

EDITOR'S CORNER

Appreciation for Food Nutrition Press and Welcome to Blackwell Publishing

The Chinese New Year of the Rooster, 2005, is a time of change for most of the journals of Food and Nutrition Press (FNP), which were acquired by Blackwell Publishing. The editors of the journals published by FNP are involved with the transaction between the two companies. I am indeed grateful to FNP for inviting me to start the *Journal of Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology* back in 1992. Little did I know that the Journal would now be in its 13th volume. How time flies!

FNP is a small company with many dedicated professionals who made the company strong and helped to transmit the important topics of food science and nutrition and related areas to the scientific community for a good number of years. Under the direction and leadership of John O'Neil, his wife, daughter, family members and wonderful staff, the company provided timely and valuable services to the general area of food science and technology through the years. It was very much a family affair, and for many years, all the editors were invited to a breakfast meeting at the Institute of Food Technologists annual meeting. It was always a great working breakfast. All the editors were asked to make a short presentation on the accomplishments of the previous year and their plans for the future. We all became friends and great colleagues through those breakfast meetings.

When Blackwell Publishing acquired the food-related journals published by FNP, the organization made a great effort to work with all the editors to be involved with the strategic planning and development of these journals. We were invited to the Boston headquarters and were given a very thorough orientation of the vast connections of Blackwell in the publication arena around the world. We were also introduced to all the electronic procedures and protocols in the operations of each journal from the time a paper is submitted to the time of its publication. For some editors, this fast-track electronic routing is a bit daunting to learn in one afternoon!!

Nevertheless, the able staff members of Blackwell are very patient in working with the editors, and things are progressing smoothly on many fronts.

The *Journal of Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology* Volume 12 Issue 4 was organized by FNP and published under the auspices of Blackwell. Starting from Volume 13 Issue 1, everything will be fully under the guidance of Blackwell.

As an editor, I immediately feel the impact of this new scenario, because as of January 2005, I have received far more papers in one month than ever before owing to the contacts of Blackwell!! Now I have to work even harder for the Journal – which is GREAT.

So, as a reader of this Journal, you can expect to have a wider range of papers from around the world on the newest technologies in rapid microbiological methods. I hope you will help spread the word around so that more scientists and institutions will subscribe to the Journal.

Have a great Spring season wherever you are.

DANIEL Y.C. FUNG