

## EDITORIAL

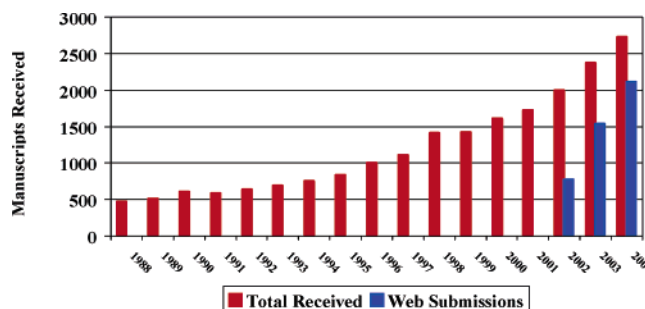
### Status and Prospects

During 2004, the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* (*JAF*C) continued to experience growth, in numbers of manuscripts processed, in impact as gauged by ISI Impact Factor and media attention to *JAF*C's published manuscripts, and in the international presence of the *Journal*, including the international makeup of its Associate Editor offices and Advisory Board membership. In addition, *JAF*C took on a more active role in publicizing and cosponsoring workshops and conferences that dealt with topics within the *Journal*'s scope.

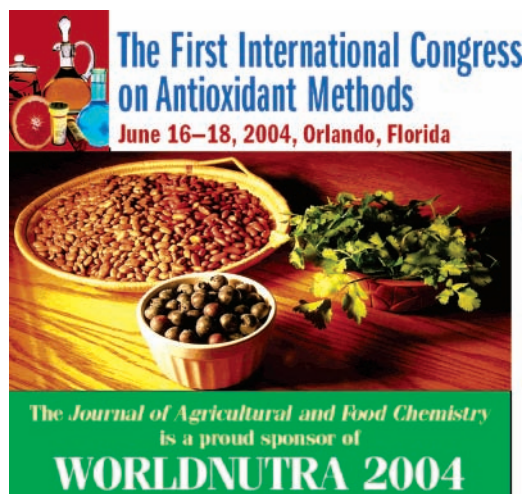
As with many scientific journals, *JAF*C is riding the crest of a revolution in information delivery and accessibility. We are approaching 90% of our goal of total electronic processing of manuscripts while continuing close attention to timeliness, quality, and efficiency. Because we are approaching this goal of total electronic processing so rapidly, we will transition to Web-only submission on January 1, 2006. *JAF*C is one of over 30 peer-reviewed journals published by the American Chemical Society, ranking in the upper 25% of ACS journals in terms of numbers of manuscripts processed.

Some of the *Journal*'s "vital statistics" and accomplishments are in the accompanying figures. Manuscript receipt data (since 1988) is in **Figure 1**, including data on electronic manuscript submissions, which averaged ~80% for all of 2004 and closer to 90% for the second half of 2004. Web submission is beneficial to authors as well as to us on the receiving end; it is particularly important for keeping our processing time to 15 weeks from receipt to acceptance (and 20 weeks from receipt to web publication and 24 weeks from receipt to print).

The ISI Impact Factor for *JAF*C rose again, to a factor of >2 in 2003. With this increase, representing 33% since 2001, *JAF*C is the most cited journal worldwide in the categories of Applied Chemistry, Agriculture, and Food Science and Technology. The ISI Impact Factor is an independent assessment of scientific impact based upon average number of citations of a journal's manuscripts in a given year. (The ISI Impact factor is based on the number of papers published during a 2 year period that are cited during the third year. The Impact Factor for 2003 is the number of citations in 2003 of papers published in a journal during 2001 and 2002 divided by the number of source items published in that journal in 2001 and 2002.) 2004 also witnessed continuation of the trend toward recognition of *JAF*C manuscripts and their data in articles in newspapers and periodicals, which can potentially reach large numbers of readers, reflecting the growing interest by the public in the healthfulness and quality of food in terms of its content of antioxidants and other phytonutrients. The first-ever Antioxidant Methods Workshop was one of several workshops and confer-



**Figure 1.** Historical manuscript receipt, 1988–2004.



**Figure 2.** (Top) *JAF*C promoted the First International Congress on Antioxidant Methods. (Middle) News recognition of research published in *JAF*C has been increasing. Foods with surprising biological activities have included blueberries, beans, and cilantro. (Bottom) *JAF*C was a sponsor of WorldNutra 2004, an International Conference and Exhibition on Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods.

ences in which *JAF*C played a significant role (**Figure 2**). Associate Editor John Finley was the Antioxidant Workshop co-organizer, and *JAF*C cosponsored and helped to publicize the workshop. A summary of the workshop will be published in an upcoming issue and a sequel to the workshop is already in the planning stage for late 2005 or thereabouts.

The 2004 addition of Dr. Elizabeth Waters as Associate Editor added a *JAF*C office on a third continent, Australia. The Advisory Board, a 37 person group of scientists that is instrumental in advising on policy issues and in seeing that the *Journal* serves its readers and authors, who often come from



**Figure 3.** Advisory Board, Editor, and Associate Editors at the *JAFAC* Advisory Board meeting during the ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, August 23, 2004: (sitting, left to right) Ann Lemley, Michael Tunick, Nancy Ragsdale, Associate Editor Willis Wheeler, Heijia Wheeler, Associate Editor Peter Schieberle, Sam K. C. Chang, Cynthia Mussinan, Associate Editor Marshall Phillips; (standing, left to right) John Johnston, Marcus Herderich, Associate Editor Elizabeth Waters, Associate Editor Russell Molyneux, Wallace Yokoyama, Rodney Bennett, Anne Meyer, Chi-Tang Ho, Editor Jim Seiber, Fereidoon Shahidi, Associate Editor John Finley, Carl Frey, Michael Morello, Russell Rouseff, Denise Smith, Harold Pattee, Anne Desjardins, Robert McGorin. Advisory Board Members not shown: Okezie Aruoma, Eric Block, Paolo Cabras, Franco Lajolo, Irvin Liener, Donald Mottram, Patricia Murphy, Haime Ohigashi, Sara Risch, Shridhar Sathe, Richard Scanlan, Takayuki Shibamoto, Sharon Shoemaker, Francisco Tomas-Barberan, Jeanette Van Emon, Andrew Waterhouse, John Whittaker, Peter Winterhalter.

quite diverse backgrounds and interests, now has members from 5 continents and 10 nations. Most of the Advisory Board members attended the Board meeting held in Philadelphia in conjunction with the American Chemical Society's Fall meeting (August 23, 2004), where they posed, along with the Editor and Associate Editors, for a group photograph (**Figure 3**).

The Philadelphia meeting also gave us the opportunity to recognize Dr. Mary Scanlan, who retired in 2004 as the Vice President of the ACS Journal Publishing Group after 35 years of dedicated service to the ACS. Dr. Scanlan has been instrumental in increasing the capacity of the ACS Journals to deal with the growth in numbers of publications, the transition to electronic processing, and the increasing international presence of ACS journals, including *JAFAC*, while continuing to make the journals a vital contributor to the Society's publication revenue stream and overall mission.

Leading the categories for most significant growth in numbers of manuscripts published in *JAFAC* was the category "Bioactive Constituents", which has increased from a 4% share to a nearly 14% share (2003) of the total number of manuscripts published annually. This reflects the growth in scientific interest in chemical constituents of foods and agricultural produce in general that have either positive or negative biological effects on the consumers or users of that food or produce. The number of manuscripts published under the category "Biotechnology" remains at ~3–5%, but that percentage is not reflective of all

of the manuscripts dealing with this topic because many are categorized under "Analytical Methods" or "Crop and Animal Protection". The point is that *JAFAC* is more and more regarded as a viable option for manuscripts dealing with the application of the tools of modern molecular biology to agriculture and foods. Finally, ~25 manuscripts will be published in 2004 in the new (2003) category of "Biobased Products", an area that may grow as plant- and animal-derived industrial products become more numerous and their environmental and other attributes more widely appreciated.

As usual, enormous contributions were made in 2004 by our Associate Editors, Marshall Phillips, John Finley, Willis Wheeler, Russell Molyneux, Peter Schieberle, and Elizabeth Waters, and the excellent editorial assistants in my office and the offices of the Associate Editors, and by Dr. Mary Scanlan and the ACS journal support staff members in Washington, DC, and Columbus, OH. Our critically important cadre of peer reviewers, numbering over 3300 in 2004, are recognized by name elsewhere in this issue of the *Journal*. And our sincerest appreciation to our authors and readers, without whom there would be no *JAFAC*!

Have a most rewarding 2005!

James N. Seiber

Editor

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