
Transversal Session on SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

***How Much Should We Consider the Impact Factor of the Journal
when Seeking where to Publish?***

Wednesday 7 July, 15:30-16:30

Organised by:

Adela Sanchez (Chairperson of BP2021) and
Gustavo A. Slafer (who will also Moderate the session)

Invited speakers: (see below a brief comment on them)

- **Enrique Playan** (Director of the AEI -the Spanish Agency for Research-, and Research Professor of CSIC)
- **Jorge E. Hirsch** (Professor, Univ. of California San Diego)
- **Manuel J. Reigosa** (Full Professor and Dean of the Univ. of Vigo)

Aim:

As scientists we know that **publishing our research in rigorous scientific journals is an integral part of our activity**. Publication of new knowledge in scientific journals is the foundational source of scientific knowledge. However, there are many scientific journals and every time we have to publish a paper we must decide to which journal we submit it for consideration. The journal in which we publish our papers might affect the likelihood of success of the paper as well as its presumed quality. **The Journal Impact Factor is a popular bibliometric index more or less qualifying the quality of journals**. Then, it may be more or less customary that **scientists consider the IF of the journal when deciding where to attempt to publish**.

The aim of this session is **to discuss ideas** (pros and cons) **on whether (and, if yes, how) we shall take into account the journal IF when deciding where to publish our work**. The focus of the discussion will be on two specific issues: whether or not the journal IF is relevant (i) **to maximise the impact of the individual papers**, and/or (ii) **to receive adequate recognition when the quality of the paper is evaluated**.

Dynamics:

The session will consist of **three brief presentations** by the invited speakers focusing on the two main aspects considered, followed by an **open debate** of c. 25 minutes **among all participants** (including the three invited speakers). The aim of the three brief presentations will be to trigger (and provide a framework for) the open debate. For the debate, participants will be able to activate their microphones and discuss directly (not just through a chat

system)

Brief comment on the invited speakers:

Enrique Playan is a well-recognised scientist in his field of knowledge but also has been involved in the evaluation of scientists and projects in the Ministry of Science in Spain as well as in the EU. Currently he is the Director of the AEI and therefore heading the main instrument of Spain to fund and promote scientific and technical research. Enrique's brief dissertation will focus on the importance (or lack of) of considering the IF of the journal to receive adequate recognition of our work when evaluating

Jorge E. Hirsch is not only a prolific scientist (in physics, and particularly on superconductivity) but also the author of one of the most revolutionary papers in the history of the evaluation of researchers in relation to their publications, where he created the h-index which soon after its publication began to be a common tool used globally to quantify scientific research output, harmonising quantity and quality very simply (PNAS 102, 16569-72; cited more than 5000 times). Jorge's brief dissertation will focus on his personal impression of the value of considering the journal IF when deciding where to publish taking into account either of the two specific issues of the session

Manuel J. Reigosa is the Dean of the Universidade de Vigo and a prolific plant-scientist, whose research publications had relevant impact (h-index 30, Web of Science "Core Collection") as well as Editor or member of the Editorial Board of several JCR-Journals. Reigosa's brief dissertation will focus on the meaning of the rankings for a university and how the Highly Cited Researchers and guarantors influence institutional evaluation.