MDPI

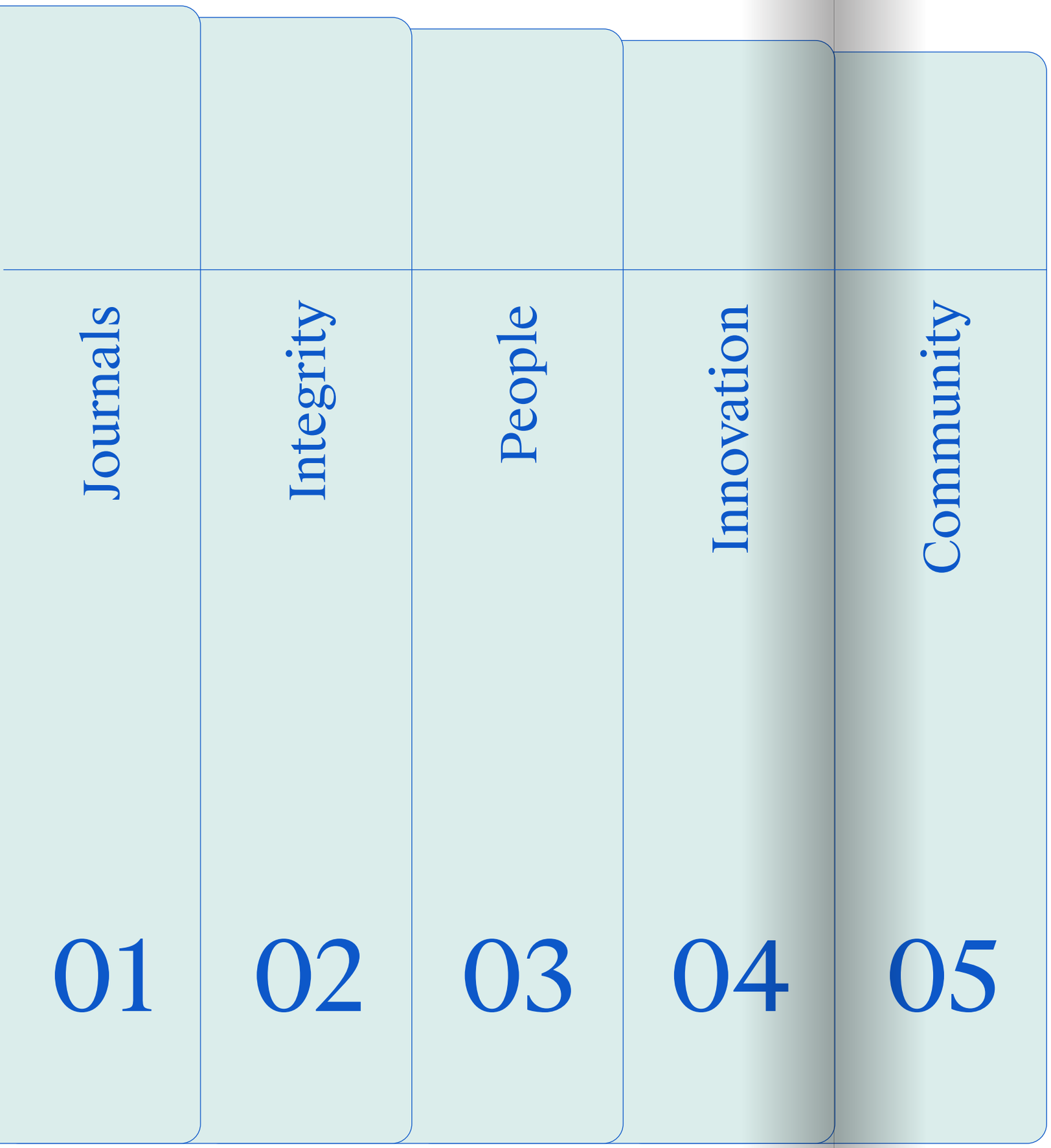
mdpi.com/annual-report-2025

Annual Report

Scaling Open Access with Integrity

25

The MDPI Annual Report 2025



Introduction to this Report

Open access publishing continued to expand in 2025, and MDPI's growth in 2025 mirrored the broader shift toward openness. We received over 669,000 manuscript submissions, an increase of 12% compared with 2024.

This growth represents the sustained confidence researchers place in our journals to deliver impactful and accessible scientific publications.

As our portfolio has expanded to 500 journals, we have scaled our responsibility alongside our reach. Systematic and reliable editorial screening, expert peer review, and continuous quality evaluation form the foundation of our service, and we have expanded our investments in specialized teams and digital infrastructure to mitigate the risks undermining the scientific record.

A Message from Our CEO

I am proud to share that 2025 was a year defined by strengthened standards and continued expansion for MDPI. A 12% increase in manuscript submissions and the growth of our journal portfolio to 500 titles reflect both the accelerating global shift toward open access and the growing trust researchers and institutions place in our company.

The year 2025 was notable across every dimension of our operations. Our 44 million article downloads demonstrate that freely available research is reaching further and serving more communities than ever before. Our indexing footprint grew to 329 journals in Web of Science and 355 in Scopus, with 61 ranking in the top quartile of their fields. We entered over 150 new publishing agreements with institutions worldwide, bringing our total to more than 1000 partnerships going into 2026.

Our progress reflects the broader momentum of open access (OA) publishing, but it also reveals the extent of what remains to be done. With more than half of research now openly accessible, the question is no longer whether OA will prevail, but how to complete the transition equitably and sustainably. Over 10 million papers published in the past five years remain locked behind paywalls—inaccessible to researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and innovators who could benefit from them.

As we enter our thirtieth year, MDPI remains committed to accelerating the global transition to OA while upholding the editorial rigor and research integrity that the scientific community demands.

"Sustaining quality at the scale of more than 260,000 articles published over the year requires investment in the people and systems that make it possible—the focus of our efforts throughout 2025."

Research Integrity: Ensuring Quality at Scale

Growth brings added responsibility. Processing 669,000 manuscript submissions in 2025, with a rejection rate exceeding 60%, required significant and deliberate investment in infrastructure and people: MDPI welcomed 1700 new colleagues globally in 2025, with particular focus on positions in research integrity, editorial operations, and technology development. We strengthened global governance in Publication Ethics and grew the Research Integrity team considerably.

We also entered a multi-year partnership with Proofig AI to detect image manipulation early in the submission process. As our reach has grown, so has our commitment to the standards that earned that trust in the first place.

Technology in Service of Quality

Maintaining integrity at scale requires the right tools. In 2025, our AI team doubled in size, from 10 to 20 specialists, ensuring that increased automation is matched with appropriate expertise and oversight. Purpose-built tools are now embedded throughout our editorial workflows. Reviewer Finder has significantly improved the precision of reviewer matching, connecting manuscripts to those with the most relevant expertise. *Ethicality* has undergone initial piloting to identify contextual signals—scope alignment, citation behavior, and other integrity indicators—so that human judgment can be applied where it matters most. These tools are one element in a broader system that combines people, technology, and processes to support responsible growth.

Growing Our Partnerships with Institutions and Societies

Our growth is also reflected in the strength of our partnerships. In 2025, we added more than 150 new Institutional Open Access Program (IOAP) agreements, bringing our total to more than 1000 worldwide at the beginning of 2026.

This included first-ever consortium agreements in North America, renewals of all major national consortia in the UK, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Austria, and Croatia, and the conclusion of several flat-fee agreements, including nationally significant arrangements.

Our Societies team, meanwhile, concluded a total of 32 agreements encompassing 25 new society affiliations, five strategic publishing partnerships, and two journal acquisitions. We are particularly proud to have signed the agreement with the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) for the publication of their journal *JAPMA* in the same year that we opened our US office in Philadelphia.



"As the conversation shifts from why research should be open to how open access can be more sustainable, inclusive, and impactful, MDPI is investing in the technology, infrastructure, and partnerships to be a key player in this next phase."



Leading Through Active Engagement

Leadership in scholarly publishing requires more than operational excellence: it demands active participation in the conversations shaping our industry's future. In 2025, I had the privilege of presenting at the OASPA Annual Conference in Leuven, Belgium, where the theme, “reaching 100% open access,” challenged publishers to think beyond percentages to participation and equity. I attended the STM Frankfurt Conference; hosted regional summits across Spain, Italy, France, the UK, Romania, China, and the Republic of Korea; and participated in a press conference at the Italian Senate alongside Nobel Laureate Sir Richard Roberts to promote environmental medicine research.

These engagements allow us to learn directly from researchers and institutions, stay connected to the communities we serve, and demonstrate that MDPI's commitment to open science extends beyond publishing articles.

Moving Forward with Confidence

Looking ahead, we move forward with confidence and a clear sense of purpose. We will continue to advance our technological capabilities, including in AI, to meet the growing publishing needs of the global scientific community. We remain guided by the principle that has defined our efforts in 2025: scale is meaningful only when paired with integrity. I am grateful to more than 8000 colleagues, more than 200,000 reviewers, and thousands of editors and institutional partners whose work makes this possible. The progress we have made belongs to all of them. The work ahead—ensuring OA reaches every researcher, every discipline, and every corner of the globe—belongs to all of us. Growth grounded in integrity is the standard we set ourselves and the commitment we renew.

"With over half of the world’s research now open access, MDPI is proud to help lead this transformation. Our continued investment in people, technology, and ethical safeguards ensures that we can meet rising demand while elevating the quality and accessibility of scientific communication."

Sincerely,
Stefan Tochev
CEO of MDPI

MDPI at a Glance

669,144 manuscript submissions

500
journals in total

261,576
peer-reviewed articles published

44.3M
web article downloads

150+
new IOAP partnerships in 2025

60
academic conferences organized (in-person and virtual)

500+
awards granted

Author survey:

96%
rated their overall experience with the publication process as "Excellent/Good"

8350
employees worldwide across 22 offices in Asia, Europe and North America

Journals

This chapter highlights the continued growth and development of MDPI's journal portfolio in 2025. It outlines progress in submissions, indexing, citation performance, and global engagement, reflecting the expanding role of open access publishing in the research ecosystem.

01 Journals

02 Integrity

03 People

04 Innovation

05 Community

Sustainably Scaling Journal Growth

669,144 manuscript submissions

Expanded to **500 journals**

96% of articles indexed in the Web of Science

Open access publishing continued to expand in 2025, and MDPI's growth reflected the broader shift toward openness. We received over 669,000 manuscript submissions in 2025, an increase of 12% compared with 2024, This growth represents the sustained confidence researchers place in our journals to deliver impactful and accessible scientific publications.

As our portfolio has expanded to 500 journals, our investment and infrastructure have grown alongside our reach. Systematic and reliable editorial screening, expert peer review, and continuous quality evaluation form the foundation of our service. To maintain these standards while increasing volume, we expanded our investments in specialized teams and in the digital infrastructure that supports rigorous review processes while simultaneously protecting the quality of published research.

Validation and Visibility

Recognition of our journals' quality continued to grow through independent database indexing, which is an external validation of editorial standards and scientific credibility.

In 2025, the number of MDPI journals indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection increased from 298 to 329, reflecting sustained success in meeting selective criteria. Indexing in Scopus reached 355 journals, including 45 new acceptances, while coverage in the National Library of Medicine databases (PMC/Medline/PubMed) grew to 95 journals. The number of our journals covered in Ei Compendex increased to 53 journals (+77%).

Newly launched journals typically face multi-year pathways to database coverage as they build publication records and demonstrate editorial quality. MDPI journals achieve indexing remarkably quickly: 86% of journals launched in 2020 gained Scopus coverage by 2025, as did 77% of those launched in 2021. This rapid trajectory is a result of the robustness of our editorial oversight and quality assurance processes from the moment of launch.

These achievements matter because they signal to researchers, institutions, and funding bodies that our journals meet established criteria for discoverability, quality assurance, and scholarly credibility.

"Comprehensive indexing in established databases signals that published research meets recognized quality standards. It's how we demonstrate accountability to authors, institutions, and the broader scientific community."



Measuring Influence through Citation Performance

Last year, 298 MDPI journals earned inclusion in Clarivate's Journal Citation Reports.

- 193 journals (65%) ranked in the top half of their categories based on Journal Impact Factor.
- 61 journals maintained top-quartile positions.

A significant milestone was reached in June 2025 as 60 journals received their first Journal Impact Factor. This represents a maturing cohort of publications that have evolved from emerging titles into citation-tracked, well-recognized publications.

Our presence in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) tells a similar story: from 24 MDPI journals when ESCI launched in 2016 to over 200 by the end of 2025. This growth demonstrates not just MDPI's expanding portfolio but the increasing recognition of open access titles within established citation tracking systems.

There were 1.75 million MDPI articles covered in Web of Science databases at the end of 2025, out of 1.83 million ever published (96% of the total), with an average of 13.0 citations per indexed article.

Indexing: The Infrastructure of Science

Indexing is the infrastructure of discoverability. By securing reliable indexing, MDPI ensures that:

- Authors receive the professional credit they need for tenure and grant applications.
- Institutions can confidently support their researchers in publishing with us based on transparent data.
- Society can find and verify the research that informs public policy and technological progress.

Indexed journals appear in the search tools researchers use daily. Their articles feed citation networks that map scientific influence. Their metrics inform institutional decisions about where researchers should publish and what counts toward promotion.

By achieving rapid indexing across major databases, maintaining strong citation performance, and continuously expanding coverage, MDPI demonstrates that open access publishing at scale meets the quality standards the research community expects and deserves.

Key Figures

Publications

Peer-reviewed articles published (thousands)

261.6	2025
237.8	2024
279.5	2023
295.2	2022
235.6	2021

Journals

Number of journals at year-end

500	2025
459	2024
433	2023
403	2022
383	2021

Web of Science

Indexing

329	2025
298	2024
239	2023
211	2022
205	2021

Scopus

Indexing

355	2025
310	2024
268	2023
211	2022
179	2021

Community Feedback

Our Voice of Community survey program is central to how we understand and improve the publishing experience. Throughout the year, we gather structured feedback from the stakeholders who engage most closely with our journals. Based on feedback in 2025 from more than 46,500 active stakeholders globally:

96%
of submitting authors rate their publishing experience as "Excellent/Good" (2024: 95%).

85%
of reviewers rate their peer reviewing experience as "Excellent/Good" (2024: 84%).

89%
of Guest Editors rate their experience as "Excellent/Good" (2024: 82%).

Subject Areas

- 18.2% Biology & Life Sciences
- 3.7% Business & Economics
- 12.9% Engineering
- 8.1% Computer Science & Mathematics
- 13.7% Medicine & Pharmacology
- 9.6% Environ-mental & Earth Sciences
- 12.2% Chemistry & Materials Science
- 11% Public Health & Healthcare
- 5.9% Physical Sciences
- 4.8% Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities

Integrity

Maintaining the integrity of the scholarly record is central to MDPI's publishing mission. This chapter outlines how we strengthened our research integrity infrastructure, editorial processes, and technological safeguards in 2025 to support rigorous, transparent, and responsible publishing.

Building Capacity and Expertise

As our operations grew in 2025, we substantially expanded our research integrity infrastructure to support robust quality assurance. We appointed a Head of Publication Ethics to provide global oversight. This leadership is supported by an international core team of full-time Research Integrity Specialists. We expanded our recruitment for these specialist positions in 2025 to deepen our investigative capacity, and we will be expanding the team further in the first half of 2026.

This multi-tiered structure helps ensure that integrity concerns—from image manipulation detection to authorship and contribution disputes—receive appropriate expert attention at every level. Reported ethics cases are resolved following the principles of Prevention, Neutrality, Transparency, and Consistency through collaboration with authors, Editors-in-Chief, and affiliated institutions.

In 2025, we created ethics-related dashboards to monitor case management timeframes and track emerging themes, supporting both analytical oversight and the development of global strategies.

To strengthen collaboration with Editorial Board Members, our Research Integrity team presented on global integrity trends and best practices at MDPI Salons in Barcelona, Belgrade, Berlin, London, Oxford, and Toronto. The team is broadening its direct engagement, bringing its expertise directly into the scholarly community.

Protecting the Integrity of the Scholarly Record

MDPI actively participates in industry-wide initiatives like the STM Integrity Hub to identify and respond to issues that may affect the integrity of the scholarly record. As part of these efforts, we have begun deploying technological safeguards, including the roll-out of the STM Hub Ambient Screening tool and integration of Proofig AI, an AI-powered image proofing tool that assists in detecting duplicated images across publications, as well as image manipulation. Our testing experience with Proofig has been shared within a working group at the STM Integrity Hub, which also provides access to additional tools designed to detect problematic submissions.

Alongside external partnerships, we have developed *Ethicality*, an in-house tool designed to support editors in identifying potential integrity concerns early in the review process. *Ethicality* performs four core checks: verifying that submitted articles fall within the scope of their target journal, assessing whether references are appropriate in scope and context, flagging unusual self-citation patterns, and identifying content that may have been generated using AI. In 2025, *Ethicality* was piloted with two journals. The reference checks, however, are deployed at scale and available across all journals through the submission system.

We extend our sincere thanks to our editors and reviewers, whose expertise and dedication underpin the quality and integrity of our journals. Their contributions remain central to MDPI's mission as we continue to grow.

Dr. Tim Tait-Jamieson, Head of Publication Ethics



"Ensuring the integrity of the scientific record is at the heart of our editorial mission. Alongside constructive, actionable peer review, we aim to support our Editorial Boards with the best possible information, provided through comprehensive hands-on screening processes and technological tools, enabling informed and responsible editorial decisions."

209,903 Reviewers

68,278 Editorial Board Members

The investments in both AI development and integrity infrastructure reflect our commitment to ensuring that growth and quality advance together. As MDPI scales, our integrity capacity scales with it, aiming to ensure that the research we publish continues to meet the standards the scientific community expects. This responsibility shapes our organizational priorities, from recruitment and training to the editorial safeguards and transparency measures detailed throughout this report.

Scaling with Integrity

Rigorous Editorial Processes and Reviewer Support

Every manuscript submitted to MDPI undergoes initial editorial screening before entering peer review. In 2025, close to 210,000 active reviewers contributed their expertise alongside journal editors, evaluating articles and providing substantive feedback. Our focus is on supporting authors throughout their publishing journey: whether manuscripts are accepted or declined, authors receive constructive guidance designed to strengthen their work.

We maintained a median submission-to-publication timeline of six weeks in 2025. This breaks down into approximately five weeks for peer review and author revisions—the critical phase where scientific quality is validated—followed by one week for production, copyediting, and publication. By streamlining post-acceptance workflows, we ensure that research reaches readers rapidly while maintaining the editorial rigor that underpins trust in our journals.

"Supporting researchers across the Asia-Pacific region requires engagement with diverse academic systems while maintaining consistent editorial standards. Our institutional partnerships span the region, with more than 70 in China and a strong presence across Japan, Australia, and South Korea. Together with our network of over 40 Editors-in-Chief based in mainland China and Hong Kong, and over 90 across the broader region, we're connecting regional research with the global academic community while upholding rigorous integrity standards."



Addressing Reviewer Sustainability

Peer review faces systemic pressure across scholarly publishing. Submission volumes have surged as global research output expands, while reviewer motivation is being challenged due to limited career recognition and minimal incentives. The result is widespread fatigue—qualified experts declining requests or delaying responses—which delays publication timelines and poses a challenge to publishers.

MDPI addresses these challenges by protecting reviewer time through efficient pre-screening of out-of-scope articles, advanced matching with our Reviewer Finder, distributing workload more equitably, providing reviewer discount vouchers for papers submitted to MDPI, and maintaining clear expectations.

Our Reviewer Finder tool was improved to refine its reviewer recommendations through advanced profiling with a machine learning methodology. It has approximately 1000 daily internal users who use the tool to check 7000 reviewers daily on average.

To recognize the depth of our reviewers' contributions, we introduced the Top 1000 Reviewers list in 2025 alongside the previously existing journal-level Outstanding Reviewer Awards—both designed to acknowledge reviewers whose rigor, speed, and constructive engagement set the standard for the wider community.

Peer Review Week 2025: Navigating AI's Role in Scientific Validation

In September, MDPI participated in International Peer Review Week under the theme "Rethinking Peer Review in the AI Era." As publishers integrate AI tools into editorial workflows, from integrity checking to reviewer recommendations, the conversation has shifted from whether AI has become a factor in scientific research to how to use it responsibly.

We contributed to this dialogue through an interview with Roohi Ghosh, Co-Chair of Peer Review Week 2025. Her perspective captured the challenge facing academic publishing: AI tools can enhance efficiency and detection capabilities, but the expertise, empathy, and interpretive judgment required for rigorous peer review remain distinctly human. She called for transparent guidelines and responsible evolution: "My hope is that by 2030, peer review is a human–AI partnership, but this is possible only if we evolve responsibly."

This is precisely the vision MDPI is working toward: investing in AI-assisted tools while ensuring human expertise remains at the center of every editorial decision.



People

People are at the center of MDPI's ability to support a growing global research community. This chapter highlights how we expanded our international teams in 2025, strengthened recruitment and professional development, and deepened engagement with researchers and academic partners worldwide.

Alistair Freeland, COO



"Scaling MDPI at this level requires disciplined execution, strong coordination across teams, and a constant focus on improving how we work. In 2025, we strengthened our operational foundations to support continued growth while maintaining consistency in quality, service, and editorial standards across all regions."

Growing Our Global Teams

The past year was marked by expanded publication reach and a strategic increase in our operational capacity. Our global workforce grew by 26%, welcoming 1700 new colleagues across our 22 offices in Asia, Europe, and North America. We recruit across disciplines and backgrounds to build teams whose expertise reflects the complexity of academic publishing.

In 2025, we strengthened our capabilities in research integrity, AI and technology development, web design, editorial operations, and institutional partnerships. This breadth of expertise aligns with the complexities of the scientific disciplines we serve. Our global reach gives us the perspective of a leading open access publisher; our regional presence ensures we can provide the localized support that researchers and institutions in each market require.



Recruitment: A Foundation for Scale and Efficiency

Scaling at this pace requires disciplined processes and coordination across regions. HR supports the company's growth by focusing on recruitment efficiency and cross-office collaboration. A key development in 2025 was the launch of an automated global HR dashboard, providing visibility into regional workforce trends to support coordination and informed decision-making.

This operational infrastructure aims to create the efficiency necessary for attracting talent and delivering quality onboarding experiences. By investing in these systems, we work to ensure that our growth remains sustainable and that employees have the structural support needed in a knowledge-intensive environment.



Cultivating Expertise in an Evolving Landscape

As open science evolves, so do we. We treat continuous professional development as a strategic investment, equipping our team with the technical agility and specialized knowledge required to navigate a fast-moving industry. By building a culture that values innovation and shared purpose, we ensure that every colleague is prepared to contribute to the advancement of transparent, accessible research.

Our internal growth and training provide the foundation for this, but our mission is realized through the connections we build externally. Our people are the essential bridge between MDPI's operational capacity and the global academic community, turning our capabilities into personal partnerships.

The Journal Relations Specialists (JRS)



Engaging with Academic Communities

Relationships are at the core of how we engage with scientific communities, providing personalized support. They reflect a deliberate commitment to relationship-driven engagement at a time when the academic publishing landscape is experiencing rapid technological change, consolidation, and increased reliance on automated systems.



In 2025, our engagement reached a new milestone: over 16,000 meetings with academics worldwide. From conducting over 10,000 strategy sessions with Guest Editors to onboarding 2000 new Editorial Board Members, our JRS team ensures that at the heart of our digital-first platform is a deeply personal commitment to the scientific community.

Our Journal Relations Specialists (JRS) form a global team, with members based in the UK, Serbia, Romania, Switzerland, Canada, Singapore, and Thailand. This team is a dedicated link between MDPI and our academic stakeholders, focusing on key areas such as:

- Proactive Editorial Board Support: Responding directly to the needs of our Editorial Boards. They provide a personalized point of contact for Editorial Board Members (EBMs) and support them in their editorial activities.
- Community Engagement and Outreach: Representing MDPI journals at conferences and academic events, meeting researchers and institutions to strengthen collaboration, and supporting early-career researchers and PhD students through dedicated Academic Publishing Workshops (APWs).
- Internal Collaboration: Working directly with Managing Editors and publishers to ensure smooth operations and provide essential support for long-term journal development.



Innovation

In 2025, MDPI continued to invest in its core platforms, with the goal of better serving researchers at every stage of the publication journey. Two initiatives defined the year: a ground-up rebuild of mdpi.com and a significantly enhanced submission system in SuSy.

Together with the broader suite of MDPI products and services, they reflect a consistent approach to platform development: development that is evidence-led and oriented toward the practical needs of a global research community.

01 Journals

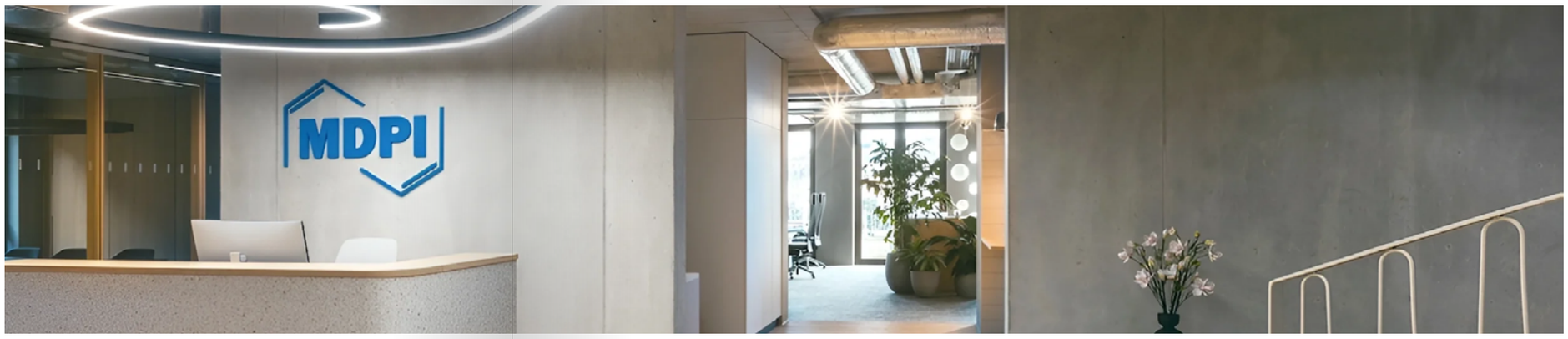
02 Integrity

03 People

04 Innovation

05 Community

A Redesigned Submission Experience



The MDPI submission system (SuSy) has been redesigned to better serve the needs of authors and editors. This update introduces significant enhancements, including a rebuilt article submission workflow that provides full cost transparency and a unified navigation design across all MDPI platforms.

Streamlined Workflow

The new submission process at susy.mdpi.com features a rebuilt workflow that combines intuitive design with integrity safeguards. Every step, from automated metadata extraction and journal selection to integrity statements, follows a logical sequence designed to guide users clearly from manuscript upload to submission completion.

Editorial Support and Integrity Checks

To support compliance, SuSy's Detection Assistant now provides standardized automated checks on every manuscript. These functions include re-running checks after journal transfers, screening authors for past manuscript retractions, and performing in-scope and in-context checks for references. These automated processes are designed to assist internal editors in identifying potential concerns early in the workflow.

Cost Transparency at Submission

The improved submission workflow now integrates complete cost clarity before final submission. Article Processing Charge (APC) calculations are displayed with all applicable discounts, including:

- Reviewer vouchers.
- Institutional Open Access Program (IOAP) partnerships.
- Society memberships.
- Waivers.

By providing cost certainty upfront, we aim to help authors plan budgets and secure funding ahead of publication.

Unified Platform Navigation

To create a more cohesive user experience, navigation panels in SuSy now share a consistent visual language with other MDPI platforms. While the core functionality remains familiar, this unified design is intended to make it easier for researchers to move between browsing journals, managing submissions, and tracking published work.

Proofreading and Production

To further streamline the final stages of publication, a dedicated proofreading tool has been rolled out across several dozen journals. Hosted within the submission system, the tool provides an online version of the manuscript that facilitates clearer communication between authors and journal teams during the final review before publication. Early data suggests the tool can reduce post-acceptance processing time by approximately six working hours per manuscript—a meaningful efficiency gain at scale. According to our Voice of Community surveys taken in 2025, 91% of respondents rate the usability of the Online Proofreading System as "Excellent/Good". Rollout is planned to extend to over 100 journals during 2026.

"Rebuilding mdpi.com from the ground up was not just a technical upgrade—it was an opportunity to rethink how researchers interact with our platform. Our focus has been on creating a faster, more intuititve, and scalable experience that can support the growing demands of a global research community."

Rebuilding MDPI.com

In 2025, we completed a ground-up redesign of our website, mdpi.com, based on a new technology stack. It was the first comprehensive platform rebuild we have undertaken. Driven by user behavior analysis and the technical demands of serving a global research community, the project delivered four core improvements:

- Modern, accessible design enhancing readability and engagement.
- Restructured navigation based on user behavior analysis.
- Responsive functionality across all devices.
- Enhanced performance through updated technology infrastructure.



Validating the New Site

We deployed the redesign through a phased rollout, gradually scaling up from 10% of traffic in November 2025. This approach enabled real-world validation before full launch.

The results confirmed the strategy's effectiveness:

- Bounce rate decreased by 5.2 percentage points, from 41.8% to 36.6%.
- Average visit duration increased by 47 seconds.

These gains indicate that researchers are finding content more easily, engaging more deeply, and navigating more effectively—outcomes that directly support the platform's core purpose.

Reach and Engagement

In 2025, readership and engagement across MDPI's platform continued to grow. Total article page views reached 196.6 million, up from 187.9 million in 2024, with average monthly page views rising from 15.6 million to 16.4 million. Unique visitors grew from 55.9 million to 62.3 million, averaging 5.2 million per month.

Article downloads saw the sharpest increase, rising from 25.7 million in 2024 to 44.3 million in 2025, with monthly downloads averaging 3.7 million compared to 2.1 million the previous year.

Part of this growth, particularly in downloads, reflects a broader shift in how scientific content is accessed. Large language models increasingly retrieve and index open access literature directly, and MDPI's content is well-represented in these pipelines. This contributes to download volumes in ways that are distinct from traditional reader behavior, and we continue to monitor how these patterns evolve.

Access and Downloads

	2024	2025
Article page views	187.9M	196.6M
Average monthly article page views	15.6M	16.4M
Article downloads	25.7M	44.3M
Average monthly article downloads	2.1M	3.7M
Site searches for articles	/	6.2M
Unique visitors to mdpi.com	55.9M	62.3M
Average monthly unique visits to mdpi.com	4.6M	5.2M

Products and Services: Improved Offerings

jams.pub

JAMS: Empowering Small and Independent Publishers

The Journal and Article Management System, JAMS, launched a new editorial service to support small and independent publishers in 2025, as well as a more inclusive pricing model.

The updated pricing model introduces a Freemium tier, removing financial barriers for smaller journals and making professional publishing infrastructure accessible to communities that have been priced out of enterprise-grade solutions.

Dedicated discounts for non-profit publishers, Diamond Open Access journals, and publishers in low- and middle-income countries reinforce this commitment, with eligible journals in 46+ lower-income countries benefiting from fee reductions.

The tiered structure directly addresses publishing inequality and supports MDPI's broader mission to democratize academic publishing globally.

In addition, the new Editorial Guidance service reinforces JAMS's role as a long-term strategic partner. Through expert consulting on quality standards, indexing, and sustainable growth, JAMS now supports journals at every stage of their development, from launch to maturity.

JAMS

preprints.org

Preprints.org: Surpassing 100,000 Preprints

In June, Preprints.org reached a significant milestone: over 100,000 preprints posted since the platform's founding in 2016. To date, the platform has attracted over 350,000 unique authors and accumulated more than 72 million PDF downloads—a measure of the reach that early-stage open research can achieve.

In 2025 alone, 31,400 preprints were posted. The three most-viewed preprints reached 49,746, 31,906, and 18,526 views, respectively. The high view counts achieved by newly posted preprints show that the platform effectively connects research with a global audience at an early stage, supporting timely knowledge sharing, broader access, and informed scholarly exchange before publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

The year also saw the introduction of a Reading List feature, allowing researchers to curate and share collections of preprints, supporting discovery across disciplines.

Preprints.org

mdpi.com/authors/english

Author Services: Editing Solutions to Amplify Research Impact

MDPI's Author Services supported thousands of researchers to prepare their manuscripts for publication—with a more than tenfold year-on-year increase in the popularity of Figure Editing.

Quality publishing requires quality presentation. Last year, authors from 66 countries and regions used our figure and table preparation and graphical abstract services across more than 200 journals. We delivered standard figure and table preparation within a 24-hour commitment, with a median turnaround time of 19 hours, striving for visual clarity in the presented research.



AUTHORservices

Scilit: A Comprehensive and Transparent Content Aggregator

Scilit is a comprehensive content aggregator platform for scholarly publications. To strengthen Scilit's role as an independent analytics platform, it launched the I3 and I3/N indicators designed to complement established indicators such as JIF and CiteScore.

Unlike traditional average-based metrics, these metrics account for both publication volume and citation distribution, offering a more complete picture of journal-level impact. This provides a more complete and realistic picture which is not commonly available in mainstream evaluation systems and represents a meaningful step forward in journal-level assessment.

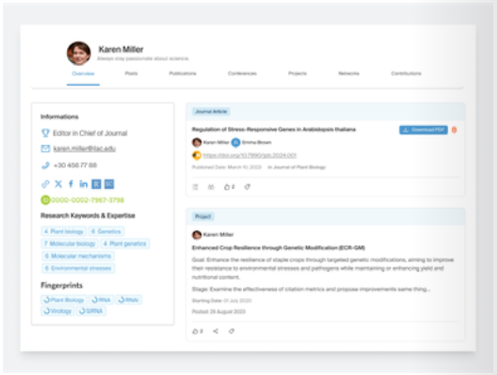
Scilit

scilit.com

SciProfiles: Academic Networking and Collaboration

SciProfiles is a dynamic social networking platform designed to enable the global academic community to connect, collaborate, and exchange knowledge.

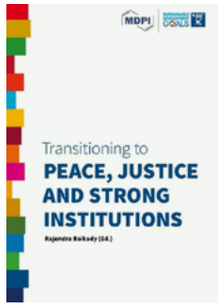
SciProfiles surpassed 1.1 million researcher profiles in 2025 and aggregated more than 183 million publications, showcasing researchers' work and achievements. This milestone represents a critical mass of global scientific talent now accessible within a single, integrated platform. User engagement grew substantially, with comments increasing by 300% year-on-year, reflecting growing activity and interaction across the platform.

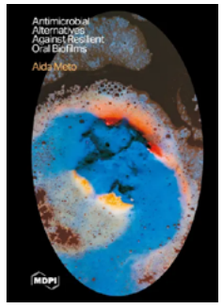


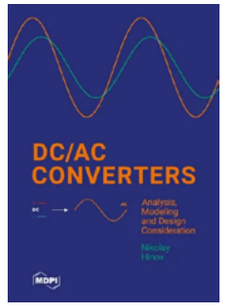
MDPI Books

2025 was a landmark year for MDPI Books, characterized by sustained growth in engagement, visibility, and global impact. We published a total of 10 Open Access Books in 2025, and 20 more are in development. We also reached 10,000 Reprints of Special Issues and other thematic collections, a milestone underscoring the value the research community places on Reprints.

In addition, MDPI Books successfully launched three competitions for early career researchers, SSAH scholars, and Environment & Earth Sciences scholars, recognizing the limited access to Book Processing Charge (BPC) funding in these communities while supporting wider dissemination of their work.







mdpi.com/books

Proceedings Series: Trusted Conference Publishing

The MDPI Proceedings Series serves as a dedicated platform for capturing and disseminating intellectual contributions generated at academic conferences worldwide. In 2025, the series published 3300+ proceedings papers and more than 110 conference volumes, reaching over 18 million views. These achievements support the visibility and impact of conference outputs beyond the events.

Sciforum: Simplifying Conference Organization in Academia

Sciforum is an event management platform that helps organizers reduce their administrative workload by providing a comprehensive set of tools to manage key aspects of academic events, including submission management, registration, processing, invoicing, and website building.

In 2025, around 30,000 users worldwide participated in the 300+ events hosted via the platform, which included in-person events, virtual events, and webinars.

As part of its commitment to supporting the evolving needs of the scientific community, Sciforum is currently undergoing a major platform update and redesign, aimed at enhancing the features and tools available to organizers and participants.

sciforum.net

01
Journals

02
Integrity

03
People

04
Innovation

Community

Supporting the research community requires collaboration beyond the publication process itself. This chapter outlines how MDPI works with institutions, societies, and researchers worldwide to build partnerships, convene scientific dialogue, and strengthen the infrastructure that enables open science.

05
Community

Institutional Open Access Program (IOAP)



Building Partnerships That Work

The shift to open access affects entire institutions as well as individual scientists. Libraries negotiate agreements, track expenditures, and navigate complex funder mandates. Research offices balance publishing costs against budget constraints. Authors need clear pathways to compliance without administrative burden. MDPI's Institutional Open Access Program (IOAP) addresses these challenges through partnerships designed around transparency, flexibility, and sustained collaboration.

Launched in 2013, the IOAP began with a straightforward goal: to provide institutions with visibility into what their researchers submit and publish, enabling better oversight and decision-making. Over the past twelve years, the program has evolved into a comprehensive partnership model managed by a dedicated team of five regional specialists who understand local contexts, from national consortium structures to individual university needs.



Tailored Support for Universities

Institutions today face competing pressures: funder mandates requiring immediate open access, constrained budgets, and evolving policies that vary by region and discipline. There is no universal template for success, which is why MDPI emphasizes adaptable agreement structures rather than one-size-fits-all contracts. Our partnerships accommodate diverse institutional priorities—whether that means consolidated billing, author-level discounts, or customized reporting that aligns with local compliance requirements.

This flexibility extends to how we communicate with our partners. We actively seek feedback from institutional partners, using their input to refine services and address emerging challenges. Through regular contact with librarians, research administrators, and faculty members who serve on our Editorial Boards, we maintain relationships that are both professional and responsive.

Year in Review: Expansion and Renewal

The IOAP team achieved significant milestones throughout 2025. All major consortium agreements were renewed at the year's outset, reflecting sustained confidence from established partners. Two new consortium agreements were secured in North America, and the agreement with ZB MED in Germany extended to over 120 research institutions by the end of 2025.

MDPI also signed a new IOAP agreement with Bibsam, the Swedish research library consortium, covering 96 universities, university colleges, and government research institutes. Under the agreement, researchers at participating institutions can publish in any MDPI journal at no additional cost, with APCs covered through a single flat annual fee paid by the consortium.

The program expanded geographically as well, welcoming over 150 new partner institutions across Germany, Thailand, the United States, Canada, Poland, China, Brazil, and the UK. Notably, MDPI established its first institutional partnerships in India, Bahrain, and Bosnia Herzegovina—a milestone that reflects our commitment to supporting open access transitions in emerging research markets where barriers to publication can be most acute.

These partnerships are not simply commercial transactions. They represent shared commitments: institutions invest in open access infrastructure, and MDPI invests in the services, transparency, and support that make those commitments sustainable. By working together—balancing financial realities with open science goals—we demonstrate that large-scale open access can be both rigorous and achievable.

Usage Transparency and COUNTER Compliance

In 2025, MDPI became COUNTER-compliant and joined the COUNTER registry. This means that we provide our more than 1000 institutional partners with transparent usage data—how their researchers' work is being accessed, where impact is being felt, and what their publishing agreements are delivering. This transparency builds trust and allows institutions to make informed decisions about value and investment.

150+ new IOAP accounts in 2025

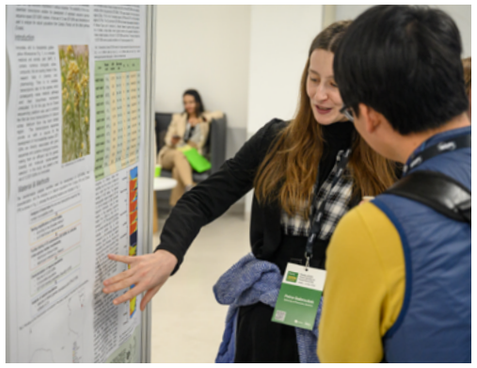
1051 partnerships worldwide

Convening Academic Communities Through Conferences and Events

48 virtual events

26,148 attendees

10,837 abstracts submitted



12 in-person conferences

2044 attendees

2184 abstracts submitted

Research communities need places to gather, debate, and collaborate. At MDPI, we view our role as extending beyond publishing to actively enabling collaboration and supporting the infrastructure that brings researchers together across disciplines, institutions, and continents.

In 2025, our conferences were characterized by high-profile keynote participation, strong international diversity, and inclusive networking formats, bringing together over 28,000 participants through 12 in-person and 48 virtual events.

Face-to-face engagement remains essential for supporting the academic community in advancing research, publishing their work, and making meaningful contributions to science. MDPI plays a key role in driving these initiatives while fostering lasting connections.

Overview of Conferences in 2025

ICARS 2025 Conference

International Conference on Advanced Remote Sensing (ICARS 2025)

Barcelona

WSF 2025 Conference

The 11th World Sustainability Forum: Sustainable and Resilient Cities

Barcelona

Plants 2025 Conference

Plants 2025: From Seeds to Food Security

Barcelona

WISOM Viruses

The 11th Wuhan International Symposium on Modern Virology & Viruses 2025 Conference

Wuhan

Symmetry 2025 Conference

Symmetry 2025—The 5th International Conference on Symmetry

Hangzhou

Cancers 2025 Conference

CancersScape: Spatial Biology of the Tumor Ecosystem

Barcelona

AI Sensors & Transducers 2025 Conference

The 2nd International Conference on AI Sensors and Transducers

Kuala Lumpur

SPF 2025 Conference

The 4th Sustainable Publishing Forum

Barcelona

ISFMS 2025 Conference

The 5th International Symposium on Frontiers in Molecular Science

Kyoto

I3S 2025 Conference

11th International Symposium on Sensor Science (I3S 2025)

Barcelona

SPF-CN 2025 Conference

The 4th Sustainable Publishing Forum—CN

Nanjing

MCST 2025 Conference

The 2nd Symposium on Materials Coating Science and Technology (MCST'2025)

Wuhan

“Thank you for MDPI *Sustainability’s* tremendous effort in organizing WSF11, both in terms of the seamless website platform and the diverse scientific program.”



Conference Highlight: 11th World Sustainability Forum in Barcelona

The 11th World Sustainability Forum (WSF 11) in Barcelona brought together 181 participants from 53 countries across all continents, focusing on sustainable and resilient cities. With 144 accepted abstracts from over 355 submissions, parallel sessions for the first time, and dedicated awards recognizing outstanding sustainability research, WSF 11 demonstrated how professionally executed events build trust and strengthen MDPI's reputation as a convener of meaningful scientific dialogue.

Listening and Learning from Local Researchers

Our series of regional summits in 2025 exemplified how publishers can serve as connectors within national research ecosystems. We hosted summits in Spain, Italy, France, the UK, Romania, China, and the Republic of Korea—each tailored to the specific needs and priorities of local academic communities. The MDPI Italy Summit in Rome on 26-27 May featured presentations on Italy's research landscape, AI in publishing, editorial processes, and research integrity, concluding with a dinner that allowed personal connections between editors and MDPI staff.

At the MDPI Romania Summit in Bucharest on 21-22 October, we welcomed more than 30 participants, including Editorial Board Members and representatives from the Romanian Academy and national accreditation bodies. The discussions reflected Romania's strong engagement with open access: 67% of all Romanian publications were OA in 2024, with MDPI accounting for 39% of the country's total OA output. These summits are not marketing exercises—they are listening sessions where we gather feedback on editorial processes, learn about local publishing challenges, and strengthen relationships with the editors who serve as MDPI ambassadors within their research communities.



Emerging Sustainability Leader Award Winners:

Dr. Katya Rhodes (left), Prof. Dr. Vhahangwele Masindi (center), and Prof. Dr. Myriam Ertz (right).



Partnerships with Scientific Societies

Scientific societies manage many of the specialized journals essential to their fields, yet often lack the resources to compete with well-funded commercial publishers or meet the technical demands of modern open access publishing. MDPI's partnerships are designed to address this directly, providing the publishing infrastructure societies need while preserving what matters most to them: editorial autonomy, institutional identity, and governance.

By the end of 2025, MDPI was collaborating with 214 societies. During the year, the MDPI Societies team concluded 32 new agreements: 25 affiliation agreements, 5 publishing agreements, and 2 acquisition agreements. These partnerships give societies the reach and infrastructure of a leading OA publisher while generating sustainable revenue that supports each society's broader activities.

MDPI was selected as the publishing partner for five journals:

- *Romanian Journal of Preventive Medicine* (SRMP) (owned by the Romanian Society of Preventive Medicine (RSPM)).
- *Germs* (endorsed by the European HIV/AIDS and Infectious Diseases Academy (AIDS Academy)).
- *Journal of Gerontology and Geriatrics* (JGG) (owned by the Italian Society of Gerontology and Geriatrics (SIGG)).
- *Journal of the American Podiatric Medical Association* (JAPMA) (owned by the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA)).
- *Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition* (JISSN) (owned by the International Society of Sports Nutrition (ISSN)).

MDPI acquired two journals:

- *Journal of Interdisciplinary Research Applied to Medicine* (JDReAM).
- *Cardiovascular Medicine* (CvM): Through this acquisition, we ensured the continuation of the journal after its previous publisher, EMH Swiss Medical Publishers, ceased operations.

Twenty-five affiliation agreements were signed or renewed during the year. Several of the journals MDPI publishes on behalf of societies also reached indexing milestones in 2025: *Clinical and Translational Neuroscience* (CTN) and *International Medical Education* (IME) received their first Impact Factor, *Craniomaxillofacial Trauma & Reconstruction* (CMTR) was accepted into DOAJ, and four journals, including *CTN, IME, Dermatopathology*, and *Gout, Urate, and Crystal Deposition Disease* (GUCDD), were added to Scopus.

Two agreements deserve particular mention. MDPI signed a publishing agreement with the APMA for its journal *JAPMA*. Notably, this agreement was concluded in the same year that MDPI opened its U.S. office. Separately, following the closure of EMH Swiss Medical Publishers, MDPI moved to ensure the continuation of selected journals that would otherwise have ceased publication. *CvM* has been acquired, with discussions ongoing regarding additional titles.

Connecting with Future Researchers

Academic Publishing Workshops (APWs) are a global initiative that brings MDPI's editorial expertise directly to the research community. These sessions equip postgraduate and early-career researchers with the knowledge they need to publish in scientific journals. Whether held in person or through our interactive webinars, the workshops provide a friendly, open space for researchers to ask questions about everything from navigating peer review to understanding the latest open access trends.

Supporting the Next Generation of Scientists

We know that for many early-career researchers, the "how-to" of publishing can feel like a hurdle. Our workshops are designed to change that. By sharing practical advice on manuscript preparation and research ethics, we are helping authors feel more confident and prepared. For us, these workshops are a key part of our commitment to being more than just a publisher; we are a partner in the global effort to make science more transparent and accessible for everyone.

Wherever APWs are conducted, they are tailored to the needs of those in attendance.

Topics addressed in APWs include:

- Improving your academic writing.
- How peer review maintains research quality.
- Improving your chances of publication success.
- Understanding the publishing process.
- Discovering open access publishing.
- Awareness of ethical guidelines.
- Increasing your research's impact.



Awards and Recognition

In 2025, MDPI's journals granted more than 500 awards to foster excellence, collaboration, and innovation in research at all career stages and across disciplines. Overall, the Award Committees picked 1100+ winners from 53 countries/territories for these awards. The total prize sum, including MDPI's flagship awards, amounted to 1.2 million Swiss francs (CHF).

500+ Awards

1100+ Winners



This year, as an addition to our flagship Tu Youyou and World Sustainability Awards, we introduced the Michele Parrinello Award to celebrate the significant contributions of senior academics in the field of computational physical science.

Tu Youyou Award

MDPI continued its commitment to scientific excellence by presenting the biennial Tu Youyou Award, established in 2016 to honour Nobel laureate Tu Youyou's discovery of artemisinin as a treatment for malaria. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to natural products and medicinal chemistry, and carries a total prize of 100,000 CHF and a commemorative medal. For this edition, the Award Committee, chaired by Prof. Dr. A. Douglas Kinghorn, selected two recipients: Professor Richard DiMarchi, for his pioneering work in peptide medicinal chemistry and the treatment of metabolic diseases, and Professor Rolf Müller, for his advancements in microbial natural products and biotechnology.



MDPI Tu Youyou Award Ceremony and Scholar Salon, Chicago, USA, 3 October 2025.

Financial Compliance: Maintaining Trust and Long-Term Stability

Aleksandra Cuculovic, Head of Finance

"Our efforts help maintain trust, operational stability, and financial integrity as MDPI continues to grow."

Open-access publishing operates within a global and highly regulated environment. As MDPI continues to expand internationally, robust and reliable financial operations are essential to supporting scale, transparency, and the long-term sustainability of our publishing activities.

MDPI operates legal entities in different countries across the globe, each with distinct currencies and regulatory requirements. To manage this complexity, our Finance team has focused on ensuring that financial processes function consistently across countries, enabling authors, institutions, and partners to engage with MDPI smoothly.

In 2025, the Finance team contributed to our growth by driving strategic decisions for stability, maintaining reliable financial processes across all entities, strengthening compliance in new markets, and managing the impact of a 26% increase in global headcount.



Contact

mdpi.com/annual-report-2025

MDPI

Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34

For a full list of offices
and contact information visit
mdpi.com/about

Follow

facebook.com/MDPIOpenAccessPublishing

x.com/MDPIOpenAccess

linkedin.com/company/mdpi

instagram.com/mdpiopenaccess

weibo.com/mdpicn

Wechat: MDPI-China

Subscribe

blog.mdpi.com

MDPI AG is a company registered in Basel, Switzerland, No. CHE-115.694.943, whose registered office is at Grosspeteranlage 5, CH-4052 Basel, Switzerland.