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## Editorial: Celebrating our tenth Anniversary of JFDA

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# Editorial

## Celebrating Our Tenth Anniversary of JFDA

ERICK TSI-TEE SUEN

*Editor-in-chief*

The first issue of Journal of Food and Drug Analysis (JFDA) was published in January 1993. From the very beginning, it was destined to become an international scientific journal. At the time, the idea of publishing an international journal was an innovative one and posed major challenges for a government agency in this research field. Actually we were not sure how long it would last. Ten years later, we can finally say that we have made it. Thirty-nine issues and 360 manuscripts have been published. So far, JFDA is indexed by BIOSIS Previews, EMBASE (Excerpta Medica), Chemical Abstracts, International Food Information Service, and ISI Products: Research Alert, Biochemistry & Biophysics Citation Index. The Journal Citation Reports (JCR) published in 1998 began to listing this journal, ranking it within two different disciplines and assigned it an impact factor. Since then, JFDA has made further progress in establishing its reputation and is widely recognized by government agencies as well as academic institutions in Taiwan.

In order to promote JFDA, in early years we made many efforts such as sending complimentary copies to academic libraries, publishing English abstracts online first and later with full text. One third of 1500 copies for JFDA have been routinely shipped overseas to libraries of related disciplines and scientific researchers as free gifts. We even pay for the cost of postage. The website of JFDA was created in October 1996. Since then, English abstracts of all accepted manuscripts have been included on the website designated [www.nlfd.gov.tw/jfda](http://www.nlfd.gov.tw/jfda). In December of 1997, a special issue dedicated to herbal medicine was published to celebrate the fifth year anniversary of JFDA. PDF files of full paper have been provided on the website since Vol. 7 No. 3, September 1999. At the end of 2000, the second special issue dedicated exclusively to the Science, Technology and Regulations of Traditional Chinese Medicine was published. In order to reach the high standards of an international journal, we have endeavored to increase the percentage of papers published in English and the result has been quite evident. Figure 1 indicates that only 26% of all published paper was in English in 1993, which has gradually increased to 97% in 2002. The result of this hike is due to an effective policy adopted early in 1997 to encourage contributors and authors of JFDA to submit articles in English or we offer them the option of having experts in the related field to translate the article into English. The JFDA helps subsidize a part of the cost of translation. The only requirement for this free service is to have the name of the translator appear in the acknowledgement at the end of the article. This is to show appreciation for the translation which is by no means an easy task. However, this policy has generated tremendous impact later on when we are seeking for listing on JCR and further in Science Citation Index (SCI).

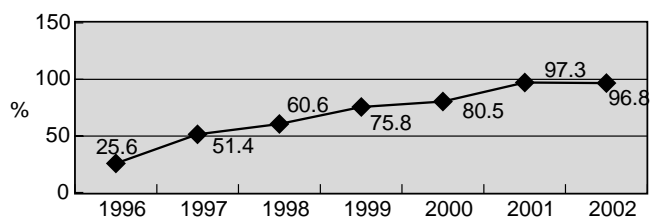


Figure 1. Percentage of English articles published in JFDA

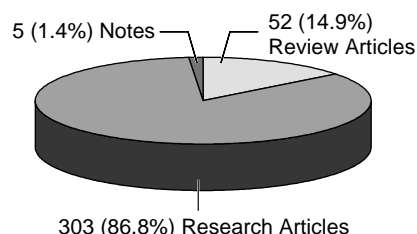


Figure 2. Manuscripts of different categories published in JFDA

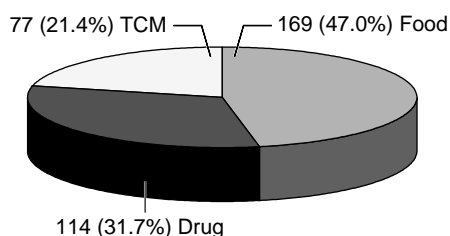


Figure 3. Articles published in JFDA submitted from different scientific disciplines

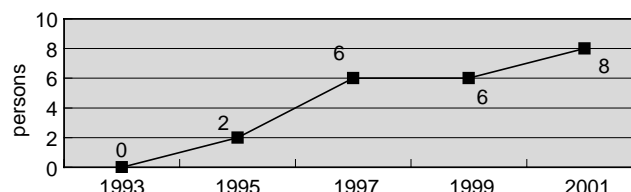
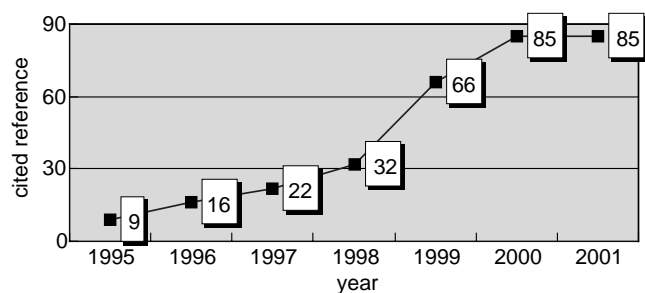
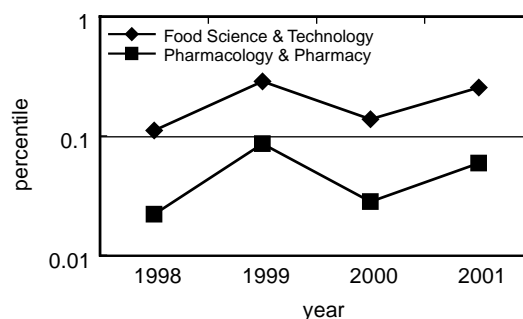


Figure 4. Numbers of overseas editorial board members



\* Since 1998, the calculation was done according to Journal Citation Reports (JCR).

**Figure 5.** Cited reference of JFDA



\* Percentile is calculated by dividing the number of ranking of JFDA in each category with the total of journals listed in JCR in the respective research fields.

**Figure 6.** Ranking of JFDA in JCR

In summary, the JFDA has reached a milestone of 10 years publication. During these ten years, we have encountered many challenges and have overcome numerous difficulties to arrive at where we are now. From this experience, we have learned to be patient and persistent. During the difficult times, we have learned to be frugal and careful. And through it all we kept our faith and strived to move forward toward the goals set for us. And now we dedicate this 10th anniversary issue to all our friends who have supported, contributed and encouraged us in the past. This issue contains nine excellent review articles contributed by many outstanding researchers in the field of regulatory science of food and drug analysis. With the publication of these articles we are hoping that the future ranking of JFDA will be greatly improved. Currently in Food Science Category there are 94 journals listed in JCR, and out of these journals only 54 journals are listed in SCI. At this moment JFDA ranks 70. We are moving upward to hopefully reach the listing number of SCI within the next few years. We have confidence that the future is bright for JFDA. And we will continue to work hard toward our goals.

Actually a more valuable criterion on which to judge the quality of a journal is the impact factor published in Journal Citation Reports internationally or the award certified by the National Science Council (NSC) locally. In addition to being indexed by many international databases, JFDA has also been recognized and awarded seven times by the NSC of Republic of China as being an outstanding journal. It was first awarded in 1996, only three years after its inception. Each year, NSC selects only the best local scientific journals using a high level of criteria and awards them. This recognition is both an honor and a prestige. Furthermore, in the JCR 1998 Science edition published by ISI (Institute for Scientific Information), JFDA was listed first time with the impact factor of 0.145, ranked 80 in Food Science & Technology (out of 90 journals), and 174 in Pharmacology & Pharmacy (out of 178 journals). The rank in Food Science improved to 70 according to JCR published in 2001. The number of cited references increases from 2 to 85 for the last 5 years (Fig. 5). The impact factor (IF) for the last several years has increased from 0.183 to 0.378 (Table 2). This is a great encouragement to all the members of the editorial board and our staff. We are really glad that JFDA has been continuously listed in JCR since 1998 and the progress was made since then. Figure 6 indicates the ranking of the journal in two different areas of discipline. The trend in the ranking of JFDA in JCR has moved upward during the past 4 years. In general, the ranking is better in food science & technology than in pharmacology & pharmacy (Fig. 6). We are hopeful that this trend will continue to grow in the future.

**Table 1.** Ratio of rejection

| Year | Ratio of rejection |
|------|--------------------|
| 1993 | 13.7%              |
| 1995 | 18.0%              |
| 1998 | 26.7%              |
| 2001 | 31.5%              |

**Table 2.** Impact factors of JFDA for the last 5 years

| Year | Impact Factor |
|------|---------------|
| 1997 | 0.183         |
| 1998 | 0.145*        |
| 1999 | 0.386         |
| 2000 | 0.227         |
| 2001 | 0.378         |

\* Since 1998, the calculation was done according to Journal Citation Reports (JCR)

In summary, the JFDA has reached a milestone of 10 years publication. During these ten years, we have encountered many challenges and have overcome numerous difficulties to arrive at where we are now. From this experience, we have learned to be patient and persistent. During the difficult times, we have learned to be frugal and careful. And through it all we kept our faith and strived to move forward toward the goals set for us. And now we dedicate this 10th anniversary issue to all our friends who have supported, contributed and encouraged us in the past. This issue contains nine excellent review

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We express appreciation to Dr. Huang, Weng-Foung, Director Liao, Chun-Heng and Dr. Chen, Su-Kong for sponsoring and supporting the operation of JFDA. Thanks also extend to Ms. Lily Yang and Ms. Ruby Huang for their excellent assistance in the preparation of this manuscript. Finally, we would like to thank Dr. Cyprian Weaver for his valuable advices, kind suggestions and continuous encouragement throughout the last ten years in helping the publication of this journal a successful endeavor.

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