Don’t Perish! A Step-by-Step Guide to Writing a Scientific Paper

Participants will learn how to align discoveries with the biological question, organize results for maximum impact, and apply simple techniques that immediately improve readability. Ideal for first-time authors and experienced researchers alike. Presented by Prof. Sophien Kamoun.

What: ViroiDoc Transferable skills online training

When: Thursday, 2 April 2026, 9:30–12:30 CET, Time Zone Converter.

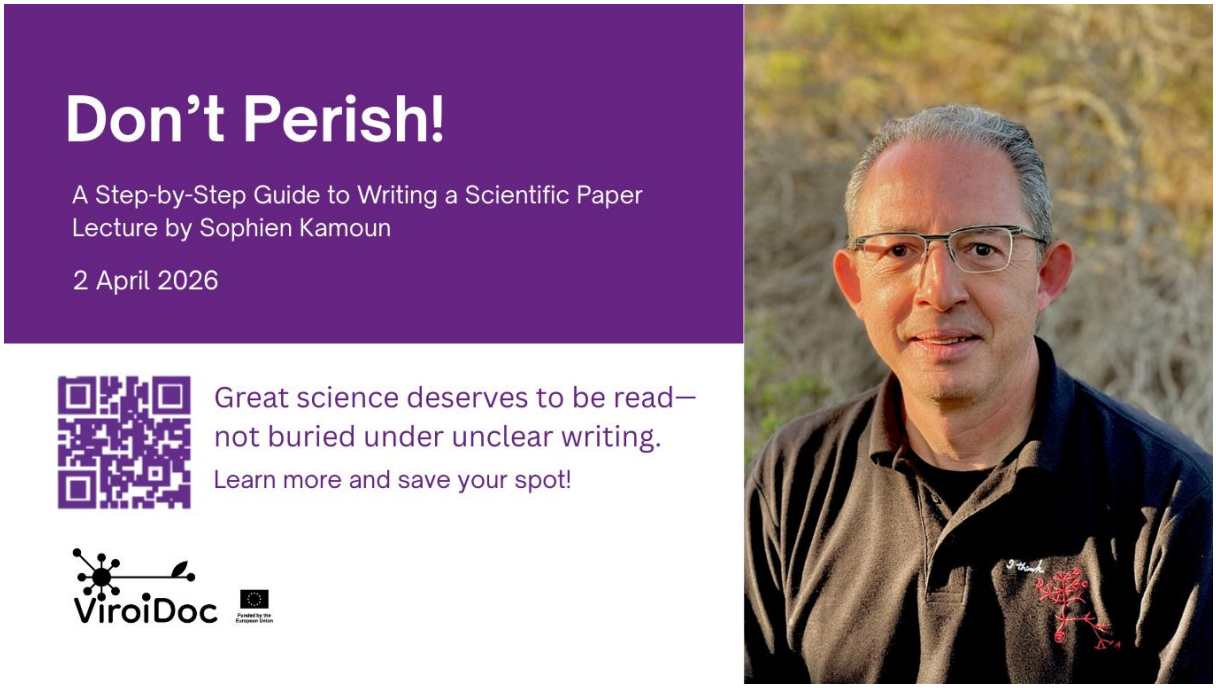
Where: Online, Webex. Registered participants will receive a link to the event before the training begins.

Register HERE. NOTE: Registration is limited to 50 places. We will accept registrations until all the places have been filled, but no later than 31 March. Please register only if you intend to attend. If you cannot make it, please cancel as soon as possible to info@viroidoc.eu so someone else can take your place.

This event in English is open to the public free of charge.

More information: info@viroidoc.eu

The organizer reserves the right to change the program.



Session Overview

Great science deserves to be read—not buried under unclear writing. “Don’t Perish!” is a practical, high-energy lecture that strips away the mystery of scientific writing and focuses on what actually makes papers succeed: a strong storyline, logical structure, and clear messaging. Participants will learn how to align discoveries with the biological question, organize results for maximum impact, and apply simple techniques that immediately improve readability. Ideal for first-time authors and experienced researchers alike.

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ViroiDoc - Advanced Research on Viroid Pathogenesis and Control for Agricultural Sustainability project is funded by the European Union within the Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Networks, Reference Number HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01-01, Marie Curie Grant Agreement Number: 101169421. E: info@viroidoc.eu, W: www.viroidoc.eu

Presenter

Sophien Kamoun is a Senior Scientist at The Sainsbury Laboratory and Professor of Biology at the University of East Anglia. Internationally recognized for pioneering work on plant diseases and immunity, he has developed genomics and molecular approaches that transformed understanding of eukaryotic plant pathogens and opened new paths to combat major crop diseases.

A champion of open science, Kamoun promotes preprints, transparent peer review, and open data to accelerate discovery. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and recipient of major honors including the Kuwait Prize and the Linnean Medal. He co-founded Resurrect Bio and GetGenome, initiatives advancing innovation and equitable access to genomics worldwide.

For more than 25 years, he has delivered the "Don't Perish" workshop to help early-career scientists communicate their work clearly and publish papers that matter.

Who Should Attend?

Researchers with little or no experience in paper writing, as well as anyone looking for practical strategies to strengthen their manuscripts.

Learning Objectives

- Understand what makes a scientific paper clear, persuasive, and memorable.
- Master the essential structure of a manuscript.
- Develop writing habits that improve clarity, flow, and impact.

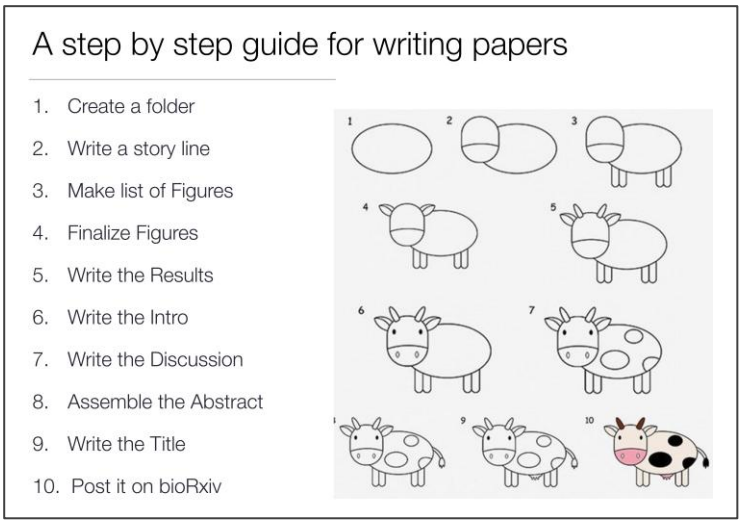
Prepare Before the Lecture (10–15 minutes)

To maximize the value of the session, participants are encouraged to bring an outline or draft of their manuscript (optional but strongly recommended).

Quick Pre-Lecture Exercise

1. Findings vs. Unknown

- What did your study discover? Capture your main finding in one simple sentence.
- What biological question or problem does this address? State the key unknown in a single sentence.
- Check that the finding and the unknown align logically—revise until they clearly match.
- Is this the strongest framing? Consider alternative versions of both the finding and the unknown.



2. Results & Storyline

- List your main results in bullet points.
- Decide on the best order to present them and sketch a rough storyline.
- Look for gaps in the narrative—what is missing to complete the story?
- Experiment with alternative structures to ensure the paper flows logically and engages a broad audience.

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