

## Journal of Food Protection Management Committee

**Members Present:** Fred Breidt (Chair), Matthew Moore (Vice Chair), Karuna Kharel (Student Liaison), Joshua Gurtler, Lauren Jackson, Elliot Ryser, and Panagiotis Skandamis (Scientific Editors), Byron Chaves (*JFP* Management Committee Chair), Andy Hwang, Armitra Jackson Davis, Bala Kottapalli, Barbara Ingham, Angela Fraser, Jeffrey LeJeune, Edith Wilkin, Jovana Kovacevic, Marion Castle, Narjol Gonzalez-Escalona, Sanjay Gummalla, and Patricia Rule.

**New Members Present:** Sanjay Gummalla, Armitra Jackson Davis, John Luchansky, and Anett Winkler.

**Outgoing Members Present:** Peter ben Embarek and Ynes Ortega.

**Board/Staff Present:** Michelle Danyluk, Emilio Esteban, Kali Kniel, Didi Loynachan, Dina Siedenburg, Donna Bahun, David Tharp, and Lisa Hovey.

**Visitors:** Judy Luther.

**Number of Attendees:** 33.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Thursday, June 3, 2021.

**Minutes Recording Secretary:** Matt Moore.

**Old Business:** The meeting was called to order, and Matt was designated as the recording secretary. Four members who will be leaving the committee were highlighted and thanked for their service. Four new members who will be joining the committee were named and welcomed and introduced. The previous meetings' minutes were introduced with no objections. Narjol Gonzalez-Escalona motioned to approve, and Byron Chaves-Elizondo seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Panos gave the Scientific Editors' Report. He presented numbers for volume 82 (2019) and 83 (2020). Previous efforts to increase the number of mini-reviews and general interest papers were highlighted. Panos also highlighted the numbers associated with accelerating the time between submission and publication of articles online; which is a continuing trend. The geographical distribution of authors of published works was presented, along with the distribution of editors (179), which includes 65 countries other than the U.S. represented. The commitment to a diverse editorial board and authorship was stated. The frequency and distribution of submissions was highlighted, and contained a bimodal distribution that was likely a reflection of the different stages of revision different manuscripts received. The current volume (84) was presented. There was a roughly stable amount of submissions compared to previous years. The need to increase the number of submissions was highlighted, as well as the goal to attract higher impact submissions. A trend of increasing pages per submission was also noted. Publication award winners for this year were then presented. A number of questions and discussion about the findings of the report were addressed. There was a drop in rejection rate in 2020 compared to a higher rate in 2021. This was thought to be attributable to an increasing number of papers with regional focus that lacked scientific depth end up getting rejected. It is likely too early to discern if this is a formal trend. Another thought could be that the effects of the pandemic were also contributing to this trend. A question was raised as to if the reasons for rejection were recorded, which they are not currently.

Didi then provided the Administrative Editor's Report. An effort was made to reach out to selected presenters from the 2020 meeting to write research articles about their presentations. Print subscriptions and overall subscriber numbers were both down relative to 2019, and the pandemic was thought to be partially responsible for this. Subscriptions to *JFP* online was down among institutions but up among individuals. The concerted effort to increase selected reviews was mentioned with respect to potentially aiding in increasing the impact factor of the journal. Didi then announced that she will be retiring, and there was a universal expression of thanks and appreciation from the members of the committee for her numerous years of service to IAFFP and *JFP*.

**New Business:** After many years of exemplary service, Elliot Ryser announced that he will be stepping down as Scientific Editor at the end of the calendar year 2021 as he retires. The committee expressed its unanimous appreciation and thanks for his many years of service to *JFP* and IAFFP, as well as for his mentorship of many junior members of

IAFFP and *JFP*. Two open positions for Scientific Editor were then addressed. Joshua Gurtler announced that he will renew his appointment as Scientific Editor, thus addressing one of the positions. With one position still open, a search committee will need to be formed that contains *JFP* Management Committee members, an IAFFP Executive Board member, the Chair of the *JFP* Management Committee and a Scientific Editor. The goal will be to have someone identified by November 2021.

Panos then announced the inaugural editorial board meeting that happened earlier this year, which went well, with about 100 in attendance. The effort to identify potentially meritorious manuscripts was mentioned, as well as the effort to increase submissions by identifying promising abstracts to the meeting and inviting those presenters to submit to *JFP*. The issue and policy regarding pre-prints was discussed, with the ultimate decision to accept works that were posted as pre-prints so long as that is referenced. Ethics issues were also discussed as there have been some instances where authors were listed who did not know they were authors on a work. The need for IRB and/or animal ethical committee approval was also discussed. A reminder that papers should not be critiqued primarily on grammar unless it is so bad that one cannot understand what is trying to be stated was made. Topics related to increasing the impact of the journal were discussed, as well as the issue with submissions that are on topics that have limited scope (natural antimicrobials with only *in vitro* work; very regionally focused work, etc.). Thus, the criteria to increase the impact of the journal and manuscripts considered was discussed. Next, the increasing need to publish open access works was discussed in the context of its likely aiding exposure/accessibility and thus increasing impact factor. The increased number of requests to waive publication fees. While the goal of making *JFP* accessible and affordable was expressed, there are some financial constraints to the degree to which these fees can be waived. This was noted as something to keep in mind for the future.

Judy Luther then provided a *JFP* strategy update. The support and effort to make *JFP* open access was discussed. This is a major transition to move from subscription to open access. Many journals like this need to partner with big publishers, and this is what will be needed by *JFP*. The Executive Board has approved exploring this route and identifying a big publisher, and Didi and Judy are in talks with a number of the big publishers to better understand what the implications will be for IAFFP and *JFP*. An increasing trend in many regions (EU, university library systems dropping subscription models) to require work to be published open access was noted. There is an increasing pressure to streamline publication and shorten time to publication all while reducing costs; big publishers are the only ones with the resources to adequately respond to these pressures. A number of questions were then raised. It is unclear what the role of the *JFP* Management Committee will be going forward if *JFP* partners with a major publisher. There likely will still be a role for the committee, however it was noted that it was still too early to clearly understand what that specific role will be. It will likely still provide larger, more global guidance. Judy and Didi are still in negotiations with a number of the publishers to see what they offer. There was also a question raised as to how this will affect the cost to authors. Many times, waivers can still be offered, but the degree to which this is available still needs to be negotiated with the publishers down the road.

Joshua Gurtler then discussed unfinished business. Thirty-one potential authors were contacted for review articles on emerging, high impact topics. Of them, 19 authors/teams accepted, with one team dropping out since acceptance on *Clostridium difficile*. Seven teams have already submitted or published, with the rest anticipated by the end of 2021. David Tharp then gave an update on the *JFP* Diversity Council status, with it continuing to progress. A vision statement has been made, and organizational documents are now ready to go, and the council has 25 members plus Board members. There has been good involvement at these meetings as well. The next steps will be to decide how to stagger and identify future officers on the committee by vote. Fred then expressed the desire of the Management Committee to work with the Diversity Council going forward. Fred then next highlighted and thanked Karuna Kharel, who is serving as the Student Liaison to the *JFP* Management Committee. The four recommendations of the committee to the Board were then confirmed by the committee. Joshua Gurtler motioned to adjourn the meeting, with Matt Moore seconding the motion. The meeting was then adjourned.

**Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. To reappoint Joshua Gurtler as a Scientific Editor to *JFP* for another 4-year term.
2. To recognize and provide an award to Didi Loynachan for her many years of stellar service to IAFP and *JFP*.
3. To recognize and provide an award to Elliot Ryser for his many years of stellar service to IAFP and *JFP*.
4. To express the interest and eagerness of the *JFP* Management Committee to work more closely with the Executive Board in the process of partnering with a big publisher and transition of the journal to an open access model.

**Next Meeting Date:** July 31–August 3, 2022, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:50 p.m. Eastern Time.

**Chairperson:** Fred Breidt.