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MDPI Annual Report 2015: Academic Open Access Publishing Since 1996

Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI)

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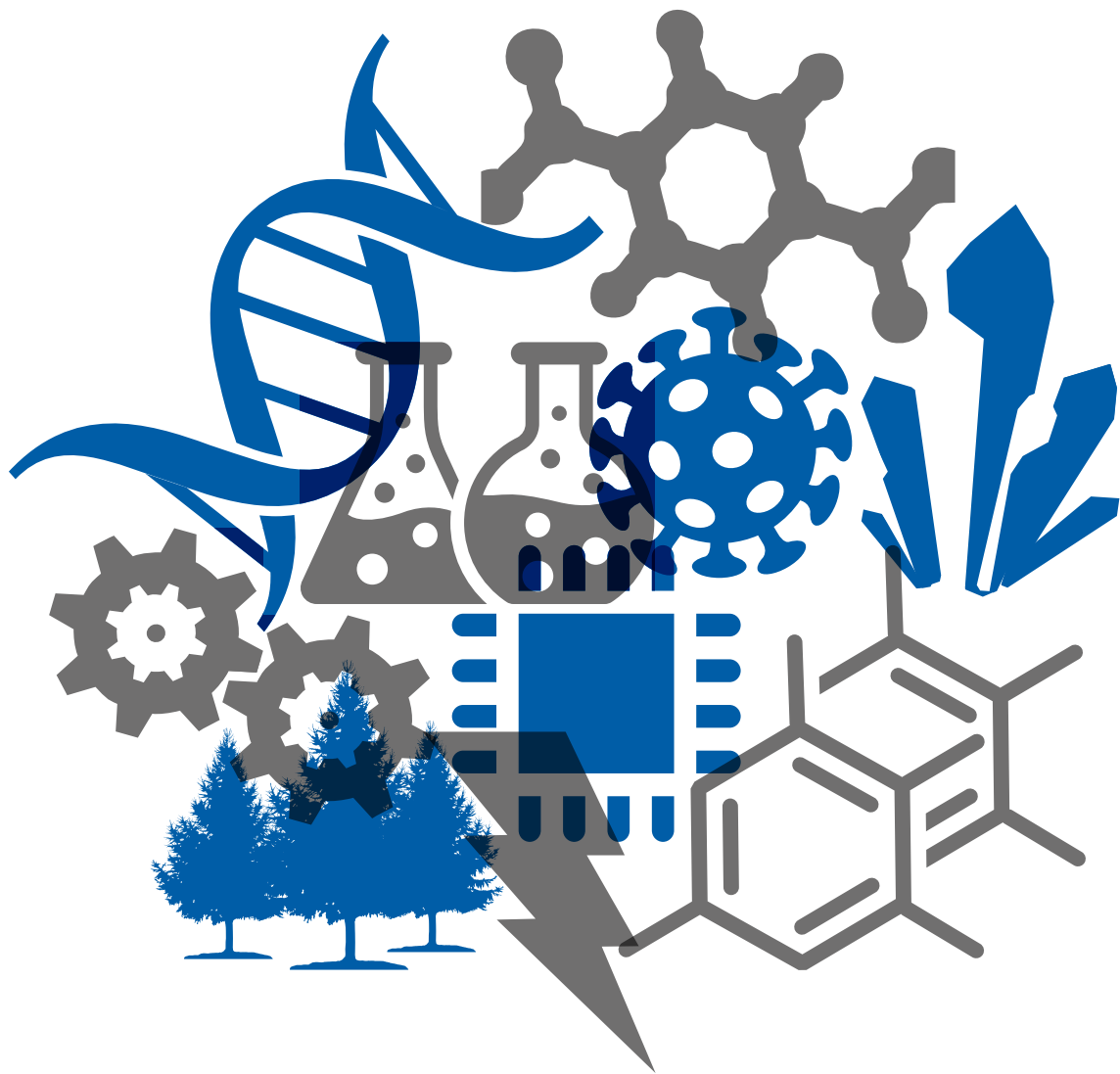
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ANNUAL REPORT

2015

MDPI
Academic Open
Access Publishing
Since 1996



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20 YEARS OF OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING

When MDPI published its first paper in *Molecules* back in March 1996, not even the company founder, Dr. Shu-Kun Lin, could have foreseen the lasting impression open access publishing would have. The term “open access” was not even used, but this is what *Molecules*, the first of MDPI's 150 open access journals, offered. By taking advantage of the progress in technology and the development of the Internet, it made academic publishing easier and freely accessible to scholars and lay people across the world. For a full history of MDPI please visit ► www.mdpi.com.

Since then, MDPI has developed as a publisher across all scientific disciplines, solely publishing open access journals using a CC-BY license.

In 2015, MDPI made strong progress: we continued the positive trend in yearly growth, achieving a 40% increase in the number of publications, a 30% increase in revenue, and a 54% increase in the number of submissions. We increased the amount of publications by 40% while our rejection rate increased from 52% to 54%.

A total of 82% of MDPI content was indexed in *Scopus* and 84% of content published in 2015 will be available via *Web of Science*, with 28 journals in the *Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)* and 34 journals recently included in the *Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)*. MDPI articles are also indexed in numerous other specialized indexing databases. Six new journals received an impact factor in 2015 and four were the number one open access journal in their respective categories in *SCIE*:

- *Polymers* is the number one open access journal in the Polymer Science subject category.
- *Remote Sensing* ranked number one open access journal and 5th among all journals in the Remote Sensing subject category.
- *Sensors* ranked number one open access journal in the subject categories Chemistry Analytical, Electrochemistry and Instruments & Instrumentation.
- *Forests* is the number one open access journal in the Forestry subject category.
- *Nutrients* is number two open access journal in the Nutrition and Dietetics subject category.
- *Marine Drugs* is number two open access journal in the Chemistry, Medicinal subject category.

The majority of MDPI journals provided authors a first decision after submission in under 32 days. Once accepted, articles were published online in 7–10 days.

MDPI became a member of *ORCID* in November 2015 and we now use the unique digital identifier, which enables researchers to distinguish themselves from others, as well as supporting automated linkages between a researcher and their professional activities. MDPI also started a collaboration with *Publons* in 2015, to give credits to reviewers for their valuable contributions.

In 2015, we expanded our portfolio by launching 13 new journals on a broad range of topics, bringing our total number of journals to 150.

MDPI's mission is to foster scientific exchange in its

various forms, either through scholarly publications or scholarly communication within conferences and discussion groups. In 2015, MDPI organized two international physical conferences in Basel on sensor science and sustainability respectively, and used its Sciforum (► www.sciforum.net) platform to host two external physical conferences and seven electronic conferences. We are planning to host twice as many conferences on Sciforum in 2016.

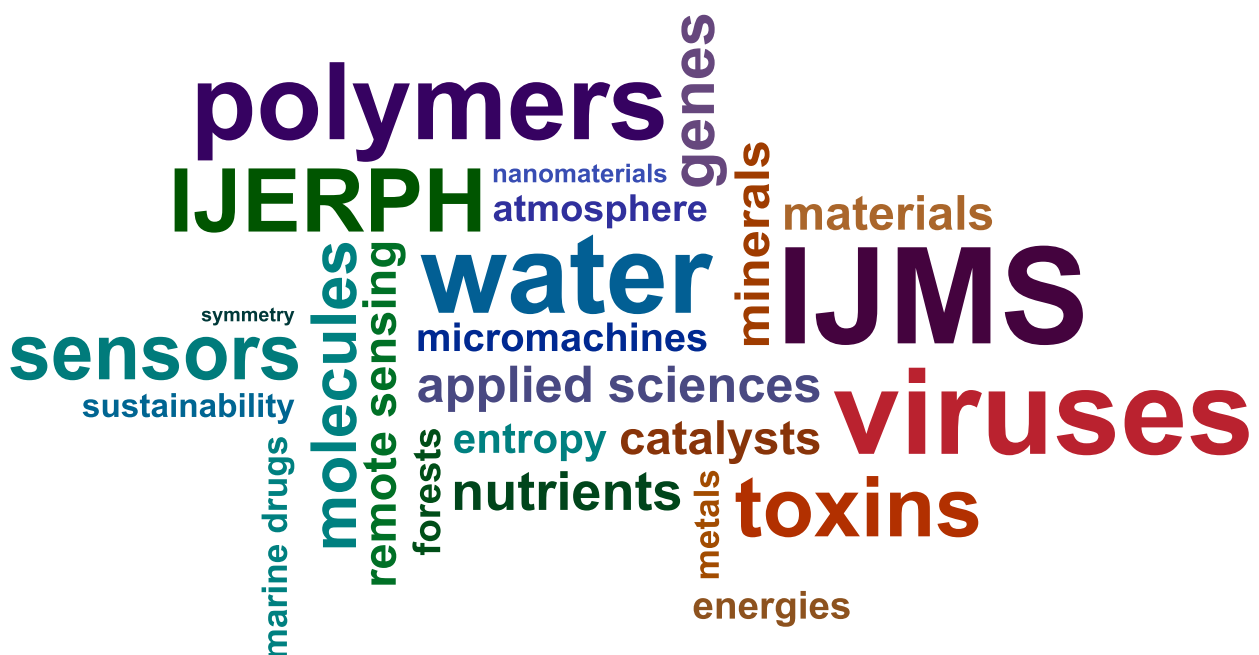
Our institutional membership program proved very popular last year, with the number of members almost doubling since 2014. At the end of 2015 we had 90 member institutes and the number continues to grow.

In 2016, MDPI aims to keep increasing its outreach and influence among scholars. We will open another office

in Europe (Barcelona, Spain) to expand our editorial and conference teams. Our main objective is to further increase the quality of our journals and improve the service we offer to our authors, reviewers, editors and readers, thus consolidating our position as a preferred publisher. We will also explore new products to meet the modern scholar's needs.

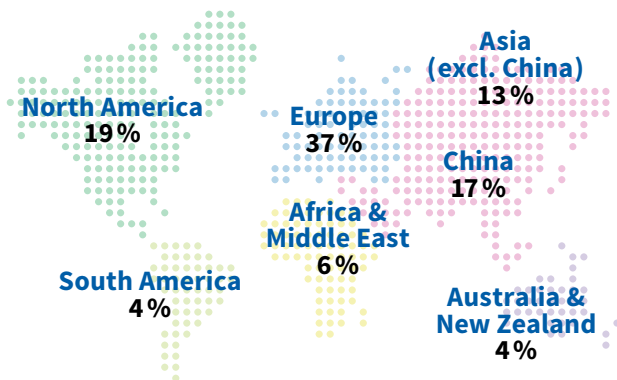
Finally, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all who have contributed to the MDPI project over the last 20 years: editors, editorial board members, reviewers, authors, readers, librarians, sponsors and friends. Science is a collaborative effort and we hope we can count on your on-going support.

Delia Mihaila
Chief Executive Officer, MDPI

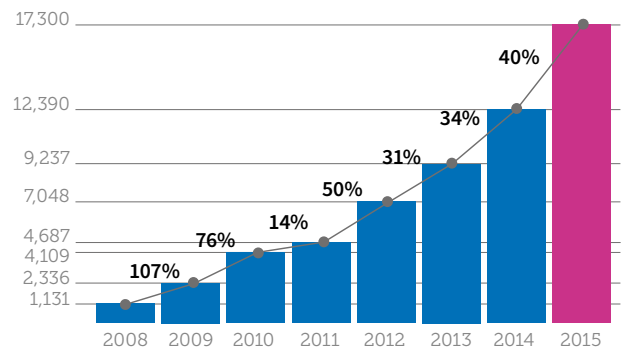


2015 KEY FIGURES

Papers Published in MDPI Journals by Region



Growth Based on Published Articles



Geographical Distribution of Authors and Reviewers

Region	Author Distribution
Europe	37%
North America	19%
China	17%
Asia (excl. China)	13%
Africa & Middle East	6%
Australia & New Zealand	4%
South America	4%

Region	Reviewer Distribution
Europe	46%
North America	32%
Asia (excl. China)	9%
China	6%
Australia & New Zealand	5%
Africa & Middle East	1%
South America	1%

Publication by Subject Area



Summary of Key Performance Indicators

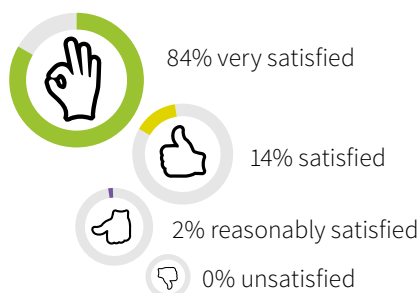
- 40% growth in publications compared to 2014
- Median article processing time decreased from 75 to 69 days
- 84% of content published in 2015 is indexed by *Web of Science*
- Submissions increased by 54% compared to 2014
- Average number of downloads and page views per month reached 4.2 million
- Rejection rate increased from 52% to 54%
- First decision provided to authors in under 32 days, acceptance to publication time was 7–10 days

Readership



Quality of Service

Authors' Satisfaction with the Overall Publication Process



Reviewers' Rating of the Overall Review Process



Source: MDPI authors' and reviewers survey, Q1-Q4, 2015.

Papers Published in Flagship Journals

<i>IJMS</i>	1,743	▲ +21.5%	<i>Marine Drugs</i>	384	▲ +10.66%
<i>Sensors</i>	1,666	▲ +30.3%	<i>Viruses</i>	367	▲ +35%
<i>Molecules</i>	1,385	▲ +6.3%	<i>Water</i>	357	▲ +69.19%
<i>IJERPH</i>	1,090	▲ +39.92%	<i>Toxins</i>	345	▲ +71.64%
<i>Sustainability</i>	861	▲ +66.86%	<i>Forests</i>	250	▲ +44.51%
<i>Remote Sensing</i>	788	▲ +34.93%	<i>Polymers</i>	154	▼ -3.14%
<i>Energies</i>	744	▲ +71.03%	<i>Applied Sciences</i>	132	▲ +266.67%
<i>Nutrients</i>	620	▲ +71.27%	<i>Religions</i>	94	▲ +40.3%
<i>Materials</i>	593	▲ +28.35%			
<i>Entropy</i>	453	▲ +38.11%			

% Growth compared to number of papers published in 2014.

2015 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Information on Article Processing Charges

- For 70 journals, Article Processing Charges (APC) in 2015 ranged from 300–1800 CHF
- 75 journals published free of charge
- The average cost to authors across all journals (including those with no APC) was 830 CHF per paper
- The average waiver rate for MDPI journals with an APC of 300 CHF or more was 23%
- We provided discounts to authors affiliated with our institutional members of 10% or more (► www.mdpi.com/about/memberships), and granted discounts for physical conferences and e-conferences held at Sciforum (► www.sciforum.net)
- We introduced APC discount vouchers for reviewers, which can be cumulated, transferred and used for any MDPI journal
- In 2015, MDPI sponsored over 60 conferences and supported over 230 scholars to attend scientific events.

Sources of Income

Article Processing
Charges

Physical
Conferences

Reprints

Books

JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR DEVELOPMENT

Impact Factors*

SCIE - Web of Science Journals	Papers published in 2015	Papers published in 2014	Impact Factor 2014 (2015 release)	Impact Factor 2013 (2014 release)	Citations 2014	Citations 2013
<i>IJMS</i>	1,743	1,435	2.862	2.339	12,460	7,898
<i>Sensors</i>	1,666	1,279	2.245	2.048	12,379	9,689
<i>Molecules</i>	1,385	1,302	2.416	2.095	13,592	10,380
<i>IJERPH</i>	1,090	779	2.063	1.993	4,177	2,794
<i>Sustainability</i>	861	516	0.942	1.077	1,163	681
<i>Remote Sensing</i>	788	584	3.180	2.623	3,061	1,739
<i>Energies</i>	744	435	2.072	1.602	2,397	1,276
<i>Nutrients</i>	620	362	3.270	3.148	2,311	1,094
<i>Materials</i>	593	462	2.651	1.879	3,566	2,088
<i>Entropy</i>	453	328	1.502	1.564	1,344	876
<i>Marine Drugs</i>	384	347	2.853	3.512	3,959	2,906
<i>Viruses</i>	367	265	3.353	3.279	2,523	1,745
<i>Water</i>	357	211	1.428	1.291	559	282
<i>Toxins</i>	345	201	2.938	2.480	1,759	1,088
<i>Forests</i>	250	173	1.449	1.139	377	166
<i>Polymers</i>	154	159	3.681	2.505	1,242	677
<i>Micromachines</i>	132	104	1.269	1.286	210	104
<i>Symmetry</i>	113	54	0.826	0.918	222	199
<i>Atmosphere</i>	104	56	1.132	1.048	143	69
Journals receiving first IF in 2015	Papers published in 2015	Papers published in 2014	Impact Factor 2014 (released 2015)	Impact Factor 2013 (released 2014)	Citations 2014	Citations 2013
<i>Metals</i>	166	42	0.883	-	76	-
<i>Nanomaterials</i>	136	54	2.076	-	205	-
<i>Catalysts</i>	135	27	2.000	-	220	-
<i>Applied Sciences</i>	132	36	1.484	-	145	-
<i>Genes</i>	73	61	1.151	-	252	-
<i>Minerals</i>	55	41	1.000	-	74	-
Journals tracked for IF	Papers published in 2015	Papers published in 2014	IF 2014 (released 2015)	IF 2013 (released 2014)	Citations 2014	Citations 2013
<i>IJGI</i>	140	80	-	-	-	-
<i>Crystals</i>	54	38	-	-	-	-

*All data as per Thomson Reuters' JCR.

Journal Rankings by Quartile in Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)

Quartile	Journals	2014 Impact Factor	Category
Q1	<i>Polymers</i>	3.681	Polymer Science
	<i>Remote Sensing</i>	3.180	Remote Sensing
	<i>Sensors</i>	2.245	Instruments & Instrumentation
Q2	<i>Energies</i>	2.072	Energy & Fuels
	<i>Entropy</i>	1.502	Physics, Multidisciplinary
	<i>Forests</i>	1.449	Forestry
	<i>International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (IJERPH)</i>	2.063	Environmental Sciences
	<i>International Journal of Molecular Sciences (IJMS)</i>	2.862	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology; Chemistry, Multidisciplinary
	<i>Marine Drugs</i>	2.853	Chemistry, Medicinal
	<i>Materials</i>	2.651	Materials Science, Multidisciplinary
	<i>Molecules</i>	2.416	Chemistry, Organic
	<i>Nutrients</i>	3.270	Nutrition & Dietetics
	<i>Sensors</i>	2.245	Chemistry, Analytical; Electrochemistry
	<i>Symmetry</i>	0.826	Multidisciplinary Sciences
	<i>Toxins</i>	2.938	Toxicology
	<i>Viruses</i>	3.353	Virology
<i>Water</i>	1.428	Water Resources	
Q3	<i>Micromachines</i>	1.269	Instruments & Instrumentation
Q4	<i>Atmosphere</i>	1.132	Meteorology & Atmospheric Sciences
	<i>Micromachines</i>	1.269	Nanoscience & Nanotechnology
	<i>Sustainability</i>	0.942	Environmental Sciences; Environmental Studies, JCR Social Science Edition
Quartile	Journals receiving first IF in 2015	2014 Impact Factor	Category
Q2	<i>Applied Sciences</i>	1.484	Chemistry, Multidisciplinary
	<i>Metals</i>	0.883	Metallurgy & Metallurgical Engineering
	<i>Minerals</i>	1.000	Mining & Mineral Processing
	<i>Nanomaterials</i>	2.076	Materials Science, Multidisciplinary
Q3	<i>Applied Sciences</i>	1.484	Materials Science, Multidisciplinary; Physics, Applied
	<i>Catalysts</i>	2.000	Chemistry, Physical
	<i>Metals</i>	0.883	Materials Science, Multidisciplinary
	<i>Minerals</i>	1.000	Mineralogy
	<i>Nanomaterials</i>	2.076	Nanoscience & Nanotechnology
Q4	<i>Genes</i>	1.151	Genetics & Heredity

NEW JOURNALS LAUNCHED IN 2015



batteries

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Andreas Jossen
Technical University München (TUM), Germany



Journal of
Fungi

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. David S. Perlin
The State University of New Jersey, USA



beverages

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Edgar Chambers IV
Kansas State University, USA



Journal of
Imaging

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Gonzalo Pajares Martinsanz
University Complutense of Madrid, Spain



C Journal of
Carbon Research

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Craig E. Banks
Manchester Metropolitan University, UK



magnetochemistry

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Carlos J. Gómez García
Universidad de Valencia, Spain



fermentation

Editor-in-Chief:
Dr. Badal C. Saha
National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, USA



**non-coding
RNA**

Editor-in-Chief:
Dr. George A. Calin
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA



gels

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. David Díaz Díaz
Universität Regensburg, Germany



safety

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Raphael Grzebieta
University of New South Wales, Australia



horticulturae

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Douglas D. Archbold
University of Kentucky, USA



universe

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Lorenzo Iorio
Ministero dell' Istruzione dell' Università e della Ricerca
(M.I.U.R.), Italy



International Journal of
Neonatal Screening

Editor-in-Chief:
Dr. Ralph Fingerhut
Swiss Newborn Screening Laboratory, Switzerland

SCIFORUM CONFERENCES IN 2015

Sciforum is MDPI's online platform for open scholarly exchange and collaboration. The activity on Sciforum greatly increased over 2015. The platform hosts both electronic and physical conferences. Seven electronic conferences were held in 2015.

Two MDPI physical conferences, I3S and WSF, and two conferences for external clients were held in 2015.

International Symposium on Sensor Science (I3S)

The 4th edition of the *International Symposium on Sensor Science* (I3S2015) was held in Basel from July 13–15, 2015. The conference attracted 146 participants from various countries:

Switzerland 23%, South Korea 16%, USA 8%, China 8%, Germany 8%, Italy 4%, France 4% as well as participants from a number of other countries including the Netherlands, Belgium, Brazil, Columbia, Finland, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Spain, and Turkey.

► <http://sciforum.net/conference/I3S2015>



World Sustainability Forum (WSF)

The 5th *World Sustainability Forum* was held in Basel from September 7–9, 2015. 239 participants attended, with participants coming from over 30 different countries:

Switzerland 24%, Germany 10%, South Africa 8%, United Kingdom 6%, Italy 5%, Austria 3%, United States 3% as well as participants from a number of other countries including Australia, China, Croatia, Iran, Ivory Coast, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and the United Arab Emirates.

► <http://sciforum.net/conference/wsf-5>



BOOK PUBLISHING IN 2015

About

In March 2014 we launched MDPI Books—an open access platform for high quality monographs (short or full-length), edited books, proceedings, doctoral theses and special issue books. All books are published under the Creative Commons CC-BY license. If you are an author and interested in publishing with us, please contact ► books@mdpi.com.

Benefits of Publishing Open Access Books with MDPI

- Thorough peer-review procedure and a professional, rapid publication process
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- Electronic distribution without limitations
- Electronic version is delivered to a global network of well-known channel partners
- Registration with the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB)
- Low Book Processing Charges (BPCs)

The “Print-on-Demand” model we deploy for hard-copies reduces the impact on the environment, as books are produced on order and shipped locally using a globally distributed network of high-quality printers. Hard-copies are reasonably priced and there is no limit to the number of copies that can be ordered, so a book will never be out-of-print.

Top 5 Books*

- *Nutrients*:
Recent Advances in Omega-3: Health Benefits, Sources, Products and Bioavailability
- *Remote Sensing*:
Earth Observation for Water Resource Management in Africa
- *Nutrients*:
Vitamin C and Human Health
- *Viruses*:
Special Issue: Kaposi's Sarcoma-Associated Herpesvirus
- *Religions*:
Special Issue: Teaching Augustine

For more information about MDPI Books, please visit ► <http://books.mdpi.com/about>.

* Printed editions and published Special Issues. Based on copies sold.



INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Institutional Members

The number of institutional members in our program rose from 48 at the end of 2014 to 90 at the end of 2015.

Partnerships

MDPI set up a new membership with *ORCID* in November 2015. Researchers and authors who publish with MDPI are now able to register for a unique *ORCID* and thereby link their identity to their research objects.

In September 2015, MDPI set up a partnership with *Publons*, to recognize the important work of our reviewers. Reviewers can opt in to get credit when reviewing for MDPI journals. *Publons* provides a number of benefits to reviewers, including generating certificates to prove reviewing history, and managing data and links to other services like *ORCID*.

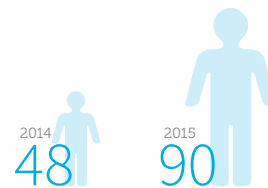
We also renewed our membership with *CLOCKSS*, an online archive, to ensure long-term preservation of the content published in our journals.

Learned Societies and Professional Associations

In 2015 MDPI started a collaboration with the International Society of Neonatal Screening
 ► www.isns-neoscreening.org and launched their official journal: *International Journal of Neonatal Screening*.

A collaboration was also setup with the Spanish Road Technology Platform (Plataforma Tecnológica Española de la Carretera (PTC))
 ► www.ptcarretera.com to publish the journal *Infrastructures*.

Increase in 2015: 87.5 %



ORCID

publons

PRESERVED IN
CLOCKSS



International Journal of
Neonatal Screening



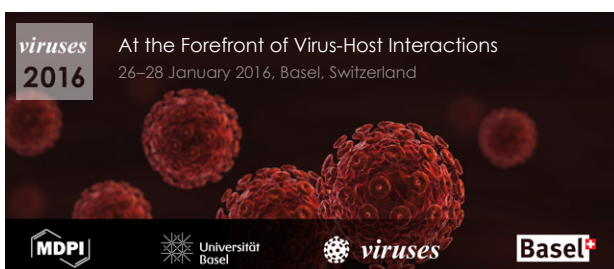
infrastructures

CONFERENCES 2016/2017

Viruses 2016 - At the Forefront of Virus–Host Interactions

The conference *Viruses 2016 - At the Forefront of Virus–Host Interactions* brought together leading virologists from around the world to share recent developments in their research. The conference was held in Basel, Switzerland, from January 26–28, 2016. It comprised five plenary sessions to highlight the most exciting developments and the latest breakthroughs in virology. A total of 190 participants from the following countries attended the conference: Europe 40%, USA 20%, Switzerland 10%, Canada 4%, Japan 1% and 25% from various other countries.

For more information about this conference, please visit
► <http://sciforum.net/conference/viruses-2016>.



World Sustainability Forum (WSF) in 2017

The *World Sustainability Forum (WSF)* brings scientists together to discuss all types of sustainability issues, including agriculture, ecology, resources, energy, chemistry, urban development, sociology and education. The four first editions were electronic conferences, and the 5th edition was a physical conference held in Basel, Switzerland. Over 240 scientists attended and contributed to discussions based around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The next edition will take place in Cape Town, South Africa in January 2017.

For more information about WSF, please visit
► <http://sciforum.net/conference/wsf-6>.



STAY CONNECTED

About MDPI

MDPI (Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute) is an academic open access publisher based in Basel, Switzerland, and was initially founded in 1996 to collect and preserve rare chemical research samples. To support the samples project, MDPI started the journal *Molecules* (ISSN 1420-3049) the same year.

Since 1996, MDPI has grown into a publishing house with more than 150 diverse open access journals. With further editorial offices in Beijing and Wuhan (China), and soon in Barcelona (Spain). MDPI is backed by over 6,500 editorial board members worldwide.

All our content is open access, distributed under a Creative Commons License, and hence freely accessible to readers. We finance publication through article processing charges (APC), paid by authors and their institutions.

As a member of COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics), STM (International Association of Scientific, Technical, and Medical Publishers) and OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publication Association), MDPI enforces rigorous peer-review and adheres to strict ethical policies and standards. ► www.mdpi.com

95,100

citations to all MDPI articles in 2015

4,200,000

monthly page views and article downloads

62

journals indexed
in Web of Science

187,500

unique academic authors*
*with at least one publication with MDPI

150+

open access
journals

91,500

peer-review reports received
in 2015

17,300

articles published
in 2015

61,500

articles published since
foundation of MDPI in 1996

9,900

academic editors

40%

company growth in 2015*
*based on published papers in 2015





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MDPI AG
Communications and Marketing Department
Klybeckstrasse 64,
4057 Basel, Switzerland
Tel. +41 61 683 77 34
Fax: +41 61 302 89 18

Website
► www.mdpi.com

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