

15<sup>th</sup> SYMPOSIUM OF  
BIAL FOUNDATION



## BEHIND AND BEYOND THE BRAIN

Aquém e Além do Cérebro  
End-of-life experiences

**T**he Bial Foundation was established in May 1994 by the Council of Rectors of Portuguese Universities and the Bial pharmaceutical company, with the patronage of the President of the Portuguese Republic. It aims at encouraging the scientific study of the human being from both the physical and spiritual perspectives.

Among its activities, the Bial Foundation manages awards in the field of health sciences, namely the Prémio Bial de Medicina Clínica, established in 1984, the Bial Award in Biomedicine, first awarded in 2019, and the Maria de Sousa Award, created in 2020 in partnership with the Portuguese Medical Association.

The Foundation also promotes two research funding programmes. Since 1994, a Grants Programme for Scientific Research, focusing on Psychophysiology and Parapsychology as research areas. To date, the Bial Foundation has approved 946 projects involving nearly 1,900 researchers from 31 countries, resulting in the publication of 2,232 articles in indexed journals (Scopus or Web of Science). Of these, 1,948 were published in journals with an average impact factor of 4.1, and 394 in journals with an impact factor equal to or greater than 5. By September 2025, the total number of citations had reached 59,997, with 758 publications cited more than 20 times. Since 2022, and in collaboration with ICBAS, the Foundation also manages the Nuno Grande Doctoral Scholarships, which support research in Fundamental Health Sciences carried out by medical PhD students at Portuguese universities.

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Casa do Médico - Porto  
April 8 to 11, 2026



**Bial**  
FOUNDATION

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



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There are no strict word limits, but guidelines for different types of submissions are given below. In all cases, authors should be as clear, direct, and concise as possible in their presentations. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to mandate revisions to the lengths of accepted papers in the interest of readability, accessibility, and space.

Contributions can be empirical research, critical or integrative reviews of the literature, position papers, policy perspectives, or comments and criticisms. Studies can adopt diverse methods, including qualitative, ethnographic, historical, survey, philosophical, case study, quantitative, experimental, quasi-experimental, data mining, and data analytics approaches.

### **A. REGULAR ARTICLES (~11K WORDS MAX)**

Primary research or interesting and important theoretical papers that foster the diversity and debate inherent to the scientific process. This entails novel or innovative ideas that have some ‘fragmentary’ experimental or empirical support but which can be evaluated with logic and open-mindedness to present academia with provocative hypotheses that would otherwise be rejected by most conventional journals.

1. All empirical results that have not been replicated should be called ‘preliminary’ with the findings treated as such. Peer-review and publication priority will be given to studies that are (a) pre-registered or (b) replications. Note that ‘replication’ can involve repeating the research procedure in a (nearly) identical separate study to be reported within the same paper (e.g., ‘Study 2: Replication’). Or, large datasets can be divided randomly into ‘Training’ and ‘Test (or Validation)’ sets, i.e., the research findings presented are those results that replicated in the Test set.
2. To promote stricter transparency and context for readers, all analyses where appropriate should provide effect size statistics in the form of direct percentages of either association (correlative analysis) or mean percentage differences (ANOVA, t-tests, etc.). In the case of correlative analysis, reported results shall report R<sup>2</sup> to provide a covariance percentage estimate. Mean tests shall provide a ‘percentage change’ indicating the actual percentage change between groups (e.g.,  $M = 3.44$  Group 1 versus  $M = 4.02$ , in Group 2, on a five-point scale is calculated by the following:  $ABS [M_1 - M_{2/5} (\text{scale range})] = 11.6\%$  shift or change in means). Standard effect statistics also are allowed, so long as the above percentage techniques are likewise reported. These statistics should be reported in results as ‘percentage effect’ and follow immediately after standard statistical analysis notation. For correlation, ( $r = .43$ ,  $p < .01$ , percentage effect = 18%), for means tests ( $M_1 = 3.44$  versus  $M_2 = 4.02$ ,  $t = 3.443$ ,  $p < .01$ , percentage effect = 11.6%).

### **B. SYSTEMATIC, NARRATIVE, AND SCOPING REVIEWS (~12K WORDS MAX)**

All meta-analyses and systematic reviews should include a PRISMA flow diagram to clarify for readers how the exclusion/inclusion criteria were applied to create the literature set under consideration: See <http://www.prisma-statement.org/>.

### **C. BRIEF REPORTS—RAPID PUBLICATIONS (~2K WORDS MAX)**

These are usually pilot studies, direct or conceptual replication attempts of previous work, case studies, brief evaluations, reviews, or ‘citizen scientist’ efforts that are unique, first-time reports, with no more than two tables and/or figures and 10 references. This rapid publication option is especially appropriate for graduate-level student studies, pilot or preliminary research, or descriptions of important new methods or instrumentation. These reports are subject to blinded peer review in the same manner as research articles. Authors should follow all requirements for longer manuscripts when submitting Brief Reports, including that they have not been submitted or published elsewhere.



## D. BOOK AND MULTIMEDIA REVIEWS (~2K WORDS MAX)

Structured for readability and utility in which the content is suitably contextualized and includes links to general model-building or theory-formation in the respective domain(s). Please use the following headers or otherwise incorporate these themes into the review: (a) Author Disclosures; (b) Content Overview; (c) Pros, Cons, and the Book's Contributions to the Literature; (d) Recommendation; and (e) References (if applicable). For an example, see: <https://www.spr.ac.uk/book-review/poltergeist-night-side-physics-keith-linder>.

Multimedia reviews can cover films, documentaries, recorded presentations or symposia, video series and reports, websites that are comprehensive resources, software for scholars, and even peer-reviewed articles in other journals that are pertinent to frontier science. Submissions are now being accepted, and authors should note that these multimedia reviews should include four components: (a) Introduction; (b) Summary of the Media Content; (c) Description of the Value of the Media to the Journal's Readership; and (d) Critique of the Media. These components need not constitute major sections, but each issue should be clearly addressed in the submission. We strongly encourage prospective authors to discuss their topic for a multimedia review with the subsection Editor Mel Larrosa prior to submission: [mel.larrosa@yahoo.com](mailto:mel.larrosa@yahoo.com)

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Important conceptual or philosophical commentaries, observations, or arguments to spark constructive discussion or debate relative to theory, methodology, or practice.

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Must address substantive issues relative to recently published content in the Journal.

## SUBMISSIONS (A) TO (C), and (E) AS APPROPRIATE, MUST ALSO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

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