

Journal of Food Protection Management Committee

Members Present: Manan Sharma (Chair), P. Michael Davidson, Joseph Frank, Elliot T. Ryser, Richelle L. Beverly, Peter Bodnaruk, Elena Enache, Tong-Jen Fu, Vijay Juneja, Sean Leighton, Sherri McGarry, Xiangwu Nou, James O'Donnell, Abani Pradhan, Siddhartha Thakur and Hyun Gyun Yuk.

Board/Staff Present: Linda Harris, Don Schaffner, Katie Swanson, Alejandro Mazzotta, Mickey Parish, David Tharp and Didi Loynachan.

Visitors/Guests: Jinru Chen, Bryan Pahl and Guodong Zhang.

Meeting Called to Order: 10:05 a.m., Sunday, August 3, 2014.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Sean Leighton.

Old Business: Committee reviewed minutes from 2013 *JFP* Management Committee meeting. A motion was approved to accept the 2013 minutes.

New Business:

The Committee reviewed the agenda and approved the meeting agenda.

The meeting opened with a report by Don Schaffner. We have four new affiliates that will receive their charters this evening and several more affiliates in development. New affiliates include Indian Association for Food Protection in the USA, Minnesota Association for Food Protection, China Association for Food Protection and SE Asia Association for Food Protection. There were 2,822 attendees last year and we are tracking to exceed that by 50-100 attendees in 2014.

We had 187 booths last year, this year we have 224 booths in the exhibit hall. Membership is at 3,900, up 900 (30%) compared to 8 years ago. There are 137 Sustaining members: 25 Gold, 18 Silver. *FPT* went through a redesign starting in 2013 with "*FPT* Online" – a downloadable app. IAFP is active on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, look for updates soon. The Foundation balance is growing and sponsored 15 student travel scholarships, 5 state health travel awards, and a new undergraduate competition is starting this year. Internationally, IAFP had its 10th European symposium in Budapest and the International meeting in Taiwan (this year will be in Brazil). We are participating as global host in the China Food Safety conference in Shanghai and the general fund grew by \$360,000. Our overall balance is approximately \$1.3-1.4 million.

Joe Frank provided the Journal's Scientific Editors' Report. Highlights include that Vol. 76 (2013) included 2,188 pages and 291 articles (276 research articles). By comparison Vol. 75 published in 2012 contained 2,308 pages and 306 articles, which included 295 research papers. Vol. 76 contained 15 fewer articles than Vol. 75. The average length of time between receipt of manuscripts and their publication remained the same in 2013 compared to 2012 (8 months). In 2013, researchers from countries other than the U.S. authored 54% of articles compared to 52.6% in 2012. Italy and China are now the top International countries, which is a change – seeing a lot more submissions from China and the quality is quite good. Domestically, Georgia and Maryland have the most submissions. There are 153 members on the editorial board, which has increased over the years. The summertime poses some challenges to getting good responses from reviewers. Members are on a 3-year term and an attempt is made to get more international representation on the editorial board. Decisions are made in the fall of the year – anyone interested in joining the editorial board should send Dr. Frank a C.V. by September of this year. Volume 77 (2014) is seeing a

substantial increase in submissions, year-to-date (+40 vs. last year, ytd). Publication rate closely follows submission rate. John Sofos has officially retired as editor, and his leadership and commitment to *JFP* is extremely well-appreciated. John will not be replaced immediately but with submissions on the rise, we need to discuss. Dr. Frank concluded by stating that the “Most Cited Publication” award was given again this year for the 2011 citations. A question was asked about the acceptance rate and Dr. Frank indicated it is between 50-60% (but it depends on how this is calculated). For more details about the Journal in 2013, please see the Scientific Editors’ report and the Administrative Editor’s report prepared by Didi Loynachan.

Dr. Davidson proposed that the “most cited paper award” be renamed the “John N. Sofos Most Cited Paper Award.”

A discussion was initiated about how the Board and IAFP promote the journal. A one-pager or similar outreach effort was suggested, especially as it relates to new Affiliate involvement.

Didi Loynachan discussed the Administrative Editor Report, mentioning that we began offering complimentary PDFs to corresponding authors of published papers. In February, automatic reminders were initiated for reviewers. Author pre-reminders are sent out 14 days before the deadline (allowed 2 months before the decision date before withdrawn). The reminders go out 7 days before the 20 day deadline. Each receives 3 past-due reminders and the editor is copied on the final reminder. This process appears to be working fairly well. Another 3-year agreement has been signed with Publishing Technologies at Ingenta Connect.

Page numbers have been added to the table of contents Online for all articles. The Editors and Administrative Editors were notified in October that the journal had not been indexed in the Web of Science since January 2013. Also, Scopus had incorrectly attributed *JFP* articles to *FPT*. This has been corrected and adjusted the system accordingly. The 2014 Impact Factor report came out a few days ago and it is 1.79, down a little bit from last report. Members receiving *JFP* is down for both print and Online (but individual subscribers are up for Online receipt). There may be ways that Online can be received besides directly – aggregation services may account for some of this decline, but this is difficult to track. Royalties from aggregation services and copyright clearance should increase over the years and it is believed that these royalties are offsetting the decline in subscription revenue.

Vijay Juneja has been elected as the new Vice Chair of the Committee.

The next topic discussed was about term limits for editors. Many other journals have editors that serve with term limits. An advantage to term limits is that the work load is high and limits would prevent ‘burn out’ of editors, especially with increased submissions. Disadvantages include continuity issues but there was input that this situation could be managed. The idea which was discussed the most was a 4-year limit that could be renewed twice for a total of 12 years to be a scientific editor. A motion was made and approved by the Committee for these terms. A question was asked about the structure of the editors and it was confirmed that all editors are viewed as “co-editors” with no hierarchy. The proposed 4-year terms could be staggered to prevent multiple editors from leaving or coming on at the same time. Term limits may allow individuals who would like to be a scientific editor the opportunity to do so. Diversity of the editorial board would also result from adherence to term limits. Ultimately it is the goal is to have a new editor every four years. Terms typically start on an ad-hoc basis, with a formal term starting on Jan. 1 of the year.

The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) is a declaration signed by a number of scientific societies, journals and editors to discuss the potential abuses of impact factors and citation indexes. The Board has recommended that the *JFP* Management Committee submit a point of view on this declaration and if IAFP would sign on to this declaration. Manan will circulate the document among committee members and hold an electronic vote to confirm a formal recommendation. The Board unanimously supports the declaration.

Linda Harris asked the committee to review the past 10 years of impact factor for *JFP* and other journals where our authors have published. The Board has requested a short report with some recommendations. This topic of declining impact factor also came up at the Past Presidents' meeting. The report should include our mission and how it compares to competitive journals, the most cited papers, the most down-loaded papers, and other drivers of the impact factor. A list of criteria that drive the impact factor will be shared with Didi by Allen Press so that a small team/task force can initiate the analysis. A task force has been established to review the historical (10 year) impact factor of *JFP* and competing journals and to identify drivers behind the impact factor.

This task force will consist of Don Schaffner and the following Committee members: Vijay Juneja, head of task force, Sean Leighton, James O'Donnell, T.J. Fu and Manan Sharma.

Volunteers for the task force were accepted.

Orchid ID (www.orchid.org) is an identifier for authors who publish in scientific journals. This information will be circulated and discussed during a call before the end of this year. The committee needs to determine if IAFP should be a part of Orchid or not. There is a fee to join the organization/ network (fee TBD).

An award for the most downloaded article was discussed. The committee would like to (with board approval) advertise for a new editor to replace Dr. John Sofos' position. The workload has increased substantially during 2013-2014, and the editors feel that the quality of their review process is suffering without a fourth editor. There was a discussion about strongly considering appointing an individual outside the U.S. as an editor

A motion was made to recommend that the scientific editor term limits of 4 years for a maximum of 3 terms. The motion was voted on and approved.

A motion was made to recommend the reappointment of Dr. Elliot Ryser as Scientific Editor for another four-year term.

Unfinished Business:

Review of the plagiarism policy has been initiated. We need to amend the current 7-8 line policy to include language for a penalty for plagiarizing authors. A request was made for a volunteer from the committee to help Manan complete this work by the end of August. Sid has volunteered to help Manan with this amendment. A copy will be sent to the editors and then to the committee for input via email. It was proposed that this be managed electronically and then submitted to the board so that we don't wait another year to get the new language in place.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The Committee recommends the “most cited paper award” be named the “John N. Sofos Most Cited Paper Award.”
2. The Committee recommends that Vijay Juneja be approved as Vice Chair of the committee.
3. The Committee recommends the reappointment of Dr. Elliot T. Ryser as Scientific Editor for another four-year term.
4. The Committee recommends initiating the search process for the replacement of Dr. John Sofos for the fourth Scientific Editor position, starting as soon as possible through the end of 2015.
5. The Committee recommends that future Scientific Editors serve terms of 4 years for a maximum of up to three consecutive terms for Scientific Editors.
6. The Committee recommends to the Board an award be established for the most downloaded publication.

Next Meeting Date: July 25, 2015.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:02 p.m.

Chairperson: Manan Sharma.