

## Kicking Off the 60th Anniversary

Anniversaries are great opportunities for reviewing what has been accomplished in the recent past and also to look forward to new opportunities. So it will be with this editorial as we begin the 60th year of the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*.

Manuscripts submitted to JAFC continued to increase over the past decade by more than 150%, and published content increased by 31%. During this same period the number of citations to JAFC manuscripts rose by almost 200%, and the Impact Factor increased from 1.91 to 2.816.

JAFC has substantially increased the number of Reviews over the past 10 years, rising to 15 in 2011. Encouraging more Reviews and Perspectives has been an important component of extending the utility of JAFC to our readers and authors. This was the result of a team effort led by Associate Editors Russell Molyneux and Willis Wheeler, with many contributions from our other Associate Editors, American Chemical Society (ACS) staff, and our Advisory Board members and, of course, the “heavy lifting” of authors who made this a reality.

Publication of symposia and clusters has also increased since our 50th anniversary celebration: Over the past decade 18 symposia and similar clusters have been published. During the previous two decades such groups were published very occasionally.<sup>1</sup> We will continue to entertain and stimulate ideas for Reviews, Perspectives, and symposia on topics of broad and current reader interest.

In addition to publishing symposia, the Associate Editors and I participate in conferences in part to represent JAFC and in part to identify potential authors for future Reviews, Perspectives, and the latest research results. In October and November 2011, Veronika Somoza, Taka Shibamoto, Chi-Tang Ho, Zhen-Yu Chen, and I presented papers at one or both of the International Society For Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods (ISNFF) conference in Sapporo, Japan, and the International Conference on Food Factors (ICOFF) in Taipei, Taiwan. Francisco Tomás-Barberán and Russell Molyneux presented at the 5th International Conference on Polyphenols and Health in Barcelona, Spain. These meetings were well attended by JAFC authors and reviewers and others interested in publishing in JAFC in the future.

The number of Associate Editors has grown; JAFC began its 50th anniversary year with 5 Associate Editors, and we are beginning our 60th year with 11. The accomplishments of the scientists who serve as Associate Editors have been a major factor in our focus on quality and in keeping with the evolution of subject matter coverage which now trends increasingly toward bioactives and food healthfulness and safety. Our newest Associate Editor, Veronika Somoza (Figure 1), joined our ranks in August 2011. She, along with Associate Editors John Finley and Francisco Tomás-Barberán, organized a symposium, “Food Bioactives and the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*”, held at the National Meeting of the ACS in August 2011. Several other Associate Editors and Advisory Board members contributed to making this symposium a success. Papers drawn from this symposium are planned for publication in 2012 as part of our 60th anniversary celebration.



**Figure 1.** Associate Editor Veronika Somoza of the University of Vienna.

A very welcome development has been the increase in pick-up of JAFC content by the news media, enabling us to reach a broader audience than ever before and helping us stay apace with the present-day surge in interest in foods and, particularly, healthy, safe, and sustainably produced foods. JAFC continues to be a leader among ACS journals in garnering media attention and has joined the ranks of internationally recognized scientific journals whose content is closely followed by science writers and journalists worldwide.

The 2012 anniversary year will see some changes based in part on discussions held during a daylong strategic planning meeting in Boulder, CO, held just following the Fall National Meeting of the ACS meeting in Denver in August 2011 (Figure 2). We are now requiring Table of Contents (TOC) art for all manuscripts, completing the phase-in of this feature which began a year or two ago. In 2011 many manuscript submissions were accompanied by attractive TOC art. If TOC art was not supplied by the authors, the first illustration in the manuscript was pulled into the TOC to serve this purpose. Most of these illustrations were not designed for this use, so they often lack the visual appeal to induce browsing readers to click through and read the paper. In 2012 TOC art will be required with all submissions. Authors should consider TOC art as a “visual abstract” to draw attention to their work as readers browse the TOC. Good quality, appropriately sized, attractive illustrations are desired. Authors might consider using their art from meeting presentations as a starting point when developing TOC art for their manuscripts.

**Published:** January 11, 2012



**Figure 2.** JAFAC Editors and staff at the strategic planning meeting held in Boulder, CO. Left to right: Associate Editors Russell Molyneux, Elizabeth Waters, Yoshinori Mine, and John Finley; Editor James Seiber; Darla Henderson and Anne Coghill of the ACS Journals Publishing Group; Loreen Kleinschmidt, JAFAC Editorial Staff; Associate Editor Zhen-yu Chen. Not shown: Associate Editors Veronika Somoza, Chi-Tang Ho, Francisco Tomás-Barberán, Hanne Christine Bertram, Peter Schieberle, Takayuki Shibamoto.

Beginning in 2012, JAFAC will go to a weekly format, so papers will be assigned to issues and given page numbers more quickly. Although all papers are assigned a permanent DOI number so they can be cited as soon as they are published to the Web, we hope faster page and issue assignment will make citation easier and increase the visibility of each manuscript.

We are in the process of revamping, streamlining, and reducing the number of categories under which published manuscripts will be grouped. Presently there are 13 Table of Contents categories in JAFAC. We are revising them to better reflect present and anticipated changes in the science of agricultural and food chemistry and to also reduce redundancies. The revised categories will be as follows:

**Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry** will include crop protection chemistry, addressing synthesis combined with testing of new materials, environmental behavior and fate, residues, and mechanism of effects on both target and nontarget organisms.

**Analysis and Chemosensory Perception of Flavor** will cover the chemistry of flavor (smell, aroma, taste, texture, and color) of foods and associated with plant and animal production of foods.

**Analytical Methods** will focus on new analytical method development using chemical, physical, and biological methods. When a manuscript describes the application of an existing method, even when modified, the category selected should be driven by the application (e.g., agricultural and environmental, food safety, bioactive constituents, food and beverages, chemosensory perception, biofuels/biobased products).

**Bioactive Constituents and Functions** will cover the identification and characterization of bioactive constituents (antioxidants and other phytonutrients and nutraceuticals)

in foods and how they function to affect the health status of consumers, including molecular nutrition aspects. Manuscripts describing work with traditional medicines, herbal remedies, etc. will not normally be considered. We also urge authors to evaluate bioactives in animal models or clinical human trials and not rely solely on cell-based or other *in vitro* assays.

**Biofuels and Biobased Products** will elucidate the chemistry of biofuel and biobased products, including feedstocks, conversion, refining, waste utilization, disposal, and sustainability, and environmental emissions and effects associated with these processes.

**Chemical Aspects of Biotechnology and Molecular Biology** will identify processes and underlying chemical science involving classical and modern aspects of biotechnology applicable to food and agricultural systems and include “omics” techniques applicable to measurement and evaluation in food production and metabolism. **Food and Beverage Chemistry/Biochemistry** will focus on the chemistry and biochemistry associated with food and beverage production, processing, preparation, composition, packaging and storing, including both naturally occurring and added components.

**Food Safety and Toxicology** will encompass chemical aspects of toxicology of crop protection, contaminants, and related chemicals and the design and action of chemically related processes that enhance food safety.

None of the prior category content is to be eliminated in the new category designations, which will come on-line early in 2012. The Editor and Associate Editors will make final decisions regarding assigning accepted manuscripts to categories. Authors will continue to be asked to express a preference for category, as at present.

Routine aspects of the composition of foods, herbal and traditional medicines, and synthesis of candidate pesticides without significant accompanying evaluation of activity will be deemphasized as areas in which JAFc will publish in the future. Manuscripts received by JAFc in these areas may be redirected to other journals.

We have in the past published changes in the *Scope, Policy, and Instructions for Authors* and names of our valuable reviewers in the first issue of each year. Rather than tie these to a particular issue this year, we will simply add those two features to our Website in the first part of 2012. Stay tuned.

Finally, a new managing Editor is in the process of appointment to serve JAFc and *Environmental Science & Technology*, following in the footsteps of Darcy Gentleman, who has taken a position as Manager of Public Policy Education with the ACS Office of Public Affairs.

**Thanks to all of you** for your support of the Journal during 2011, and special thanks to our Associate Editors, Editorial Staff, and the mighty efforts of the ACS Publications Division who have helped to make this a most successful year.

**James N. Seiber**  
Editor

## ■ REFERENCES

(1) Seiber, J. N.; Kleinschmidt, L. A. *Agricultural and Food Chemistry: 50 Years of Synergy between AGFD and JAFc* **2009**, *57*, 8070–8075.