

JFP Management Committee

Names of Members Present: Teresa Bergholz (Chair), Daniel Weller (Vice Chair), Angela Anandappa, Sampathkumar Balamurugan, Cameron Bardsley, Catherine Cutter, Darin Detwiler, Doris D'Souza, Martin Duplessis, Yaohua Betty Feng, Joshua Gurtler, Lauren Jackson, Judy Luther, Yvonne Masters, Kathleen O'Donnell, Panos Skandamis, Daniel Unruh.

New Members Present: Sanja Ilic, Naim Montazeri, Jack Burnett, Tanushree Barua Gupta.

Board/Staff Present: Manan Sharma, Lisa Garcia, Dina Siedenburg.

Visitors: Nas Chaudhary, Diogo da Cunha, Juan Moreira, Ruth Petran.

Number of Attendees: 26.

Meeting Called to Order: 3:00 p.m. CDT, Sunday, July 26, 2026.

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New Members Present: Sanja Ilic, Naim Montazeri, Jack Burnett, Tanushree Barua Gupta.

Board/Staff Present: Manan Sharma, Lisa Garcia, Dina Siedenburg.

Visitors: Judy Luther, Qierui Zhang, Ruth Petran, Nas Chaudhary, Diogo da Cunha, Juan Moreira.

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Minutes Recording Secretary: Daniel Weller.

Old Business: The meeting started at 3:00 p.m.. Teresa Bergholz gave a brief introduction followed by the committee members and attendees introducing themselves. Following the introduction, Teresa appointed Daniel Weller as the recording secretary. Next, Teresa sought approval of the minutes of the meeting of 2025 from the committee members. A motion was passed unanimously to approve the minutes.

Qierui Zhang from Elsevier provided an update on JFP metrics, performance, and marketing initiatives over the past year. To date, 295 manuscripts have been submitted, with 153 accepted, 93 rejected, and 15 withdrawn. Submission rates have increased slightly since 2024, reflecting continued growth in journal visibility and reach. Members noted that the increase in submissions has also resulted in a greater editorial workload, with each scientific editor currently managing approximately 120 manuscripts. Current rejection rates are 21% for desk rejections and 17% following peer review. Submissions are now nearly evenly divided between members and non-members, although member submissions have declined to 48%, suggesting increased engagement from the broader research community. Emerging topic areas include communications and social media, policy analytics, and AI-enabled surveillance.

Geographic trends indicate that most submissions originate from Asia and North/Central America, with the United States and China leading submissions and citations. Europe continues to have the highest manuscript acceptance rate, while Asia experiences comparatively higher rejection rates. The editorial board has also become increasingly geographically diverse.

Editorial performance remains strong, with a median time to first decision of 78.5 days, placing *JFP* among top-performing journals. Time from submission to publication has been reduced by approximately 20 days. The journal's CiteScore increased from 4.2 in 2022 to 5.4 in 2025, while the impact factor rose from 2.0 to 3.7 over the same period. *JFP* is now ranked in the second quartile for both Food Science & Technology and Biotechnology & Applied Microbiology categories. Citation impact has also improved substantially, driven in part by strong performance of review articles.

Qierui reviewed outreach activities, including the featured article webpage, monthly article

recommendations, and promotional efforts through WeChat, email campaigns, and LinkedIn. A promotional opportunity has been reserved for October and can be tailored to support journal priorities.

Qierui presented the journal's Generative AI policy and associated concerns, including inaccurate or outdated information, hallucinated findings, lack of domain-specific expertise, ethical and bias concerns, overreliance on AI tools, environmental impacts, and inappropriate use during peer review. The policy emphasizes that AI may only be used as a support tool and that authors remain responsible for verifying accuracy, ensuring originality, disclosing AI use, and protecting data privacy and intellectual property. AI-generated images are not permitted for graphical abstracts. The question was raised regarding the use of AI detection tools, and Qierui explained that current AI-detection tools have false-positive rates exceeding 20%, making them unsuitable for decision-making.

Panos Skandamis discussed the success of recent special issues. The AI in Food Safety special issue published approximately 16 articles, the *Listeria* special issue published approximately 8 articles, and the ICPMF special issue has already attracted 10 articles with only one rejection. The ICPMF issue has been particularly successful in attracting European submissions, and *JFP* will host the next ICPMF special issue. Opportunities to replicate this model with other conferences and organizations were discussed.

Joshua Gurtler gave an update on invited reviews. Since the program began, 71 potential reviews have been proposed, 12 have been confirmed, and 17 invited reviews have been published over the past six years. Members noted that invited reviews continue to have a strong impact on citation performance and discussed expanding these efforts.

New Business: Publication Cost Considerations

The committee discussed mechanisms to encourage submissions from less well-funded groups, particularly state and local government agencies. Potential options for reducing or waiving publication costs for eligible manuscripts were considered.

Fifth Scientific Co-Editor Position

The committee discussed the growing editorial workload and the need for expertise in areas such as chemical-microbial food safety, regulatory and extension science, consumer and social

sciences, and digital technologies, AI, and data science. A motion was made by Josh and seconded by Cameron to recommend recruitment of a fifth co-editor through a new announcement. The motion passed unanimously.

Current Co-Editor Search

The committee discussed the ongoing co-editor search, with applications due August 14. Members considered extending Lauren's appointment while evaluating the current applicant pool. Discussion centered on whether sufficient time remained to adjust the search process before the application deadline. No final action was recorded.

Numbered List of Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The Committee recommends the appointment of Daniel Weller as the vice-chair of the committee.
2. Given the increase in submissions and to maintain editorial speed, the committee recommends the recruitment of a fifth scientific co-editor through a new call.

Next Meeting Date: July 18, 2027, Kansas City, MO.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 p.m. CDT.

Chairperson Name: Teresa Bergholz.