

Editorial

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As a preface to the first issue of volume 11 of *Quality Assurance and Safety of Crops and Food (QAS)*, I would like to introduce myself as the newly appointed editor-in-chief (EIC) and also let you know that the scientific content of *QAS* is now under the stewardship of the MoniQA Association. My name is Richard Cantrill and I have assumed this position following a career in fats, oils and lipids that spans academic, non-profit and industry experience. I have also enjoyed a lengthy involvement with the MoniQA Association, both as an advisor to the MoniQA Network of Excellence and also as a member of the supervisory board of the MoniQA Association, president and current past president.

I assumed the role of EIC with the recognition of the fine work done by the previous EICs, Stanley Cauvain and Roland Poms, and the acknowledgement that this journal cannot be produced without their effort and that of the members of the editorial board and numerous reviewers, and the production team at Wageningen Academic Publishers. I am grateful to all of them that this journal has a firm foundation and is growing strongly and receives numerous submissions from a global audience. To strengthen our development and provide future stability, I have asked a number of colleagues from the MoniQA Association to assist in the editorial process. I hope that their addition will decrease the workload and pressure experienced by the current associate editors, especially Hamit Köksel and Vasso Oreopoulou, who shouldered the load and acted as EIC in the recent past. These new members with additional expertise will allow the journal to accept papers from a broader range of scientific communities and also allow us to further develop the scope and audience of *QAS*.

Following my review, the editorial board and MoniQA supervisory board have agreed to small but significant changes to the scope of *QAS*. The revised scope and submission requirements can be found online (<https://www.wageningenacademic.com/journals/qas/general-information>). As a result of this review, we will maintain our current core subjects related to crops, crop improvement and conversion of crops to food, but will also place a greater emphasis on food composition, food safety and quality and the interaction between food quality and the regulation of global trade. To illustrate this broader coverage of food safety and quality, *QAS* is publishing a special issue in 2019 consisting of papers from the Global Harmonization Initiative which advocates for 'science-based food safety law and trade'.

It is apparent from the recent surge in conferences and workshops on food integrity, food authenticity and food fraud that openness and transparency in food production, food formulation and food handling from crop to the

finished food in the hands of the consumer is an area of rapid expansion and scientific interest from testing to traceability. As new measurement technologies, from hand-held and consumer instruments to the latest approaches to targeted and non-targeted analysis, are developed, I welcome submissions covering these areas of interest in addition to our more traditional papers and I have asked international experts from these burgeoning areas to join me on the editorial board. In addition, I look forward to receiving analyses of the many new approaches being developed to ensure transparency in the food chain. The nexus of measurement, transparency and regulation is an area of interest identified by the MoniQA Association and worthy of future symposia and workshops and should also provide valuable contributions to *QAS*.

I am pleased to remind our readers that although we receive many submissions every month, unfortunately we can only publish a small fraction of your work each quarter. When we receive the papers, we must consider their originality, novelty, scientific quality and completeness in terms of scientific rigor and also meeting the submission guidelines. Since *QAS* is an international journal, we need to also consider our global audience and whether the topic will have general interest or if it only serves a small regional population. These decisions weigh heavily with me and with the Editorial Board and reviewers and so it is worth your consideration of these factors when submitting a paper to us. We are aiming to develop and maintain a world class journal with a wide readership and with your help we can deliver this quality consistently.

In conclusion, I look forward to the challenges ahead as I take up this role as editor-in-chief of *QAS* and hope you will join me on this journey through continued collaboration and submission of your high-quality work.

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