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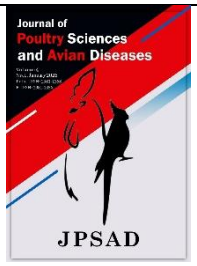

JPSAD and the Next Step of Poultry &Avian Diseases Research

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Scientific journal is far more than a repository for peer-reviewed manuscripts. At its best, it acts as a compass for its field, spotlighting pivotal questions, championing rigorous standards, and defining what evidence can be trusted. As the Journal of Poultry Sciences and Avian Diseases (JPSAD) embarks on its next chapter, I believe it must continue to serve as this guiding force.

Poultry & avian health and diseases research is advancing at a remarkable pace. Today's challenges seldom fit neatly within the boundaries of a single discipline. A disease outbreak, for example, can weave together threads of pathogen detection, vaccination, farm management, biosecurity, antimicrobial use, animal welfare, economic impact, environmental determinants, and public health risk. As a result, impactful research in this arena must move beyond narrow description, empowering readers to appreciate the biological, clinical, epidemiological, and practical weight of the findings.

JPSAD is committed to championing this wider lens. Local and regional studies are the lifeblood of poultry science, often uncovering new infections, management pitfalls, and diagnostic puzzles right where the action happens—in farms, clinics, and field labs. Yet, regional importance alone does not suffice. A local study earns global relevance when it is built on rigorous design, transparent methods, and conclusions firmly anchored in the data.

Being indexed in Scopus is a proud milestone for JPSAD. This achievement has cast a wider spotlight on the journal, drawing in readers and submissions from across the globe. Yet Scopus indexing is not an endpoint; it simply raises our responsibility to publish research that deserves international attention. True progress, in my view, is measured by the journal's ability to publish work that stands the test of time—

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work that remains useful, credible, and citable long after its debut (Ioannidis, 2005; Nosek et al., 2015).

With the rise in submissions, a clear pattern has emerged. Many manuscripts tackle important questions, yet their impact is often blunted by vague methods, unclear sampling, insufficient or biased sample-size justification, incomplete lab details, inappropriate or incomplete statistics, missing ethical documentation, inaccurate references, or unsupported conclusions. Captivating topics are only the beginning. Reliable science is built on the bedrock of rigorous research, not just intriguing questions.

In response, JPSAD will continue to prioritize methodological rigor. Authors should set out clear objectives, choose fitting study designs, describe sampling and lab procedures in detail, apply appropriate statistics, and ground their conclusions firmly in the data. Whether experimental, observational, diagnostic, laboratory, or field-based, studies must be reported with enough detail for others to evaluate and, when possible, reproduce them. A thoughtful limitations section is not a flaw; it is a hallmark of scientific maturity.

Ethical responsibility is equally fundamental. Studies involving animals must provide evidence of ethical approval or a clear justification when formal approval is not mandated by institutional or national regulations. Animal welfare should be integrated into study design and reporting, rather than treated as a mere administrative requirement (Percie Du Sert et al., 2020). Additionally, funding sources, conflicts of interest, authorship contributions, and any factors that could influence interpretation should be disclosed transparently.

Infectious diseases will remain at the heart of JPSAD's mission. Viral, bacterial, parasitic, fungal, and toxin-associated diseases continue to threaten poultry production, avian health, food security, animal welfare, and international trade (Fereidouni, 2024; World Health, 2023). Descriptive studies are vital when they capture new threats, unusual clinical signs, novel epidemiological patterns, or real-world disease-control challenges. Still, such work should be paired with context, analytical depth, and careful interpretation. The spread of H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b into new geographic regions and atypical mammalian hosts has made surveillance, rapid diagnosis, and international coordination more urgent than ever (Fereidouni, 2024). JPSAD particularly encourages submissions in molecular epidemiology, pathogen characterization, diagnostic validation, field surveillance, vaccine evaluation, host-pathogen interactions, and disease ecology. Studies examining interactions among domestic poultry, wild birds, companion birds, environmental reservoirs, and human populations are especially valuable. The One Health concept has shifted from a theoretical framework to a practical necessity in veterinary and biomedical research (Destoumieux-Garzón et al., 2018). Research on zoonotic pathogens, antimicrobial resistance, environmental contamination, foodborne disease, or cross-species transmission should clearly articulate these broader implications.

Antimicrobial resistance deserves continued attention. Its global expansion poses major challenges for veterinary medicine, public health, and food production systems (World Health, 2023). Research in this field should move beyond reporting susceptibility profiles and provide epidemiological patterns, sampling strategies, antimicrobial-use settings, rational antimicrobial prescribing, resistance mechanisms, clinical relevance, and implications for antimicrobial stewardship. JPSAD also encourages work on alternatives and supportive strategies, including vaccines, probiotics, prebiotics, phytogenic compounds, bacteriophages, antimicrobial peptides, immunomodulators, biosecurity measures, and management-based interventions. However, efficacy claims must be substantiated by appropriate controls, sufficient sample sizes, transparent methodologies, and realistic interpretation (Percie Du Sert et al., 2020; Schulz et al., 2010). Promising findings should not be presented as established field solutions without adequate supporting evidence.

Sustainability now stands as a central pillar in poultry science. Heat stress, water use, feed efficiency, litter management, stocking density, housing, emissions, and welfare are all interconnected. Integrated research exploring these links can help the poultry sector boost productivity while safeguarding poultry welfare, environmental stewardship, and long-term resilience. Good poultry science should not treat productivity, welfare, and sustainability as separate conversations.

Technological innovation is reshaping the landscape of poultry and avian health. Breakthroughs in genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, metagenomics, biosensors, digital pathology, precision farming, remote monitoring, and artificial intelligence open new windows for detection, prediction, and management. Yet, technology is not a shortcut to scientific value. Advanced tools applied to weak questions or flawed datasets will not produce trustworthy evidence. Validation, reproducibility, and real-world relevance remain essential.

The responsible application of artificial intelligence requires particular attention. AI tools can support language editing, data processing, image analysis, literature organization, and computational modeling, but they cannot substitute for scientific judgment. Authors retain responsibility for the accuracy, originality, integrity, and interpretation of their work. Fabricated references, manipulated images, undisclosed AI-generated material influencing scientific conclusions, and unsupported claims are incompatible with responsible publication.

Research integrity forms the foundation of every journal. Plagiarism, duplicate publication, inappropriate authorship, data fabrication, data falsification, and image manipulation undermine not only individual papers but also trust in the scientific record. JPSAD will continue to uphold internationally recognized principles of publication ethics and responsible research conduct.

Transparency is just as crucial. Whenever possible, authors should provide sufficient methodological detail, data availability statements, supplementary materials, analytical steps, and protocols so readers and reviewers can clearly see how the results were achieved. Open and transparent research practices strengthen reproducibility and help build the foundation of scientific knowledge (Nosek et al., 2015; Unesco, 2021).

JPSAD is dedicated to highlighting outstanding research from regions often overlooked in international literature. Poultry diseases and production hurdles often emerge under distinctive climates, economies, genetics, and management styles. Insights from these settings can resonate far beyond their origins. Regional relevance and global significance should be seen as partners, not rivals.

Progress in science thrives on collaboration across disciplines, institutions, and borders. Infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, sustainability, and food security now cross-national lines with ease. The worldwide spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza highlights the urgent need for surveillance, information exchange, and joint research. JPSAD also recognizes its duty to nurture early-career researchers. Many bring fresh field experience and creative ideas, but need guidance in study design, data analysis, writing, ethics, and communication. Supporting them means offering fair assessment, constructive feedback, and clear expectations—not lowering standards.

JPSAD invites original research, reviews, short communications, case reports, and other meaningful contributions that advance poultry and avian health. Reviews should critically weave together evidence, not just summarize it. Case reports ought to spotlight rare, emerging, diagnostically tricky, or educational discoveries. Original research should begin with a sharp question and end with findings grounded in evidence.

Editors and reviewers play pivotal roles. Their evaluations must be fair, professional, evidence-driven, and constructive. Reviewers not only guard scientific quality but also help authors unlock the full potential of their work. Editorial decisions should rest on scientific merit, methodological strength, ethical standards, journal scope, and the work's overall impact on the field.

A journal's credibility is built brick by brick, over time. Each submission, review, editorial choice, published article, and correction adds to its foundation. True influence is not won by indexing or visibility alone. Lasting credibility depends on consistency, integrity, transparency, and trust.

As JPSAD steps into its next era, our aim is not just to boost publication numbers. Publishing more papers is simple; creating work that is rigorous, ethical, valuable, and lasting is the real challenge. This is the bar we set for ourselves. As Editor-in-Chief, I would rather see the journal publish fewer papers than compromise scientific quality. Success should be judged not only by metrics, but by the journal's impact on evidence-based practice, scientific excellence, and the progress of animal and public health (Ioannidis, 2005; UNESCO, 2021).

I invite veterinarians, poultry scientists, microbiologists, epidemiologists, pathologists, nutritionists, geneticists, welfare experts, public health professionals, and industry leaders to join us on this journey. The next chapter of JPSAD should be defined by quality, transparency, collaboration, and real-world relevance. JPSAD is more than a publication venue; it is a platform for building stronger, more reliable knowledge in poultry science and avian health.

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