

Trainer



Prof. Dr. Sven Hendrix
Smartsciencecareer.com,
Hamburg

Prof. Dr. Sven Hendrix is Professor of Neuroanatomy and chairman of the Organoid Expertise Center at Medical School Hamburg. Previously, he served for more than a decade as Professor of Neuroanatomy and Director of the Doctoral School for Medicine & Life Sciences at Hasselt University, Belgium. He has supervised researchers across multiple career stages, organized over 100 scientific and career-development events, and runs the long-standing platform smartsciencecareer.com. He also writes and teaches about scientific careers, academic incentive systems, and research culture.

Should I Publish Negative Results, or Does This Ruin My Career?

Objective

Do you wonder what to do when a project produces negative or non-significant results? This realistic workshop on publication bias, scientific careers, and the hidden rules of academia will help you evaluate the scientific value of negative findings, understand the career implications of different publication strategies, and make informed decisions about difficult research outcomes. Participants will explore how publication incentives, impact factors, reviewer expectations, funding structures, and career pressures shape the handling of negative findings in modern academia. The workshop provides practical frameworks for navigating the tension between scientific integrity, publication success, and career development.

Description

Most researchers eventually face a frustrating situation: years of work and substantial effort lead to statistically non-significant or inconclusive findings. At that point, scientific ideals collide with academic incentives. This workshop examines the often unspoken “hidden rules” governing how academia handles negative findings. Participants will explore why negative findings are often difficult to publish, how they influence scientific careers, and how experienced researchers make decisions when projects fail to produce expected results. We will also discuss the controversial question of whether publishing negative findings may carry different risks and benefits at different career stages. Practical topics include pre-registration, repositories, journals accepting negative findings, and realistic publication and dissemination strategies for difficult datasets.

Methodology

The workshop combines conceptual input, real-world case discussions, structured reflection, and practical decision-making exercises. The overall approach is strongly discussion oriented. Input phases are deliberately kept short. The pedagogical core of the workshop lies in case analysis, structured peer discussion, reflection on participants’ own research situations, and practical decision-making exercises. The workshop is analytical rather than normative and focuses on the real complexity of modern academic incentive systems.

Target group

Recommended for participants with ongoing project experience.

Organizational Information

Language / Format	English / Online
Target group	Advanced Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs (R2/R3) from all faculties
Date	Wednesday, 10 February 2027, 10:00 – 14:00
Registration	For registration click here