

Annual Report **2018**



Academic Open Access Publishing
since 1996

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About MDPI

► www.mdpi.com/about

Being a pioneer in academic Open Access publishing, MDPI has been focused on serving and strengthening the scientific community since 1996. In 2018, MDPI contributed more Open Access articles to DOAJ than any other publisher. Our purpose is to provide a valuable service to the academic community. Our mission is to foster scientific exchange in its various forms, across all scientific disciplines. The driving principles behind everything that we do are the following:



Accessibility

We offer access to science and the latest research to readers free-of-charge. All of our content is published in Open Access format and distributed under a Creative Commons License, which means free distribution and the right to share and re-use published articles.



Speed

We publish quickly to ensure the latest research is rapidly disseminated, using thorough, precise editorial work. A first decision is provided to authors in approximately 19 days; once accepted, papers are published in 5–10 days.



Service

We aim to provide a service that supports scholars and their work. By offering a range of different options, including journal publication at mdpi.com, early publication at *Preprints.org*, and conferences on *Sciforum*, we support scientific communities worldwide to make a positive impact on research.



Flexibility

In a changing and evolving publishing environment, we are constantly adapting and developing new tools and services. By listening to feedback from authors, editors, and readers, we can make changes to better meet the needs of our research community and keep MDPI relevant.



Simplicity

All of our tools and services can be found in one place and prioritize user-friendliness. Simple processes keep our editorial process highly efficient.



Sustainability

In addition to being a key theme in our journals, we support sustainability by ensuring the long-term preservation of published papers and the future of science through partnerships, sponsorships, and awards.

Message from the CEO

I would like to open by wishing you a happy, healthy, and successful 2019 on behalf of the MDPI management team! I also wish to thank all MDPI team members for their full engagement and outstanding contributions, which have made 2018 such a successful year.

MDPI has focused on its mission with its three key aspects (see margin) for many years, especially on providing the best possible service to scholars. This has led to a solid performance over the past 12 months. In 2018, MDPI published 64,680 articles—an 80% increase compared to 2017. Our editorial process, policies, and standards have not changed; rather, we have received a great many more papers—165,500 submissions, a growth of 100% compared to 2017. This has brought our overall rejection rate to 61%.

This outstanding performance came with a number of organizational challenges but also with extraordinarily positive feedback from the scholarly community. We thank our authors, reviewers, and editors for their trust in our editorial service, their huge contribution to the process, and their outstanding support. We give back to these communities as much as possible, through discount vouchers to reviewers, by adding more journals to the Publons reviewer credit scheme, and sponsoring conferences organized by scholars. At the same time, we continue investing in new journal titles, supporting the *World Sustainability Forum* and its award and nonprofit projects like *Sciforum.net*, *Scilit.net*, and *Preprints.org*, which are free to use for the research community.

The publishing environment is going through a crucial and transformative period, anticipated to lead to full Open Access within the next

years. To assist with the transition and engage with other stakeholders, MDPI has already established partnerships with more than 60 scientific societies and signed Institutional Open Access Program participation agreements with more than 500 university libraries.

Moreover, the global implementation of the DORA principles on research assessment is anticipated to lead to more openness and better community engagement. In 2018, we extended an optional peer-review scheme to all MDPI journals. We implemented the Hypothesis interactive commenting framework, available on the webpage of every published article, to enhance community conversations. We also launched the new journal *Sci*, which uses a post-publication peer-review workflow.

MDPI team members located across the world are fully committed to our mission and drive to serve scholars. Consistent with our commitment to maintain a sustainable publishing ecosystem, we have released *JAMS* (Journal and Article Management System) to help publishers and learned societies flip subscription journals to Open Access and run those journals in a cost-efficient way. At the heart of *JAMS* is the simple, efficient publishing system developed over time by MDPI. Such an offering can help publishers come into line with Plan S recently announced by the cOAlition S funders.

MDPI will continue to be fully committed to its mission of making all research results available in a timely and open manner. We look forward to further supporting scholars, librarians, funders, learned societies, researcher networks, and policy-makers in this crucial transformative period.



Dr. Franck Vazquez
Chief Executive Officer

MDPI's mission is threefold:

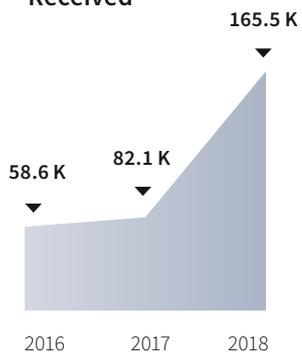
1)
Support scholarly communities and offer the best publishing experience for academic editors, authors, reviewers, and readers.

2)
Bring greater flexibility, timeliness, fairness, and sustainability into the academic publishing process.

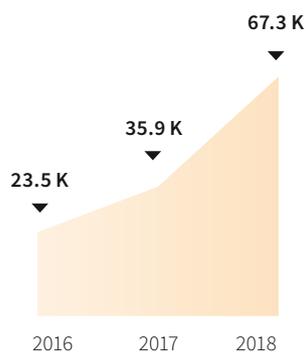
3)
Improve the availability and discoverability of research output to accelerate discovery and innovation.

Key Figures

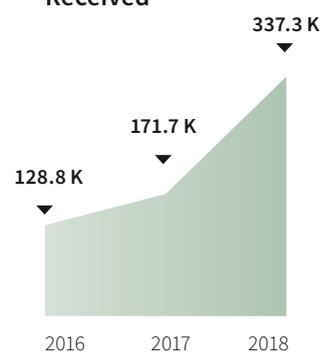
Submissions Received



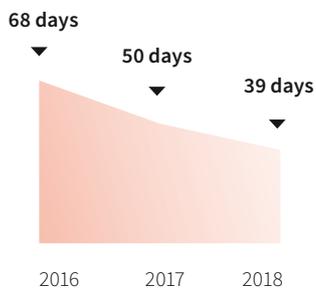
Articles Published



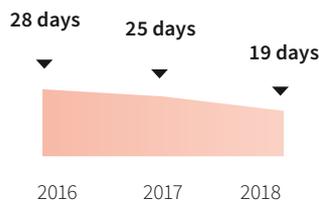
Peer-Review Reports Received



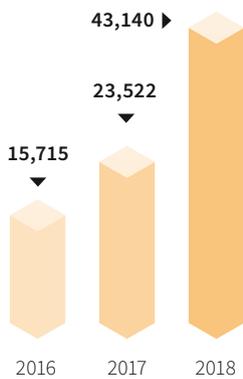
**Median Time—
Submission to Publication**



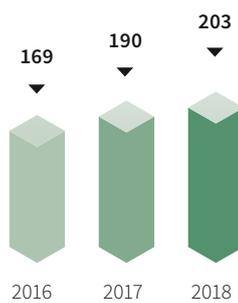
**Median Time—
Submission to First Decision**



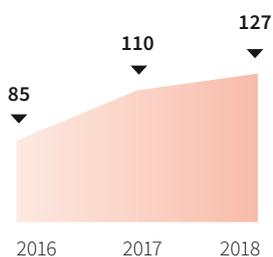
Academic Editors



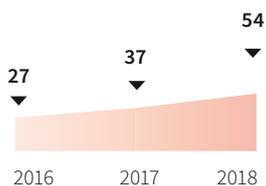
Journals Published



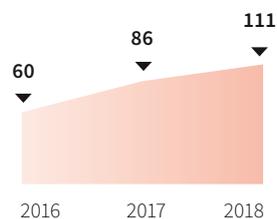
Journals Covered by the Web of Science Core Collection *



Journals Covered by SCIE

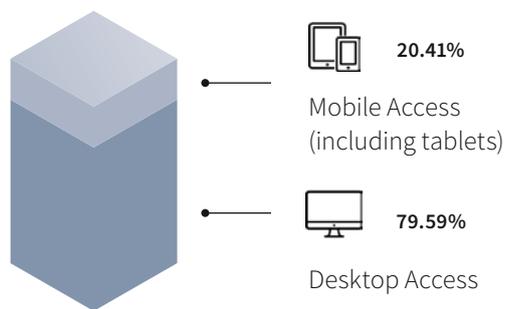
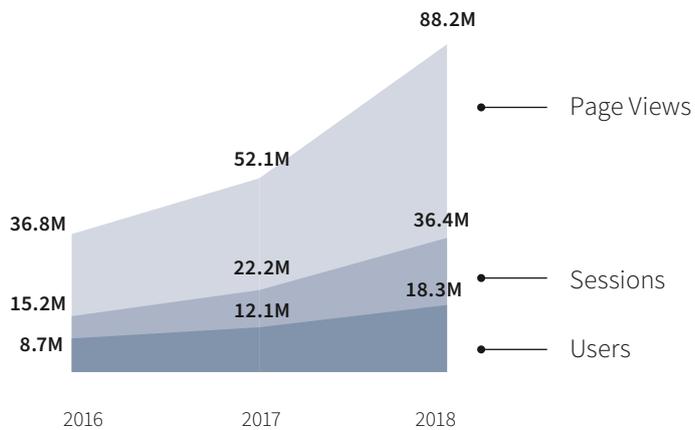


Journals Covered by Scopus



* Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Emerging Sources Citation Index, Arts & Humanities Citation Index

Access to mdpi.com



MDPI Services

JAMS



► jams.pub

MDPI has continued to develop and offer its journal management platform *JAMS*. The main aim of *JAMS* remains to provide a versatile, easy-to-use, modular system that comprehensively covers peer review, production, Open Access invoicing, and journal website management. *JAMS* additionally offers production services, to create professional publication-ready versions of submitted articles.

The focus in the second half of the year was towards building a lightweight, standardised version that can be deployed quickly and run at low cost. A platform running this version as a service was launched in early 2019.

We have also continued to collect feedback from publishers and improved a number of aspects of the software. By sharing the in-house expertise we have developed over two decades, we believe that we can continue to develop *JAMS* as an integral service for publishers of any size.

JAMS is used by UCL Press, the London-based Open Access university press, to run a number of their journals. This includes providing a submission system and production service.

language editing to authors, we have added technical editing and type-setting services. Over 4000 manuscripts have been edited, and we have recently launched a LinkedIn page at <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/mdpi-english-editing-service> offering writing and publishing tips. Further editing options will be added in 2019.

Preprints



Preprints make the latest research freely available in Open Access format ahead of peer review and have become increasingly popular with researchers from many different fields. Our platform *Preprints.org* has seen a great deal of interest and now hosts nearly 8000 papers, of which 5500 were posted in 2018. *Preprints* has now posted work from over 30,000 authors.

In the last year, *Preprints* has made changes to its screening process to better involve the research community. Any active researcher is able to assist in performing basic checks on submitted papers to assess their suitability for posting online. We still aim to keep our typical processing time to within one working day in order to ensure that research is disseminated as quickly as possible. ► www.preprints.org

Author Services



► mdpi.com/authors/english

Launched in 2016, our author services assist authors in preparing their manuscripts for submission and thereby increase their chances of having their work accepted quickly by journal editors. We have seen a growth in the use of these services over the past twelve months. In addition to offering grammar and

► www.linkedin.com/showcase/mdpi-english-editing-service

External Initiatives

There have been a number of initiatives established or expanded this year, of which MDPI is a supporter or participant.

Plan S sets out a commitment for all research from participating funders to be published immediately in Open Access format. MDPI supports this initiative and already complies with the majority of requirements set out so far. ► See the following pages for more information.



The **San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment** (DORA), of which MDPI is a signatory, has been taken up by an increasing number of organisations. It seeks to innovate research assessment and, in particular, decrease reliance and misuse of impact factors for judging the output of individual scholars.



Knowledge Unlatched has helped to partially fund publication fees for a number of MDPI journals, primarily in humanities.



Publons provides recognition for contributions made by reviewers. MDPI has continued its partnership with Publons and in 2019 will expand from 50 to 90 participating journals.



MDPI has continued its membership of industry organisations, including the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA), STM, and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). We will continue to support initiatives and organisations that fit with our values, especially where they benefit the production and open dissemination of high-quality research.

Plan S



In a bid to push forward the transition to fully Open Access publishing, a number of funders have come together under the banner of cOAlition S and put forward an initiative called Plan S. Originating in Europe and led by Robert-Jan Smits of the European Council, Plan S puts forward conditions for Open Access publishing. The key message is the following:

After 1 January 2020, scientific publications on the results from research funded by public grants provided by national and European research councils and funding bodies must be published in compliant Open Access Journals or on compliant Open Access Platforms.

This Statement Is Supported by Ten Principles:

- Authors retain copyright of their publication with no restrictions. All publications must be published under an open license, preferably the Creative Commons Attribution License CC BY. In all cases, the license applied should fulfil the requirements defined by the Berlin Declaration;
- The Funders will jointly ensure the establishment of robust criteria and requirements for the services that compliant high-quality Open Access journals and Open Access platforms must provide;
- In case such high-quality Open Access journals or platforms do not yet exist, the Funders will, in a coordinated way, provide incentives to establish and support them when appropriate. Support will also be provided for Open Access infrastructures where necessary;
- Where applicable, Open Access publication fees are covered by the Funders or universities, not by individual researchers; it is acknowledged that all scientists should be able to publish their work Open Access even if their institutions have limited means;
- When Open Access publication fees are applied, their funding is standardised and capped (across Europe);
- The Funders will ask universities, research organisations, and libraries to align their policies and strategies, notably to ensure transparency;
- The above principles shall apply to all types of scholarly publications, but it is understood that the timeline to achieve Open Access for monographs and books may be longer than 1 January 2020;
- The importance of open archives and repositories for hosting research outputs is acknowledged because of their long-term archiving function and their potential for editorial innovation;
- The "hybrid" model of publishing is not compliant with the above principles;
- The Funders will monitor compliance and sanction non-compliance

Further details will follow in early 2019. Discussions are currently ongoing with various stakeholders looking at implementation plans and expanding the number of participating funders. MDPI has issued a statement in support of Plan S. We believe it has the potential to provide a better deal for research communities and increase access to the latest research for society as a whole. Some, particularly publishers whose primary revenue still relies on subscription models that are not supported by Plan S, have been more critical.

Here, we highlight some of the implications of Plan S and its potential benefits.

Different Types of Journals

Plan S supports a large number of existing journals. Open Access journals such as those in the Directory of Open Access Journals are very likely to be already compliant with most of Plan S. This includes journals from Open Access publishers such as MDPI and those from publishers that operate both subscription and Open Access journals. Additionally, subscription journals could qualify if they allow immediate archiving of accepted or published versions in Open Access format.

Perhaps the boldest statement of Plan S is the exclusion of hybrid journals. These are journals that can be accessed by subscriptions, but for which individual papers can be made Open Access by payment of an additional fee. The original aim of hybrid journals was to allow a transition to Open Access; however the majority have stayed hybrid for many years and show no signs of removing subscription content. As such, they have not supported the shift to Open Access that the supporters of Plan S are looking for. The publishers of these

journals must choose whether to ignore Plan S and potentially lose authors, or to switch to a more compliant model. Those that have developed a robust Open Access portfolio are best placed to respond, but it seems that most are waiting for further details before committing to a course of action.

Different Funding Models

Plan S is not prescriptive about the funding model used for compliant Open Access journals. Since it is an initiative from funders, it opens the possibility that new ways of covering publishing costs could emerge. Like many large Open Access publishers, MDPI remains reliant on APCs, but we are open to and interested in alternatives that allow publishers to cover the costs for running journals. These costs include managing peer review, production of accepted articles (in PDF, HTML, EPUB, and XML formats), dissemination of published papers, and other tasks related to maintaining the visibility, quality, and reputation of journals.

Most people in academic publishing and research accept that broader access to research is a benefit to society. Difficulties can arise making that vision a reality when a closed model has been used for such a long time. It is helpful to have a clear message from funders about the kind of Open Access they would like to see and a firm commitment to making it happen.

What to Look for Next

There is much that will happen between now and the proposed launch date in January 2020. Here are our tips for what to watch out for:

Firstly, Plan S needs further details. A large amount is being written and discussed about

how to achieve its implementation and areas where the language of the statement is open to interpretation. While the statements above are said to be non-negotiable, there appears to be scope for clarifying the statement and having multiple routes to compliance.

Over the coming months, we can expect to see proposals for how Plan S can be successfully launched. These will include the types of journals and platforms that can qualify—both existing ones and new models. Funders may also put forward proposals for large-scale funding of Open Access publication; this point has been less discussed so far but should become increasingly important as the 2020 deadline approaches.

To date, much of the discussion has been carried out by funders, publishers, and librarians. Researchers also need to be brought into the debate to influence how the final version of Plan S looks. Researchers are central to the research endeavor and serve as authors, editors, reviewers, and readers of research

material. Their experience and knowledge will help to improve proposals made by publishers and funders.

The reach of Plan S could be critical to its success. Most agree that Open Access will play a key role in the future of research reporting and is predicted by many to become the dominant model of publishing. The timescale of this transition is unclear; however, further adoption of Plan S within and beyond Europe would certainly accelerate the change. Many will be keeping an eye on support for Plan S from funders based in the US, China, and other regions outside of Europe.

Time for Dialog

To conclude, it seems that the cOAlitionS funders recognize the advantages of Open Access and want to push forward with changes that will benefit the research community and broader society. Now is a time for dialog between funders, publishers, and the research community to seek concrete actions that turn the broad adoption of Open Access into a reality.

Societies and Partnerships

In 2018, MDPI's efforts to intensify collaborations with learned societies and associations of specialists continued, which led to three promising new partnerships and many affiliations.

A full list can be found at:

► www.mdpi.com/societies_partnership

Partnerships

The journal *Medicina* (of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences) was transferred from the previous publisher in February 2018, and the first issue was published by MDPI in March 2018. Since then, the journal has already significantly increased its number of articles compared to the previous four years.

The *World Electrical Vehicle Journal*, which is the official journal of the World Electric Vehicle Association (WEVA), and the *Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity*, which is affiliated to the Society of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity (SOItmC), were also transferred to MDPI in 2018.

Affiliations

In addition to partnering with MDPI for the publication of an official journal, societies may also choose to become affiliated to one or more of our existing journals. In 2018, thirty different societies and other scientific institutions chose this option. To list only a few:

- The Australasian Virology Society (AVS, www.avs.org.au) to *Viruses*
- The Australian Society of Plant Scientists (ASPS, www.asps.org.au) to *IJMS* and *Plants*
- The European Society for Fuzzy Logic and Technology (EUSFLAT, www.eusflat.org) to *Algorithms* and *Axioms*
- The International Society for Mycotoxicology (ISM, www.mycotox-society.org) to *Toxins*
- The International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry (ISHC, www.ishc-web.org) to *Molecules*

Services and Benefits

With over 20 years' experience in scholarly peer-reviewed publishing, we provide technical infrastructure and editorial knowhow for a society's existing or new journal:

- Conversion to Open Access
- Editorial handling of manuscripts
- Fast editorial procedure
- Efficient and easy-to-use platform, www.mdpi.com
- Advice on strategic development
- High visibility
- Automated metadata exchange
- Indexing and abstracting services
- Marketing and promotion of the journal
- Conferences organization
- Long-term preservation
- Hosting the journal back-file
- Retaining ownership
- High-quality reprints
- Reviewer benefits
- Membership discounts
- Optional and customized services

The benefits we offer to the affiliated societies may include:

- Discount on the Article Processing Charges
- Free or discounted use of the conference hosting and service platform *Sciforum.net* by the society and its members
- Discount on the Book Processing Charge for Open Access books
- Support for annual events

For more detailed information, please contact Delia Mihaila

► mihaila@mdpi.com

Institutional Open Access Program



IOAP participants per country (top 10 countries):



2018 in Numbers

2018 was a milestone year for MDPI and for our Institutional Open Access Program (IOAP), and we feel honored to be collaborating with all these institutions to promote and support Open Access (OA) publishing. Our IOAP reached 503 academic institutions from around the world at the beginning of 2019.

We were delighted to see the total number of IOAP participants increase to 488 by the end of 2018. The number has been rising steadily over the past years, from 151 in 2016 to 301 in 2017 and 488 in 2018. The institutions are based all around the world, with the top countries being the USA, Germany, Spain, China, the UK, Canada, Poland, Australia, Switzerland, and The Netherlands.

Highlights

In 2018, we introduced a new pre-payment feature which allows institutions to deposit an amount in their account and use this to cover the APCs of eligible authors. We also included Funder and Grant ID information of each paper on the online IOAP dashboard.

We secured an agreement with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as national agreements with the Qatar National Library, the Austrian Academic Library Consortium (KEMÖ), and the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), all of which provide benefits to both institutions and researchers.

We continued our collaboration with Knowledge Unlatched (KU), whose crowd-funding mechanism helps cover the APC of some

articles published in Social Sciences and Humanities titles. We gave presentations in several events during the OA Week 2018 and sponsored and attended key conferences to engage with institutions and the global scholarly community.

Key Agreements

Qatar National Library (QNL)

We established an OA agreement with QNL. QNL is committed to supporting and helping Qatar authors publish OA at no cost. Through this national agreement, QNL covers the APC of manuscripts published by Qatar-based corresponding authors in MDPI journals. This is our first agreement with a national library.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)

The BMGF is now a participant of MDPI's IOAP and the first funder to join the program. Authors funded by the BMGF enjoy discounts on the APC, while the funder centrally covers the costs of eligible articles. BMGF also has access to the MDPI online submission system where they can find full article metadata and pricing information, as well as Grant ID details for easy identification and additional transparency.

Austrian Academic Library Consortium (KEMÖ) and Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

We established our first collective national OA agreement with KEMÖ and FWF, to be officially put into effect in 2019. Through this agreement, the costs for eligible authors to publish in MDPI journals will be covered by several Austrian institutions as well as FWF. The authors also benefit from an APC discount.

Information About Our Institutional Open Access Program

Our IOAP is designed to help institutions manage the transition to the OA publishing model. Researchers affiliated with participating bodies benefit from a 10% discount on the Article and Book Processing Charges (APC/BPC) for any paper published in an MDPI journal or with *MDPI Books*, while the institution incurs no fee for participating in the program.

Simplification

There is no complex contract or hidden terms and conditions. The institution can cancel its participation in the program at any time. To support the simplification of payment processes, we can also adjust our invoicing procedure to meet the needs of each institution.

Transparency and Control

All institutional participants receive free access to our online submission system, which provides a wide range of metadata on articles under processing and articles published by associated authors since 2010.

Cost Reduction

Associated Authors receive discounts on the APC for accepted articles and on the BPC for *MDPI Books*. In addition, the reduced administrative efforts from our invoicing process can help institutions save time and effort.

The Main IOAP Features Are:

No Fee

The program is free and will remain free for as long as the institution continues participating. Any participant may withdraw from the program at any time.

10% Discount on APC/BPC

Authors affiliated with the institution will receive a 10% discount on the APC or BPC for all papers published in an MDPI journal or with *MDPI Books*.

Auto-Archiving into Your Institutional Repository

We offer automated deposits of papers from affiliated authors to the institutional repository via Sword 1.3.

Access to the MDPI Submission System

The institution is granted free access to the MDPI online submission system and can receive alerts of new submissions to our journals from their institute.

Billing Options of Non-Central or Central

By default, authors from the institution will continue to be invoiced directly (non-central billing) or the institution can opt for central billing.

For more information, visit:

- ▶ mdpi.com/about/ioap
- and
- ▶ mdpi.com/about/ioap_faq

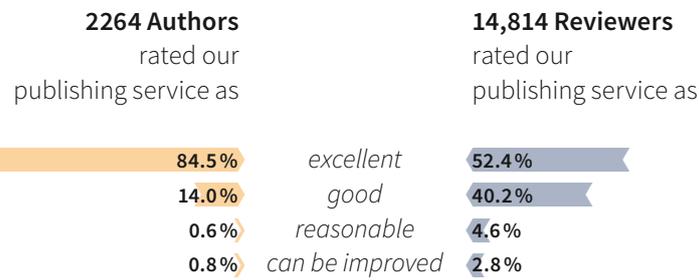
For any queries, please contact:

- ▶ ioap@mdpi.com



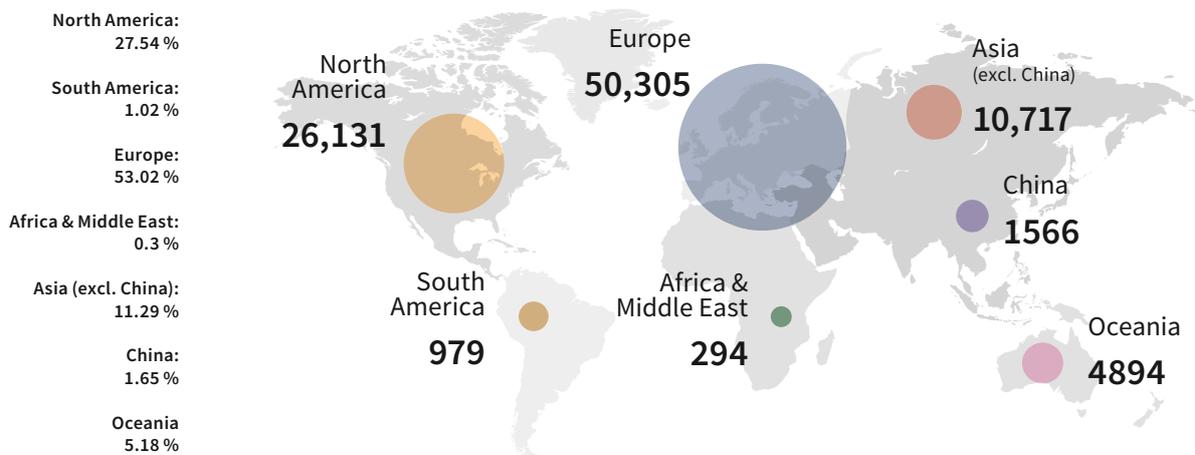
Quality of Service

Publishing Service Rating



Source:
MDPI author and reviewer surveys 2018

Location of Reviewers



Publishing Experience

« We were invited to write a review for the [...] "Special Issue Disease Modeling Using Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells" [...]. This was our first experience in submitting a manuscript to the *IJMS*. The whole process was very straightforward, and the transition from acceptance of the manuscript to publication was incredibly fast. [...] We would be happy to submit manuscripts to *IJMS* again and highly recommend others to do so as well. »

By Dr. Cesare M. N. Terracciano (Author of *Many Cells Make Life Work—Multicellularity in Stem Cell-Based Cardiac Disease Modelling*)

Dr. Paul Vaucher (Author of: *Tackling Societal Challenges Related to Ageing and Transport Transition: An Introduction to Philosophical Principles of Causation Adapted to the Biopsychosocial Model*)

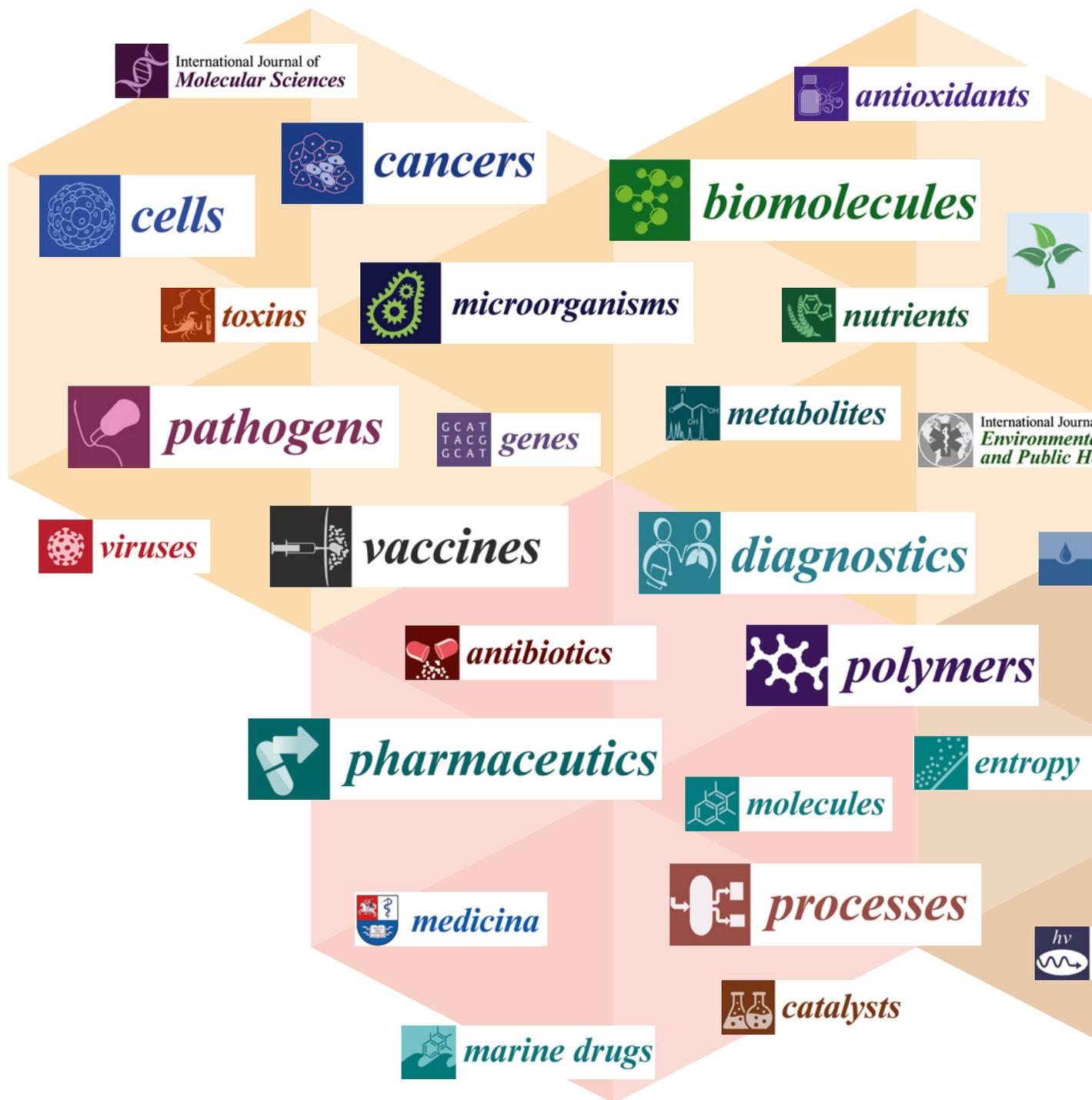
« My experience with publishing for a special edition in the journal *Geriatrics* was excellent. I was invited for a special edition that truly corresponded to my field of expertise. The special guest editor, Dr Max Toepper, took his role seriously and contacted me personally. Three reviewers commented my manuscript, and all of them seemed to be familiar with the topic and at least two were clearly experts in the field. My article was reviewed twice before [being] accepted. [...] The staff was professional. MDPI seems to take very seriously its own reputation as a leading Open [Access] publisher. I was very skeptical at first, but my experience has convinced me of the good will of the publisher and its competencies in publishing quality articles. »

« The publisher MDPI had a friendly and fluid dealing with authors. The reviewers performed positive contributions to the manuscript. Revision times and final opinion was agreed by the journal, there were no delays. »

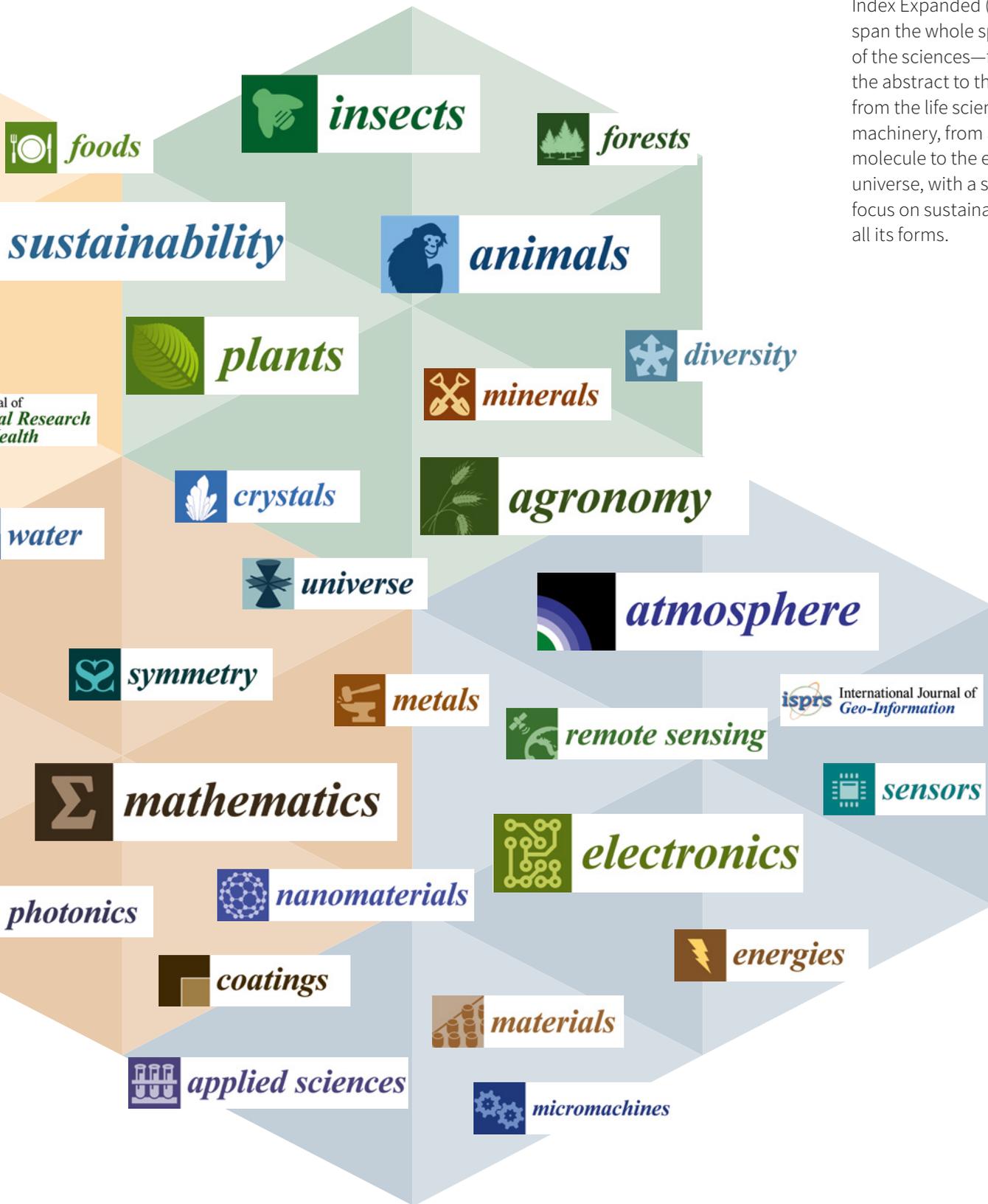
By Julio A. Zygodlo (Author of: *Bioactivities of Ketones Terpenes: Antifungal Effect on *F. verticillioides* and Repellents to Control Insect Fungal Vector, *S. zeamais**)

More testimonials can be found here: ► www.mdpi.com/authors/testimonials

SCIE Indexed Journals



Out of 203 journals, 54 are covered in SCIE (WoS),
73 in ESCI (WoS), 111 in SCOPUS, and 57 in PubMed.



Our journals covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) span the whole spectrum of the sciences—from the abstract to the real, from the life science to machinery, from a single molecule to the entire universe, with a strong focus on sustainability in all its forms.

Journal Development in 2018

Covered in SCIE (Web of Science) as of January 2019

	Papers Published in 2018	Papers Published in 2017	Total Citations (Web of Science) *	Times Cited in 2017 (Web of Science) *	2017 Impact Factor *	2017 CiteScore **
<i>Agronomy</i>	321	88	535	535	1.419	2.38
<i>Animals</i>	250	100	301	301	1.654	2.05
<i>Antibiotics</i>	112	41	-	-	***	2.88
<i>Antioxidants</i>	205	103	-	-	***	3.56
<i>Applied Sciences</i>	2784	1331	1955	1364	1.689	1.98
<i>Atmosphere</i>	505	260	792	291	1.704	-
<i>Biomolecules</i>	193	77	-	-	***	5.83
<i>Brain Sciences</i>	223	160	-	-	***	2.57
<i>Cancers</i>	558	172	3897	3897	5.326	5.87
<i>Catalysts</i>	694	391	1995	923	3.465	-
<i>Cells</i>	294	48	1005	1005	4.829	-
<i>Coatings</i>	477	251	675	360	2.350	-
<i>Crystals</i>	485	386	911	494	2.144	2.00
<i>Diagnostics</i>	89	60	-	-	***	-
<i>Diversity</i>	132	54	-	-	***	2.18
<i>Electronics</i>	500	100	556	556	2.110	3.01
<i>Energies</i>	3591	2209	11,350	4936	2.676	3.15
<i>Entropy</i>	1002	693	4812	1569	2.305	2.44
<i>Foods</i>	213	105	-	-	***	-
<i>Forests</i>	793	502	2285	953	1.956	2.31
<i>Genes</i>	657	399	1577	714	3.191	3.55
<i>Insects</i>	197	127	827	827	1.848	1.90
<i>IJERPH</i>	2963	1624	13242	3992	2.145	2.44
<i>IJMS</i>	4159	2807	37,071	11,143	3.687	3.90
<i>IJGi</i>	495	409	1183	631	1.723	2.10
<i>JCM</i>	601	116	1673	1673	5.583	-
<i>JMSE</i>	160	59	-	-	***	-
<i>Marine Drugs</i>	535	391	8753	2060	4.379	4.62
<i>Materials</i>	2655	1491	12001	3861	2.467	3.02

	Papers Published in 2018	Papers Published in 2017	Total Citations (Web of Science) *	Times Cited in 2017 (Web of Science) *	2017 Impact Factor *	2017 CiteScore **
<i>Mathematics</i>	368	86	-	-	***	-
<i>Medicina</i>	122	43	-	-	1.429	1.27
<i>Metabolites</i>	99	64	-	-	***	3.41
<i>Metals</i>	1091	587	1317	751	1.704	1.92
<i>Micromachines</i>	692	376	1527	767	2.222	2.34
<i>Microorganisms</i>	132	77	-	-	***	-
<i>Minerals</i>	618	255	646	302	1.835	-
<i>Molecules</i>	3449	2278	31,047	7686	3.098	3.29
<i>Nanomaterials</i>	1100	471	2160	986	3.504	-
<i>Nutrients</i>	2053	1383	12,031	4913	4.196	4.41
<i>Pathogens</i>	95	69	-	-	***	3.52
<i>Pharmaceutics</i>	295	57	992	992	3.746	3.70
<i>Photonics</i>	50	60	-	-	****	1.96
<i>Plants</i>	117	63	-	-	***	3.21
<i>Polymers</i>	1429	762	4549	1659	2.935	3.30
<i>Processes</i>	281	81	290	290	1.279	-
<i>Remote Sensing</i>	2085	1364	13,600	4717	3.406	4.10
<i>Sensors</i>	4523	2982	31,941	8040	2.475	3.23
<i>Sustainability</i>	4965	2404	8904	4416	2.075	2.37
<i>Symmetry</i>	793	331	777	272	1.256	1.33
<i>Toxins</i>	535	414	5341	1430	3.273	3.40
<i>Universe</i>	152	84	-	-	***	-
<i>Vaccines</i>	85	51	-	-	***	4.94
<i>Viruses</i>	738	406	6145	1475	3.761	3.92
<i>Water</i>	1922	1006	3797	1827	2.069	2.32
TOTAL	52,093	29,757	95,420	71,465		

* data according to Journal Citation Reports 2017 Edition (Clarivate Analytics), released in June 2018

** CiteScore data, released in May 2018, updated in December 2018

*** Tracked for IF June 2019

**** Tracked for IF June 2020

15 Journals Launched in 2018



Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Mo Li

School of Materials Science and Engineering,
Georgia Institute of Technology, USA



Editor-in-Chief:

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¹⁾ School of Chemistry,
University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
²⁾ Department of Organic Chemistry,
University of Barcelona, Spain



Editor-in-Chief:

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Earth System Science Department,
Stanford University, USA



Editors-in-Chief:

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Applied Technology for Neuro-Psychology Lab, Italy

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BioRobotics Institute, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy



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Prof. Aleksandar Pavic

College of Engineering,
Mathematics and Physical Sciences,
University of Exeter, UK



Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Gilbert Fantozzi

INSA-Lyon, MATEIS laboratory,
France



Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Pierluigi Siano

Department of Industrial Engineering,
University of Salerno, Italy



Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Gauss Moutinho Cordeiro

Departamento de Estatística,
Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Brazil



Editors-in-Chief:

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CNR-IBAM (National Research Council, Institute
for Archaeological and Architectural Heritage), Italy

Dr. Francesco Soldovieri

Institute for Electromagnetic Sensing of the
Environment, National Research Council, Italy



Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Gaetano Granozzi

Università degli Studi di Padova, Italy



Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Toshio Hattori

Graduate School of Health Science Studies,
KIBI International University, Japan



Editor-in-Chief:

Dr. Valentí Rull

Institute of Earth Sciences Jaume Almera (ICTJA-CSIC),
Spain



Editor-in-Chief:

Dr. David A Gates

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, USA



Editor-in-Chief:

Dr. Alistair M. S. Smith

Department of Forest, Rangeland,
and Fire Sciences, University of Idaho, USA



Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Dr. Roy A. Lacey

Stony Brook University, New York, USA:
Department of Chemistry
Department of Physics

Encyclopedia

Encyclopedia, launched in April 2018, is an online reference created and curated by active scholars. It aims to highlight the latest research results from all fields, in addition to providing benchmark information for researchers and the general public interested in accurate and advanced knowledge. Content can be directly added and edited by approved users. So far over 300 users have added more than 90 new

entries. Authors of review articles are invited to adapt their conference for *Encyclopedia* and information can be added about articles still in press or unproven hypotheses. Contributors to each entry are credited, including those who initiate, update, or correct an entry. A record of changes can be viewed and mature entries are assigned a DOI.

 **Encyclopedia**

► encyclopedia.pub

Scilit

Indexing Status

Scilit is a comprehensive database of research articles, including conference proceedings and preprints. By the end of 2018, it covered 115 million items, including 2.2 million preprints.

Free Full-Text

In 2018, a significant step forward was made in finding full-text articles, and currently over 22 million papers have a full-text link. This has been made possible by integrating free versions from Unpaywall, CORE, and PubMed Central. Moreover, improvements in license detection have helped to mark Open Access articles more accurately.

Rankings

You can get an overview of the scholarly publishing market through our journal rankings feature at ► www.scilit.net/rankings. It allows comparisons of journals and publishers, including number of journals, articles, and Open Access publications.

Higher Accuracy

In addition to new features, we have continued to put efforts into improving the quality of data, to ensure that *Scilit* is a reliable and helpful resource for searching the scholarly literature.

 **Scilit**

► www.Scilit.net

► www.Scilit.net/rankings

MDPI Books



► www.mdpi.com/books

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With its *Books Initiative*, MDPI offers quality Open Access book publishing to promote the exchange of ideas and knowledge across all disciplines.

MDPI Books now welcomes edited volumes, which comprise a spectrum of viewpoints on a particular topic as well as short-form or full-length monographs by single or multiple authors, including doctoral theses.

Additionally, we continue to offer a reprint service for published journal issues. In 2018, the number of reprints grew significantly.

Special Issue Reprint Books Published in 2018



We have made book production more streamlined and efficient. This has led to improvements in the production time and quality of published books.

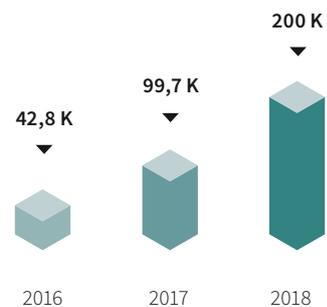
2018 Facts

At the beginning of 2018, *MDPI Books* adopted a new corporate design for its print books.

The uniformly designed colorful covers make the *MDPI Books* brand instantly recognizable.

In April 2018, we proudly launched a new *MDPI Books* website ► www.mdpi.com/books. The response from customers has been very positive.

Page Views



The activity increased by 135.14% compared to last year.

Towards the end of the year, we started to promote *Books* via social media. We are now able to interact directly with the scientific community, spreading the ideas of Open Access and bringing us closer to scientists and science-interested people from all over.

In early 2018, we developed *Book JAMS*. The submission system, tailored for books, provides professional and fast production services for editions and monographs.

We will continue our efforts to improve the efficiency of our services to our customers and authors.

Top 5 Books in 2018 by Views and Downloads



Applications of Remote Sensing/GIS in Water Resources and Flooding Risk Managements
 edited by
 Hongjie Xie and
 Xianwei Wang



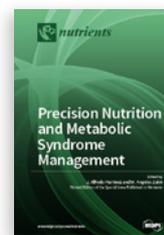
Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change
 edited by
 Suren(dra) Nath
 Kulshreshtha and
 Elaine E. Wheaton



The Global Benefits of Open Research, The 2018 MDPI Writing Prize
 edited by
 Martyn Rittman

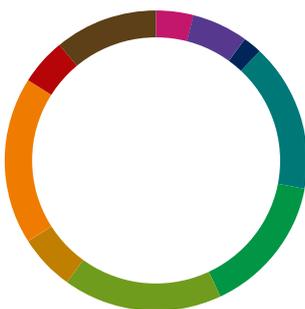


Systems Education for a Sustainable Planet
 edited by
 Ockie Bosch and
 Robert Y. Cavana



Precision Nutrition and Metabolic Syndrome Management
 edited by
 Alfredo J. Martínez and
 Angeles M. Zulet

Publications by Subject Areas



- Business & Economics
- Biology & Life Sciences
- Mathematics & Physic
- Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities
- Bioengineering
- Engineering
- Chemistry & Materials Science
- Medicine & Pharmacology
- Environmental & Earth Sciences
- Public Health & Healthcare

MDPI Conferences in 2018

Viruses 2018—Breakthroughs in Viral Replication

Viruses 2018 was held in Barcelona, Spain, 7–9 February 2018. Organized and sponsored by MDPI and *Viruses*, it was a great success, attracting over 220 participants from 33 different countries. The conference was chaired by Dr. Eric O. Freed (NIH, Editor-in-Chief of *Viruses*) and Dr. Albert Bosch (University of Barcelona) and enabled participants to focus on the latest research developments in the field of viral replication. The six conference sessions included 55 oral presentations, and a total of 139 posters were displayed across four floors.

Photos:

- 1) Participants in the auditorium during one of the talks at *Viruses 2018*
- 2) Attendees group picture at the *Polymers 2018* conference in Barcelona
- 3) Coffee break at the *Entropy 2018* conference in Barcelona
- 4) Front: Prof. Dr. Thomas Stocker, Professor of Climate and Environmental Physics, University of Bern; Océane Dayer, Political Advisor WWF Switzerland and Kim Berrendorf, Communication Specialist Sustainability at Baloise Group
- 5) Front from left: Prof. Dr. Ed Constable, Professor of Chemistry and former Vice-rector, University of Basel; Jacques Pellet, Special Envoy of the ICRC President Peter Maurer on China Affairs and a Chinese Delegate
- 6) Participants at the auditorium during one of the talks at *ICARS 2018*
- 7) Speakers at the 6th *International Symposium on Sensor Science*

Polymers 2018

On 21–23 March 2018, the journal *Polymers* organized its first international conference entitled *Polymers: Design, Function and Application* in Barcelona. It was a three-day event at the University of Barcelona, with more than 170 attendees from 37 countries. The conference, chaired by Prof. Dr. Alexander Böker (Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Polymer Research, Germany) and Dr. Frank Wiesbrock (PCCL – Polymer Competence Center Leoben, Austria), was specifically designed to stimulate new research activities in the development and testing of the next generation of polymeric materials. It was divided in two main sections, “Design to Function” and “Function to Application”, with a total of 40 oral presentations and 123 posters.

Entropy 2018: From Physics to Information Sciences and Geometry

More than 160 participants from 35 countries attended the *Entropy 2018: From Physics to Information Sciences and Geometry* conference, which took place 14–16 May 2018 in Barcelona and consisted of 58 talks spread across six sessions, along with almost 100 posters. It was

the first edition of this international, multi-disciplinary conference organized by MDPI and sponsored by the journal *Entropy*. It was chaired by Prof. Dr. Ali Mohammad-Djafari and Prof. Dr. Miguel Rubi and attracted exceptional scholars from all around the globe.

Third Basel Sustainability Forum

The Third Basel Sustainability Forum was held on 4 June 2018. The conference attracted 135 participants from Switzerland, Germany, and France. It was chaired by Henri Rueff, Nikolaus Kuhn, and Max Bergman and addressed several issues related to climate change.

WSF2018 – The 7th World Sustainability Forum

The 7th World Sustainability Forum and the *Sustainable Development Education Forum* were held in Beijing 18–21 September 2018. A total of 2500 participants attended, from over 64 countries. The *World Sustainability Forum* (WSF) is an annual sustainability conference which addresses research in a range of areas related to sustainable development and global sustainability. Last year it was organized by International Green Economy Association (IGEA), sponsored by MDPI and the journal *Sustainability* under the patronage of the University of International Business and Economics (Beijing), Tsinghua University (Beijing), and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN).

The second World Sustainability Awards (worth with USD 100,000) and the second Emerging Sustainability Leader Awards (worth with USD 10,000) were presented at the gala dinner of the conference. Dr. Mathis Wackernagel and Dr. Zhifu Mi were the joint recipients of the 2nd World Sustainability Award; Dr. Mathis Wackernagel received two-thirds of the prize,

and Dr. Zhifu Mi one-third. The joint recipients of the second Emerging Sustainability Leader Awards were Dr. Bradley Hiller and Dr. Xiaodong Zhang.

ICARS 2018 Conference

On 16–18 October 2018, the journal *Remote Sensing* organized the first *International Conference on Advanced Remote Sensing* in Wuhan, China. It was a three-day event at Wuhan University, with more than 150 attendees from 20 countries. The conference, chaired by Prof. Dr. Deren Li (Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences), Prof. Dr. Jianya Gong (Dean of the School of Remote Sensing and Information Engineering, Wuhan University), and Dr. Prasad S. Thenkabail (USGS Western, Geographic Science Center (WGSC), USA), was aimed at promoting academic exchanges in remote sensing, sharing the latest scientific progress, discussing challenging problems, and drawing a better blueprint for future research. It was divided in three main sections “Sensors and Data Acquisition”, “Data Processing”, and “Application”, with a total of 24 oral presentations and 60 posters.

I3S 2018 Conference

The 6th *International Symposium on Sensor Science* (I3S 2018) and the 4th SPINTECH Technology Thesis Award were successfully held in Kenting, Taiwan on 6–8 August 2018. The conference was chaired by Prof. Chien-Hung Liu (National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan) and brought together 107 delegates in related fields from all over the world, who attended 49 talks and viewed 46 posters. The next edition of I3S will be held in Napoli, Italy, 9–11 May 2019.



Sciforum Conferences 2018



Sciforum not only offers the possibility to participate in conferences but invites scientists to organize their own conferences. In 2018, a total of 13 physical conferences were organized through *Sciforum*, including those organized by MDPI. In addition, a total of 14 online conferences were successfully hosted in *Sciforum*.

► <https://sciforum.net>

If you are interested in organizing a conference, please contact:

► burkhalter@mdpi.com

or

► lucia.russo@mdpi.com

Physical conferences organized on *Sciforum*:

	The 7th World Sustainability Forum
	Third Basel Sustainability Forum
	2nd Mycokey International Conference– Integrated Solutions for Mycotoxin Management
	The 8th International Multidisciplinary Conference on Optofluidics 2018
	5th Edition of International Conference on Analytical and Nanoanalytical Methods for Biomedical and Environmental Sciences
	1st Advances in Quantum Engineering International Meeting
	6th International Symposium on Sensor Science and 4th SPINTECH Technology Thesis Award
	Viruses 2018 – Breakthroughs in Viral Replication
	Entropy 2018: From Physics to Information Sciences and Geometry
	International Conference on Advanced Remote Sensing
	The Eighteenth International Conference of Experimental Mechanics
	IFoU 2018: Reframing Urban Resilience Implementation: Aligning Sustainability and Resilience
	Polymers: Design, Function and Application

Online conferences organized on *Sciforum*:

	2nd International Electronic Conference on Remote Sensing
	3rd International Electronic Conference on Materials Sciences
	1st International Electronic Conference on Crystals
	1st International Electronic Conference on Geosciences
	The 1st International Online-Conference on Nanomaterials
	The 1st International Electronic Conference on Mineral Science
	The 1st International Electronic Conference on Healthcare
	22nd International Electronic Conference on Synthetic Organic Chemistry
	5th International Electronic Conference on Sensors and Applications
	4th International Electronic Conference on Medicinal Chemistry
	3rd International Electronic Conference on Metabolomics
	3rd International Electronic Conference on Water Sciences
	1st International Electronic Conference on Environmental Health Sciences

MDPI Conferences in 2019

MDPI conferences organized by the *Sciforum* team

FEBRUARY

F3 – Fighting Fake Facts

An unusual scientific conference addressing one of the foundations of science. Some readers may have balked at the title we chose, objecting that there is no such thing as a “fake fact”. However, when you Google the expression “fake facts”, more than 150,000 hits are reported. Indeed, “fake facts” are not only an oxymoron but also an unfortunate truth, threatening to erode all of science. The conference is chaired by Prof. Dr. Peter Seitz, Dr. Rolf Hügli and Prof. Dr. Max Bergman.

MAY

2nd Molecules Medicinal Chemistry Symposium

The conference is organized by MDPI and *Molecules* and follows the very successful one-day meeting, “*Molecules Medicinal Chemistry Symposium (MMCS): Emerging Drug Discovery Approaches against Infectious Diseases*”, held in September 2017 in Barcelona. Encouraged by the great success of the initial small-format, monographic *MMCS2017*, the three-day *MMCS2019* will address a larger audience and all topics in medicinal chemistry. The conference is chaired by Prof. Diego Muñoz-Torrero, Editor-in-Chief of the Medicinal Chemistry Section of *Molecules*.



F3 – Fighting Fake Facts
Basel, 4 February 2019



2nd Molecules Medicinal Chemistry Symposium
Barcelona, 15–17 May 2019

JUNE

The 4th Basel Sustainability Forum on Health

The UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 (UN SDG 3) of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is about ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all ages. Its targets include a reduction of premature deaths of mothers and newborns, infectious and communicable diseases, premature mortality from non-communicable diseases, alcohol and substance abuse, road traffic accidents, and deaths from chemicals and pollution. Furthermore, UN SDG 3 aims to strengthen or promote mental health and wellbeing, sexual and reproductive health, access to healthcare services and affordable medicines and vaccines, and the capacity for the management of national and global health risks (UN SDGs 2015). UN SDG 3 is only one of 17, each of which are similarly ambitious. The conference is chaired by Prof. Dr. Max Bergman and Prof. Dr. Hans-Florian Zeilhofer.

SEPTEMBER

Nutrients 2019 – Nutritional Advances in the Prevention and Management of Chronic Disease

The first edition of this conference will focus on chronic diseases related to diet. Chronic diseases are increasing throughout the developed and developing world, with some dietary components contributing to disease development, and others being protective. The chairs, Professor Lluís Serra-Majem and Professor María-Luz Fernández, invite researchers, food industry representatives, policy-makers, and others with an interest in the impacts of diet on chronic disease to join them for what will be an exciting event. The conference will host a number of internationally renowned speakers, and invites submissions for oral presentations and posters. All presenters at the conference will be encouraged to submit a full manuscript of their presentation for consideration for publication in a Special Issue of *Nutrients*. The abstract submission deadline is 3 May 2019.



The 4th Basel Sustainability Forum on Health
Basel, 3 June 2019



Nutrients 2019 – Nutritional Advances in the Prevention and Management of Chronic Disease
Barcelona,
25–27 September 2019

MDPI Conferences 2019

MDPI Conferences organized by scholars

The *Sciforum* team seeks Expressions of Interest (Eoi) from universities, organisations or individual scholars to host and organize future editions of MDPI's Conferences Series. The local organizers are responsible for the scientific program, budget and on-site organization of the event, while the *Sciforum* team supports with administrative and editorial tasks, as well as helps promoting the event among the relevant scientific community.

In 2019, three MDPI Conferences will be hosted by distinguished academics in three different European cities.

MAY



7th International Symposium on Sensor Science

Napoli (Italy),
9–11 May 2019

Hosted by Professors Luigi Zeni, Nunzio Cennamo and Aldo Minardo.

JUNE



The 3rd International Symposium on Frontiers in Molecular Science – RNA Regulatory Networks

Lisbon (Portugal),
26–28 June 2019

Hosted by Professors Francisco Enguita and John Mattick.

SEPTEMBER



The 2nd International Conference on Symmetry

Benasque (Spain),
1–7 September 2019

Hosted by Professors Sergei Odintsov, Emilio Elizalde and Manuel Asorey.

Conference Proceedings

The *Proceedings* journal aims to publish all kinds of output from scientific conferences, including abstracts, proceedings papers, and posters.



Journal Services:

- Publication of abstracts in a dedicated Issue of *Proceedings*.
- High visibility through Open Access.
- Assignment of digital object identifiers (DOI numbers) to individual abstracts.
- The option to publish proceedings papers, editorials, conference reports, posters, and any other output from the conference.
- Professional copy-editing, optional XML conversion, and optional language editing for all abstracts.
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- Submission of abstracts to relevant indexing databases, such as Web of Science and Scopus.
- Production of output in other formats, including delivery to the conference website and a branded USB key.
- Design of an attractive cover and editing of general conference information for inclusion in the abstract book.
- A page of the *Proceedings* website containing all conference abstracts and a description of the conference, along with links to the conference home page.
- Promotion of the conference on the journal website, through newsletters and social media.
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If you are interested in publishing proceedings, please contact:

▶ lucy.lu@mdpi.com

Nine new sections of *Proceedings* were established in 2018

Sections – *Proceedings*

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Biology & Life Sciences |  Medicine & Pharmacology |
|  Chemistry & Materials Science |  Physical Sciences |
|  Computer Science & Mathematics |  Public Health & Healthcare |
|  Engineering |  Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities |
|  Environmental & Earth Sciences | |

Social Media 2018

In 2018, MDPI continued to expand its social media presence, both through the corporate channels and by launching Twitter and LinkedIn accounts for many more journals. The aim is to broaden the reach of our journals and find new ways to connect with the research community.

Article level metrics are displayed on all article abstract pages, showing authors and readers interest from across the online media space, including Facebook, Twitter, blogs, news websites, Wikipedia, and Reddit. Downloads and views are also available.

f

Facebook growth

+40%

t

Twitter growth

+70%

in

LinkedIn growth

+80%

Corporate Social Responsibility at MDPI

UN SDGs Goal 4:

Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

In 2018, we presented the *World Sustainability Award* (USD 100,000) and the *Emerging Sustainability Leader Award* (USD 10,000) to recognize new initiatives and developments in sustainability.

The *World Sustainability Award* was granted to Dr. Mathis Wackernagel, co-creator of the Ecological Footprint and President of the Global Footprint Network, and to Dr. Zhifu Mi, co-developer of the China Emission Accounts and Datasets; while the *Emerging Sustainability Leader Award* went to Dr. Bradley Hiller and Dr. Xiaodong Zhang.

World Sustainability Foundation:

► <http://wsforum.org>

Press release:

► www.mdpi.com/about/announcements/961

UN SDGs Goal 5:

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Since the foundation of MDPI two decades ago, we have provided our staff with equal opportunities to grow and develop their career. At MDPI, we foster gender equality and work to eliminate any form of discrimination against women at work.

UN SDGs Goal 9:

Build a resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation

Being an academic Open Access publisher, we support innovation by nature. In comparison to a traditional publishing house, we produce less printed output and impact the environment in a sustainable and positive way.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



We support women in management positions: 50% of MDPI managers are women.

► www.mdpi.com/about/team



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February 2019



Das Zeichen für verantwortungsvolle Waldwirtschaft