (614) 366-7414

Fx: (614) 293-2020