

Journal of Food Protection Management Committee

Attendees: Matthew Moore (Chair), Ian Young (Vice Chair), Fred Breidt, Elliot Ryser, Lauren Jackson, Arpita Aditya, Doris D'Souza, Martin Duplessis, Judy Luther, Morgane Dagot, Joshua Gurtler, Cathy Cutter, Panos Skandamis, Ana Allende Prieto, Armitra Jackson-Davis, Anderson Sant'Ana, Byron Chaves, Kali

Kniel, Sanjay Gummalla, Patricia Rule, Laurel Dunn, Manivannan Selladurai, Anett Winkler, Emilio Esteban, Mickey Parish, Gary Acuff, Alvin Lee, Bala Kottapalli.

Board/Staff Present: Ruth Petran, David Tharp, Lisa Hovey, Dina Siedenburgh.

Number of Attendees: 32.

Meeting Called to Order: 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, Sunday, July 31, 2022.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Arpita Aditya.

Old Business: The meeting started at 10 AM. Matthew Moore distributed the meeting agenda and gave a brief introduction. Outgoing Chair Fred Breidt provided general remarks on the *JFP* Committee. The Chairman requested the committee members to introduce themselves. Following the introduction, the chairman sought the approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 2021 from the committee members. A motion was passed to approve the minutes of the meeting of 2021 and was seconded by the committee members. A welcome to new committee members (Ana Allende Prieto, Vidya Ananth, Laurel Dunn, Martin Duplessis, Lisa Gorski, and Ian Young) was provided, and a thank you to exiting committee members (Fred Breidt, Angela Fraser, Sanjay Gummalla, Cheng-An Hwang, Barbara Ingham, and Jeffrey Lejeune) was also given.

The scientific editors report was provided by Dr. Panagiotis Skandamis, who briefly appraised the status of publication in *JFP*. He mentioned that there is a change from Allen press to a new platform for the publication process (Elsevier). Faster publication from 2019 to 2021 (due to the introduction of an online publication system in *JFP*) occurred. He added that printed manuscripts add a month more to the publication process.

He also reported that 255 articles were published in issue 83, and 242 articles in issue 84 in 2021. He noted that *JFP* has seen decreased numbers in articles published since 2019 and mentioned that it is contradictory to see *JFP* seeing a decrease in articles published, despite seeing an increase in the journal impact factor over the years. The committee members were of agreement that the pandemic likely impacted the number of publications. There was decrease in publication time due to the shift toward online publication system and 64% of articles were published online in 2021. The publication time was 8-9 months in 2019 until acceptance, and was reduced to 4-5 months in 2021, however delays from the authors during the revision lengthened publication time. Of articles the articles published in *JFP*, 53% were from U.S. researchers.

It was reported that as of July 2022, 216 manuscripts were submitted to the journal, which is less than the previous year at the same time (266) and is unlikely to cross the last year mark by the end of the year. However, the last few weeks have seen an increased number of publications. *JFP* has been

receiving manuscripts around the world, but there is a need to attract European and other international researchers to publish in *JFP*. It was pointed out that the open access status of *JFP* will likely encourage more European researchers to publish in *JFP*. It was mentioned that a new Scientific Editor, Dr. Doris D'Souza, has joined the *JFP*. *JFP* has a dynamic editorial board with 183 members on board and there is a need to expand the area of food safety, artificial intelligence, microbiology, chemical food safety, and food fraud. The committee acknowledged the exceptional service offered by Dr. Elliot Ryser to *JFP* for more than 16 years and appreciated the

efforts of Didi Loynachan for doing a great job in assigning manuscripts based on the expertise of the Editors, as well as helping run the journal.

In response to the decrease in the submission numbers to *JFP*, committee members raised the question of whether the decrease in numbers is specific to *JFP* or is the same in other journals. A comparison on the number of articles published in *Food Research International* was discussed, and Dr. Anderson Sant 'Ana informed the committee that *FRI* saw an initial increase in submissions during the initial phase of the pandemic due to old manuscripts/reviews being submitted during lock down with researchers submitting more publications, however, they also observed a decrease in the number of articles submitted in 2021, but numbers went up by 2022. Morgane Dagot (Elsevier) mentioned the drop in the number of publications could be due to a decrease in the number of publications coming up from China due to the Pandemic. She also mentioned that China contributes to about 20% of the publications worldwide. Dr. Skandamis noted a similar trend was reported in *JFP*, with 128 submissions received recently, 40 were from China. Mentioned that there is a need to include topics including artificial intelligence. Committee members suggested expansion of the scope of *JFP* (genomics, etc.) to increase visibility and submission numbers to the journal. Morgane then suggested providing links after conferences to invite speakers to submit manuscripts to *JFP*.

An administrative editors report was provided by Dina Siedenburgh, who noted that Dr. Skandamis had mostly covered all of the information to be presented, and a written report was provided to the committee.

New Business: New business was then addressed, starting with discussion by Dr. Joshua Gurtler with respect to invited minireviews. He mentioned that there are commitments from selected researchers to contribute 20 mini-reviews to *JFP* currently, which excludes one that initially committed but withdrew. It was noted that minireviews can increase the number of citations and contribute to the impact factor of the journal.

Judy Luther then provided a brief context of the transition of *JFP* to open access and the selection of Elsevier as the future platform for doing this. This decision was initiated and approved by the executive board. She noted the Editorial Board in 2021 had 183 members, and 100 were on a call during the beginning of the process, of which most that spoke were in favor of transitioning to Open access status of *JFP*. She reported that articles published in subscription journals have seen a decrease due to open access journals. Further, it was noted that in some regions, there is a major incentive or even requirement to publish open access, like in Europe. A number of different publishing platforms provided offers, and one of the major factors leading to the selection Elsevier that Judy noted was that Elsevier was willing to provide the possibility of APC charges that are lower than most open access journals, with charges to be \$1,600 *JFP* members, \$2,000 non-members. Most APC charges for open access journals often exceed \$3,000. It was also noted in the committee that this will also provide a good incentive for bringing in new members to IAFP given the difference in cost relative to membership fees.

Morgane then presented an overview of Elsevier and appraised the scope and services offered by Elsevier. She provided a timeline of events planned on the transition to open access starting from July. Mentioned that the end of 2022 will be the last subscription issue. It is projected that January 2023 will be the first open-access issue. It was also mentioned that a 20% discount will be offered to IAFP members for open access and is expected to be linked soon. After Oct. 1, 2022, manuscript submission will require an open access fee. For articles submitted before October 1st that are accepted but not yet published until January 2023, the open access cost will be covered so there is not charge to authors.

One of the advantages with Elsevier that was noted was that *JFP* would be in a larger food microbiology institutional ecosystem, as Elsevier carries a number of other journals with similar scope to *JFP* in some instances, like *Food Microbiology*, *Food Control*, and *International Journal of Food Microbiology*. This will potentially increase submissions and exposure to *JFP*,

potentially by authors who initially submit elsewhere but the submission is editorially rejected for whatever reason, these articles could still be easily transferred in the Elsevier system to *JFP* if they are deemed of relevant scope and quality by the editors. For these aforementioned journals, the reviewers/ reviews and manuscript could readily be transferred to *JFP* for consideration. Fred then asked how Elsevier will transfer manuscripts to other journals if not suitable for a specific journal. Dr. Catherine Cutter then asked about the process for transfer of *JFP* articles to *Food Protection Trends*, as *FPT* will not be carried by Elsevier. It was noted that this is something that occurs. In this case, the reviews/reviewers would not be as easily transferred

to *FPT*, and may need to be done manually by the *JFP* editor. Dr. Elliot Ryser also raised the question of the degree to which copy editing will be performed in the new format. Morgane then responded that this, along with a number of the other logistical decisions (like services provided, formatting requirements, etc.) will be the topic of a future meeting between Elsevier and the Scientific Editors and *JFP*.

Next, a discussion regarding potential additional means to attract more submissions, as well as submissions from international authors occurred. The potential of holding special issues was discussed, with it noted that this is a strategy that some journals like those carried by MDPI use to some success. However, it was noted that there is a balance, and having too many special issues can dilute the overall power of the journal. The point was also raised that MDPI often has journals with broad scope, thus requiring and allowing more special issues. The possibility of a special issue related to the annual meeting was discussed as a possible means. Possibly an invitation for authors with accepted abstracts to the meeting to submit an article would be a good way of inviting more submissions of relevant scope, as there is a selection process completed with the abstract approval—possibly some form of discount on APC could be provided to those who agree as additional incentive. However, the formats of papers and creation of special issues are future points of discussion in the upcoming meeting between the editors and Elsevier. Another method discussed was to raise awareness on open access status of *JFP* via targeted e-mails and social media campaign. Another option to increase submission and visibility could be to continue to offer waivers and invited selected researchers on specific topics to contribute, which is already being performed. It was also noted that the move to Science Direct as a platform will likely provide increased visibility for the journal.

Unfinished business was then discussed. Dr. Gary Acuff representing the IAFP Foundation then addressed the committee. He discussed the potential interest of the Foundation in providing or developing a form of support system to support authors from underserved regions/countries for assistance (or waiver) of article processing charges. The committee shared general agreement and enthusiasm for this idea and continuing a dialogue with the Foundation to develop a program to provide assistance to authors who may not be able to afford publication. It was noted there is pre-existing mechanism for Editors offering reduced (or waived) page fees currently, however this could be expanded. Morgane noted that Elsevier has a foundation (Research4Life) that already provides/covers waivers for authors from developing countries, with two tiers (complete waiver or partial waiver) based on countries; so the transition to Elsevier will provide *JFP* this service at no cost to *JFP*. When authors select their institution in the submission portal with Elsevier, it automatically will apply this (or the cheapest rate) for authors. It was noted that this is another benefit of Elsevier, and the committee expressed support for continuing to reduce barriers for those from underrepresented

countries to publish in *JFP*. It was noted that there still are a number of countries that may not technically be classified as “developing” in the Elsevier foundation system, but whose

institutional structures do not provide or allow most authors the ability to pay for APCs. This is one demographic that could potentially be served by support from the Foundation.

Nominations for the new Vice Chair of the *JFP Management* Committee was then sought. Dr. Ian Young then nominated himself to serve as the new Vice Chair. A motion to appoint Dr. Ian Young as Vice Chair was provided with no objections. Recommendations for the board were then reviewed and approved. No new additional business from the committee was mentioned, and the meeting was adjourned.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. To reappoint Dr. Lauren Jackson as Scientific Editor to *JFP* for another 4-year term.
2. To appoint Dr. Ian Young as Vice Chair of the *JFP Management* Committee.
3. To express the interest and eagerness of the *JFP Management* Committee to work more closely with the IAFP Foundation to explore ways to provide means of affording article publishing charges for those who may be in situations or institutions where they cannot afford it.

Next Meeting Date: July 16, 2023, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:04 p.m. Eastern Time.

Chairperson: Matthew Moore.