DESCRIPTION

The International Journal of Food Microbiology publishes papers dealing with all aspects of food microbiology. Articles must present information that is novel, has high impact and interest, and is of high scientific quality. They should provide scientific or technological advancement in the specific field of interest of the journal and enhance its strong international reputation. Preliminary or confirmatory results as well as contributions not strictly related to food microbiology will not be considered for publication.

Full-length original research papers, review articles and book reviews in the fields of bacteriology, mycology, virology, parasitology, and immunology as they relate to the production, processing, service and consumption of foods and beverages are welcomed. Within this scope, topics of specific interest include: (1) incidence and types of food and beverage microorganisms, microbial interactions, microbial ecology of foods, intrinsic and extrinsic factors affecting microbial survival and growth in foods, and food spoilage; (2) microorganisms involved in food and beverage fermentations (including probiotics and starter cultures); (3) food safety, indices of the sanitary quality of foods, microbial quality assurance, biocontrol, microbial aspects of food preservation and novel preservation techniques, predictive microbiology and microbial risk assessment; (4) foodborne microorganisms of public health significance, and microbial aspects of foodborne diseases of microbial origin; (5) methods for microbiological and immunological examinations of foods, as well as rapid, automated and molecular methods when validated in food systems; and (6) the biochemistry, physiology and molecular biology of microorganisms as they directly relate to food spoilage, foodborne disease and food fermentations.

Papers that do not have a direct food or beverage connection will not be considered for publication. The following examples provide some guide as to the type of papers that will not be admitted to the formal review process (for a more extensive list please refer to the journal’s Guide for Authors: Studies in animal models that determine the responses of probiotic microorganisms in the gastrointestinal tract; Fundamental physiology and gene expression studies of food/beverage microorganisms, unless they directly relate to the food/beverage ecosystem; The isolation and characterization of antimicrobial substances such as essential oils, bacteriocins etc, unless their efficacy is tested and validated in the food/beverage ecosystem; Development of new methods for the analysis of microorganisms, unless the method is tested and validated in the food/beverage ecosystem.

This journal also publishes special issues of selected, peer-reviewed papers from suitable meetings, workshops, conferences, etc, related to the field of food microbiology.
AUDIENCE

Industrial and food Microbiologists, Bacteriologists, Immunologists, Mycologists, Parasitologists, Virologists, Food Hygienists.

IMPACT FACTOR

2022: 5.400 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2023

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Cambridge Scientific Abstracts
EMBiology
Current Contents - Agriculture, Biology & Environmental Sciences
Science Citation Index
BIOSIS Citation Index
Embase
AGRICOLA
CAB International
FSTA (Food Science and Technology Abstracts)
Scopus
PubMed/Medline

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
Luca Cocolin, University of Turin, Department of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, Grugliasco, Italy
Food microbiology, Molecular biology, Biotechnology

Editors
J. Fernando Ayala-Zavala, Center for Food Research and Development Emerging Technologies Laboratory, Hermosillo, Mexico
Food microbiology, food safety, food quality, food additives, bioactive compounds, encapsulation
Bon Kimura, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, Minato-Ku, Japan
Food microbiology, molecular method, food preservatives, Gut Microbiome, Microbial Food Safety, Microbial Ecology
Gisele LaPointe, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada
Food microbiology, dairy products, cheese, lactic acid bacteria, starters
Albert Mas, Universitat Rovira i Virgili--Sesceñades Campus, Tarragona, Spain
Microbiology, Food Technology, Enology
Min Suk Rhee, Korea University Division of Biotechnology, Seongbuk-gu, South Korea
Food safety, foodborne pathogen, microbiology, antimicrobial, stress response
Alicia Rodriguez, University of Extremadura, Badajoz, Spain
Fungi, Mycotoxin, Stress, Food mycology, Gene expression
Paula C. Teixeira, Catholic University of Portugal, Faculty of Biotechnology, Porto, Portugal
Listeria, Salmonella, E. coli, Campylobacter, Staphylococcus, Clostridium difficile, cross-contamination, transfer, consumer food handling practices, fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, deli meat, dairy, bacteriocins
Marcel Zwietering, Wageningen University, Wageningen, Netherlands
Predictive microbiology, growth, inactivation, survival, probability, interaction, minimal processing, stress response, microbial modelling, risk analyses, risk assessment, sampling plans, dose-response, food safety management, exposure assessment, quantitative microbiology

Editorial Board Members
Mohd Afendy Abdul Talib, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Serdang, Malaysia
Foodborne pathogen, Lateral flow immunoassay, PCR, Molecular diagnostics, Food safety
Abram Aertsen, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
Mohammed Aider, Laval University, Department of Soil and Agri-Food Engineering, Québec, Quebec, Canada
Prebiotics.Whey.Lactulose.Electro-activation.Fermentation,
Anas Al-Nabulsi, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid, Jordan
Serhat Al, Erciyes University, Talas, Turkey
Molecular microbiology, Salmonella, Listeria

Ana Allende, Spanish Scientific Research Council, Madrid, Spain
Fresh produce, Pre-harvest, E. coli, Salmonella, Listeria, Irrigation water, Survival, Inactivation, Risk assessment, water management

Denis Arutyunov, Aldevron LLC, Fargo, North Dakota, United States of America
Bacteriophages, biosensors, antimicrobials, gene transfer

Mueen Aslam, Government of Canada Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
food microbiology, meat safety, antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial resistance genes, genetic of AMR, animal science, milk proteins, dairy mastitis, coliform mastitis

Jean-Christophe Augustin, National Veterinary School of Alfort, Maisons Alfort, France
Predictive microbiology, Modeling, Quantitative microbiology

Teresa Aymerich, Research and Technology Food and Agriculture Monells Centre, Monells, Spain
Parasitology, Food Microbiology, Pathogen biology

Sampathkumar Balamurugan, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Guelph Research and Development Centre, Guelph, Ontario, Canada
Food microbiology, Food Processing, Food safety

József Baranyi, Quadram Institute Bioscience, Norwich, United Kingdom

Joaquín Bautista-Gallego, Universitat Rovira i Virgili--Sescelades Campus, Tarragona, Spain

Antonio Bevilacqua, University of Foggia, Foggia, Italy
Predictive Microbiology, Shelf Life Prolongation, Probiotics, Fermentation, Microbiota and Microbiome

Johanna Björkroth, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Sara Bover-Cid
Food safety, food microbiology, food technology, predictive microbiology, foodborne pathogens

John Bowman, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

Robert Buchanan, University of Maryland at College Park College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, College Park, Maryland, United States of America
Food safety microbiology, Microbial risk assessment, Predictive microbiology, Mycotoxins, Food Toxicology

Vittorio Capozzi, Institute of Sciences of Food Production National Research Council, Bari, Italy
Food microbiology, wine microbiology, functional foods, probiotics, molecular microbiology, lactic acid bacteria, yeasts, spoilage microbes, pathogens

Guillermo Cebrián Auré, University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain
Thermal technologies for food preservation, Non-thermal technologies for food preservation and processing, S. aureus, L. monocytogenes, predictive microbiology, stress responses, Thermal inactivation, Novel Foods, Salmonella, Foodborne Pathogens, Egg, Pulsed Electric Fields, Ultrasound, UV light, Non Thermal Plasma

Anurag Chaurasia, Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi Sub-district, India
GMOS, Transgenics/Cisgenics, Biodiversity and Conservation, Microbes, Biotechnology, Food

Zhao Chen, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, United States of America
Food microbiology, Bacterial genomics, Bacterial stress response

Gustavo Cordero Bueso, University of Cadiz, Cadiz, Spain
Yeast microbiology, Wine, Fermentation, Bacteriophages, Sensory, Yeast Ecology, Yeast Biotechnology

Aldo Corsetti, University of Teramo, Teramo, Italy

Matteo Crotta, The Royal Veterinary College, London, United Kingdom
Risk Analysis, Food safety, Epidemiology, Zoonosis, Public Health

Olatunde Samuel Dahunsi, Bowen University, , Nigeria
Environmental Microbiology, Biofuels, Biomass, Sustainable Agriculture, Molecular biology, Clean energy

Philippe Dantigny, l’Institut Agro Dijon, Dijon, France

Heidy M. W. Den Besten, Wageningen University, Wageningen, Netherlands
Bacillus cereus, Stress response, Inactivation, Thermal resistance of spores, Modeling microbial behavior, Functional genomics, Quantitative microbial risk assessments (QMRA), Listeria, Lactobacillus, Biofilms

Frank Devlieghere, Ghent University, Gent, Belgium
Foodborne and waterborne parasites, Molecular epidemiology, Zoonotic transmission

Konrad Domig, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Wien, Austria
Food microbiology, food hygiene, lactic acid bacteria

Weihuan Fang, Zhejiang A and F University, Hangzhou, China
Porcine viruses, Pathogenesis, Host antiviral responses, Immune evasion, Vaccinology

**Bernadette Franco**, University of Sao Paulo, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Food microbiology, Food safety, Microbial food spoilage

**Pina Fratamico**, USDA-ARS Eastern Regional Research Center, Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, United States of America

**Michael Gänzle**, University of Alberta, Department of Agricultural Food & Nutritional Science, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Food Microbiology, Food Safety, Non-thermal preservation, Food Fermentations, Lactobacillus, Sourdough

**Alberto Garre**, Wageningen University & Research Food Microbiology Laboratory, Wageningen, Netherlands
Food safety, Predictive microbiology, Food microbiology, Mathematical modelling, Simulation, Experiment design

**Anнемie Geeraerd**, KU Leuven Association, Leuven, Belgium

**Rolf Geisen**, Max Rubner-Institute Federal Research Institute of Nutrition and Food, Karlsruhe, Germany

**Alexander Gill**, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Bacteriology, food safety, food borne pathogens

**Jorge E. Gómez Marín**, University of Quindío, Armenia, Colombia
Tropical Medicine, Parasitology, Immunology, Molecular Biology, Infectious Diseases

**José Manuel Guillamón**, Institute of Agrochemistry and Food Technology, Burjassot, Spain
Wine biotechnology, Yeast metabolism, Bioactive molecules, Nitrogen metabolism, Low temperature adaptation

**Joshua Gurtler**, USDA-ARS, Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, United States of America
Fruit and vegetable safety, internalization of foodborne pathogens into fresh produce, irrigation water, crop soil microbiology, low water activity foods, egg microbiology, poultry microbiology, antimicrobial compounds and produce washes, pulsed electric fields, intervention technologies

**Richard Holley**, University of Manitoba, Department of Food and Human Nutritional Sciences, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Food microbiology, Food Safety, Natural antimicrobials, Meat quality and safety

**Wilhelm Holzapfel**, Handong Global University School of Life Science, Pohang, South Korea

**Mogens Jakobsen**, Copenhagen University, Department of Food Science, Frederiksberg, Denmark

**Xinan Jiao**, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou, China

**Han Joosten**, Lausanne, Switzerland
Food Safety Microbiology

**Andrzej Jurkowski**, Faculty of Biological Sciences University of Zielona Gora, Zielona Góra, Poland
Probiotics, LAB, Nanotechnology, Nanobiotechnology

**Andreas Kiermeier**, Gumeracha, Australia
Acceptance sampling, Statistics, Risk Assessment, Mont Carlo Simulation, Shelf-life assessment, Process Improvement, QA/QC

**Shigenobu Koseki**, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan
Predictive modeling of microbial survival by non-thermal processing, especially high-pressure processing, probabilistic modeling of microbial behavior (growth/survival) in foods, sanitization and preservation of fresh produce

**Kostas Koutsoumanis**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece
Food Microbiology, Predictive Microbiology, Microbial Risk Assessment

**Alexandre Leclercq**, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France
Listeria, Yersinia, Genomic, Analytical methods, Microbiology of the food chain

**Su-lin Lynette Leong**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden

**Frederic Leroy**, VUB University, Brussel, Belgium

**Xinhui Li**, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Department of Microbiology, La Crosse, Wisconsin, United States of America
Antibiotic resistance, lactic acid bacteria, food fermentation, foodborne virus, norovirus, high pressure processing

**Nicolle Lima Barbieri**, The University of Georgia, T’bilisi, Georgia
Escherichia coli, Antimicrobial resistance, Virulence genes, O Serogrouping, Avian microbiology

**Aurelio López-Malo**, University of the Americas Puebla, San Andrés Cholula, Mexico
Predictive microbiology, predictive model generation and validation, antimicrobial agents including naturally occurring agents, emerging technologies including high pressure, high frequency ultrasound, short-wave ultraviolet light, and microwave heating, hurdle technologies, fungal ecology, fruit processing, hurdle technology, modified atmosphere packaging, edible films, microbial stress factors (pH, water activity, antimicrobials).

**Patrick Lucas**, University of Bordeaux, Talence, France
Lactic acid bacteria, Wine, Fermentation, Oenococcus
Manuel Malfeito-Ferreira, University of Lisbon Higher Institute of Agronomy, Lisboa, Portugal
Food microbiology, wine microbiology, wine sensory analysis

Sonia Marin Sillué, University of Lleida, Lleida, Spain
Food microbiology, Mycotoxins, Food preservation

Simone Mattiucci, University of Rome La Sapienza, Roma, Italy

Leena Maunula, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Domenico Meloni, University of Sassari, Department of Veterinary Medicine, Sassari, Italy

Jeanne-Marie Membré, National Research Institute for Agriculture Food and Environment Pays de la Loire Center, Nantes, France
Predictive microbiology, deterministic and probabilistic modeling techniques, Monte Carlo simulation, Bayesian inference and sensitivity analysis, microbial modelling, applied statistics, multicriteria decision analysis (MCDA), risk-benefit assessment of food, QMRA, Ris of spoilage of food

Antonio Moretti, Institute of Sciences of Food Production National Research Council, Bari, Italy
Mycotoxigenic fungi biodiversity, Food Mycology, Mycotoxins

George -John Nychas, Agricultural University of Athens, Athens, Greece
Food spoilage (meat, fish, vegetables), indicators of quality and safety, Natural antimicrobial, Rapid methods in food microbiology, MAP technology of meat, fish and vegetables, Microbial ecology of foods, growth/survival (modeling) of pathogens, emerging pathogens, stress response food microbiology

Monica Olsen, Swedish Food Agency, Uppsala, Sweden

Luís Ortega-Ramírez, State University of Sonora, Hermosillo, Mexico
Natural antimicrobials, Patogenic bacteria, Food safety, Biofilms, Essential oils

Alfredo Palop, Polytechnic University of Cartagena School of Agronomic Engineering, Cartagena, Spain
Heat resistance, Predictive microbiology, Natural antimicrobials

George Paoli, USDA-ARS Eastern Regional Research Center, Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, United States of America

Eugenio Parente, University of Basilicata, Potenza, Italy
Food microbiology, Dairy microbiology, Bioinformatics

Giancarlo Perrone, Institute of Sciences of Food Production National Research Council, Bari, Italy
Food Mycology, Toxigenic Fungi Ecology, Genomic and Phylogenetic, Mycotoxins

Maria del Carmen Portillo, Rovira i Virgili University, Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Tarragona, Spain
Microbial Ecology, Wine Microbiology, Molecular Microbiology, Wine Fermentation, High-Throughput sequencing

Cheunjit Prakitchaiwattana, Chulalongkorn University, Department of Food Technology, Bangkok, Thailand
Food Microbiology, Food Biotechnology, Food Safety

Andreja Rajkovic, Ghent University, Gent, Belgium

Manuel Ramirez, University of Extremadura, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Badajoz, Spain
Yeast, wine fermentation, killer virus, genetic improvement.

Kalliopi Rantsiou, University of Turin, Torino, Italy
Food fermentation, Wine, Sausage, Yeasts, Lactic acid bacteria, PCR, Next generation sequencing, Amplicon sequencing, Metagenomics, Transcriptomics, Fecal microbiota, foodborne pathogens, microbial ecology, food microbiota

Carlo Giuseppe Rizzello, University of Rome La Sapienza, Department of Environmental Biology, Roma, Italy
Lactic acid bacteria, Sourdough, Fermentation, Food biotechnologies, Functional compounds

Lucy Robertson, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway
Gastrointestinal parasites, particularly those with zoonotic potential, Detection of transmission stages in environmental matrices (especially water and food), Outbreak investigation and contamination control, Viability assessment and method development, Interactions of parasites with host nutrition in a global health context, One Health approaches to investigating parasite transmission

David Rodríguez-Lázaro, University of Burgos, Burgos, Spain
Foodborne pathogens, Bacteria, Virus, Molecular methods, PCR, NGS, Sequencing, Food analysis

Mohammad Bagher Rokni, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
Helminthology

Thomas Ross, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia
food microbiology, mathematical modelling, food safety risk assessment

Elliot Ryser, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, United States of America
Microbial food safety, Listeria, Salmonella, E. coli, fruits and vegetables, meat and poultry, dairy, low moisture foods, cross-contamination, survival, inactivation

Anderson Sant'Ana, UNICAMP - University of Campinas, SAO PAULO, Brazil
Predictive microbiology, predictive modeling, risk analysis, quantitative microbial risk assessment, challenge tests, foodborne pathogens (Salmonella, Listeria, Bacillus cereus, Clostridium perfringens, Clostridium botulinum), probiotics, spoilage
microorganisms (Alicyclobacillus, Clostridium, Bacillus, fungi), effects of processing on the microbial quality and safety of foods, GC-MS, HPLC, MS-MS and molecular tools

**Donald Schaffner**, Rutgers The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, New Jersey, United States of America

Predictive microbiology, Modeling, Microbial risk assessment, Food safety

**Shlomo Sela**, Agricultural Research Organization Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel

Microbiology, food safety, Salmonella, desiccation, human pathogens on plants, Salmonella-plant interactions, Food microbiology, biocontrol (bacteria), antagonistic bacteria, sprouts safety, water safety, genetics, Salmonella transcriptomics, stress response

**Luca Settanni**, University of Palermo, Department of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, Palermo, Italy

Seafood Safety, Zoonoses, Parasites, Anisakidosis, Aquaculture

**Panagiotis Skandamis**, Agricultural University of Athens, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Athens, Greece

Predictive Microbiology, Microbiological Food Safety, Active Antimicrobial Packaging

**Nada Smigic**, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture, Beograd, Serbia

Food safety, Food microbiology, Food legislation

**Giuseppe Spano**, University of Foggia, Department of Agricultural Sciences Food Natural Resources and Engineering, Foggia, Italy

Probiotics, Vitamins producing bacteria, Antimicrobial activity, Wine microbiology

**Roger Stephan**, University of Zurich Institute for Food Safety and Hygiene, Zurich, Switzerland

Bacterial foodborne pathogens (ecology and epidemiology, strain characteristics, virulence, WGS, stress response, molecular methods for rapid detection and identification), em>Salmonella, STEC,

**Pamina Mika Suzuki**, Directorate-General Health and Consumer Protection, Brussels, Belgium

Policy, Regulatory, Foodborne Outbreak, Microbiological Criteria, ISO EN methods

**Peter Taormina**, John Morrell and Co, Cincinnati, Ohio, United States of America

Thomas Taylor, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, United States of America

Food preservatives, preservative encapsulation, produce food safety, food safety validation

**Mieke Uyttendaele**, Ghent University, Gent, Belgium

molecular methods

**Vasili P. Valdravidis**, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Chemistry, Athens, Greece

Air filtration, Cold atmospheric plasma, Decontamination, High power ultrasound, Nanoparticles, predictive microbiology, Predictive modeling, Shelf-life, Model-based optimization of thermal and non-thermal technologies, Antifungal compounds for post-harvesting preservation

**Antonio Valero-Díaz**, University of Cordoba, Department of Food Science and Technology, Córdoba, Spain

Risk assessment, validation of predictive microbiology models, meat and produce, Listeria monocytogenes, food quality, food safety objectives, shelf-life, food preservation, microbiological criteria for sampling plans

**Cristian Varela**, The Australian Wine Research Institute Limited, Glen Osmond, Australia

Wine, food microbiology

**Chunxiao Wang**, Guizhou University, Guiyang, China

Wine yeast, Microbial diversity in fermented food and beverages, Biotechnology correlated with yeast identification and quantification, Yeast metabolism during alcoholic fermentation.

**Keith Warriner**, University of Guelph, Department of Food Science, Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Microbiological safety of minimally processed vegetables (alfalfa sprouts, tomatoes), interaction of human pathogens with vegetables, non-thermal intervention technologies (UV, biocontrol, bacteriophages), produce sanitizers, HACCP, pathogen diagnostics (biosensors, immunoassays), microbial source tracking (DNA typing)

**Robert Williams**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, United States of America

Brian Yoo, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America

Antimicrobial Resistance, Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing, Molecular Diagnostics, Microbial Physiology & Metabolism, Food Safety Microbiology

**Dongliang Zhang**, Hebei Petroleum Vocational & Technical College, Chengde, China

Food Microbiology, Predictive Microbiology, Proteomics, Non-thermal Inactivation, Metabolomics, Risk Assessment

**Dongsheng Zhou**, Academy of Military Medical Sciences Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology, Beijing, China

Bacterial genetics, pathogenesis and gene regulation, and biosecurity., Microbial Genetics;
INTRODUCTION

Types of paper

- Full-length Research Articles are complete reports of original, scientifically sound research. They must contribute new knowledge and be organized as described in this Guide. Manuscripts should not exceed 8000 words. Please follow carefully the organization of the sections described in "Preparation of text files" (see below).
- Reviews are papers which provide an analysis of a scientific or applied field, which include all important findings and bring together reports from a number of sources. Manuscripts should not exceed 12,000 words (excluding references). Review articles may be invited by the Editor or the Editorial Board. Alternatively, potential authors considering the preparation of a Review article should contact the Editor to suggest the topic and its scope, providing an outline in the form of major headings and a summary statement. In any case, such articles are subject to the normal processes of peer review and revision.

Subjects not considered for publication

- Development of methods if not validated in situ. To be suitable for publication in IJFM, new methods for the detection and/or quantification of target microorganisms must be validated in artificially and naturally contaminated foods. Such papers focusing on method development without application in the food matrix should be submitted to journals dealing with microbiological methods or applied microbiology.
- Natural and safe antimicrobial substances: since an extended literature is available on this subject, IJFM publishes only relevant and innovative papers. More specifically:
  - in the case of essential oils, spices and chemical compounds: the antimicrobial activity should be tested in real food systems to validate their efficacy, testing in vitro only would not be sufficient for publication in IJFM. Moreover a detailed chemical analysis of the natural extract should be presented with indication of which compounds are exerting the antimicrobial activity;
  - for bacteriocins, surveys of bacteriocin-producing strains in food products would not be considered unless the genes responsible for production were genetically characterized to show originality of such genes. IJFM gives priority to papers describing new bacteriocins (as determined by genetic approaches, N-terminal sequencing or results on antimicrobial spectrum and mechanisms) and application of bacteriocinogenic strains in situ, other than surveys of bacteriocin-producing strains in food products.
- Surveys focusing on the detection and quantification of toxins and microbial metabolites (mycotoxins, bacterial toxins, biogenic amines) and papers presenting new methods for detection and quantification of toxins and microbial metabolites will not be published in IJFM, unless they do contain correlated microbiological data of food safety significance. Papers presenting analytical data only should be sent to toxicology or food control journals.
- Gut microbiology and probiotic-targeted papers will have to present relevant direct links to food microbiology/safety. Animal models or studies in which the host is the main target of investigation should be submitted to appropriate journals and not to IJFM.
- Microbiological aspects of the production of ingredients should be submitted to suitable biotechnology journals. However, papers that consider the use of microorganisms to enhance the level of specific vitamins, amino acids, flavours, colours, polysaccharides etc in foods/beverages will be considered by IJFM.
- Papers where the microbiology is only focused on primary production, without a clear connection to quality and safety of foods, should be sent to journals related to primary production.
- Microbiology specifically related to human health without a clear focus on its relation to foods/beverages should be submitted to medical journals or similar.
- Repetition of studies conducted in other countries and locations, e.g. work on patterns of antibiotic resistance, prevalence of specific pathogens etc., will not be considered unless new scientific information has been achieved and clearly documented in the manuscript.

Furthermore:

- the word "probiotic" should only be used for organisms where real health effects are shown;
- "prediction and validation" should only be used if prediction and validation are really carried out with new independent data;
- for papers on modelling, parameter values should always be presented also with a measure of their confidence (confidence interval, standard error).
the number of significant digits should be in relation to the accuracy of the data measured. It should be noted that significant number are NOT digits after the decimal point. Both 34 and 0.00025 have two significant figures and 34.0 and 0.000252 have three significant figures. Figures like 234.573 generally have largely overdone accuracy. Log numbers of microbial concentrations generally have only one digit after the decimal point.

Lastly, it is responsibility of the authors to pay attention to grammar and spelling.

Additional information
Questions regarding content of a proposed submission can be directed to the Editor-in-Chief:
Professor Luca Cocolin
DIVAPRA, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Turin
Via Leonardo da Vinci 44
10095 Grugliasco
Turin
Italy
E-mail: lcocolin@gmail.com

It is the author’s responsibility to ensure that manuscripts are written in clear and comprehensible English. Authors whose native language is not English are strongly advised to have their manuscripts checked by an English-speaking colleague prior to submission. Manuscripts written in poor English will not be accepted for further review.

Review policy
A peer review system involving two or three reviewers is used to ensure high quality of manuscripts accepted for publication. The Editor-in-Chief and Editors have the right to decline formal review of the manuscript when it is deemed that the manuscript is:
1) on a topic outside the scope of the Journal;
2) lacking technical merit;
3) focused on foods or processes that are of narrow regional scope and significance;
4) of insufficient novelty for a wide international readership;
5) fragmentary and provides marginally incremental results; or
6) is poorly written.

Submission checklist
You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:
• E-mail address
• Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:
Manuscript:
• Include keywords
• All figures (include relevant captions)
• All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
• Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
• Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files (where applicable)

Supplemental files (where applicable)

Further considerations
• Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
• All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
• Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
• A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
• Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
• Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

For further information, visit our Support Center.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ethics in publishing
Please see our information on Ethics in publishing.

Declaration of interest
All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential competing interests include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors must disclose any interests in two places: 1. A summary declaration of interest statement in the title page file (if double anonymized) or the manuscript file (if single anonymized). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. 2. Detailed disclosures as part of a separate Declaration of Interest form, which forms part of the journal's official records. It is important for potential interests to be declared in both places and that the information matches. More information.

Declaration of generative AI in scientific writing
The below guidance only refers to the writing process, and not to the use of AI tools to analyse and draw insights from data as part of the research process.

Where authors use generative artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process, authors should only use these technologies to improve readability and language. Applying the technology should be done with human oversight and control, and authors should carefully review and edit the result, as AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete or biased. AI and AI-assisted technologies should not be listed as an author or co-author, or be cited as an author. Authorship implies responsibilities and tasks that can only be attributed to and performed by humans, as outlined in Elsevier’s AI policy for authors.

Authors should disclose in their manuscript the use of AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by following the instructions below. A statement will appear in the published work. Please note that authors are ultimately responsible and accountable for the contents of the work.

Disclosure instructions
Authors must disclose the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by adding a statement at the end of their manuscript in the core manuscript file, before the References list. The statement should be placed in a new section entitled 'Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process'.

Statement: During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.

This declaration does not apply to the use of basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, references etc. If there is nothing to disclose, there is no need to add a statement.

Submission declaration and verification
Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract, a published lecture or academic thesis, see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify compliance, your article may be checked by Crossref Similarity Check and other originality or duplicate checking software.
Preprints
Please note that preprints can be shared anywhere at any time, in line with Elsevier's sharing policy. Sharing your preprints e.g. on a preprint server will not count as prior publication (see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information).

Preprint posting on SSRN
In support of Open Science, this journal offers its authors a free preprint posting service. Preprints provide early registration and dissemination of your research, which facilitates early citations and collaboration.

During submission to Editorial Manager, you can choose to release your manuscript publicly as a preprint on the preprint server SSRN once it enters peer-review with the journal. Your choice will have no effect on the editorial process or outcome with the journal. Please note that the corresponding author is expected to seek approval from all co-authors before agreeing to release the manuscript publicly on SSRN.

You will be notified via email when your preprint is posted online and a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is assigned. Your preprint will remain globally available free to read whether the journal accepts or rejects your manuscript.

For more information about posting to SSRN, please consult the SSRN Terms of Use and FAQs.

Use of inclusive language
Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Content should make no assumptions about the beliefs or commitments of any reader; contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior to another on the grounds of age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition; and use inclusive language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, stereotypes, slang, reference to dominant culture and/or cultural assumptions. We advise to seek gender neutrality by using plural nouns ("clinicians, patients/clients") as default/wherever possible to avoid using "he, she," or "he/she." We recommend avoiding the use of descriptors that refer to personal attributes such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition unless they are relevant and valid. When coding terminology is used, we recommend to avoid offensive or exclusionary terms such as "master", "slave", "blacklist" and "whitelist". We suggest using alternatives that are more appropriate and (self-) explanatory such as "primary", "secondary", "blocklist" and "allowlist". These guidelines are meant as a point of reference to help identify appropriate language but are by no means exhaustive or definitive.

Reporting sex- and gender-based analyses
Reporting guidance
For research involving or pertaining to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells, investigators should integrate sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) into their research design according to funder/sponsor requirements and best practices within a field. Authors should address the sex and/or gender dimensions of their research in their article. In cases where they cannot, they should discuss this as a limitation to their research's generalizability. Importantly, authors should explicitly state what definitions of sex and/or gender they are applying to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of their research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer (see Definitions section below). Authors can refer to the Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) guidelines and the SAGER guidelines checklist. These offer systematic approaches to the use and editorial review of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation - however, please note there is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender.

Definitions
Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features (e.g., chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy). A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth ("sex assigned at birth"), most often based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society. Sex
and gender are often incorrectly portrayed as binary (female/male or woman/man) and unchanging whereas these constructs actually exist along a spectrum and include additional sex categorizations and gender identities such as people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD) or identify as non-binary. Moreover, the terms "sex" and "gender" can be ambiguous—thus it is important for authors to define the manner in which they are used. In addition to this definition guidance and the SAGER guidelines, the resources on this page offer further insight around sex and gender in research studies.

**Author contributions**

For transparency, we require corresponding authors to provide co-author contributions to the manuscript using the relevant CRediT roles. The CRediT taxonomy includes 14 different roles describing each contributor’s specific contribution to the scholarly output. The roles are: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Software; Supervision; Validation; Visualization; Roles/Writing - original draft; and Writing - review & editing. Note that not all roles may apply to every manuscript, and authors may have contributed through multiple roles. More details and an example.

**Changes to authorship**

Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors before submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only before the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the corresponding author: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors after the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

**Article transfer service**

This journal uses the Elsevier Article Transfer Service to find the best home for your manuscript. This means that if an editor feels your manuscript is more suitable for an alternative journal, you might be asked to consider transferring the manuscript to such a journal. The recommendation might be provided by a Journal Editor, a dedicated Scientific Managing Editor, a tool assisted recommendation, or a combination. If you agree, your manuscript will be transferred, though you will have the opportunity to make changes to the manuscript before the submission is complete. Please note that your manuscript will be independently reviewed by the new journal. More information.

**Copyright**

Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (see more information on this). An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.

Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. Permission of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has preprinted forms for use by authors in these cases.

For gold open access articles: Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'License Agreement' (more information). Permitted third party reuse of gold open access articles is determined by the author's choice of user license.

**Author rights**

As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. More information.

Elsevier supports responsible sharing
Find out how you can share your research published in Elsevier journals.
**Role of the funding source**
You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement, it is recommended to state this.

**Open access**
Please visit our Open Access page for more information about open access publishing in this journal.

**Elsevier Researcher Academy**
Researcher Academy is a free e-learning platform designed to support early and mid-career researchers throughout their research journey. The "Learn" environment at Researcher Academy offers several interactive modules, webinars, downloadable guides and resources to guide you through the process of writing for research and going through peer review. Feel free to use these free resources to improve your submission and navigate the publication process with ease.

**Language (usage and editing services)**
Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the Language Editing service available from Elsevier's Language Services.

**Submission**
Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files. The system converts your article files to a single PDF file used in the peer-review process. Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail.

Authors must provide and use an email address unique to themselves and not shared with another author registered in EM, or a department.

**PREPARATION**

**Queries**
For questions about the editorial process (including the status of manuscripts under review) or for technical support on submissions, please visit our Support Center.

**Peer review**
This journal operates a single anonymized review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. Editors are not involved in decisions about papers which they have written themselves or have been written by family members or colleagues or which relate to products or services in which the editor has an interest. Any such submission is subject to all of the journal's usual procedures, with peer review handled independently of the relevant editor and their research groups. More information on types of peer review.

**Use of word processing software**
It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.
To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.
Other than the cover page, every page of the manuscript, including the title page, references, tables etc. should be numbered; however, in the text no reference should be made to page numbers.

**LaTeX**
You are recommended to use the Elsevier article class elsarticle.cls to prepare your manuscript and BibTeX to generate your bibliography.
Our LaTeX site has detailed submission instructions, templates and other information.

**Article structure**

**Subdivision - numbered sections**
Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

**Introduction**
State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

**Material and methods**

**Key Resources Table**
To enable reproducibility of the research, we encourage authors to submit a Key Resources Table, which helps make the resources clear to readers. The Key Resources Table highlights the genetically modified organisms and strains, cell lines, reagents and other resources essential to reproduce the results presented in a paper. More information is available here

**Results**
Results should be clear and concise.

**Discussion**
This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

**Appendices**
If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

**Essential title page information**

- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations.** Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. You can add your name between parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lowercase superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
- **Corresponding author.** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methodology and Materials. **Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.**
- **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

**Highlights**
Highlights are mandatory for this journal as they help increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the example Highlights.
Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

**Abstract**
A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

The abstract should not exceed 400 words.

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using British spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

- Keywords should not contain words that are also used in the title

When preparing your paper, authors should avoid using the term microflora and instead use **microbiota**. In addition please do not use the expression rDNA but rather **rRNA gene (S)**.

**Abbreviations**
Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

**Acknowledgements**
Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

**Formatting of funding sources**
List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, it is recommended to include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

**Units**
Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in SI.

Temperatures should be given in degrees Celsius. The unit 'billion' (10^9 in America, 10^12 in Europe) is ambiguous and should not be used. Units must be indicated as g/L and not gL^-1.

**Math formulae**
Please submit math equations as editable text and not as images. Present simple formulae in line with normal text where possible and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., X/Y. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text).
If equations from Microsoft Word 2007 are not correctly represented in the pdf, this might be solved by storing the word file as Word 97-2003 document (*.doc), and upload.

Footnotes
Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors can build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Otherwise, please indicate the position of footnotes in the text and list the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article. Do not include footnotes in the Reference list.

Artwork
Electronic artwork
General points
• Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
• Embed the used fonts if the application provides that option.
• Aim to use the following fonts in your illustrations: Arial, Courier, Times New Roman, Symbol, or use fonts that look similar.
• Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
• Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
• Provide captions to illustrations separately.
• Size the illustrations close to the desired dimensions of the published version.
• Submit each illustration as a separate file.
• Ensure that color images are accessible to all, including those with impaired color vision.

A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available. You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

Formats
If your electronic artwork is created in a Microsoft Office application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) then please supply ‘as is’ in the native document format.

Regardless of the application used other than Microsoft Office, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please ‘Save as’ or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):
- EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings, embed all used fonts.
- TIFF (or JPEG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones), keep to a minimum of 300 dpi.
- TIFF (or JPEG): Bitmapped (pure black & white pixels) line drawings, keep to a minimum of 1000 dpi.
- TIFF (or JPEG): Combinations bitmapped line/halftone (color or grayscale), keep to a minimum of 500 dpi.

Please do not:
• Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); these typically have a low number of pixels and limited set of colors;
• Supply files that are too low in resolution;
• Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

Color artwork
Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF), or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article. Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only. Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.

Figure captions
Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure. A caption should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

Tables
Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table notes below the table body. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells.
References

Citation in text
Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

Web references
As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

Data references
This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

Preprint references
Where a preprint has subsequently become available as a peer-reviewed publication, the formal publication should be used as the reference. If there are preprints that are central to your work or that cover crucial developments in the topic, but are not yet formally published, these may be referenced. Preprints should be clearly marked as such, for example by including the word preprint, or the name of the preprint server, as part of the reference. The preprint DOI should also be provided.

References in a special issue
Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

Reference management software
Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support Citation Style Language styles, such as Mendeley. Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software.

Reference style
Responsibility for the accuracy of bibliographic citations lies entirely with the Authors. Please ensure that every reference cited within the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list, they should follow the standard reference style and should include a substitution of the publication date with either "unpublished results" or "personal communication". Citation of a reference as "in press" implies that the item has been accepted for publication. All publications cited in the text should be presented in a list of references following the text of the manuscript.

All citations in the text should refer to:
1. Single author: the author's name (without initials, unless there is ambiguity) and the year of publication;
2. Two authors: both authors' names and the year of publication;
3. Three or more authors: first author's name followed by 'et al.' and the year of publication.

Citations may be made directly (or parenthetically). Groups of references should be listed first alphabetically, then chronologically. Examples: "as demonstrated (Allan, 1996a, 1996b, 1999; Allan and Jones, 1995). Kramer et al. (2000) have recently shown ...."

References

Citation in text
Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

Web references
As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

Data references
This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

Preprint references
Where a preprint has subsequently become available as a peer-reviewed publication, the formal publication should be used as the reference. If there are preprints that are central to your work or that cover crucial developments in the topic, but are not yet formally published, these may be referenced. Preprints should be clearly marked as such, for example by including the word preprint, or the name of the preprint server, as part of the reference. The preprint DOI should also be provided.

References in a special issue
Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

Reference management software
Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support Citation Style Language styles, such as Mendeley. Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software.

Reference style
Responsibility for the accuracy of bibliographic citations lies entirely with the Authors. Please ensure that every reference cited within the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list, they should follow the standard reference style and should include a substitution of the publication date with either "unpublished results" or "personal communication". Citation of a reference as "in press" implies that the item has been accepted for publication. All publications cited in the text should be presented in a list of references following the text of the manuscript.

All citations in the text should refer to:
1. Single author: the author's name (without initials, unless there is ambiguity) and the year of publication;
2. Two authors: both authors' names and the year of publication;
3. Three or more authors: first author's name followed by 'et al.' and the year of publication.

Citations may be made directly (or parenthetically). Groups of references should be listed first alphabetically, then chronologically. Examples: "as demonstrated (Allan, 1996a, 1996b, 1999; Allan and Jones, 1995). Kramer et al. (2000) have recently shown ...."
List: References should be arranged alphabetically by authors' names and should be as full as possible, listing all authors, the full title of articles and journals, publisher and year. **Note that journal names are to be abbreviated.** The manuscript should be carefully checked to ensure that the spelling of authors' names and dates are exactly the same in the text as in the reference list.

**Examples:**

Reference to a journal publication:


Reference to a book:

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:


**Video**

Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the file in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect. Please supply 'stills' with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our video instruction pages. Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

**Data visualization**

Include interactive data visualizations in your publication and let your readers interact and engage more closely with your research. Follow the instructions here to find out about available data visualization options and how to include them with your article.

**Supplementary material**

Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

**Research data**

This journal requires and enables you to share data that supports your research publication where appropriate, and enables you to interlink the data with your published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings, which may also include software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Below are a number of ways in which you can associate data with your article or make a statement about the availability of your data when submitting your manuscript. When sharing data in one of these ways, you are expected to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the "References" section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the research data page.
Data linking
If you have made your research data available in a data repository, you can link your article directly to the dataset. Elsevier collaborates with a number of repositories to link articles on ScienceDirect with relevant repositories, giving readers access to underlying data that gives them a better understanding of the research described.

There are different ways to link your datasets to your article. When available, you can directly link your dataset to your article by providing the relevant information in the submission system. For more information, visit the database linking page.

For supported data repositories a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.

In addition, you can link to relevant data or entities through identifiers within the text of your manuscript, using the following format: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

Research Elements
This journal enables you to publish research objects related to your original research – such as data, methods, protocols, software and hardware – as an additional paper in a Research Elements journal.

Research Elements is a suite of peer-reviewed, open access journals which make your research objects findable, accessible and reusable. Articles place research objects into context by providing detailed descriptions of objects and their application, and linking to the associated original research articles. Research Elements articles can be prepared by you, or by one of your collaborators.

During submission, you will be alerted to the opportunity to prepare and submit a manuscript to one of the Research Elements journals.

More information can be found on the Research Elements page.

Data statement
To foster transparency, we require you to state the availability of your data in your submission if your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post. This may also be a requirement of your funding body or institution. You will have the opportunity to provide a data statement during the submission process. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the Data Statement page.

AFTER ACCEPTANCE
Online proof correction
To ensure a fast publication process of the article, we kindly ask authors to provide us with their proof corrections within two days. Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors.

If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.

We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

Offprints
The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive a customized Share Link providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on ScienceDirect. The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is
accepted for publication. Corresponding authors who have published their article gold open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.

**Submit data to ComBase**
The International Journal of Food Microbiology encourages the deposition of data in ComBase ([http://www.combase.cc](http://www.combase.cc)), a free database containing thousands of data records that describe microbial responses to food environments. The goal of ComBase is to provide the scientific community with an organized repository of relevant data, permitting rapid data retrieval, analysis and model development, and reducing unwanted redundancy.

If your manuscript contains new kinetic data describing microbial responses in a food environment, please contact Mark Tamplin (mark@combase.cc). You can also learn more about how to donate data at [http://www.combase.cc/index.php/en/submit-data](http://www.combase.cc/index.php/en/submit-data). The ComBase team is pleased to provide you with technical assistance to format and submit your data.

**AUTHOR INQUIRIES**
Visit the [Elsevier Support Center](https://www.elsevier.com/support) to find the answers you need. Here you will find everything from Frequently Asked Questions to ways to get in touch.

You can also check the status of your submitted article or find out when your accepted article will be published.

© Copyright 2018 Elsevier | https://www.elsevier.com