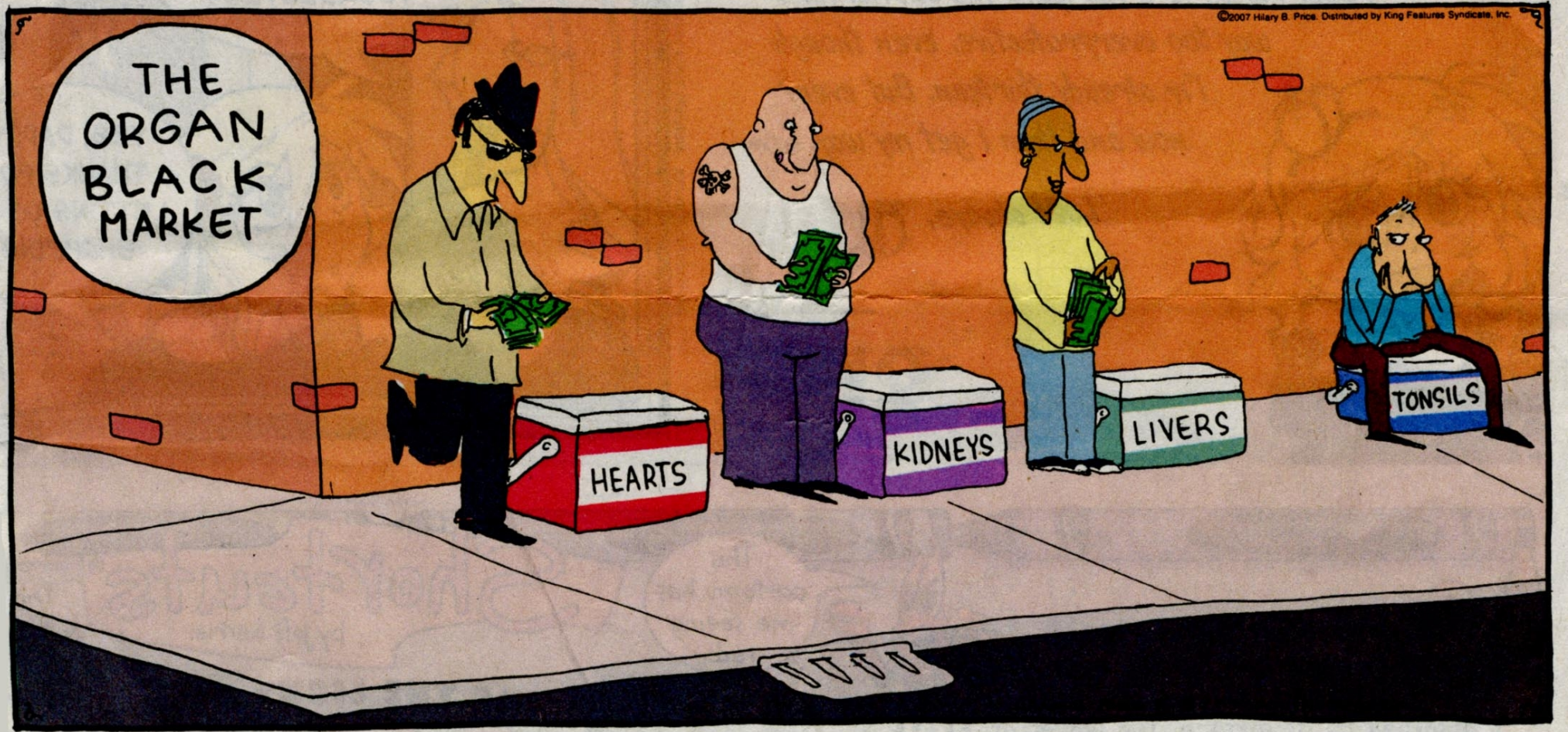


**The American Society of
Transplantation (AST)
Guideline Development
Process**

RHYMES WITH ORANGE BY HILARY B. PRICE

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AST Guidelines

- ❖ **The evaluation of renal transplant candidates: Clinical Practice Guidelines.**
(J Am Soc Nephrol 6:1-34, 1995)
- ❖ **The evaluation of living renal transplant donors: Clinical Practice Guidelines.**
(J Am Soc Nephrol 7:2288-2313, 1996)
- ❖ **Recommendations for the outpatient surveillance of renal transplant recipients.**
(J Am Soc Nephrol 11 Suppl 15:S1-86, 2000)
- ❖ **Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Infectious Complications of Solid Organ Transplantation.**
(Am J Transplant 4 Suppl 10:5-166, 2004.)

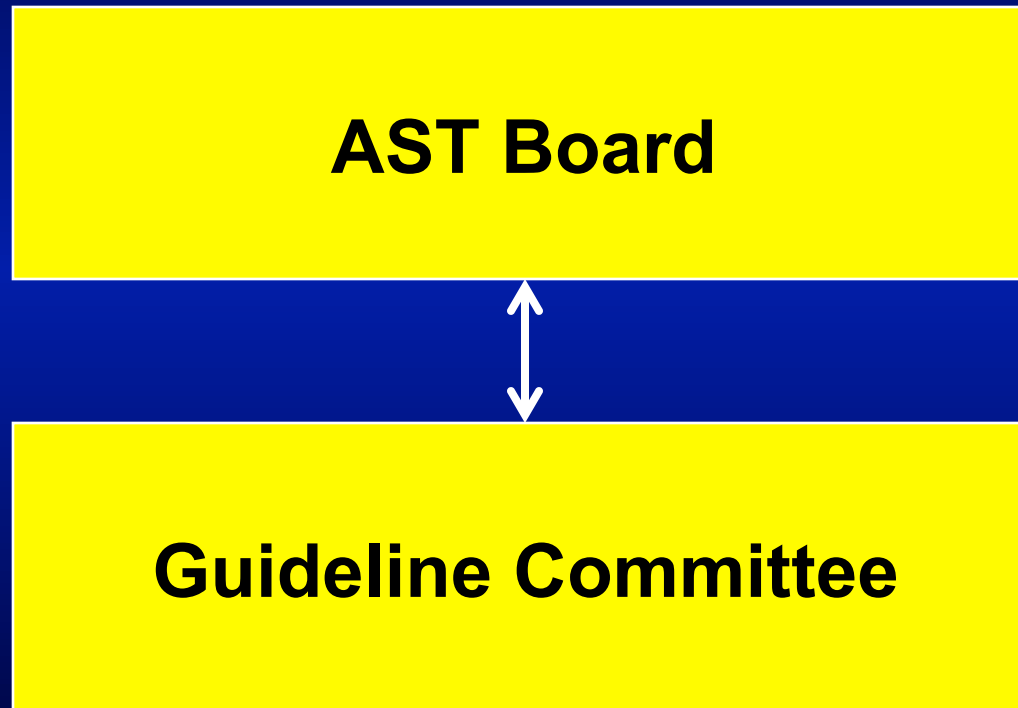
AST Guidelines

- 1) Context of guidelines
 - a. Organization facilitating guidelines
 - b. Funding source
 - c. How do guidelines relate to healthcare system in area
- 2) Selection and prioritization of guideline topics
- 3) Selection of guideline committee/workgroup members
- 4) Methodology for guideline development
- 5) Dissemination and implementation activities
- 6) Principal strength and challenge of methodology
- 7) Future outlook

1) Context of guidelines

- a. Organization facilitating:
 - ◆ AST is a professional society
 - ◆ Mission: research, ed. and lobbying
- b. Funding source (indirectly):
 - ◆ Pharmaceutical industry
 - ◆ Meetings and publications
 - ◆ Membership dues
- c. Relation to healthcare system:
 - ◆ Target audience is small
 - ◆ Fulfills a need

2) Selection and prioritization of topics



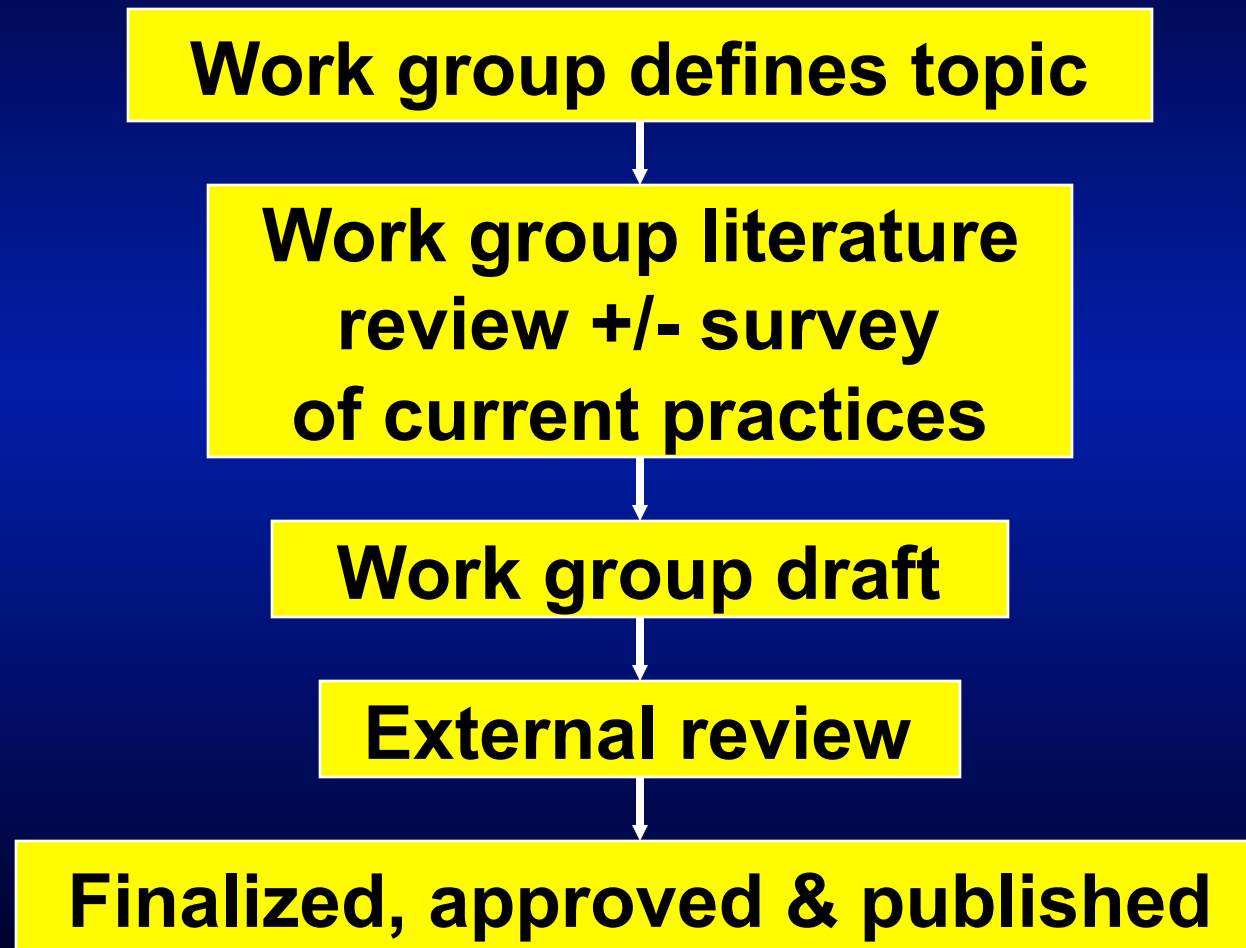
3) Selection of guideline committee / work group members

**AST Board appoints
Guideline Committee
members**

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graph TD; A[AST Board appoints Guideline Committee members] --> B[Guideline Committee selects a lead author, who selects a work group];
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**Guideline Committee
selects a lead author,
who selects a work group**

4) Methodology for guideline development



5) Dissemination and implementation

**Publication in a
peer-reviewed journal**

6) Principal strength and challenge of methodology

Principal strengths

- ◆ Well-defined need
- ◆ Limited target audience

Principal challenges

- ◆ Lack of funding
- ◆ Lack of systematic reviews, etc.
- ◆ Lack of work group member time

7) Future outlook

Principal strengths are growing stronger

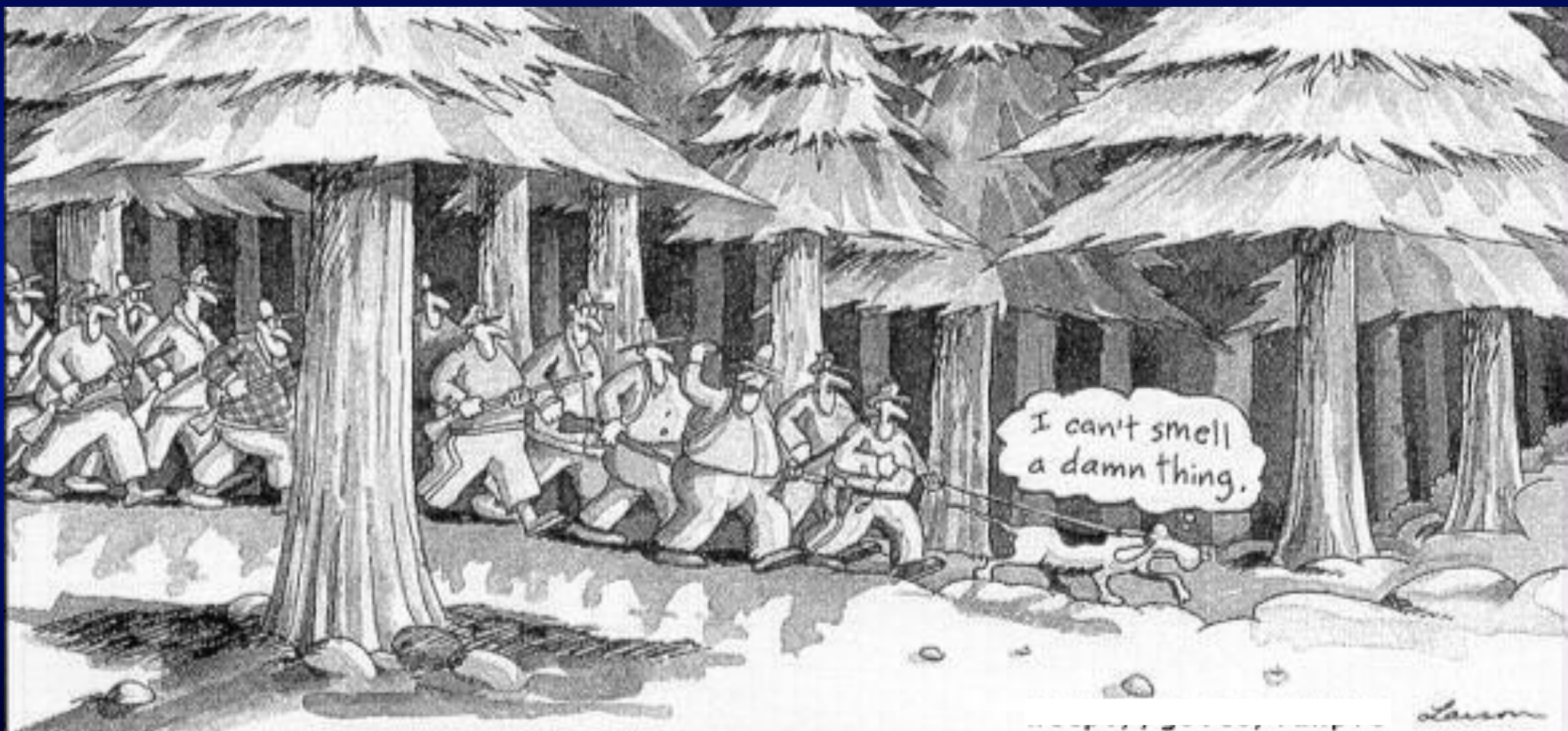
- ◆ Need is soon to be mandated by CMS

Principal challenges are also growing

- ◆ Lack of time and money
- ◆ Pharmaceutical support is threatened

More cooperation/collaboration?

Where's the Evidence?



OCTOBER 10, 2006

AST POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF PRACTICE GUIDELINES

II. Steps in Guideline Development and Approval Process

1. Selection of topics and authors. The Practice Guidelines Committee will select a lead author. The lead author will identify a writing workgroup. The Committee is authorized to amend the workgroup, if necessary. Fellows from training institution may not serve as co-authors.
2. Invitation of lead author by Committee Chair.
3. Notification of sister societies (ASTS, and others where appropriate)
4. Author prepares initial draft of guidelines and appends references (*6 months*).
5. Draft sent to Practice Guidelines Committee members. The chair assigns specific review responsibilities to committee members or other Society members.
6. Document drafts may also be sent to appropriate external societies for input.* (*one month*)

*Need determined by Committee and Chair.

7. Selection of external reviewers (up to 3).*
8. Written comments from external reviewers and members reviewed with authors on site at the next semi-annual meeting of the Committee (*less than 6 months*).
9. Author revises document and submits to the Committee chair (*one month*).
10. Discussion of second draft with author(s) by Committee conference call or in person (*one month*).
11. Third draft prepared by the author* (*one month*).
12. Third draft circulated to Committee Chair and other members for comments and approval* (*one month*).
13. Additional conference calls or draft revision.*
14. Final document with accompanying cover letter by the Committee Chair approved by AST Board of Directors (*three months*).
15. After approval, document sent to external societies interested in endorsing it.*
16. Publication in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF TRANSPLANTATION (AJT) ([HTTP://WWW.AMJTRANSPLANT.COM/DEFAULT.ASP](http://www.amjtransplant.com/default.asp)) or other journal. Other publication sources may be recommended and considered depended upon the topic of practice guidelines or position paper. If published outside the AJT, a disclaimer must appear that the published document represents the AST's position.
17. Existing guidelines and position papers will be reviewed in three year intervals and updated as necessary, beginning with step 1.

*Need determined by Committee and Chair.