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 impartia
l,analytical view of scientific writing, to better understand their readers
s the focus for their scientific communication, and to make them more efficient
riters 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
f scientific papers, with a renewed focus on th
purpose of each section and the connections between them. They will gain a global frame
ork for conceptualising the entire publishing process, how to create an expect
tion 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 argum
nt. Finally, we will explore some common problems of language construction tha
make scientist's writing unclear, and
hy we are prone to these problems; we will practice some intuitive editin
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, exerc
ses, group discussion. We use innovative training methods and proven didactic techniq
es, and place special emphasis on sharing and learning from the partici
ants' own expertise and experience. To increase impact and applicability, we w
rk with real-life cases from the participants whenever possible. We may ask parti
ipants to reserve time for individu
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,
nd trainer since 2013. In addition to his own track-record as a publishing scient
st 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
ozens 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 tr
nsferable skills for researchers, and provides consultancy on training and scientific produ
tivity 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.
Hosted by: Academic Affairs