SCOPE OF THE JOURNAL

The Journal of Food Protection® (JFP) is an international, monthly scientific journal in the English language published by the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP). JFP publishes research and review articles on all aspects of food protection and safety. Major emphases of JFP are placed on studies dealing with:

1. Tracking, detecting (including traditional, molecular, and real-time), inactivating, and controlling food-related hazards, including microorganisms (including antibiotic resistance), microbial (mycotoxins, seafood toxins) and non-microbial toxins (heavy metals, pesticides, veterinary drug residues, migrants from food packaging, and processing contaminants), allergens and pests (insects, rodents) in human food, pet food and animal feed throughout the food chain;
2. Microbiological food quality and traditional/novel methods to assay microbiological food quality;
3. Prevention of food-related hazards and food spoilage through food preservatives and thermal/non-thermal processes, including process validation;
4. Food fermentations and food-related probiotics;
5. Safe food handling practices during pre-harvest, harvest, post-harvest, distribution and consumption, including food safety education for retailers, foodservice, and consumers;
6. Risk assessments for food-related hazards;
7. Economic impact of food-related hazards, foodborne illness, food loss, food spoilage, and adulterated foods;
8. Food fraud, food authentication, food defense, and foodborne disease outbreak investigations.
**Manuscripts of a sensitive nature.** Bioterrorism and food security are of major concern to all involved in food production, processing, evaluation, and distribution, including members of IAFP. Manuscripts dealing with sensitive issues are expected to approach the subject from a preventative stance and not provide a how-to guide. A review policy is used in evaluating manuscripts submitted for publication in journals published by IAFP to minimize the possibility that their contents may be used to pose a food security threat. To view the policy, go [HERE](https://www.editorialmanager.com/jfoodprot).

**Suitability for publication.** Prospective authors with questions about the suitability of their research are invited to request an opinion from the Scientific Editors.

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**TYPES OF PAPERS**

**Research Paper.** A research paper reports the results of original research that have not been published elsewhere. If the research has in part been previously reported, such as on a website, in a thesis or dissertation, or in another journal, this must be disclosed in the author's letter of submission. The journal will consider for publication research reports, which due to government regulations, have previously appeared on websites. A research paper usually consists of 10 or more double-spaced typewritten pages of text (typically no more than 18, not including the title page, abstract, highlights, reference list, figure legend, tables, and figures). A research paper deals with its subject in some depth.
Research Note. A research note is a shorter paper that describes observations made in a limited area of investigation. Negative results are sometimes best reported in the form of a research note. However, the research note should not be used as a vehicle for reporting results of inferior research. A research note usually consists of nine or fewer double-spaced typewritten pages of text (not including the title page, abstract, reference list, figure legend, tables, and figures). The author must specify that a manuscript is submitted as a research note so it can be properly evaluated during the review process.

Review and Mini-Review Papers. Review papers are scholarly summaries of the literature that synthesize the current state of knowledge. While review papers covering any aspect of food protection or safety can be submitted for consideration, papers that critically evaluate emerging, neglected, or "hot" topics in which there have been important recent advances are particularly encouraged. The journal also publishes mini-reviews. These papers focus on a narrower aspect of food safety and are generally under 8,000 words in length (including text and references). All review papers should include a title page, abstract, introduction, main text with appropriate headings and subheadings (paragraph lead-ins), conclusions, acknowledgments (optional), and references. Use of summary tables and figures is also encouraged.

General Interest Papers. General interest papers are scholarly discussions that do not fit the definition of a "Review" paper. They may be, for example, recommended methods developed by an expert committee or organization, interpretation or presentation of foodborne pathogen prevalence or foodborne illness statistical data, or best practices for controlling foodborne pathogens, etc. A general interest paper should include a title page, abstract, introduction, main text with appropriate headings and subheadings (paragraph lead-ins), conclusions, acknowledgments (optional), references, tables, and figures.

Letter to the Editor. JFP invites letters to the editor. Letters commenting on articles printed in this publication are subject to review from the Scientific Editors before acceptance. Letters to the Editor are limited to no more than five double-spaced pages. The author of the article that is the focus of the letter is provided the opportunity to respond to the comments. This response is sent back to the author of the letter who is then given the option to continue with the publication process or to withdraw the Letter to the Editor. If withdrawn, neither the Letter to the Editor nor the author's response will be published. If not withdrawn, both the Letter to the Editor and the author's response will be published in their entirety. Send all Letters to the Editor directly to Dina Siedenburg dsiedenburg@foodprotection.org. Do not submit online.

PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPT

All parts of manuscripts must be typed fully double-spaced, at least 11-point type, including references, tables, table captions, footnotes, and figure legends. Manuscripts must be in Word or RTF format. Page margins on all sides must be 1 in. (2.5 cm) wide. Lines on each page must be numbered consecutively to facilitate review of papers, but final revised manuscripts must NOT have line numbers. Number all pages, including tables and figures. JFP uses American conventions of spelling and punctuation.
Manuscripts are divided into sections (all which should be placed into one Word file, except for the figures which should be provided in separate files). These sections must be arranged in the following order:

- Title page
- Abstract
- Highlights
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussion (or Results and Discussion combined)
- Acknowledgments
- Supplemental Materials (if applicable)
- References
- Figure legend(s)
- Tables
- Figures

Except for the introduction, all of these sections have separate headings, which should appear in the manuscript worded exactly as above. A conclusions section is not used in research papers or notes but can be included in mini-review, review and general interest papers.

**Subheadings should take the form of paragraph lead-ins.** Paragraph lead-ins should be boldface, indented, and run in with the text, separated by a period. Third-order subheadings will not be accepted. *JFP* follows many of the recommendations for manuscript preparation in the *ASM Style Manual*, 2nd ed., 1991, published by the American Society for Microbiology. Authors will find useful guidance concerning scientific nomenclature, abbreviations, numbers and measurement, English, references, tables, and figures, as well as a helpful bibliography. For further reference, see *Scientific Style and Format: The CBE Manual*, 6th ed., Cambridge University Press, 1994; *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed., University of Chicago Press, 2003; and the bibliographies in these guides.

**ORGANIZATION OF RESEARCH PAPERS AND RESEARCH NOTES**

**Title Page.** Type double-spaced on a separate page. At the top, provide a running head of no more than 70 characters, including spaces, indicating the topic of the paper, followed by the type of manuscript (i.e., Research Paper, Research Note, etc.). Then list the full title of the paper, the names of all authors, and name and address of the institution(s) or organization(s) where the work was done. Do not use trade names in titles. When authors are affiliated with more than one department or unit within an institution, or with more than one institution, superscript numbers are used to indicate each author's address. Above the footnotes, supply up to six key words, indicating the principal topics of the paper. Please choose key words that are not part of the title of the paper. Footnotes are used to give the present addresses of authors who are no longer at the institution(s) where the work was done. A footnote asterisk (*) must be placed after the name of the author to whom correspondence about the paper and proofs are to be sent. The telephone and fax numbers and email address of this author are placed in the footnote of the author for correspondence. No manuscript text appears on the title page. Statements regarding institutional
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**Abstract.** An abstract of no more than 2,000 characters, including spaces, must be placed on the second page of the manuscript to summarize the principal points of the study. The abstract contains only the abstract title and does not contain references, figures, or tables. Abstracts are reprinted separately by abstracting services and therefore must be meaningful without reference to the body of the paper.

**Highlights.** The journal publishes highlights in order to increase the visibility and discoverability of each article. **Highlights should include 3–5 bullet points limited to 85 characters each (including spaces).** Each highlight should be a complete sentence that describes a main result or conclusion of the study. A highlight title should be included and the highlights section should be placed immediately following the abstract within the manuscript file.

**Introduction.** The introductory section has no title and begins on the page following the abstract. It provides the reader with sufficient background information to evaluate the results of the research. An extensive review of the literature is not needed. The introduction also gives the rationale for and objectives of the study that is being reported.

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**Availability of Materials.** By publishing in the journal, the authors agree that, subject to requirements or limitations imposed by national or international laws or regulations, or institutional policies, any DNA, viruses, microbial strains, mutant animal strains, cell lines, antibodies, and similar materials described in the article are available from a national collection or will be made available in a timely fashion, at reasonable cost, and in limited quantities to members of the scientific community for noncommercial purposes. The authors agree that they have the authority to comply with this policy either directly or by means of material transfer agreements through the owner.

**Microarray Data.** Where appropriate, complete microarray data must be deposited in a public database such as GEO, ArrayExpress, or CIBEX and must be accessible without restriction from the date of publication. The accession number must be included in the paper before publication and be accompanied by the website address of the databank.

**Results.** The Results section provides information by means of text, tables, and figures. Results and Discussion may be combined, or there may be a separate Discussion section. If a Discussion section is to be included, place extensive interpretations of results in the Discussion section. Tables and figures must be numbered in the order in which they are mentioned in the text. All
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**Discussion.** Do not extensively repeat the introduction or "Results" sections. Provide an interpretation of the results in relation to known information. Conclusions should be included in this section.

**Acknowledgments.** Acknowledge financial and personal assistance (sources other than your institution) and any potential conflict of interest. Disclaimers of product endorsement or disclaimers of the views reflected by the manuscript are also appropriate here. While not mandated, authors are encouraged to list the roles that individual co-authors played in the development of their manuscript (e.g. microbial sequencing, metagenomic analysis, statistical analysis, mathematical modeling, etc.).

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Review, mini-review, or general interest papers must have a title page and an abstract as described in the section on research papers. Do not include a table of contents. The remainder of the text begins with an introductory statement and then is divided into appropriate sections with headings and subheadings. An acknowledgment section may come at the end of the text, followed by the references, as described for a research paper. Authors are encouraged to cite original references where possible, but it is acceptable to use appropriate recent review papers in lieu of discussing numerous older papers. When appendices are included in a general interest or review paper, the decision to publish them in the article or separately as supplemental material (see below) is at the discretion of the Editor.

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- Number and order the references alphabetically by the last name of the authors between and within each reference.
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- Journal names should be italicized and abbreviated according to the style of Biosis.
- References may be made to papers that are in press, i.e., that have been accepted for publication. References for papers that have not been accepted for publication should be listed by the authors' names, as submitted for publication. Do not include the journal name or year.
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Email messages should include the name of the person who sent the message, the date, the
subject, the sender's email address, and availability (if appropriate).
15. Notaro, J. 13 June 1994. Banned in the USA [email: jnotaro@ukans.edu]. Available from:
   the author at Smith@odo.msoe.edu.
16. Sofos, J. N. 3 January 2001. Personal communication [email: john.sofos@colostate.edu].

Webpages
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   l'Institut Pasteur [press release]. Available at: http://www.agriculture.
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**PREPARATION OF TABLES**

If submitting tables, the format must be XLS or DOC. In DOC files, use the Table Tools feature; **DO NOT INSERT AS A GRAPHIC.** Each table, comprising the title, body, and footnotes, must be typed double-spaced on a page separate from the manuscript text. The tables should follow the Figure Legend(s) or References, one table per page. Number the tables in the order in which they are first cited in the text. The title is brief but fully descriptive of the information in the table. Headings and subheadings must be concise; abbreviations are used. **Use no vertical rules, no shading, no graphics, and only three full horizontal rules: under the title, under the box heads, and at the bottom of the table.** Use italic superscript letters for footnotes. Like data in columns must read down, not across. A well-organized table should be understandable without extensive reference to the text.

**PREPARATION OF FIGURES**

Type figure legends double-spaced in a list on a page separate from the figures. The Figure Legends section should be placed within the manuscript file following the References. Number each consecutively in the order in which they are first cited in the text. All illustrations, both line drawings and halftones (e.g., photographs), must be submitted in electronic format, preferably in separate files. Figures should not be less than 85 mm wide, should not be framed with a box, and
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Figures are normally published in black and white. Figures can be published in color, but there is an additional cost to the author. Authors wishing to publish figures in color should indicate this when submitting the manuscript. Embed fonts when using Photoshop, Illustrator, and other graphics programs. If you do not embed your fonts, and we do not have them in our library, your figure will not convert to PDF. It is preferred that the figures be uploaded in separate files.

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Ångström, Å atmosphere, atm base pairs, bp calorie, cal centimeter, cm CFU (never spelled out: colony-forming units) cubic centimeter, cm³ day (no abbreviation) degrees Celsius, °C degrees Fahrenheit, °F diameter, diam enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, ELISA equivalent weight, eq wt fluid ounce, fl oz Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, FTIR gram, g gravity, g hour(s), h high-performance liquid chromatography, HPLC international unit, IU intramuscular, i.m. intraperitoneal, i.p. intravenous, i.v. kilocalorie, kcal kilogram, kg kilometer, km lethal dose, median, LD₅₀ liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry, LC-MS/MS limit of detection, LOD liter, L logarithm (base 10), log logarithm (base e), ln lumen, lm lux, lx matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time of flight, MALDI-TOF
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2. The Administrative Editor assigns a Scientific Editor to the manuscript.
3. The Scientific Editor assigns 2+ Reviewers to the manuscript.
4. The Reviewers review the manuscript.
5. The Scientific Editor makes a decision to revise, accept or reject.
6. The Author is contacted by email with the decision.
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Authors are responsible for the scientific accuracy of their papers. JFP assumes no responsibility for errors made, including those that may be made in the copyediting process, or conclusions reached by authors.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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- Authors not providing manufacturer names and locations (city and state; country if necessary).
- Authors including ‘Introduction’ and ‘Conclusion’ headings which are not used by JFP.
- Improper subheading format – subheadings should be paragraph lead-ins, not separate from the paragraph. They should be indented, bold font and end with a period. They must not be numbered. Only one level of subheading is allowed.
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