Further real growth of transplantation, even those from disparate species. This mechanism of organ allograft acceptance as chimerism (1,2). The following thought concept, which will be debated in this paper.

THE HISTORY

Until 1992, and ever since Medawar's define organ allograft was envisioned as a death first seen as unrealistic, even after total in 1950 to be immunosuppressive.

The Billingham, Brent, and Medawar Class

This grim pessimism was lightened in 1959 by acquired tolerance in immunologically hematolymphopoietic donor cells, and with transplantation, a natural extension of the immune system, made possible by simulation of the neonatal model. As with Medawar's recipients (graft versus host disease), organ allografts.

The Enigma of Organ Transplantation

The resulting one-way paradigm in which immune reaction appeared to explain the
Foreword
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The idea (and now the reality) of a continuously updated electronic textbook of liver transplantation goes to the heart of a more general problem in science and medicine. The exponential growth of professional journals and the material published in them has long since outstripped the ability of interested parties to keep up.

Even for the diligent reader, the reward may not match the effort. For one thing, the delays engendered by the review, publication, and distribution process conspire to make journal articles obsolete by the time they see the light of day. Consequently, many journals have become no more than renewable incomplete textbooks, which are skimmed to see if familiar concepts are confirmed (almost invariably the case), or challenged sufficiently to warrant looking at the evidence in detail.

The gestational period of textbooks is even more protracted, sometimes lasting so long that the central theme at insenmination has disintegrated by the time the finished product appears in the book stores. The best books are, however, more enduring than journals because they provide for their given subject a broader and more even account of the historical experience upon which future progress can be mounted.

No one has suggested that journals or books will disappear from the scene. However, the University of Strasbourg surgical faculty has taken a step that could shorten the time gap between discoveries and observations and their dissemination. This is particularly important for a field like liver transplantation which is undergoing constant change. Instead of organization by classical chapters, the format is based on 160 (or more) recurring questions, problems, or topics. The selection of appropriate subjects requires the dedicated input of people with extensive personal exposure to liver transplantation. The Strasbourg team is well qualified by virtue of their decade’s work in the clinical trenches of liver transplantation, and their even longer deep interest in liver disease. It has been said, sometimes critically, that surgeons compete amongst themselves more remorselessly than in any other area of life science. Such remarks betray an ignorance of history. The tradition of surgeons throughout the centuries has been to report triumphs promptly, but there has been an equal emphasis on complications and mistakes. Most importantly, surgeons and those who work with them have ennobled the profession by prompt open disclosure of discoveries and innovations. Advances that might have driven others to secrecy, or to the patent office, have been shared with peers. Because the Strasbourg initiative has the core objective of informing and bringing together colleagues internationally, it has a bright future.

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Can we envision another approach? Definitely we can by using new communications pathways.

Here is the world wide web, a marvelous toy for adults, an increasingly efficient tool for commercial purposes, and probably the most important development for the future of mass or individual education. This is how the idea of submitting a project to the transplant community on the Internet came into being: a collaborative, on-line, truly “non-definitive”, continuously in-progress book, devoted to liver transplantation.

At its best, this book will also fulfill the prophecy: “knowledge is the only wealth that increases when it is being shared”, which appears to be a fair illustration of the web concept (...).