ANNUAL REPORT 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

MDPI turned 20 in 2016: Twenty years of academic publishing, twenty years of open access, and twenty years of hard and dedicated work for scholars and scholarly communities.

The year 2016 was a strong and very successful one for MDPI and our employees with stable overall growth in the number of published papers, number of staff, number of journals and in revenues.

As scholarly publishing is shifting from subscription to open access, the academic publishing industry is looking towards submissions in open access form. This transformation establishes continuous global access to knowledge and science, and supports researchers in their daily studies. We are proud to have been part of this successful trend over the past 20 years.

In 2016, MDPI has taken on a new dimension, establishing itself as one of the leaders in open access publishing. We grew 35 % and we reached our goals by publishing more than 23,000 peer-reviewed articles. Four of our most established journals, *Sensors*, *IJMS*, *Molecules* and *Sustainability*, now rank in the top 200 journals in number of articles published per year. Two of these journals, *Sensors* and *Molecules*, reached the incredible milestone of publishing their 10,000th paper this year. Altogether, these achievements put us in second place on the podium amongst pure open access publishers in 2016.

In 2016, we aimed to strengthen our relations with scientific communities, serving their needs and trying to acknowledge the unwavering commitment of our Editors-in-Chief, Editorial Board Members, guest editors, authors and reviewers over the past twenty years.

We provided administrative support to 15,700 academic editors, we sponsored 337 scientific events, we provided travel grants to 52 of our Editors-in-Chief to attend conferences, we awarded 60 scientific prizes, and we organized two new scientific conferences, *Viruses 2016* and the *1st Basel Sustainability Forum on Energies* in Basel. Furthermore, we launched our multidisciplinary preprint initiative at *Preprints.org* to follow our vision to disseminate science at its earliest stage. Since its launch in July 2016, over 1000 scientific papers have been posted.

We also took our 20 year company anniversary as an occasion to boldly focus on our mission to facilitate the dissemination of research output. We have been developing our publishing services, using our 20 years' experience to support learned societies and university presses. We simplified our submission tools for authors, reviewers and editors, making the publication experience enjoyable and publication times shorter. We also invested effort, knowledge and resources in dedicated projects and partnerships with our peers.

These achievements were only made possible thanks to the dedicated work of our editorial, production and communication teams in Basel, Beijing, Wuhan, Barcelona and Belgrade.

MDPI proudly joined the UN Global Compact in November 2016 to demonstrate our commitment to sustainable management and responsibility towards our employees. As a global publishing house, we see it as our duty to develop responsible practices that will ensure a bright future for our company and for our planet. Therefore, we have committed ourselves to the ten principles associated with the Compact, and will focus on contributing to the following defined goals:

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

The year 2017 will be a very ambitious and challenging one for MDPI and for open access globally. The Berlin13 conference will be an important milestone for open access where global players and decision makers come together and join forces to set the roadmap of the OA2020 target. I definitely look forward to contributing to the discussions and joint efforts.

I also look forward to strengthening MDPI's position amongst other open access publishers by continuing our hard and dedicated work to support scholarly communities.

Dr. Franck Vazquez
Chief Executive Officer

MDPI AT A GLANCE

172
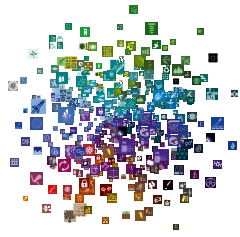
PEER-REVIEWED OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

68 MDPI | books

SPECIAL ISSUE REPRINTS PUBLISHED AND 394
COPIES SOLD IN 2016.

MDPI MEMBER INSTITUTE

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM REACHED
153 MEMBERS

preprints

OUR PLATFORM FOR POSTING EARLY STAGE
RESEARCH BEFORE PEER-REVIEW

sciforum

AN OPEN PLATFORM FOR SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE AND
COLLABORATION. PARTICIPATE OR SET UP YOUR OWN
CONFERENCE IN ANY SCIENTIFIC FIELD. CREATE YOUR
OWN DISCUSSION GROUPS

SUSY

A COMPLETE SUBMISSION SYSTEM FOR SCHOLARLY
PUBLISHING

Scilit

A FREE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE DATABASE INCLUDING
THE LATEST PUBLISHED ARTICLES FROM ANY PUBLISHER
IN REAL TIME.

224

ARTICLE REPRINTS PUBLISHED IN 2016.

2016 KEY FIGURES

86,521

articles published since the foundation of MDPI in 1996

27.5 days

from submission to first decision

58,575

submissions received in 2016

23,568

papers published

128,805

peer-review reports received in 2016

35%

company growth in 2016 based on published papers

15,700

academic editors

68 days

from submission to publication

18
new journals in the MDPI journal portfolio

>800
papers posted on Preprints.org
(by end of 2016)

455 employees
in seven locations (Switzerland, China, Spain and Serbia)

273
academic events sponsored by MDPI in 2016, including travel
grants to Editors-in-Chiefs and Editorial Board Members

Papers Published in MDPI Journals by Region

Europe
33 %

Asia (excl. China)
17 %

North America
18 %

China
24 %

South America
2 %

Africa &
Middle East
2 %

Australia &
New Zealand
4 %
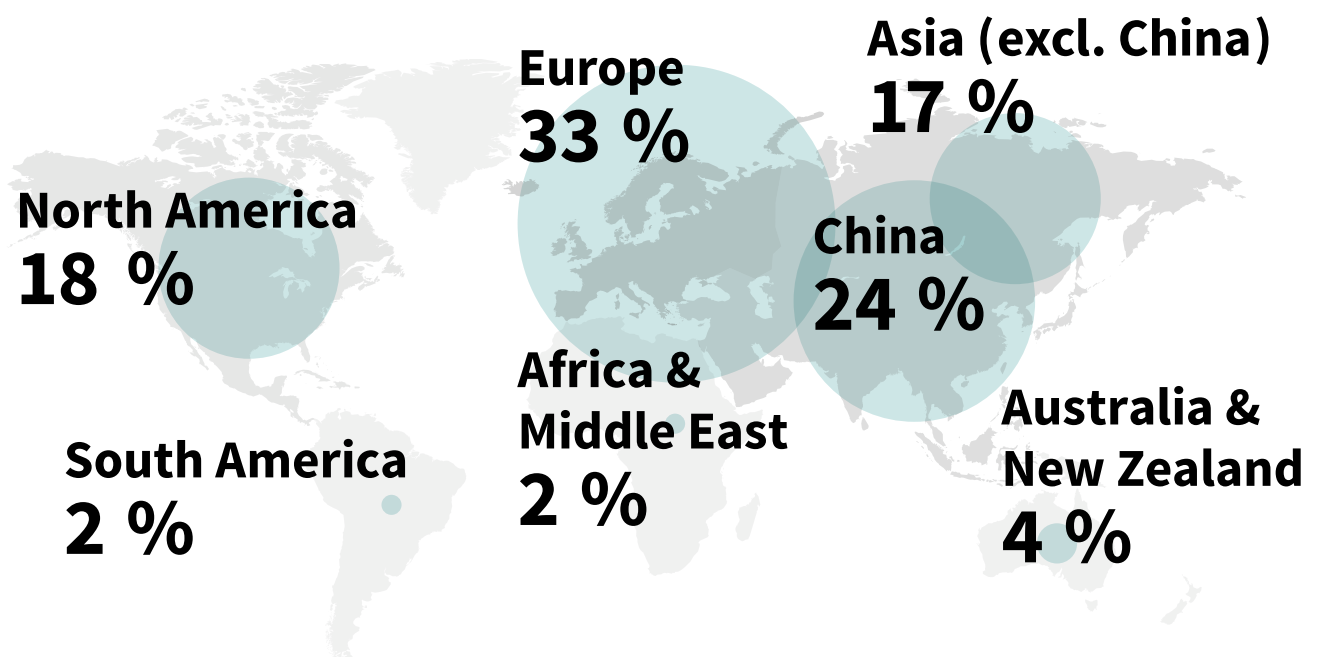
Major Journals Growth
Based on Articles Published

Applied Sciences	+258 %
Crystals	+213 %
Metals	+104 %
Genes	+101 %
Micromachines	+83 %
IJGI	+80 %

Indexing

142
journals reevaluated and accepted by DOAJ

85
journals indexed in Web of Science

58
journals indexed in ESCI

Growth Based on Articles Published

Publication by Subject Area

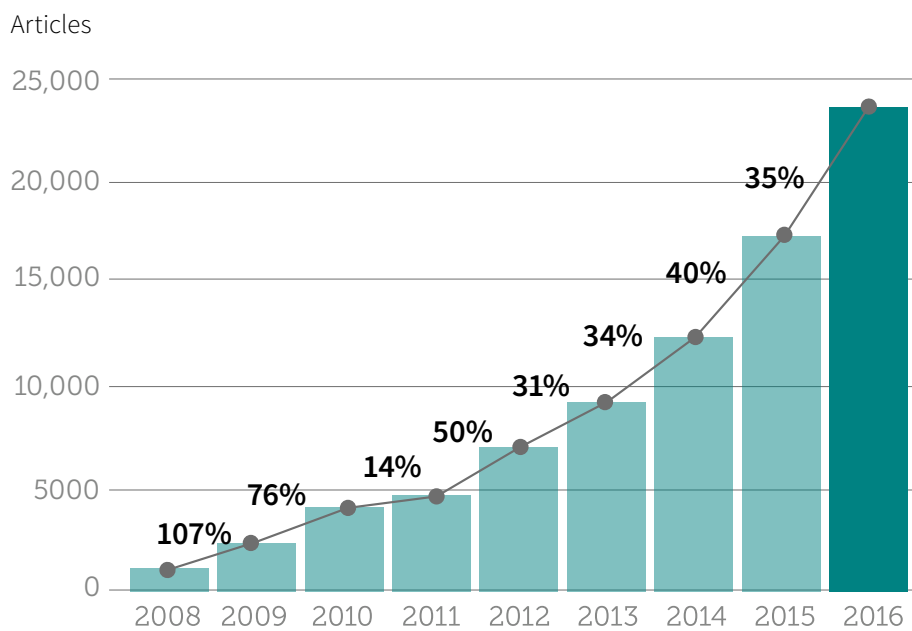|	
24%	Chemistry & Materials Science
15%	Medicine & Pharmacology
13%	Environmental & Earth Sciences
12%	Engineering
12%	Physical Sciences
11%	Biology & Life Sciences
5%	Public Health & Healthcare
3%	Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities
3%	Business & Economics
2%	Computer Science & Mathematics

Open Access Publishers – Market Share in 2016

	Number of Published Articles	Market Share in Percentage
Springer Nature	41,821	26.88%
Public Library of Science (PLOS)	26,376	16.96%
MDPI	23,555	15.14%
Frontiers Media SA	19,439	12.50%
Hindawi Limited	18,004	11.57%
Copernicus GmbH	9045	5.81%
BMJ	2064	1.33%
PeerJ	1356	0.87%
AOSIS	1303	0.84%
Elsevier BV	1289	0.83%
Others	11,301	7.27%

Quality of Service

8213 Reviewers
rated our publishing service as

42%	excellent	★★★★★
48%	good	★★★★
7%	reasonable	★★★
3%	can be improved	★★
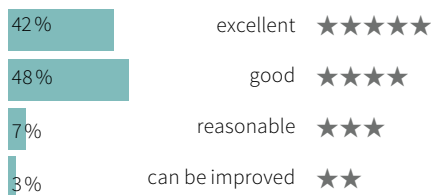
1402 Authors
rated our publishing service as

81%	excellent	★★★★★
16%	good	★★★★
2%	reasonable	★★★
1%	can be improved	★★

Source: MDPI author and reviewer surveys, Q1–Q4, 2016

Geographical Distribution of Authors and Reviewers

Reviewers

North America
30 %

Europe
42 %

Asia (excl. China)
16 %

China
3 %

South America
1 %

Africa & Middle East
1 %

Australia & New Zealand
7 %

Authors

North America
17 %

Europe
39 %

Asia (excl. China)
4 %

China
31 %

South America
3 %

Africa & Middle East
2 %

Australia & New Zealand
4 %
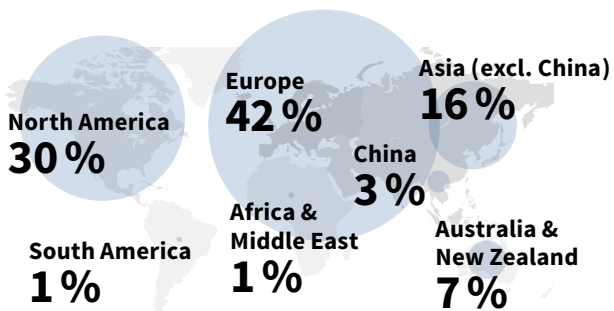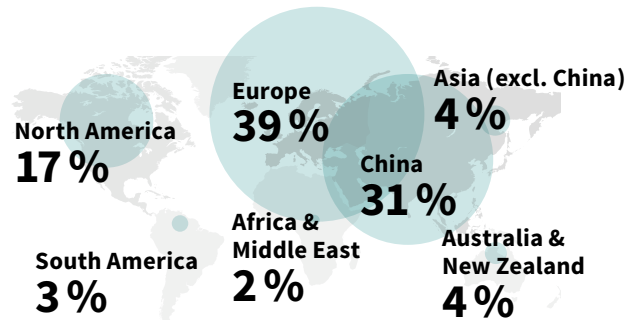
Overview of Access to MDPI.com

90 %
desktop access

10 %
mobile access

36,801,813
Annual Page Views

32,648,052
PDF Downloads

15,168,300
Sessions

8,748,610
Users

1,524,595
Mobile Users

NEW JOURNALS IN 2016

biomimetics

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Josep Samitier
Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia
(IBEC), Spain

condensed matter

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Antonio Bianconi
Rome International Center for Materials
Science Superstripes (RICMASS), Italy

data

Editor-in-Chief:
Dr. Jamal Jokar Arsanjani
Aalborg University Copenhagen, Denmark

drones

Editor-in-Chief:
Dr. Diego Gonzalez-Aguilera
University of Salamanca, Spain

fishes

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Maria Angeles Esteban
University of Murcia, Spain

fluids

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Bekir S. Yilbas
King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM), Saudi Arabia

geriatrics

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Ralf Lobmann
Clinical Centre Stuttgart, Germany

infrastructures

Editor-in-Chief:
Dr. Pedro Arias-Sánchez
University of Vigo, Spain

inventions

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Shoou-Jinn Chang
National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan

Journal of
Functional Morphology and Kinesiology

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Musumeci
University of Catania, Italy

languages

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Usha Lakshmanan
Southern Illinois University Carbondale, USA

philosophies

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Marcin J. Schroeder
Akita International University, Japan

recycling

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Michele Rosano
Curtin University Perth, Australia

sinusitis

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. César Picado
University of Barcelona, Spain

International Journal of
Turbomachinery Propulsion and Power

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Marcello Manna
Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II,
Italy

Society Journals Transferred to MDPI in 2016

Scientia Pharmaceutica

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Helmut Viernstein
University of Vienna, Austria

**Mathematical and
Computational Applications**

Editor-in-Chief:
Prof. Dr. Fazal M. Mahomed
University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

SUSY

## MDPI Susy – A Complete Submission System

MDPI has been a pioneer of academic, peer-reviewed open access publishing since 1996, with over 160 open access journals across all scientific fields. Two of our major strengths are the speed and the simplicity of our editorial process. We now offer our submission system, Susy, to other journals in order to widen our support to stakeholders.

Susy is a comprehensive, web-based software that allows editors to handle the entire publishing process, from initial submission to publication, including peer-review, production, and invoicing of open access APCs. The software has been built with flexibility in mind, to accommodate the needs of a broad range of journals.

We also offer 6 days peer week support from our editorial and production staff. The main features of our publishing services cover:

- Article submission
- Peer review and editorial decisions
- Author revision and resubmission
- Invoicing of article processing charges
- Two of our major strengths are the speed and the simplicity
- Different levels of access for staff members, including editorial board members, handling editors, managing editors and company managers.

Susy incorporates the full production process:
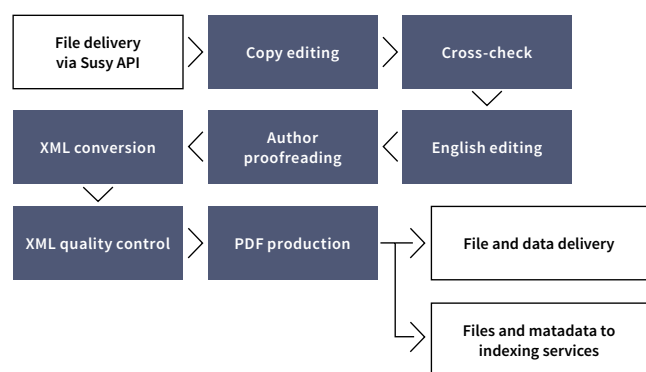
Contact

For enquiries and quotations, please contact Dr. Martyn Rittman ▶ rittman@mdpi.com.
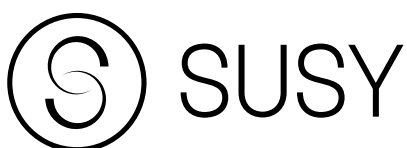
PARTNERING WITH INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES

Institutional Membership

The MDPI Institutional Membership Program grants affiliated authors a discount of up to 25 % on Article Processing Charges. Since the program was launch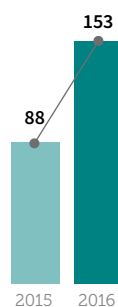ed in 2013, over 150 memberships have been established. In 2016, the number of members, of which all are notable international universities and institutions, increased from 88 to 153.

Our Institutional Members:

153

88

2015   2016

## Partnerships with Societies

Lasting Partnership
One of MPDI's longest lasting partnerships is with the *International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)*, established in 2011 for the publication of the *International Journal of Geo-Information (IJGI)*, short *ISPRS IJGI*.

With over 20 year's experience in scholarly peer-reviewed publishing, we provide technical infrastructure and editorial know-how covering:
• Conversion to open access
• Editorial handling of manuscripts
• Fast editorial procedure
• Fast 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
• Long-term preservation
• Hosting the journal back-file
• Retaining ownership
• Reviewer benefits
• Optional and customized services

MDPI shares the responsibility for the promotion of the journal with the scientific community, and bears the costs associated with the production of printed promotional material of the journal.

Number of Papers Published in *ISPRS IJGI*
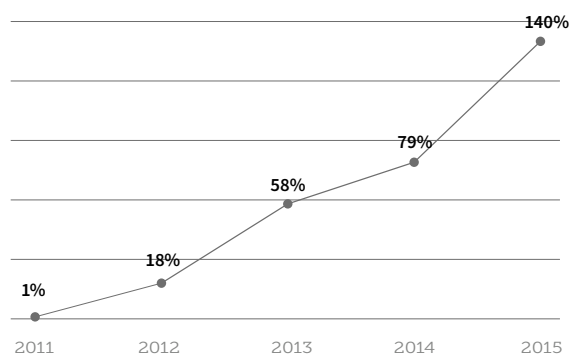
Source: Sciforum (Based on Cross-Ref Data); mdpi.com/journal/ijgi/stats

Through the partnership with MDPI, *ISPRS* benefits from exposure to a broader scientific community, and has gained increasing visibility over the past years:

Full-Text and Abstract Views Past 6 Months Trend

	2016					2017*
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan*
Abstract	20,301	28,918	27,323	24,378	31,074	25,540
Full Text	17,748	29,079	36,988	34,797	39,761	32,297

Full-Text and Abstract Views per Year Trend

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
Abstract	10,156	44,700	102,848	167,069	251,442	25,540
Full Text	6456	32,807	109,636	235,052	320,509	32,297

* data as of 31 January 2017

New Society Partnerships in 2016

In 2016, MDPI started several collaborations with societies and other scientific institutions:

• With the *European Turbomachinery Society* (Euroturbo, www.euroturbo.eu) for the publication of their new journal *International Journal of Turbomachinery, Propulsion and Power (IJTPP)*.

• With the *Austrian Pharmacological Society* (Österreichische Pharmazeutische Gesellschaft, www.oephg.eu) for the publication of their existing journal *Scientia Pharmaceutica*.

• With the *Australasian College of Tropical Medicine* (ACTM, www.tropmed.org) and its Joint Faculties of Travel Medicine (www.travelmedicine.org.au) and Expedition and Wilderness Medicine for the publication of the new journal *Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease*.

MDPI also signed a Publishing Agreement with the *Institute of Otorhinolaryngology, Union Hospital, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science & Technology* to set up the J*ournal of Otorhinolaryngology, Hearing and Balance Medicine* to be started in 2017.

For more detailed information, please contact Delia Mihaila ▶ mihaila@mdpi.com.

JOURNAL DEVELOPMENT*

SCIE - Web of Science Journals	Papers Published in 2016	Papers Published in 2015	Publication Growth	Impact Factor 2015 (2016 release)	Change from Previous Year	Citations in 2015
IJMS	2166	1743	▲ +24.3 %	3.257	14 %	18,190
Molecules	1769	1385	▲ +27.7 %	2.465	2 %	17,613
Sensors	2237	1666	▲ +34.3 %	2.033	-9 %	15,836
IJERPH	1210	1090	▲ +11.0 %	2.035	-1 %	6062
Marine Drugs	231	384	▼ −39.8 %	3.345	17 %	5437
Materials	1036	593	▲ +74.7 %	2.728	3 %	5262
Remote Sensing	1035	788	▲ +31.3 %	3.036	-5 %	5061
Nutrients	840	620	▲ +35.5 %	3.759	15 %	4084
Energies	1106	744	▲ +48.7 %	2.077	0 %	3704
Viruses	332	367	▼ −9.5 %	3.042	-9 %	3445
Toxins	379	345	▲ +9.9 %	3.571	22 %	2929
Sustainability	1363	862	▲ +58.1 %	1.343	43 %	2301
Entropy	459	453	▲ +1.3 %	1.743	16 %	2099
Polymers	443	154	▲ +187.7 %	2.944	-20 %	1837
Water	606	357	▲ +69.7 %	1.687	18 %	1035
Forests	329	250	▲ +31.6 %	1.583	9 %	686
Genes	146	73	▲ +100 %	3.242	182 %	545
Catalysts	219	135	▲ +62.2 %	2.964	48 %	502
Nanomaterials	245	136	▲ +80.1 %	2.690	30 %	436
Micromachines	241	132	▲ +82.6 %	1.295	2 %	404
Symmetry	162	147	▲ +10.2 %	0.841	2 %	317
Crystals	167	133	▲ +25.6 %	2.075	–	273
Atmosphere	161	104	▲ +54.8 %	1.221	8 %	240
Applied Sciences	472	132	▲ +257.6 %	1.726	16 %	238
Metals	327	166	▲ +97 %	1.574	78 %	234
Minerals	132	55	▲ +140 %	1.500	50 %	134
ISPRS IJGI	251	140	▲ +79.3 %	0.651	–	133

Journals Tracked for IF

Cancers	110	136	▼ −19.1 %	–	–	–
Coatings	77	57	▲ +35.1 %	–	–	–

* All data as per Clarivate Analytics (formerly Thomson Reuters).

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

Quartile	Journals	Ranking	Category
Q1	*Materials*	63 / 271	MATERIALS SCIENCE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
	Metals	18 / 73	METALLURGY & METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING
	Nanomaterials	64 / 271	MATERIALS SCIENCES, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
	Nutrients	16 / 80	NUTRITION & DIETETICS
	Polymers	20 / 85	POLYMER SCIENCE
	Remote Sensing	5 / 28	REMOTE SENSING
	Sensors	12 / 56	INSTRUMENTS & INSTRUMENTATION
	Toxins	16 / 90	TOXICOLOGY
Q2	*Applied Sciences*	129 / 271	MATERIALS SCIENCE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
		64 / 145	PHYSICS, APPLIED
	Catalysts	53 / 144	CHEMISTRY, PHYSICAL
	Crystals	101 / 271	MATERIALS SCIENCE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
	Crystals	13 / 26	CRYSTALLOGRAPHY
	Energies	43 / 88	ENERGY & FUELS
	Entropy	25 / 79	PHYSICS, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
	Forests	19 / 66	FORESTRY
	Genes	60 / 166	GENETICS & HEREDITY
	IJERPH	101 / 225	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
	IIJMS	110 / 289	BIOCHEMISTRY & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
	IJMS	134 / 289	CHEMISTRY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
	Marine Drugs	13 / 59	CHEMISTRY, MEDICINAL
	Metals	145 / 271	MATERIALS SCIENCE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
	Minerals	14 / 29	MINERALOGY
	Minerals	9 / 21	MINING & MINERAL PROCESSING
	Molecules	24 / 59	CHEMISTRY, ORGANIC
	Nanomaterials	36 / 83	NANOSCIENCE & NANOTECHNOLOGY
	Sensors	36 / 75	CHEMISTRY, ANALYTICAL
	Sensors	16 / 27	ELECTROCHEMISTRY
	Symmetry	31 / 63	MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCIENCES
	Viruses	14 / 33	VIROLOGY
	Water	33 / 85	WATER RESOURCES
Q3	*Applied Sciences-Basel*	83 / 163	CHEMISTRY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
	Micromachines	30 / 56	INSTRUMENTS & INSTRUMENTATION
	Sustainability	62 / 104	ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES - SSCI
Q4	*Atmosphere*	66 / 84	METEOROLOGY & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES
	ISPRS IJGI	45 / 49	GEOGRAPHY, PHYSICAL
	Micromachines	63 / 83	NANOSCIENCE & NANOTECHNOLOGY
	Remote Sensing	26 / 28	REMOTE SENSING
	Sustainability	5 / 6	GREEN & SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY - SSCI

* Source: www.mdpi.com/about/announcements/720.

CONFERENCES IN 2016

Viruses 2016

The conference *Viruses 2016–At the Forefront of Virus–Host Interactions* was held in Basel from January 26 to 28, 2016. A total of 186 participants attended, from over 30 different countries: Switzerland 21 %, Germany 10 %, France 8%, United Kingdom 6 %, United States 6 %, Italy 5 %, Austria 3 %, as well as participants from a number of other countries including Australia, China, Croatia, Iran, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and the United Arab Emirates.

The 2nd edition *Viruses 2018–Breakthroughs in Viral Replication* will be held in Barcelona from February 7 to 9, 2018.

1st Basel Sustainability Forum on Energy

The *1st Basel Sustainability Forum on Energy* was held in Basel on October 14, 2016. The conference attracted 98 participants from Switzerland, France and Germany.
The *2nd Basel Sustainability Forum on Mobility* will be held in Basel on September 15, 2017.

Images: Matthias Burkhalter

SPECIAL ISSUE REPRINTS RELEASED IN 2016

Our top five in 2016 (physical copy):

Journal of Clinical Medicine
iPS Cells for Modelling and Treatment of Human Diseases
edited by Edel Michael
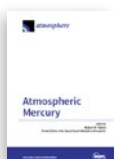
Catalysts
Advances in Catalyst Deactivation
edited by Bartholomew Calvin
and Argyle Morris

Marine Drugs
Advances in Marine Chitin and Chitosan
edited by Harding David
and Sashiwa Hitoshi

Atmosphere
Air Quality and Source Apportionment
edited by Sheesley Rebecca

Atmosphere
Atmospheric Composition Observations
edited by Sorooshian Armin

Our top five in 2016 (digital copy):

Children
The Role of Play in Children's Health and Development
edited by Navidi Ute
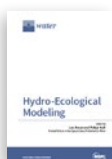
Inorganics
Polyoxometalates
edited by Patzke Greta and Car Pierre-Em-manuel

Biomolecules
Oxidative Stress in Health and Disease
edited by Breitenbach Michael and Eckl Peter

Water
Hydro-Ecological Modeling
edited by Breuer Lutz and Kraft Philipp

Humanities
Deep Mapping
edited by Roberts Les

► More information: www.mdpi.com/books

MDPI | books

CONTRIBUTING TO THE OPEN ACCESS INITIATIVE

In January 2017, MDPI signed the expression of interest in support of the OA 2020 initiative. The OA2020 was established by the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (Germany) and supports the large-scale transition to open access by transforming the existing corpus of scientific journals from their current subscription system to open access.

▶ More information: https://oa2020.org/mission/#other

CONFERENCES IN 2017

World Sustainability Forum 2017, WSF 2017 (Cape Town)

The *World Sustainability Forum* 2017, held at the end of January 2017 in South Africa, contributes to international debates on sustainability and enables a dialogue


between academia and industry. It sensitizes the international community about the urgency, specifics, and existent knowledge base of sustainability on the African continent, and the African research community to international perspectives on sustainability.

The next few decades will be marked by a profound engagement in sustainability research and policy – and Africa is profoundly influencing and being influenced by global developments. MDPI provides a platform for researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to engage with this topic.

▶ sciforum.net/conference/wsf-6

International Symposium on Frontiers in Molecular Sciences 2017, ISFMS 2017 (Basel)

One of the most unexpected and fascinating discoveries in oncology over the past decade has been the interplay between abnormalities in protein-coding genes and non-coding RNAs (ncRNAs), which are causally involved in cancer initiation, progression, and dissemination.
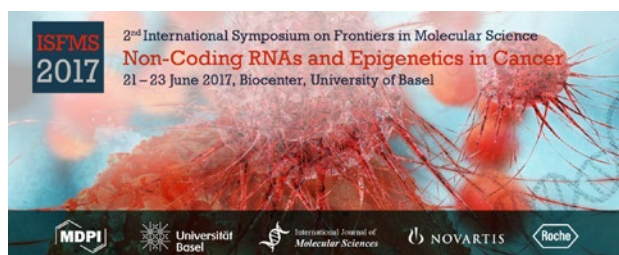
Although, to date, the most studied non-coding RNAs (ncRNAs) are miRNAs, the importance of long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) is increasingly being recognized. At this conference "Non-Coding RNAs and Epigenetics in Cancer", leaders in the field will present the roles of miRNAs and lncRNAs in cancer, with a focus on the recently identified novel mechanisms of action, and discuss the current strategies in designing ncRNA-targeting therapeutics, as well as the associated challenges.

▶ sciforum.net/conference/ncRNA-Cancer

International Symposium on Sensor Science, I3S2017 (Barcelona)

From robots and self-driving cars to on-site medical diagnostics, the exciting advances in today's technology require sensors. Biologists, engineers, physicists and

chemists are working to provide these sensors. This conference, supported by the journal *Sensors*, brings together scientists from different disciplines to discuss recent developments in sensor technology.

▶ sciforum.net/conference/i3s2017Barcelona

Molecules

▶ sciforum.net/conference/MMCS2017

Symmetry

▶ sciforum.net/conference/symmetry2017

2nd Basel Sustainability Forum

▶ sciforum.net/conference/BSF-2

Photos from the *World Sustainability Forum* 2017, WSF 2017

1: *World Sustainability Award*
2: Thandi Mgwebi, Jeffrey Sachs, Sonia
   Ehrlich Sachs and Franck Vazquez
   (from left to right)
3: Jeffrey Sachs accepting the
   World Sustainability Award
4: Delegates at WSF 2017
All images by Matthias Burkhalter

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4

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AT MDPI

In November 2016, MDPI became a member of the United Nations Global Compact to support corporate sustainability. We have committed ourselves to the ten principles associated with the Compact.

As a global publishing house, we see it as our duty to develop responsible practices that will ensure a bright future for our planet. Based on our purpose and company scope, we aim to focus on three UN Sustainability Development Goals:

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

In 2016, we announced the *World Sustainability Award* and the *Emerging Sustainability Leader Award* to encourage new initiatives and developments in sustainability. Both awards are bound to the ultimate aim to foster the transfer from sustainability research to sustainable practices and societies.

Recipients of the *World Sustainability Award* (USD 100,000)

Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs and Dr. Sonia Ehrlich Sachs were the joint recipients of the first *World Sustainability Award* at the end of January 2017. Jeffrey Sachs is a world-renowned economist and senior United Nations (UN) advisor and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. Sonia Sachs is a pediatrician and public health specialist, and director of the Health Centre at the Centre for Sustainable Development, also at Columbia University.

Winners of the *Emerging Sustainability Leader Award* (USD 10,000)

The joint recipients of the first *Emerging Sustainability Leader Award* were Dr. Esther Ngumbi and Dr. Xiaosong Hu. Esther Ngumbi is a postdoctoral researcher at Auburn University in Alabama, USA and served as a 2015 Clinton Global University Mentor for Agriculture. Xiaosong Hu is a professor at the Chongqing University in China and specializes in automotive control systems and mechanical engineering.

World Sustainability Foundation: http://wsforum.org
Press release:
▶ www.mdpi.com/about/announcements/961

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 refuse any form of discrimination against women at work. We support women in management positions:

50 % of MDPI Management are women.
▶ www.mdpi.com/about/team

Goal 9: Build 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.

ABOUT MDPI

Being a pioneer in academic open access publishing, we have focused on serving and strengthening the scientific community since 1996.

Our main purpose is to provide a valuable service to academic scholars. 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 for free. All of our content is published in open access and distributed under a Creative Commons License, which means free distribution and the right to share and re-use published articles.

Speed

We publish fast to ensure the latest research is rapidly disseminated, using thorough, precise editorial work. A first decision is provided to authors in under 32 days; once accepted, papers are published in 7–10 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.

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