

Becoming a Scientific Writer: Putting ?why? before ?how?

GAVIN LUCAS

July 14, 2026 to July 15, 2026

09:30 to 17:30

Elements Room

Becoming a Scientific Writer - putting ?Why' before ?How' is a workshop that provides a holistic overview of the most important skills you will need to become an efficient and effective scientific writer. The aim of this workshop will be to help publishing scientists develop a more impartial, analytical view of their own writing behavior and of their readers' perception of the finished product.

Target group: PhD students and Post-doctoral researchers - Priority will be given to 2nd and 3rd year PhD students.

Available places: 12

Workshop Goal:

The goal of this workshop is to help publishing scientists develop a more impartial, analytical view of scientific writing, to better understand their readers as the focus for their scientific communication, and to make them more efficient writers and editors. Their writing will no longer be driven by a standard formula for ?How? to write a paper, but will be inspired by ?the question Why? Participants will develop a deeper understanding of the structure of scientific papers, with a renewed focus on the purpose of each section and the connections between them. They will gain a global framework for conceptualising the entire publishing process, how to create an expectation in the reader and then deliver on that expectation, and how to make the qualitative jump from a passive scientific account to an active scientific argument. Finally, we will explore some common problems of language construction that make scientist's writing unclear, and why we are prone to these problems; we will practice some intuitive editing.

Workshop Content:

Five stages of Publishing

Who is my reader?

Creating an Expectation: Destination and Roadmap

Building structure and connectivity: Guide Layer

From scientific report to a scientific argument: Sentence Outline

Writing for Readability - words, sentences, and paragraphs

Using AI in Scientific Writing

Training Methods:

This is an interactive workshop with extensive elements of partner work, exercises, group discussion. We use innovative training methods and proven didactic techniques, and place special emphasis on sharing and learning from the participants' own expertise and experience. To increase impact and applicability, we work with real-life cases from the participants whenever possible. We may ask participants to reserve time for individual

Trainer:

Dr. Gavin Lucas PhD is a scientist with 13 years of experience in biomedical research, and founder of TPM Science, where he has been an author's editor, consultant, and trainer since 2013. In addition to his own track-record as a publishing scientist on national, European and international research projects, he and his team at TPM Science have helped plan, critique, and polish over 700 original scientific articles for dozens of institutes in diverse fields, as well as more than 120 H2020 and Horizon Europe proposals. He also has extensive experience as a trainer on more than 300 workshops in transferable skills for researchers, and provides consultancy on training and scientific productivity at numerous research institutes, public agencies, charitable foundations, and private companies.

** If you require an accommodation to participate in this event due to a disability, please contact the Events Team at events@icfo.eu as soon as possible.

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