Crop Science is pleased to announce that manuscript submissions are now being accepted to the journal through the new Provisional Division C9—Biomedical, Health-Beneficial, and Nutritionally Enhanced Plants. The focus of this Division is on plants as food or feed, and on the development and evaluation of novel characteristics and compositional quality traits in crops that are important to the health, well being, and nutritional requirements of humans. The editors at Crop Science look forward to providing CSSA members a venue for publishing research in this area, and to providing its readership with timely and informative reports in this interdisciplinary aspect of crop science.

Although the editors anticipate receiving manuscripts with an overriding focus on crops for improved human nutrition or health, they expect and would welcome research coming from diverse disciplines. Possible areas of disciplinary focus could include: conventional breeding; transgenic modification; germplasm evaluation; or clinical, animal, or cell culture studies that evaluate crop products. Possible areas of health or nutrition focus might include: essential nutrients (e.g., vitamins, minerals, protein, lipids, and energy components); health-beneficial phytochemicals; anti-nutrients; bioactive compounds; or nutraceuticals. Possible targets of improvement for the harvested crop product could include: contribution of the food crop to meeting the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) or Daily Reference Intake (DRI) of a given nutrient; improving anti-oxidant status; prevention of cancer; reducing disease risk; or as a possible therapy in disease treatment.

With respect to the “feed” aspect of C09, this is not to be focused on feed quality as it pertains to growth and productivity of livestock. This would be more the purview of Division C06—Forage & Grazinglands or Division C03—Crop Ecology, Management & Quality. Rather, it would be anticipated to relate to the effect of feed quality (grains or forage) on the nutritional or health-beneficial composition of food products derived from livestock, which are subsequently destined for human consumption.

Michael A. Grusak (USDA-ARS Children’s Nutrition Research Center, Baylor College of Medicine) has agreed to serve as the Technical Editor for C9 submissions. Kofi Konan (Alabama A&M University), Hari Krishnan (University of Missouri), Janet Novotny (USDA-ARS Food Components and Health Laboratory), and Paul Scott (USDA-ARS and Iowa State University) have agreed to offer their time as Associate Editors. These individuals, with their diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise, look forward to handling all submissions in this new area of coverage in Crop Science.

— Mark E. Westgate, Editor
Michael A. Grusak, Technical Editor