



## Meet JASBC Editor-in-Chief Inge Russell



An experienced, passionate and innovative editor, scientist, and professor in brewing and distilling, Dr. Inge Russell has a proven history of growing publications and the development of cost-effective approaches to address business needs. We are proud to welcome her as the new Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the ASBC (JASBC)*.

### So, Inge, what's your backstory?

I started out in the hospital system as a medical technologist and worked as a microbiologist. The hospital I worked in opened one of the first virology labs in the country, and I transferred and worked there for a year, but I disliked working with mice (we had to inject and later sacrifice them). I was interested in a position in human genetics research that was coming up in the hospital within the year, so thought I would work elsewhere for a year while waiting for that position. As it turned out, Labatt Brewing in London had an opening in their laboratory and I thought that would be enjoyable (and no more mice). I had never planned to stay there longer than a year, but the next thing I knew, it was over 32 years later and time for a change again. I loved my research time at Labatt—I always found it hard to believe they were paying me to carry out experiments that were so interesting and fun.

After staying retired for a whole month, I decided retirement was not for me and started working part-time with Alltech Biotechnology, which had been looking for a mentor for its masters and Ph.D. students. About the same time, the *Journal of the Institute of Brewing* was looking for a new editor. Now I was working part-time at my two other favorite things—mentoring students and publishing.

In 2016, I decided that 15 years was long enough to be editor of the *Journal of the Institute of Brewing*. I had grown it from a journal with 6 papers per issue to over 30 papers per issue and an average of 40,000 downloads per month and had built strong links with authors in China, Japan, Germany, South America, and Eastern Europe, who had previously not published regularly in this journal. It was time for a rest to catch up on my own writing projects for a year.

### **What motivated you to come onboard as the new Editor-in-Chief of *JASBC*?**

When I heard that *JASBC* was looking for a new Editor-in-Chief and that one of the main tasks for the new editor would be to transition the journal from an in-house journal to a Taylor and Francis journal, I was keen to take on the challenge. I had transitioned the *Journal of the Institute of Brewing* from an in-house journal to a Wiley journal, so felt well versed in what it would take for a successful transition and what pitfalls to avoid. Growing the readership and reach of the *JASBC* is going to be an exciting opportunity, and it has brought me full circle back to the first brewing organization I joined as a young researcher in the early 1970s (and of which I became the first woman president back in the days when women were not really very accepted in the brewing industry).

### **What accomplishment do you consider to be the most significant in your career?**

The mentoring that I have had the privilege of being able to do over the years, especially with young researchers and also particularly with women working in our industry.

### **Do you have a particular area of research interest?**

My personal area of research is yeast biotechnology. My research on yeast started in the early days of biotechnology (1970s), a very exciting time in terms of new technologies for manipulating yeast. Graham Stewart and I thought there should be a journal that dealt with the new biotechnology, since it was such a rapidly evolving and exciting area, and suggested this to a journal publisher, who then asked us to be the editors. That was back in 1984, and now, 34 years later, we are still both co-editors of *Critical Reviews in Biotechnology*—one of the top review journals in this area and one also under the Taylor and Francis umbrella, which is where the *JASBC* now resides.

### **What are your primary ambitions for *JASBC* in the years ahead?**

In year one, the first goal is to implement a smooth system of submission and review with the Taylor and Francis website, keeping up the high standards, which Charlie Bamforth and ASBC Headquarters have put in place for quality, with the new publisher. The second goal is to ensure authors have good timelines for seeing their work published and that the publishing experience is positive for them, as we want to encourage them to keep publishing in our journal. The third goal is to expand the global areas and topics we are drawing papers from while at the same time increasing our readership. Marketing our journal over the next few years will be key to attracting relevant papers, and we have a number of ideas we are discussing. One of the first we are implementing is that Issue 1 of 2018 will be open access for the first year to draw attention to our journal. Special issues that focus on one topic, more review articles, and use of social media are all on our current list of initiatives.

**Do you have any advice for potential first-time authors who wish to submit a manuscript to *JASBC*?**

The key advice is to not be afraid to ask for help. Put in the cover letter that you are a first-time author and would appreciate suggestions. I would be honored to mentor and if I let the reviewers know you are a first-time author, most reviewers will also act as mentors, making suggestions on how best to approach a topic, where they see gaps, and how they would frame a topic. Everyone wants young researchers to succeed, and we all know that first papers are extremely difficult to write and that there is a learning curve that we have all had to go up, and all of us have had mentors helping us in the past.

**What do you enjoy doing in your spare time (i.e., hobbies)?**

My two granddaughters (age 7 and 9) are where I like to spend my spare time. They are such a joy.

**Do you have a favorite beer; if so, what is it?**

I like to try different beers and when I purchase beer, I tend to buy ones that I have never tried before. There is such a huge variety to select from these days; it is always an adventure in taste. If I had to pick a favorite, for special occasions, I love Alltech's Kentucky Bourbon Barrel Ale—it's in a class by itself.