

# JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CHEMISTRY

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## EDITORIAL

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### *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry—2000*

The Journal has undergone some important changes in 1999, in its editorial staff positions and Advisory Board membership. Along with the accelerating changes in the agricultural and food sciences and marketplace, this first issue of the year 2000 provides an opportune time to look at the Journal's mission, goals, and guidelines, and to consider changes that might make the Journal even better than in the past.

The overall goal of JAFAC will remain the same, namely, to be the preeminent international journal for the publication of research results dealing with the chemistry and biochemistry of agriculture and food. This is a broad mandate. The Journal includes topics on chemical/biochemical composition and the effects of processing on the composition and safety of foods, feeds, and other products from agriculture, including wood and other biobased materials, byproducts, and wastes. It covers the chemistry of pesticides, veterinary drugs, plant growth regulators, fertilizers, and other agrochemicals, together with their metabolism, toxicology, and environmental fate. It also encompasses coverage of the chemical processes involved in nutrition, as well as the relatively new field of phytonutrients and more traditional areas of flavors and aromas. The Journal now includes, and will expand coverage of, the chemical/biochemical aspects of biotechnology related to food and agriculture.

The underlying theme to all of this is that chemistry—composition, structure determination, structure—activity relationships, analysis, metabolism, or environmental fate—must be a major part of the manuscript. The Journal also encourages manuscripts that report the results of multidisciplinary studies that combine chemistry with biological evaluation (sensory, nutritional, toxicological, etc.) and/or molecular biology. A listing of appropriate topics, including the newly revised section headings under which manuscripts will be published in JAFAC, appears in the revised Guide for Authors in this issue and on the Journals website: <http://pubs.acs.org/journals/jafcau/index.html>.

Two other aspects are worth emphasizing. The Journal primarily publishes the results of original research that represent complete studies. Incremental studies, which provide marginal new information in an already well-studied area, are discouraged. JAFAC will continue to publish occasional reviews of significant areas within agricultural and food chemistry, particularly for rapidly changing or expanding fields for which the results are scattered or when the review provides a new perspective on previously published results.

The Journal is now truly international. In 1999, published manuscripts originated from 55 countries. In recognition of this, the Journal has added Advisory Board members in Canada, Japan, and the United Kingdom to its expanded list of 18 Board members.

In addition to original research manuscripts—the Journal's "bread and butter"—JAFAC will initiate or expand the following features:

- (1) occasional editorials by the Editor/Associate Editors;
- (2) contributed announcements of relevant meetings (received at least 4 months before the meeting date); and
- (3) listings of new books (title, author, publisher).

None of these additions will be at the expense of the Journal's rather remarkable record of receipt-to-publication time, which has been under 34 weeks (printed copy) and up to 4 weeks earlier for the Web edition in 1998 and 1999. Given this record, we do not foresee a need for a rapid communication section, although we appreciate authors calling our attention to manuscripts that have urgent information that might require expedited review.

Let me emphasize the important role of our reviewers in ensuring the quality and originality of manuscripts and in contributing to a rapid manuscript processing time. We are in the midst of a crisis in finding enough qualified reviewers to keep up with our ever-expanding numbers of manuscripts, which increased from 895 manuscripts published in 1995 to over 1500 in 1999.

This has taxed our reviewer roster, which was last updated over five years ago. Your expression of willingness to serve as a JAFc reviewer, indicated on a survey that we are now conducting, will be very much appreciated. Also, please call this need and opportunity to the attention of your colleagues.

As new Editor-in-Chief, I want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Irvin Liener and the staff at the University of Minnesota for their excellent service to the Journal for so many years. The growth of JAFc to its present position as the preeminent international journal in its field under Dr. Liener's leadership is a most significant achievement.

I extend a hearty official welcome to the new Associate Editors, John Finley, Russell Molyneux, and Willis Wheeler, and special thanks to Marshall Phillips for agreeing to continue as an Associate Editor and, with

Ms. Sharon Martini, for playing such a vital role during the 1999 transition. I also thank Ms. Judi Scruggs and Ms. Lisa Pearl of the University of Nevada, Reno, Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, who did such yeoman work to support the new Editor's office. The office will soon be moving to a more permanent location as noted in the address printed in this issue.

Special thanks to Dr. Mary Scanlan and the excellent staff of the ACS Publications Department. It takes a lot of teamwork to keep the Journal moving forward. And of course none of this would be possible without the support of our authors, readers, and subscribers. It's your Journal!

James N. Seiber, Editor

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