

Publishing in the *Journal of Food Composition and Analysis*

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The *Journal of Food Composition and Analysis* is an international research journal which is devoted to all scientific aspects of the chemical composition of human foods. The journal emphasizes new methods of analysis; data on composition of foods; studies on the manipulation, storage, distribution, and use of food composition data; and studies on the statistics and distribution of such data and data systems. The journal is looking to build on its strong base in nutrient composition and to place increasing emphasis on other food components such as anti-carcinogens, natural toxicants, flavors, colors, functional additives, pesticides, agricultural chemicals, heavy metals, general environmental contaminants, and chemical and biochemical toxicants of microbiological origin.

My review of the reviewer criticisms of manuscripts over the past few years has led to the following general list of requirements for manuscript acceptance for the *Journal of Food Composition and Analysis*. Acceptable manuscripts need to have the following attributes.

* Manuscript Topic Is within Journal's Scope.

The manuscripts must be original scientific papers or critical scientific reviews about the chemical composition of human food which will be of interest to the readers.

* Adequate Sample Description

The foods assayed must be properly described. Key components of the sample description are the number of samples (a composite is one sample), the number of units in a composite, and the number of aliquots analyzed. The author's should provide information on the origin of samples, the places of growth and process-

ing, the point of purchase, and the year of purchase. The cultivar of plant and animal food materials should be provided where possible. Information on the commercial and "home" processing should be provided when they are pertinent to the study. If the food was stored after purchase or processing those storage conditions should be described. In some cases, the composition of a given food is processing and recipe dependent and in such cases it may well be necessary to provide the brand name of the individual food to adequately describe the food.

* Adequate Description of the Analytical Methodology

The analytical methodology used for the assays must be referenced. Since the journal has an international readership and some of the world literature is not readily available to some readers, the analytical methodology should be briefly described in the manuscript. Given the reoccurring problems of analytical errors, analytical quality control procedures must be used with the food assays and their use must be described in the manuscript.

* Comparisons with Previously Published Studies

The journal readers will almost inevitably want to compare the results of the current study with those of previous studies on the same or similar foods, or with other methods reported to measure the same or similar components. It is the responsibility of the authors of the manuscripts to provide an adequate comparison of their results with those of the pertinent published literature.

It is my experience that careful attention by authors to the issues surrounding these general areas usually

results in improved reviewer responses to manuscripts. Failure to properly deal with these issues usually leads to manuscript rejection.

The editorial staff looks forward to receiving your original manuscripts on the chemical composition of human foods for publication in the *Journal of Food Composition and Analysis*. It is hoped that this brief discussion will be helpful in getting your manuscript accepted and published in the Journal.