

Journal of Food Protection Management

Members Present: Manan Sharma, Vijay Juneja, P. Michael Davidson, Joseph Frank, Lauren S. Jackson, Elliot T. Ryser, Cheng-An Hwang, Peter Bodnaruk, Alejandro Castillo, Elena Enache, Kalmia Kniel, Sean J. Leighton, Sherri McGarry, Xiangwu Nou, James O'Donnell, Laurie Post, Abani Pradhan, Siddhartha Thakur, Dike Ukuku and Hyun Gyun Yuk.

Board/Staff Members Present: Don Zink, Linda Harris, Tim Jackson, Alejandro Mazzotta, Mickey Parrish, David Tharp and Didi Loynachan.

Visitors/Guests Present: Cathy Cutter, Joshua Gurtler, Stephen Kenney and T.J. Fu.

Meeting Called to Order: 10:02 a.m., July 25, 2015.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Sean Leighton.

Old Business: Committee reviewed minutes from 2014 *JFP* Management Committee meeting. A motion was approved to accept the 2014 minutes.

New Business:

Scientific editor reappointment – this year there were no scientific editors to appoint. Manan Sharma provided an overview of the selection process for Dr. Lauren Jackson. A total of 55 applicants submitted their CV, and 39 applicants were strongly considered. The selection committee did a great job reviewing a highly-qualified pool of applicants, indicative of the professional nature of IAFP and *JFP* in general. For the next editor selection process, Manan indicated IAFP should strongly consider international applicants.

ORCID progress -- The ORCID ID process makes it easier and more convenient to submit manuscripts to *JFP*. The ORCID authentication applies to the corresponding author only at this stage. It has not been activated yet with Allen Press or Allentrack. Allentrack can integrate ORCID into its online workflow during the manuscript submission process, but Ingenta Connect currently has no plans to incorporate ORCID, which presents a challenge.

The Committee reviewed the agenda and approved the meeting agenda. Mickey Parrish provided a board update indicating IAFP is healthy and continues to grow. We are currently 4,200 members, with attendance at the IAFP 2015 at over 3,100, about a 200 attendee increase over IAFP 2014. The number of exhibitors is down slightly from 2014 (but 2014 was a record year). IAFP is interested in increasing the number of webinars so if anyone has any ideas of how to help this committee be more effective, let him know.

Dr. Davidson provided the Journal's Scientific Editors' Report. Highlights include: Volume 77 of the *Journal of Food Protection*, published in 2014, contained 2,224 pages and 295 articles, which included 290 research papers (including research notes), and 5 review, general interest and supplement papers (Table 1). By comparison, Volume 76 published in 2013 contained 2,188 pages and 291 articles, which included 276 research papers (including research notes), and 15 review, general interest and supplement papers. Thus, Volume 77 contained four more articles than Volume 76.

Dr. Davidson indicated he was concerned with the low levels of papers coming from the UK and Scandinavia. The concern is that we may be missing some papers. Manan asked if this was a topic we could discuss as part of the impact factor discussion as some countries like Denmark

require their government scientists to publish in journals with an Impact factor greater than 2.0. A question was raised as to why the submissions to *JFP* peaked in 2009. Dr. Frank stated that the number of submissions could cycle with research funds as a result of a higher number of foodborne outbreaks at that time.

The average length of time between receipt of manuscripts and their publication remained the same in 2014 compared to 2013. More than 63, 88 and 98% of the manuscripts accepted for publication were in print within 8, 10 and 12 months of submission, respectively. The average time from submission to publication was 8 months. The primary reasons for publication of articles more than 12 months following submission are delays by authors in revising manuscripts, reading proofs or submitting appropriate paperwork or page charges.

The *Journal of Food Protection* continues to have an excellent worldwide reputation and appeal. Researchers from countries other than the United States authored 166 (56%) of the articles in Volume 77, an increase from the 54% for Volume 76. Forty countries were represented by corresponding authors in Volume 77 including (number of articles in parentheses): Korea (25), Canada (17), China (16), Japan (11), Brazil and Spain (8), Mexico (7), Italy (6), Belgium, Chile, Germany, and The Netherlands (5), Greece and Turkey (4), Australia, Finland, Switzerland, and Thailand (3), Czech Republic, France, Jordan, South Africa, and Trinidad and Tobago, and United Kingdom (2), and Cameroon, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Sweden, Tunisia, and Vietnam (1). In Volume 77, there were 129 (44%) articles authored by researchers in the United States. Corresponding authors represented institutions in 34 States and the District of Columbia. The top U.S. states represented were (number of research articles in parentheses): Georgia (23), Michigan (9), Maryland and New York (8), New Jersey (7), Pennsylvania (6), California, Nebraska, and Ohio (5 each), Florida, Iowa, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin (4 each), and Illinois (3).

Dr. Lauren Jackson has been appointed by the IAFP Board as the new scientific co-editor. Seven issues of Volume 78 of the *Journal* were published during the first seven months of 2015 (Table 2). These issues contained 1,424 pages, compared to 1,248 pages in the first seven issues of Volume 77 (2014). Thus far, Volume 78 contains 196 papers, compared to the 168 papers published in the same time in Volume 77. For more details about the *Journal* in 2014 or year-to-date 2015, please see the Scientific Editors' report and the Administrative Editor's report prepared by Didi Loynachan. Dr. Davidson shared that we are a little behind on submissions in 2015 than we were at this point last year.

Didi Loynachan discussed the Administrative Editor Report, mentioning that we have added additional back issues on line for the *JFP* and even going back to the *Journal of Milk and Technology*. Any individual member subscriptions (including institutional subscriptions) will get access to all content, including back issues, of *JFP*. Several new categories for manuscripts to be submitted have been added to the online submission category (food toxicology). An online Copyright release form has been added to facilitate faster resubmissions. The current impact factor for *JFP* is 1.849. *FPT* and *JFP* are now sharing the same database of authors and editors using the Allentrack software. This streamlines the log in process for authors and editors.

Strategic Review Report – Judy Luther, the author of the report, provided a follow-up document summarizing a strategic review of *JFP*. Ms. Luther has been a consultant for the past 18 years working in the publishing industry. She is a past president of the Society for Scholarly Publishing. She focuses on changes that occur in the publication industry. She conducted interviews with the Board, the Scientific Co-Editors, several *JFP* Management Committee

members, as well as an analysis of the industry data regarding the Impact Factor (IF). Vijay Juneja, as Chair of the *JFP* Impact Factor Subcommittee also led the effort to propose several recommendations to the Board (which were shared with Ms. Luther). The focus of this report was on the IF. As a metric, IF covers the number of citations over the past two years against the number of papers published. The IF has grown in significance and its implications in higher education have grown as many academic and other research institutions track the IF for journals where faculty members and researchers publish their papers to assess them for promotion and retention. Thompson Reuters IF measurement is the gold standard used by most scientific journals. *JFP* falls into Food Science & Technology and Biotechnology & Applied Microbiology (second and third quadrants, respectively).

Download statistics for articles published in most online journals are tracked. Research funding agencies are beginning to pay attention to broader metrics such as number of tweets, blogs, and other “social impact” indicators. The Becker Model, for example, measures 7 factors including “reduction of morbidity” and “economic benefit” that are relevant to *JFP*, and the website altmetrics.com also gauges these “other” metrics for the impact which publications in a specific journal may have.

A question was raised around the benefits of metric tracking and the potential benefit to *JFP*/IAFP. Alternative factors will be other metrics that emerge in parallel over the next 3–5 years. Another question was raised around how research funding agencies use metrics. They are looking at the need for it and they are aware that attention needs to be paid in other areas (such as social), but at this point it does not go beyond this.

In Ms. Luther’s report, various editorial categories were presented including: journal scope, new journal, submissions/rejections, and COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics). Visibility and accessibility was reviewed as it pertains to Google Scholar, early release of accepted articles, access opportunities, and various platforms (IAFP uses the Ingenta Connect platform – others such as HighWire exist). A question was raised regarding other journals experience about switching platforms. Allen Press has done transitions quite well, but you should allow for approx. one year for the transition to a new online publication platform. All content (new and archived) would be available during the transition. This is a significant process and should not be taken lightly, but it is possible. If a platform is not suiting *JFP*’s needs for discovery and visibility, it may be worth switching to a more valuable platform. HighWire (as opposed to the current online platform, Ingenta) offers some unique innovation that other platforms do not currently possess. Close examination of costs, workflows, industry standards, etc. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* is the only competing journal with *JFP* that is currently on Highwire. David Tharp indicated we are paying \$10–15,000/year for services on Ingenta Connect, and Highwire’s costs would be between \$40 – \$50,000/year.

The financial analysis completed indicated that Open Access models have strongly influenced the way publishers relate to libraries as subscription rates decline. Page charges have largely been eliminated by commercial publishers.

During the discussion around the report, the Board members indicated that progress on issues related to improving the IF of *JFP* would be worked on by a joint task force consisting of Board members and members of the *JFP* Management Committee and a potential prioritization of issues would occur at the October Board meeting. It was proposed that the three Board members and volunteers from the *JFP* Committee could develop a formal plan for the October meeting of what would be implemented, when it could be completed, and how it would be executed. As changes are being implemented, the metrics to indicate progress (answer:

possibilities include downloads/usage; no. of submissions) should be considered. Being more strategic about *JFP* vs. *FPT* placement could benefit the IF. Immediate actions items could include approaching authors of review papers which have appeared in *JFP* within the last 10 years and ask them if they would be willing to submit an update mini-review. Also, eliminating the additional page charges when authors choose the Open Access option (for a fee of \$3,000) should be immediately considered. Evaluating factors that improve the time of 8 months between acceptance of articles in *JFP* and their appearance in-print should also be considered. The time between acceptance and publication should also be a priority.

There is a relationship between IF and number of papers published, but the submission rate fluctuates widely on its own. Developing a strategy such as increasing the IF by being more selective in the papers published could increase in the Impact Factor but also impact resources that *JFP* readers and IAFP members use as a primary resources for their professional duties. Ms. Luther suggested that Thompson Reuters will provide these specific data related to *JFP* for a fee (unknown what that would cost).

Discussion also addressed that measuring IF presents a significant lag time. For example the *JFP* IF for 2014 will not be available until the Spring/Summer of 2017 so it may be hard to gauge any changes made to *JFP* and their effect on the impact factor. It was suggested IF of >2.5 should be the goal of *JFP* but the timeline to achieve that remains unclear. How *JFP*'s metrics compare to other similar journals is valuable.

Because the IAFP organization is smaller and more nimble (compared to Elsevier), the organization potentially has an advantage that we can be more versatile in its decisions to adjust its strategy. There was a discussion that the list of recommended changes should occur for *JFP* regardless of the impact on IF because they would represent "author services."

Concerning more integration with *FPT*, but every article should have a chance to be peer-reviewed, so articles that may be considered for publication in *JFP* should be forwarded on to *Food Protection Trends*. Concerning this point, it was suggested to ask the IAFP membership where they prefer to publish manuscripts and why or why not they may or may not publish in *JFP*.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The *Journal of Food Protection (JFP)* Management Committee suggests the following members to join the Board-led sub-committee (chaired by Alejandro Mazzotta) to address changes to *JFP*: Manan Sharma, Vijay Juneja, Sean Leighton, Elliot Ryser (represent the scientific coeditors). A Non-*JFP* Management Committee members suggested to be on the taskforce is Steve Kenney.
2. If an author chooses to publish their article in *Journal of Food Protection* under the "Open Access" the author should only be charged a flat \$3,000 fee and not be charged for additional page charges.
3. Conduct a survey among IAFP membership seeking insights into the choice or reluctance to publish in *Journal of Food Protection* and *Food Protection Trends* with questions to be developed by Impact Factor Taskforce, *JFP* Management Committee, and *Food Protection Trends* Management Committee.
4. Ask the Scientific Editors to establish a formal effort (to be implemented at the Editors' discretion) to invite authors (either previously published authors in *JFP* or other prominent authors) to submit a mini-review article to *JFP*.

5. Request additional data specific to citations used to calculate Impact Factor from Thomson Reuters (as suggested by Judy Luther) to provide more data for Impact Factor Committee. Judy Luther should be consulted on specific data request to be made.
6. Consider providing an incentive for *JFP* Editorial Board members to publish in *Journal of Food Protection* (e.g., reduced or eliminated page charges for an article on a recurring basis).

Next Meeting Date: July 31, 2016.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:02 p.m.

Chairperson: Manan Sharma.