

Editorial

Molecular Nutrition & Food Research – The journal's impact after 5 years

In this editorial, we would like to take the opportunity to comment on the status of *Molecular Nutrition & Food Research* (MNF). When we started the journal in autumn 2004, we were convinced that there was a strong demand to create an interdisciplinary information platform covering molecular aspects of nutrition and food research. The concept of focusing on nutritional research at the molecular level, including health aspects, as well as linking information arising from several disciplines such as bioactivity, safety, immunology, microbiology and chemistry turned out to be true and hence successful. MNF has reached a very respectable Impact Factor, with 3.308 for 2008, the last year for which statistics are available (Thomson/ISI). If we look for the reasons of the success, we will certainly find the thematic focusing that has attracted the authors, but without the competent and careful work of the reviewers MNF would not be in its leading position. We would like to express our sincerest thanks to the authors and all those who have spent much time in maintaining MNF's quality high. It is with great pleasure we note that the willingness to review has increased continuously over time.

After 5 years, several changes in the production and outline of MNF were necessary to present authors' work in the best form possible. Thus, Senior Editors and Editorial Members were exchanged and, in this issue, you will find the new teams. We thank again all those who have worked for MNF in the past and we cordially welcome the "newcomers" who are all reputable scientists in the field.

In addition, a few administrative changes were needed. The increasingly large number of voluminous contributions made it necessary to limit the length of articles and to introduce page charges in case the page limit is surpassed. Also, the high number of submitted manuscripts (only the qualitatively best, at present about 30%, are accepted) required changes in their handling. As before, a small number of manuscripts have to be rejected without review, as they are outside MNF's scope. This

"...the understanding of the role of vitamins in human nutrition, health and disease has broadened and changed over the past decade."

decision is usually made rapidly, *i.e.* within less than 5 days. In order to keep the time-consuming work of external reviewers at a reasonable level, we have introduced a priority rating of the submitted manuscripts, set by at least two members of the board and the editors. Only those articles that obtain a high priority rating will be subjected to external review. By working closely together, we will be able to continue to perform priority ratings as quickly as possible.

All these modifications were made under the aspect of quality, with special attention being given to strategic focusing and the selection of topics. Hence, we will continue to present a well-balanced mixture of regular articles and selected reviews, also including a number of Special Issues that cover topics of particular interests. For instance, the understanding of the role of vitamins

in human nutrition, health, and disease has broadened and changed over the past decade. Thus in 2010, you will find respective Special Issues of MNF dedicated to "vitamin E" and "vitamin D"; further Specials will be devoted to the discussion of "risk assessment of phytochemical in food–novel approaches" and "diet and neuromodulation". We hope that you will enjoy these issues and find

the contributions helpful for both your personal information and professional activities.

We will continue to observe and oversee the further developments in our field so that we will be able to strengthen our leading position as a primary source of information in molecular nutrition.

Our cordial thanks go to the authors, reviewers, and the members of the board. Last but not least, we also thank the publishers, in particular Vivian Killet and Dr. Kraus for their tireless support in solving problems for the benefit of the MNF authors.

On a final note, we wish you success in your personal and business endeavours in the New Year.



P. Schreier

Schreier



H.-U. Humpf

Humpf