

The fifteenth anniversary of JFDA

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Editorial

The Fifteenth Anniversary of JFDA

HAZEL HAN-JUNG TSAI* LILY L. YANG* ERICK TSI-TEE SUEN**

*Executive Editor **Editor-in-chief

It has been 15 years since the first issue of Journal of Food and Drug Analysis (JFDA) was published in January 1993. During the past 15 years, JFDA has encountered many challenges and has overcome many difficulties to achieve this milestone. These challenges included language barriers, manpower shortage and budget constraint. We wish to thank all the editorial board members, reviewers and authors for their kind support and contribution to JFDA. This report will review the current status of JFDA, analyze critical data, assess challenges ahead and present our future directions. So far, 60 issues and 657 articles have been published to date, including 70 review papers, 575 research papers and 12 short notes (Figure 1). All JFDA articles are thoroughly reviewed and evaluated by our designated scholars and reputable researchers in the field, followed by our executive editors. Their hard work ensures timely publication of this journal and maintains high quality of the published papers. Once the paper is accepted based on its scientific merit, it is sent to our English advisors to have a final check of grammatical and syntactic errors before publication. In the last 15 years, almost 1000 papers were submitted and reviewed. We made sure each one was handled properly and efficiently for the timely publication of quality papers. The policy of JFDA is to ensure that scientifically sound papers with high merit get published quickly. With the cooperation of our reviewers and authors, this goal can be achieved to provide good service to all our readers and stakeholders.

JFDA is now indexed/abstracted by BIOSIS Previews, EMBASE (Excerpta Medica), Abstracts of Chinese Medicines, Chemical Abstracts, International Food Information Service (FSTA), and ISI Products: Research Alert, Biochemistry & Biophysics Citation Index and Science Citation Index Expanded. JFDA is also being evaluated for listing in the current issue. The track record has been good in the past and timely publication is always the most important concern for JFDA. This objective is positively reflected by the continued listing of JCR since 1998.

The JFDA website was created in October 1996 (<http://www.nlfd.gov.tw/english/index.aspx>). Since 2004, all articles were required to be submitted in English, thereby broadening JFDA's international scope. With help in translations from JFDA, our local contributors gradually overcame the barriers and accepted this practice as a norm.

A total of 320 manuscripts were published in the field of food science and technology (49.92%), of which 139 were in traditional herbal medicine (21.68%) and 198 were in pharmacology and pharmacy (30.89%) (Figure 2). In addition, 546 articles were submitted by local institutes in Taiwan (83.11%) and 111 from other countries (16.89%). A total of 1006 articles were submitted to JFDA from Jan. 1993 to Oct. 2007. It has been observed that both the number of submissions and amount of foreign contribution increased dramatically since 2003 (Figure 3). Majority of the overseas submissions originated from USA, Egypt, Turkey, and Pakistan. The 10-year average rejection ratio of JFDA is 29.97% in 1998~2007 (Figure 4). In recent years the ratio has reached over 50%, possibly due to the stringent review process and careful assessment of scientific merit of the paper. It is hoped that the steady increase of rejection ratio since 2003 will result in the quality improvement of published papers in the future.

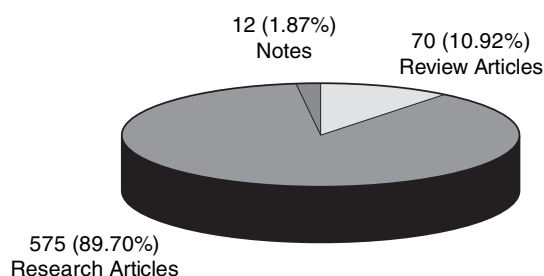


Figure 1. Manuscripts of different categories published in JFDA.

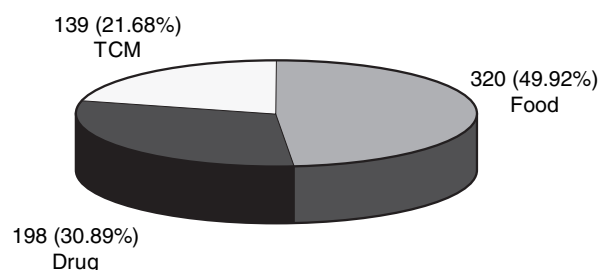


Figure 2. Articles published in JFDA submitted from different scientific disciplines.

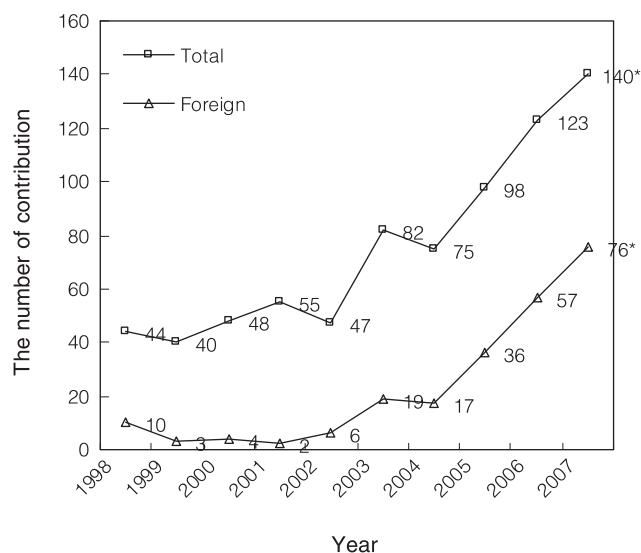


Figure 3. Numbers of total and foreign contributions. *The data of 2007 are calculated up to October.

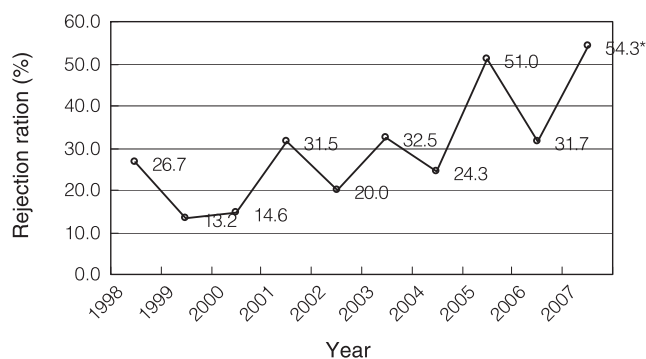


Figure 4. Ratio of rejection. *The data of 2007 are calculated up to October.

Table 1. Ranking and impact factor of JFDA in JCR

Year	Food Science & Technology		Pharmacology & Pharmacy		Impact factor
	Rank	Total	Rank	Total	
1998	80	90	174	178	0.145
1999	65	91	160	175	0.386
2000	81	94	176	181	0.227
2001	70	94	175	186	0.378
2002	78	92	178	185	0.295
2003	50	95	163	185	0.597
2004	44	94	159	186	0.685
2005	57	93	177	192	0.574
2006	78	96	194	199	0.313

JFDA was listed in the Journal Citation Report (JCR) for the first time in 1998 with the impact factor (IF) of 0.145, ranked 80th in Food Science & Technology (out of 90 journals), and 174th in Pharmacology & Pharmacy (out of 178 journals). In the JCR 2004 edition, ranking of JFDA in Food Science & Technology and Pharmacology & Pharmacy improved to 44 (out of 94 journals) and 159 (out of 186 journals), respectively. Furthermore, IF reached 0.685 at the same time (Table 1). It was a great encouragement to all members of the editorial board and our staff at the time. However, our performance dropped after its peak in 2004. By 2006 the impact factor was diminished by more than half of its peak value. This indeed serves as a warning for us and caused concerns among our stakeholders. Further discussions are needed to determine causes for this downturn. One reason may be increased competitions in this field and another reason may be that the lower numbers of published papers than other annual journals since JFDA is a quarterly publication. Our future challenges include how to increase both quantity and quality of the publications in JFDA. In order to meet this challenge, JFDA will be published on a bi-month basis starting from 2008. We will increase the numbers of manuscript published by 50% or more. This major policy change will bring JFDA to a higher level of excellence and it will continue to serve our stakeholders effectively. Hopefully, it will also improve the result of the impact factors.

In summary, JFDA has reached a milestone of 15-year publication. During these 15 years, we had encountered many challenges to arrive where we are now. Submissions have been steadily increasing in numbers. In order to provide better services, speed up the publication process for more output, JFDA will begin in 2008 to publish bimonthly instead of quarterly. This policy will put more pressure on our staff who will shoulder more responsibility and workload in the future. However, we are confident that it is a challenge we can face and overcome given more resources in manpower and budget to support this endeavor. As a National Reference Laboratory in Taiwan we are playing a leadership role in analytical methodology research and validation as well as quality control of all scientific endeavor in this field. With your kind support, dedication of our staff and contribution of authors, we believe that the future of JFDA will be brighter and better.