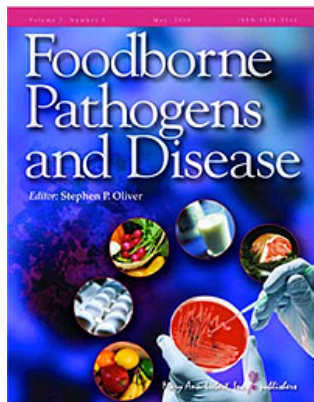


STEPHEN OLIVER ON THE SUCCESS OF FOODBORNE PATHOGENS & DISEASE

JOURNAL INTERVIEW: JUNE 2010

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According to a recent analysis of [Essential Science IndicatorsSM](#) from [Thomson Reuters](#) the journal *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* is having a growing impact in the field of Agricultural Sciences.

The journal's current record in this field includes 329 papers cited a total of 1,156 times between its founding in 2004 and February 28, 2010.

Foodborne Pathogens & Disease is published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. Its founding and current Editor-in-Chief is Dr. Stephen Oliver of the University of Tennessee's Food Safety Center of Excellence.

SCIENCEWATCH.COM TALKS WITH OLIVER ABOUT THE JOURNAL'S HISTORY AND CITATION ACHIEVEMENTS.

SW: Did you expect *Foodborne Pathogens and Disease* to become highly cited, or is this surprising to you?

Yes, I expected *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* to be highly cited, but I must admit I did not expect things to happen so rapidly! *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* fills a significant void in the universe of journals because it is the only scientific peer-reviewed journal that focuses exclusively on foodborne pathogens and diseases caused by these important pathogens.

Currently, peer-reviewed scientific papers on the topic of food safety are diffused throughout the literature in a variety of different journals, many of which are very broad in scope. Hence, many important findings are often overlooked; this new journal integrates these previously segregated areas of research (i.e., public health, food safety, medical, agricultural, veterinary, food microbiology research) into one source.

SW: How would you account for the high citation rate of *Foodborne Pathogens and Disease*?

Foodborne Pathogens & Disease has helped bridge the gap between science and instituting policy to reduce the burden of foodborne illness worldwide. *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* communicates significant research advances from around the globe and across the many disciplines that contribute to food safety.

The journal's Editorial Board is composed of renowned scientists and public health officials from some of the leading universities and regulatory agencies involved in food safety in the US, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Not only do members of the *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* Editorial Board actively participate in the rigorous review of papers submitted to the journal, they also publish results of their research in this journal.

In addition, the journal has published special issues on topics of high interest to its readers. For example, thematic issues on "National and International PulseNet Programs" published in 2006 showcased the international bacterial DNA "fingerprinting" electronic network established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USA, to facilitate rapid recognition and investigation of foodborne disease outbreaks.

Another thematic issue published in 2008 on "the application of 'Omics' technologies for food safety research" highlighted recently introduced molecular methods that are critically important for rapid diagnostics and typing of foodborne pathogens and for understanding their complex behavior patterns in food systems.

More recently, a thematic issue on "On-farm strategies to reduce foodborne pathogen contamination," published in 2009, focused on recent developments on types, sources, and levels of disease-causing pathogens encountered in food-producing animal environments; their association with food safety; and current and new methods to control/reduce foodborne pathogens on the farm.

Foodborne Disease Trends and Reports, a regular feature of the journal, provides a

public health perspective on current food safety problems, includes brief reports on current public health trends such as newly observed antimicrobial resistances among foodborne pathogens, and highlights recent investigations of foodborne disease outbreaks.

"Foodborne Pathogens & Disease has helped bridge the gap between science and instituting policy to reduce the burden of foodborne illness worldwide."

SW: Would you give us a brief history of the journal?

About eight years ago, I was contacted by Vicki Cohn and Mary Ann Liebert of the publishing firm of Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., about launching a journal dedicated to food safety. At that time, I was heavily engaged in a variety of research projects and declined the offer.

About a year later, I inquired about the status of their proposed food safety journal and Vicki and Mary Ann convinced me that this journal was necessary and that I was the person for the job. They must have caught me during a weak moment (they were both very convincing) and I agreed to begin the journey.

Foodborne Pathogens & Disease began as a quarterly international peer-reviewed journal, and the first issue was published in 2004. The response to the launch of this peer-reviewed quarterly international journal has been incredible.

An important milestone in the journal's history was when *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* was indexed in both Medline and Current Contents—two of the most prestigious indexing services in the world.

Because of the journal's growth, we decided to increase publication frequency of *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* from four to six issues per year in 2007. This allowed more timely publication of review articles, original research papers, short communications, "Perspectives" articles, Letters to the Editor, and Foodborne Disease Trends and Reports.

More frequent publication also provided additional flexibility and allowed for creative "Special Issues" as described previously.

The response to *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. both in print and online with an open access option continues to be incredible. The journal has grown every year and the number of quality manuscripts submitted to *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* continues to increase.

In 2010, we increased publication frequency and will publish 12 issues per year to meet the increased demand. It is hard to believe that six short years ago we began as a quarterly publication and now we will be publishing an issue each month.

Foodborne Pathogens & Disease continues to serve as an important forum to communicate from around the globe and across the many disciplines that contribute to food safety including public health, human and veterinary medicine, agricultural sciences, and food processing.

SW: What historical factors have contributed to the success of *Foodborne Pathogens and Disease*?

Given the considerable national/international demand for food safety, the formidable challenges of producing and maintaining a safe food supply, and the enormous and timely concerns regarding the possibility of agroterrorism and its potential impact on our food supply, food safety research and educational programs have taken on a new urgency.

The challenges to providing a safe and nutritious food supply are complex because all aspects of food production—from farm to fork—need to be considered.

Not only must research be conducted to solve complex food safety problems, but results of that research *must* be communicated to scientists; to the medical, veterinary, and agricultural communities; to government regulatory agencies; to food producers and processors; and to consumers in a timely manner.

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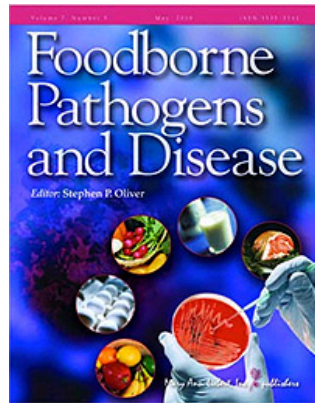
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SW: Have there been specific developments in the fields served by *Foodborne Pathogens and Disease* that may have contributed?

Acute gastroenteritis affects several million people in the US annually, and an estimated 22% to 30% of these cases are thought to be foodborne disease. Approximately one of four Americans may experience some form of foodborne illnesses each year, according to data provided by the CDC.

Additionally, growing media coverage of large outbreaks has sometimes called into question the safety of our food supply. Although the causes of many outbreaks reported to the CDC are unknown, the leading known causes are of viral and bacterial origin.

Recent estimates also put the costs of foodborne disease outbreaks between \$2 billion and \$4 billion dollars annually.

Foodborne Pathogens & Disease was created to fill this void, and publishes research and reviews on many timely topics in the area of food safety, such as emerging foodborne pathogens, health problems/disease caused by foodborne pathogens, emergence of drug resistance in foodborne pathogens, methods to detect foodborne pathogens, strategies to destroy or mitigate foodborne pathogens in food production and processing environments, and development of novel strategies for the prevention and control of plant and animal diseases that impact food safety.

The reality is that most microbiological journals only devote a subsection to this area, if any, with three or four research articles being published per issue. *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* has helped bridge the gap between science and instituting policy to reduce the burden of foodborne illness worldwide.

SW: What, in your view, is this journal's main significance or contribution in the field of Agricultural Sciences?

Foodborne Pathogens & Disease is the perfect forum for the distribution of information in the growing area of food safety and food biosecurity. *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* publishes original full-length research papers and short communications on foodborne pathogens and diseases caused by foodborne pathogens.

The scope of the journal is comprehensive and includes topics such as those previously discussed. *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* also publishes timely reviews and special reports, and is committed to rapid and high-quality peer review of submitted manuscripts, and rapid publication of papers.

Foodborne Pathogens & Disease is a unique journal fulfilling a very important function designed to better link food safety knowledge to the medical, veterinary, public health, regulatory and scientific communities.

The contents of the journal are of interest to those interested in food microbiology, food safety, and foodborne pathogens. Epidemiologists, microbiologists, veterinarians, medical doctors, food safety specialists, and food scientists are also interested in this journal.

SW: How do you see your field(s) evolving in the next few years?

Foodborne Pathogens & Disease has rapidly established itself as a premier, peer-reviewed journal in the field of food safety microbiology. In addition to publishing original research reports and state-of-the art reviews on various aspects of food safety microbiology, the journal has pioneered several innovative features, such as Foodborne Disease Trends and Reports, as well as special thematic issues on topics of high interest to its readers, as noted.

We hope that *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* will continue to break new ground and serve as a valuable resource throughout the world for disseminating important information on food safety research and developments.

SW: What role do you see for your journal?

"Foodborne Pathogens & Disease fills a significant void in the universe of journals because it is the only scientific peer-reviewed journal that focuses exclusively on foodborne pathogens and diseases caused by these important pathogens."

Foodborne Pathogens & Disease has become one of the leading food safety journals. It is one of the most inclusive scientific journals covering an array of issues related to foodborne pathogens from at every stage of food production, including control strategies, antimicrobial resistance, pathogen detection and characterization, as well as emerging pathogens.

The broad array of high-quality and timely research and review articles are of interest to researchers, educators, regulators, and clinicians, as well as the consumer, and regularly published *Foodborne Disease Trends and Reports* are well written and informative.

Published findings will continue to provide information essential to meeting public health objectives related to food safety. ■

Foodborne Pathogens & Disease

Stephen P. Oliver, Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief

Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., Publishers

FOODBORNE PATHOGENS & DISEASE'S CURRENT MOST-CITED PAPER IN ESSENTIAL SCIENCE INDICATORS, WITH 112 CITES:

Ribot EM, *et al.*, "Standardization of pulsed-field gel electrophoresis protocols for the subtyping of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella*, and *Shigella* for PulseNet," *Foodborne Pathog. Dis.* 3(1): 59-67, Spring 2006. Source: [Essential Science Indicators](#) from [Thomson Reuters](#) .

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- *Foodborne Pathogens & Disease* was named as a Rising Star in [May 2010](#).

KEYWORDS: FOODBORNE PATHOGENS, DISEASES, FOOD SAFETY, PUBLIC HEALTH, PULSENET, BACTERIAL DNA FINGERPRINTING ELECTRONIC NETWORK, OMICS TECHNOLOGIES, FARM-TO-FORK, ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE, SAFE FOOD SUPPLY, AGROTERRORISM, ACUTE GASTROENTERITIS, JOURNAL GROWTH.

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