

## EDITORIAL

# Food Frontiers: An academically sponsored new journal

Search on the Web of Science Core Collection online database clearly shows that food science and technology is a fast-growing research field. In fact, total articles in the area of food science and technology have grown from a market share of 0.84% in 2013 to 0.91% in 2017. China, United States, Italy, Spain, Japan, South Korea, Brazil, Germany, Turkey, and Iran are the top 10 countries that publish most papers in the area of food science and technology. China has the fastest growing rate with a market share of 17.08% in the area of food science and technology and a 5-year growth rate of 20.81%. The publisher Elsevier dominates the market with a share of 35.56%, followed by Wiley, Springer Nature, and Taylor & Francis. These top four publishers publish about 65% of these food-related articles. Elsevier also has the highest average citation rate among the top 10 countries. Wiley, Taylor & Francis, and Tekno Scienze Publisher (an Italian Publisher) have a growth rate above the market average. Among all food-related research themes, the topic on food and health was ranked number one in the list. In terms of open access, the share of open access papers related to food and health remains stable; however, open access to food-related papers published by Wiley had an increase from 1.99% in 2013 to 4.24% total shares in 2017. Considering research institutes and universities, Spanish National Research Council was ranked the number one in publishing food-related papers followed by Jiangnan University, US Department of Agriculture, European Food Safety Authority, China Agricultural University, South China University of Technology, Wageningen University, Zhejiang University, and University of Putra Malaysia.

Although there have been a plenty of food-related journals, the launch of this new journal, *Food Frontiers*, is timely and essential (Figure 1). The aim of *Food Frontiers* as an international open access journal is to bring high impact on the field of food science and health by providing all readers free access to the articles. *Food Frontiers* is co-sponsored by Zhejiang University, Jiangsu University, Nanchang University, Northwest University, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, and Wiley. The editorial board comprises 12 worlds' highly cited researchers and consists of global top experts in diverse areas of nutritional sciences and food science and technology from 16 countries and regions, including China, Australia, Bulgaria, France, Iran, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Portugal, Romania, South Korea, Spain, Turkey, United States, Hong Kong, and Macau. Moreover, three distinguished scientists in food and nutrition, Prof. Zhen-Yu Chen from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, the associate editor of the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, Prof. Bernhard Hennig from the University of Kentucky, the

editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry*, and Prof. Youling Xiong from the University of Kentucky, the associate editor of *Food Bioscience*, have joined the advisory board to strengthen the academic impact of *Food Frontiers*.

*Food Frontiers* is born with the mission to evolve into a flagship journal on food and health and the premier medium for the publication, worldwide, of fundamental and applied research in the field of chemical and biological sciences related to food, as well as the impact of whole food and specific food components on human health, agriculture, and environment.

Significant discoveries are continuously being made, which contribute to our understanding of all aspects of foods, nutrition, and implications in human health. These discoveries, i.e., from basic theory to insights at the molecular level within living organisms by utilizing *in vitro* and *in vivo* model systems, require peer review and rapid open access publication. *Food Frontiers* strives to present these advances in the future to the scientific community worldwide. Food science is robust and vibrant and is poised for seminal new discoveries and spectacular advances made possible by recent developments in technology and instrumentation. It is the aim of *Food Frontiers* to keep abreast of these exciting discoveries and insights and to provide the international scientific community the state-of-the-art venue for the publication and broad dissemination of high quality fundamental research, both in the core areas of food discipline and in such emerging areas as the interface of human health, agriculture, and environment.

Just as the sciences have advanced and changed in the last century, so has the field of publication. Advances in information technology and, in particular, the Internet and the World Wide Web have forever changed the publishing enterprise. Electronic publishing and the World Wide Web represent the biggest revolution in publishing and widespread dissemination of ideas and information since the invention of the printing press by Gutenberg in Germany over 500 years ago. It is imperative that scientific publishing in general and *Food Frontiers*, in particular, keep abreast and take full advantage of the latest advances in publishing. The goal of *Food Frontiers* is to rapidly publish and have scientific discoveries be immediately available (open access). Thus, the journal will implement an electronic procedure via the web for the submission and processing of articles, which will be upgraded on a regular basis by utilizing the most current publishing technologies. This convenient procedure will greatly facilitate the submission and review process for all authors and, in particular, for international contributors.

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**FIGURE 1** Launching ceremony of *Food Frontiers*

Web-based publishing also provides an opportunity for depositing large quantities of data, graphics (including color), and experimental details which are economically impractical to print.


Starting with the first issue, our new journal *Food Frontiers* presents a user-friendly format for a variety of scientific communications, including research articles and timely reviews of the literature. *Food Frontiers* is vital and will try to be well positioned to gain a leadership role, as well as to tackle the challenges of contemporary publishing in the 21st century. The Board of Editors and the Editorial Advisory Board are committed to maintain and enhance the excellence of *Food Frontiers*. We will offer all scientists worldwide the highest quality service we can provide, in the most expeditious way afforded by rapid advancement and modern technology, for the publication and broad dissemination of the very best research findings.

*Food Frontiers* publishes research articles, reviews, commentary, highlights, perspectives, and correspondences of both experimental work and policy management in relation to food science and technology, with nutritional implications in human health. Examples of topics that will fit in the scope of *Food Frontiers* include: disease prevention by food-based approaches, combination effects of food and exercise, nanotechnology application in the food area, nano- or microencapsulation of food bioactive ingredients, formulation of functional food products, nutraceutical delivery for health improvement, dietary supplements, functional foods, nutraceuticals and phytochemicals, plant by-products as value-adding ingredients, plant proteins as functional ingredients in foods, molecular interaction of food components with gut microbiota, as well as adaptation of food production to climate change, linking food productivity with protection of ecosystems, improving productivity of aquaculture, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from food production, and so on. *Food Frontiers* also welcomes Special Issues that will summarize articles of a specific theme or timely related scientific topic. Currently, two special issues: “Very Berry Health Benefits” and “Solutions for the Sustainability of the Food Production and Consumption System” have just been opened for submission.

Let us emphasize the important role of our reviewers in ensuring the quality and originality of manuscripts and in contributing to rapid publication with a short manuscript processing time. The timely and detailed service of the reviewers will be very much appreciated. The

journal would not be successful without the support of reviewers, authors, and readers. We look forward to receiving your contributions and hope to have a strong scientific relationship with all of you. The journal is already receiving multiple manuscripts. Our goal is to make *Food Frontiers* responsive and adaptable to new discoveries and rapid changes in all aspects of food science and health, as well as to the changing needs of authors and readers for rapid publication and availability of high quality scientific data.

Li-Shu Wang<sup>1</sup>  
 Jesus Simal-Gandara<sup>2</sup>  
 Ming Du<sup>3</sup>  
 Baiyi Lu<sup>4</sup>  
 José L. Quiles<sup>5</sup>  
 Zhen-Yu Chen<sup>6</sup>  
 Bernhard Hennig<sup>7</sup>  
 Mingfu Wang<sup>8</sup>  
 Hang Xiao<sup>9</sup>  
 Jayashree Arcot<sup>10</sup>  
 Tianli Yue<sup>11</sup>  
 Baodong Zheng<sup>12</sup>  
 Xiaobo Zou<sup>13</sup>  
 Yoshinori Marunaka<sup>14,15,16</sup>  
 Lianzhong Ai<sup>17</sup>  
 Weibin Bai<sup>18</sup>  
 Maurizio Battino<sup>2,19</sup>  
 Francesca Giampieri<sup>2,19</sup>  
 Milen I. Georgiev<sup>20</sup>  
 Xiaojun Liao<sup>21</sup>  
 Esra Capanoglu Guven<sup>22</sup>  
 Amin Ismail<sup>23</sup>  
 Seid Mahdi Jafari<sup>24</sup>  
 Chuan Li<sup>25</sup>  
 Andrei Mocan<sup>26</sup>  
 Jing Wang<sup>27</sup>  
 Congde Sun<sup>28</sup>  
 Bruce Baojun Xu<sup>29</sup>  
 Junyi Yin<sup>30</sup>

Gökhan Zengin<sup>31</sup>  
 Dominique Delmas<sup>32,33</sup>  
 Maria Daglia<sup>34</sup>  
 Maria G. Campos<sup>35,36</sup>  
 Fang Chen<sup>21</sup>  
 Youling L. Xiong<sup>37</sup>  
 Rosa Tundis<sup>38</sup>  
 Shaoping Nie<sup>39</sup>  
 Jianbo Xiao<sup>40</sup> 

- <sup>1</sup>Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- <sup>2</sup>Department of Analytical Chemistry and Food Science, Faculty of Food Science and Technology, University of Vigo, Ourense, Spain
- <sup>3</sup>School of Food Science and Technology, National Engineering Research Center of Seafood, Dalian Polytechnic University, Dalian, China
- <sup>4</sup>College of Biosystems Engineering and Food Science, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China
- <sup>5</sup>Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology "José Mataix Verdú", Department of Physiology, Biomedical Research Center, University of Granada, Granada, Spain
- <sup>6</sup>School of Life Sciences, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong, China
- <sup>7</sup>University of Kentucky Superfund Research Center, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky
- <sup>8</sup>School of Biological Sciences, University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam, Hong Kong
- <sup>9</sup>Department of Food Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts
- <sup>10</sup>Food and Health Cluster, School of Chemical Engineering, The University of New South Wales, New South Wales, Australia
- <sup>11</sup>Collage of Food Science and Technology, Northwest University, Xi'an, China
- <sup>12</sup>College of Food Science, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, Fuzhou, China
- <sup>13</sup>College of Food and Biological Engineering, Jiangsu University, Zhenjiang, China
- <sup>14</sup>Research Institute for Clinical Physiology, Kyoto Industrial Health Association, Kyoto, Japan
- <sup>15</sup>Research Center for Drug Discovery and Pharmaceutical Development Science, Research Organization of Science and Technology, Ritsumeikan University, Kusatsu, Japan
- <sup>16</sup>Department of Molecular Cell Physiology, Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, Kyoto, Japan
- <sup>17</sup>School of Medical Instrument and Food Engineering, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, Shanghai, China
- <sup>18</sup>Department of Food Science and Engineering, Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition, Jinan University, Guangzhou, China
- <sup>19</sup>Department of Clinical Sciences, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy
- <sup>20</sup>Institute of Microbiology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

- <sup>21</sup>College of Food Science and Nutritional Engineering, China Agricultural University, Beijing, China
- <sup>22</sup>Food Engineering Department, Faculty of Chemical & Metallurgical Engineering, Istanbul Technical University, Maslak, Turkey
- <sup>23</sup>Center for Quality Assurance (CQA), Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Malaysia
- <sup>24</sup>Department of Food Materials and Process Design Engineering, Gorgan University of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources, Gorgan, Iran
- <sup>25</sup>College of Food Science and Technology, Hainan University, Haikou, China
- <sup>26</sup>Department of Pharmaceutical Botany, Iuliu Haieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- <sup>27</sup>School of Food & Chemical Engineering, Beijing Technology & Business University, Beijing, China
- <sup>28</sup>The State Agriculture Ministry Laboratory of Horticultural Plant Growth, Development and Quality Improvement, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China
- <sup>29</sup>Food Science and Technology Program, Beijing Normal University-Hong Kong Baptist University United International College, Zhuhai, China
- <sup>30</sup>State Key Laboratory of Food Science and Technology, Nanchang University, Nanchang, China
- <sup>31</sup>Department of Biology, Science Faculty, Selcuk University, Campus/Konya, Turkey
- <sup>32</sup>Université, de Bourgogne-Franche Comté, Dijon, France
- <sup>33</sup>Centre de Recherche INSERM U1231-Cancer and Adaptative Immune Response Team-Bioactive Molecules and Health Research Group, Dijon, France
- <sup>34</sup>Department of Pharmacy, University of Naples Federico II, Naples, Italy
- <sup>35</sup>Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal
- <sup>36</sup>Coimbra Chemistry Centre (CQC, FCT Unit 313) (FCTUC), University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal
- <sup>37</sup>Department of Animal and Food Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky
- <sup>38</sup>Department of Pharmacy, Health and Nutritional Sciences, University of Calabria, Cosenza, Italy
- <sup>39</sup>State Key Laboratory of Food Science and Technology, China-Canada Joint Lab of Food Science and Technology (Nanchang), Nanchang University, Nanchang, China
- <sup>40</sup>State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicine, Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences, University of Macau, Macau, China

#### Correspondence

Jianbo Xiao, State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicine, Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences, University of Macau, Macau, China.

Email: jianboxiao@yahoo.com

Shaoping Nie, State Key Laboratory of Food Science and Technology, China-Canada Joint Lab of Food Science and Technology (Nanchang), Nanchang University, Nanchang, China.  
 Email: spnie@ncu.edu.cn

#### ORCID

Jianbo Xiao  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3311-770X>