

### FASC Newsletter 5, May 2020

The world is still dominated by the impact of the corona virus on the workplace and very few face-toface conferences or workshops will be held in 2020. Social distancing has proven to be an effective control mechanism to restrict the virus spread and this will limit interactions in the near future. But it is clear that other options to present and discuss research results will need to be developed. One this the recent twitter poster event held https://www.rsc.org/events/detail/43176/2020-rscposter-twitter-conference. The upcoming IUPAC Green Chemistry workshop will also be an experiment to run an international workshop using ZOOM (see the newsletter). As always - opportunities will be presented by this new world order and some funding opportunities are listed in the newsletter. Stay safe.

Neil Coville

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Nature Research Awards for Inspiring and Innovating Science

• Commonwealth Chemistry







Commonwealth Chemistry Congress CANCELLED

### Conferences

26th International Conference on Chemistry Education, Cape Town 2021 NEW DATES The Chemical Society of Nigeria (CSN) 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Conference

### **POSTPONED**

10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Kenya Chemical Society, Kenya Hypothesis XV, Cape Town, June 2020

### Information for the newsletter

Please send all information to either Beth (<u>admin@faschem.org</u>), Emmanuel Ohaekenyem (<u>ec.ohaekenyem@unizik.edu.ng</u>) or to me (<u>neil.coville@wits.ac.za</u>)

Beth has placed all earlier newsletters on the FASC website.

## Advertising in the FASC newsletter

The newsletter will provide a means of getting messages to our member countries. This newsletter thus provides a means of advertising employment opportunities, conferences and workshops, and even for companies/Universities to promote themselves. We encourage member countries to use the Newsletter for advertising purposes. All conferences and events will be advertised for free; if not a FASC country, or related event there could be a small charge. For advertising costs, contact Beth in the FASC office

### **FASC** member countries

We are currently attempting to upgrade our country membership list. There is a small charge associated with membership. Please contact the treasurer, Prof Yonas Chebude for information (yonasc@faschem.org; yonasdb1@yahoo.com).

### Corona virus data

## i) Covid-19 Africa Rapid Grant Fund



### **COVID-19 AFRICA RAPID GRANT FUND**

## Call for Applicants - Researchers; Science and Health Journalists and Communicators; and Science Advisers

The fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa requires coordinated, responsive research as well as effective, evidence-based communication and science engagement.

The approximately USD4.75million COVID-19 Africa Rapid Grant Fund is a collaboration that aims to address research questions and support communities of science journalists and communicators on the African continent, in efforts to produce and disseminate







coordinated science communication outputs that will allow readers access to factual information and analysis to inform their actions and challenge misinformation. The partnership, under the auspices of the <u>Science Granting Councils Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI)</u> includes the <u>National Research Foundation (NRF)</u> South Africa, <u>South Africa's Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)</u>, <u>Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC)</u>, <u>Fonds de Recherche du Québec (FRQ)</u>, the <u>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)</u>, <u>United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID)</u>, the <u>United Kingdom Research and Innovation</u> (UKRI) through the Newton Fund, and the SGCI participating councils.

### Scope of the COVID-19 Africa Rapid Grant Fund

The Rapid Grant Fund supports **three strands** in respect of research and science engagement:

- 1. Research covering a list of research areas on: the COVID-19 virus, prevention and control, the African health governance system, socio-cultural dynamics of transmission, science engagement, mental health, and vulnerability.
- 2. Science engagement: Science and health journalists and communicators covering a list of topics to support efforts to produce and disseminate coordinated science communication outputs that will allow readers access to factual information and analysis to inform their actions and challenge misinformation.
- 3. Science engagement: Science advisers a strand to support national African academies of science, African national Young Academies of Science and the INGSA Africa chapter to provide rapid science advice in support of regional and continental responses to COVID-19.

## Eligibility Criteria

- Researchers and science engagement practitioners from the following countries are
  eligible to apply: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya,
  Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia,
  Zimbabwe, and, in the context of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA),
  Nigeria and South Africa.
- For the Research Strand (1) and applicable only to Nigeria and South Africa, only ARUA member universities will be eligible to participate. Non-ARUA universities from South Africa and Nigeria may collaborate with ARUA members, and any other universities across the countries abovementioned to participate in this call. In the context of implementing the SGCI and to build on existing continental networks, this call is focused on ARUA universities who, through the ARUA Centres of Excellence Initiative and additional collaborative research initiatives, have collectively been working together with counterparts in the ARUA network to respond to COVID-19.
- For the two Strands on Science Engagement [(2) and (3)], practitioners across all the 17 countries, including from Nigeria and South Africa may apply.

### **Applications**

Applications must be submitted on the NRF Online Submission System at <a href="https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za">https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za</a>. Applications should be submitted in English or French.

The framework and application guidelines, application templates, and additional call documents are available as follows:

English: https://www.nrf.ac.za/division/funding/covid-19-africa-rapid-grant-fund

French: <a href="https://www.nrf.ac.za/division/funding/fonds-de-recherche-et-d%E2%80%99">https://www.nrf.ac.za/division/funding/fonds-de-recherche-et-d%E2%80%99</a>interventions-rapides-contre-la-covid-19-en-afrique







Peer review (research strand) and evaluation (science engagement strands) will be conducted in accordance with NRF policy.

## **Closing Date**

17 June 2020

### **Contacts**

For programme/content related queries:

Thabo Dikgale, Email: thabo.dikgale@nrf.ac.za

Kholofelo Mampeule, Email:kholofelo.mampeule@nrf.ac.za

For technical and granting queries:

Mr Jan Phalane, Email: jan.phalane@nrf.ac.za Mpho Baloyi, Email: mpho.baloyi@nrf.ac.za

<u>Colleagues from science granting councils across the 15 SGCI participating countries can be contacted as per the list on Table 1 in the framework and application guidelines found here:</u>

https://www.nrf.ac.za/division/funding/covid-19-africa-rapid-grant-fund

## ii) Some useful sites for hard data

### A chemist's guide to disinfectants

Has your local store run out of sanitizing wipes? This cheat sheet can help you find and understand alternatives

May 25, 2020

C&EN Digital Magazine

Craig A. Bettenhausen

https://cendigitalmagazine.acs.org/2020/05/20/a-chemists-guide-to-disinfectants-3/content.html

### lots of data

https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus

https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/

Stats and models

https://peterattiamd.com/covid-19-whats-wrong-with-the-models/

### ABC Chem Conference 2021(or 2022?)

It is possible that this event may be moved to 2022. But for the present: this event will be held at the Palais des congrès –Marrakech, Morocco from 14-18 December 2021. FASC will be hosting the event.

We are hoping to have an excellent turnout from African member countries at this event. More information will be made available in the months ahead.









## **FASC Country News**

## i) Nigeria: CSN Training Workshop for Chemistry Teachers

This event was held at the 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND 4<sup>TH</sup> AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH IN CHEMISTRY EDUCATION (ACRICE) tagged "(EKO 2019)" held between 8 – 13<sup>TH</sup> September, 2019, Lagos. The CSN and ACRICE 4 capacity training workshop for chemistry teacher took place on Wednesday, 11th September 2019 at the Conference Hall of Academy Inn located at plot 6, Lateef Jakande Road, by ACME Road, Agidingbi, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria between 09:00 hrs – 17:00 hrs.

A total of fifty four participants were in attendance. This included, 36 participants from both private and public secondary schools in Lagos State, 6 participants from Kebbi, Kogi, Akwa Ibom, Edo, Delta and Bayelsa States of Nigeria, 2 foreign participants from a Private Secondary School in Lagos, 4 participants from Institutions of Higher Institution of learning, 2 participants from National Examination Council (NECO), 2 participants from the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and 2 participants from Private Educational Institutions The workshop was declared opened with a brief remarks by Prof Sunday Olawale Okeniyi, the President, Chemical Society of Nigeria (CSN). Also in attendance at the workshop was the Immediate Past President of CSN, who is also the current Vice President of the Federation of African Societies of Chemistry (FASC) and the Chairman of ACRICE, Prof Gloria Ukalina Obuzor including other national council members and executive members of CSN Lagos Chapter.

Highlights of the Lectures delivered at the workshop are as tabulated below:







## TRAINING SCHEDULE

		TRAINING SCHEDULE	
	TOPICS	FACILITATORS	HIGHLIGHTS
1.	Teaching the Chemistry that serves Society; No Alternative to Practical	Prof. Rufus Sha'ato  Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi	Modifying the chemistry curriculum and framing policy at the Secondary School to make practicals a must-do with industry
			participation, computer aided teaching modules, innovative teaching approach with hands-on studies
2.	Qualitative Analysis	Pastor Ebinum Chukwuma  Delta Careers College, Ugburuke / Edwin Clark University – Kiagbodo, Delta State	Practical demonstration on Analysis of anions.
3.	Safety and Security issues in Secondary Schools' Chemistry Laboratory	Adeyinka O. Fasakin Department of Industrial Chemistry Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti	Chemical Safety & Security. Accidents & Theft, misuse & Abuse, Ethics of Safety. Chemical handling in the laboratory.  Standard Operating Procedure for handling corrosive, explosive chemicals, laboratory safety, fire prevention, Gas burner usage, and classification of chemicals of concern.
4.	Redox Titrations and Preparation of Standard Solutions	Pastor Ebinum Chukwuma	Practicals on Titration of Ethanedionate ions with Potassium Manganate (VII) including Calculations with examples.  Practical illustration with calculations involved.
5.	Safety in the Laboratory and General Environment	Mr. Olusoji Olapade.  Lagos State Safety Commission,	Project illustrations of Safety Ethics and prevention of accidents.
6.	Use of virtual Laboratory in Teaching Chemistry	Mr. Okeh Ochulo CSN Lagos State Chapter. (Public Relations Officer)	Practical demonstration of virtual laboratory in teaching experimental chemistry
7.	Use of Microsoft.com in preparation of lesson notes and chemistry teaching	Facilitators from Microsoft Ltd.	Demonstration of software for preparing Chemistry lesson notes

All the teachers and other participants commended and appreciated the CSN and ACRICE for a timely eye opening and interesting workshop such as this; everyone requested that CSN and ACRICE should organize a more elaborate workshop with longer duration.









CSN President, Prof Sunday O. Okeniyi (With Microphone) delivering his opening address at the workshop while the duo of Professor Prof Pius Ukoha, CSN Vice President and Professor Victor Njoku, CSN National Secretary watches in admiration.

Report: Prof Sunday

## ii) Nigeria: First Women in Chemistry Webinar

The First Women in Chemistry (Nigeria) Webinar with the Theme, "Professional Advancement of Women Chemists in a Dynamic World" was held via GoToMeeting online platform on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020. Over Eighty Two (82) participants attended the webinar session, which was moderated by Dr. Cynthia N. Ibeto, the National Coordinator of Women in Chemistry (Nigeria).

The first Speaker was Professor Omowunmi Sadik, a Distinguished Professor and Chair in the Department of Chemistry and Environmental Science at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. She spoke on "Women in Chemistry: From Challenges to Opportunities for Advancement". She encouraged the Women Chemists to be persistent, see beyond their limitations, turn these into opportunities and never be afraid to challenge the conventional Wisdom.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker was Dr. Gillian Ogbene Igbum, the Deputy Director of the African Centre of Excellence, Centre for Food Technology and Research, Benue State University. She also spoke on "Advancement of Women Chemists in a Dynamic World". She emphasized that Women Chemists must be proactive in developing their professional career by adopting changes that may arise and carrying out extensive Research and Development in partnership with the Industry and Academia.

There were questions from the participants on mentoring, family work-life balance and research opportunities which were addressed. The President of the Chemical Society of Nigeria, Prof. Sunday O. Okeniyi thanked the Speakers and pledged that the two papers presented would be published in the next edition of CSN News; the quarterly Newsletter of the Chemical Society of Nigeria.

Dr. Ibeto ended the program by encouraging the Women to improve their communication skills, have high-profile women role models and endeavor to make impact in their organizations. The Women were very happy with the Webinar and requested for such programs in the future.









PROF. OMOWUNMI SADIK, Distinguished Professor and Chair, New Jersey Institute of Technology, United States of America (USA).



DR (MRS.) GILLIAN OGBENE IGBUM Deputy Director, African Centre of Excellence Centre for Food Technology and Research, Benue State University, Makurdi, Nigeria.



DR CYNTHIA IBETO,
Senior Lecturer, Department of Industrial Chemistry,
University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.
National Coordinator, CSN Women in Chemistry, Nigeria.

Report: Prof Sunday

## **Young Chemists News**

### i) International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN)

The International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN) is an organization that connects chemists under the age of 35 or those who received their last chemistry-related training (e.g. Ph.D., Postdoc) within the last five years. We strive to spread scientific knowledge, enable professional mentorship, and encourage a passion for chemistry in our members and the wider community. For this purpose, we collaborate with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), of which we are an associated organization. Our goal is to reach like-minded scientists globally, and we have six steering committees that are focused on achieving this goal: Public Outreach, Finance, Social Media, Governance, Conference Presence, and International Society Liaison. Our aim is to stand as a voice for younger chemists and maintain a strong international conference presence while creating a platform for young chemists to connect across the globe. As of now, we are seeking delegates for the 01/2021-12/2022 term, and to update our current IYCN delegates if they ceased their role. Through our delegates and members, we are working hard to promote IYCN to the general chemistry community, so that we can develop, grow, and fulfill our vision for this organization. We are looking to identify two IYCN delegates from each country. These representatives should be highly motivated and willing to







donate their time, energy, and experience to help IYCN reach and support as many of our members as possible, hence fulfilling the vision of a global connection for all younger chemists around the globe. Prior knowledge of IYCN by the delegates would be a bonus but is not required.

While we are eager to offer our resources and tools to your members, we also hope to add value to your organization by more broadly sharing relevant news, conferences, or information that you wish to disseminate.

At this stage, we are building up a database of contacts, and if you agree, we will add your e-mail address to this. Please let us know. We will then get in touch with you when there are potentially interesting IYCN projects for your organization, and you can reach out to us when your organization plans activities that could be of interest to IYCN.

Moreover, each country is represented by two young chemists' delegates within IYCN. We are now calling for nominations for the two delegates for the 01/2021-12/2022 term until October 31st, 2020 (see details attached; e-mail: <a href="mailto:iycn.delegates@gmail.com">iycn.delegates@gmail.com</a>). The 2019-2020 SA delegate(s) of your country are myself and Kudzai Mugadza.

Join our mailing list to stay up-to-date with IYCN news: <a href="https://www.iycnglobal.com/">https://www.iycnglobal.com/</a>

**Bianca Leigh Davids,** Postgraduate Research Student, School of Chemistry, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

## ii) Green Chemistry Postgraduate Summer School

All the necessary modifications regarding the new organization method are available at the website www.unive.it/ssgc and ONLINE - Postgraduate Summer School on Green Chemistry - IUPAC | International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

Aurelia Visa, Chair of Summer School on Green Chemistry

E-mail:green.chemistry@unive.it

Web: www.unive.it/ssgc

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/greenchemvenice2020/

Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/greenchemsummer">https://twitter.com/greenchemsummer</a>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/greenchemsummer/







The School will be held in Venice from 4th to 10h July 2020 <a href="www.unive.it/ssgc">www.unive.it/ssgc</a>. <a href="https://iupac.org/event/postgraduate-summer-school-on-green-chemistry/">https://iupac.org/event/postgraduate-summer-school-on-green-chemistry/</a>

This Summer School follows the outcomes of the Symposium "Chemistry addressing UN-17 sustainable development goals" (Paris, IUPAC General Assembly and Congress, 8th July 2019 <a href="https://www.iupac2019.org/sympo-8-5">https://www.iupac2019.org/sympo-8-5</a>). Outstanding teachers, major chemical







industries, top level students will be participating. The 2020 Summer School will be limited to 80 students with 20 teachers. The fee is 600 € + VAT for 6 days in Venice, all included. There may be 35 grants for students from less advantaged Countries, contact the organizer directly. green.chemistry@unive.it









Venice, April 8th 2020

### Post-graduate Green Chemistry Summer School 2020 by remote

### Dear Student,

These difficult times forced us to deliver the post-graduate Green Chemistry Summer School 2020 by remote. The website <a href="www.unive.it/ssgc">www.unive.it/ssgc</a> is restructured accordingly and will be constantly updated.

Actually, more than before, the present situation asks us to meet the expectations of these of you who, just at the crucial moment of their life, find themselves unable to take advantage from important meetings in the absence of conferences, at a time crucial to their life.

I would like to recall that the aim of the School is to disseminate good, advanced and basic chemical sciences and related disciplines and scientific know-how for their future professional careers in a mature and responsible way.

The preliminary scientific program is not changed, but will be implemented; however, all the necessary modifications regarding the new organization method will be available shortly, so please check our website for further information. www.unive.it/ssgc and https://iupac.org/event/postgraduate-summer-school-ongreen-chemistry/.

Some most important changes are:

- The Summer School on Green Chemistry, 6-10 July 2020, will be held on-line (technical aspect will be defined later, before May 30th)
- The registration fee is reduced to 60 Euro

If you wish to participate, you need to apply to the Green Chemistry Summer School 2020 by online platform; Deadline is June 1st, 2020.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdvZg32ExVRC9fWW9mbKJJuFEcJuL gnuNraGzUhXuxiErqKBg/viewform









## African Journal of Chemical Education (AJCE)

A PDF version of the January 2020 is available. The online version is available at the FASC website: <a href="www.faschem.org">www.faschem.org</a>, under Journal) and the AJOL website (<a href="www.ajol.info">www.ajol.info</a>). Table of Contents:

Dr. Temechegn Engida e-mail: temechegne@faschem.org, t.engida@unesco.org;

### **African Journals of Chemistry**

## • Journal of the Kenya Chemical Society (JKCS)

This is a peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary chemistry journal published by the Kenya Chemical Society (KCS). JKCS publishes findings from all areas of chemistry including organic, inorganic, physical, analytical, materials chemistry and nanoscience, computational chemistry and environmental chemistry. JKCS also publishes reviews in all areas of chemistry. Published articles are available at <a href="https://kenyachemicalsociety.org/journals">https://kenyachemicalsociety.org/journals</a>. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor-in-Chief at <a href="eic.jkcs@gmail.com">eic.jkcs@gmail.com</a> for processing and peer-review.

## • Chemistry Africa.

A Journal of the Tunisian Chemical Society

https://www.springer.com/chemistry/journal/42250?utm\_source=hybris&utm\_medium=e mail&utm\_content=internal&utm\_campaign=JFTT\_2\_aww\_2018newjournals

### • Journal of the Mauritanian Chemical Society (JMCS)

Publishes research articles and conference proceedings in English or French. This is published online at: <a href="http://www.scmauritania.org/journal-scm">http://www.scmauritania.org/journal-scm</a>; M A Sanhoury, JMCS Coordination Editor

### South African Journal of Chemistry

This Journal is published electronically. The webpage is: <a href="http://www.saci.co.za/">http://www.saci.co.za/</a>, Details of the journal and the editors can be seen at <a href="http://www.journals.co.za/sajchem/">http://www.journals.co.za/sajchem/</a>. The South African Journal of Chemistry, published by the South African Chemical Institute, has been publishing high quality papers, in all fields of Chemistry for over 100 years. The Journal went fully electronic in 2000 and is freely available through open access online (<a href="http://reference.sabinet.co.za/sa">http://reference.sabinet.co.za/sa</a> epublication/chem).

### • African Corrosion Journal (online).

Commenced in 2015 – a peer reviewed corrosion journal. This journal may be of interest to the "practical" chemists amongst the SACI membership. https://view.publitas.com/icp-1/african-corrosion-journal

## • African Journal of Chemical Education

Enquiries and manuscripts should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief: email <u>eic@faschem.org</u>, PO Box 2305, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. *AJCE*, 2016, 6(1) ISSN 2227-5835 The online version appears in the FASC website (<u>www.faschem.org</u>) and in the AJOL website (<u>www.ajol.info</u>).

- South African Journal of Science TOC@assaf.org.za
- Journal of the Chemical Society of Nigeria csnjournals@gmail.com; csnjournals@yahoo.com; editor@chemsocnigeria.org







## • Bulletin of the Chemical Society of Ethiopia http://www.ajol.info/index.php/bcse/index

### • South African Journal of Chemical Engineering

A fully open access journal <a href="http://www.journals.elsevier.com/south-african-journal-of-chemical-engineering/">http://www.journals.elsevier.com/south-african-journal-of-chemical-engineering/</a>

### • African Journal of Pure and Applied Chemistry

EditorialOffice: ajpac@academicjournals.org; helpdesk: helpdesk@academicjournals.org; URL: www.academicjournals.org/journal/AJPAC

### • Scientific African

Published by the <u>Next Einstein Forum</u> in collaboration with Elsevier. <u>https://www.journals.elsevier.com/scientific-african</u>

### **American Chemical Society**



## i) ACS Report on Global Chemical Society Survey on COVID-19 Responses-April 2020

In an effort to gauge the needs and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic from the global chemistry community, the American Chemical Society (ACS) conducted outreach to its established partner chemical societies around the world. As a follow-up to multiple messages from society leaders, ACS External Affairs & Communications organized a brief survey to better understand the critical needs facing chemical societies. Participating societies were asked to have a member of their senior leadership, such as Executive Director or President, complete the survey and provide a brief overview of some of their challenges and successes during this time.

In addition to standard questions regarding contact information and general feedback, the survey consisted of nine questions, including:

- What challenges have your members experienced with the COVID-19 crisis?
- What challenges has your society experienced with the COVID-19 crisis?
- What resources are members seeking from your association?
- What kind of assistance would you like to see from the global scientific community during and following the COVID-19 crisis?
- What are your thoughts on having a webinar with an expert (possibly from U.S. academia) and other chemical society presidents?
- Has your society received requests from government or civil society organizations for guidance or assistance related to COVID-19 (e.g. asked to serve as an expert)? If so, please explain.
- Does your society have any success stories or resources related to addressing the COVID-19 crisis that you'd be willing to share? If so, please share them below.
- What are the best ways to receive information and stay connected? Please select all that apply.
- Would you like for ACS to follow-up with you for a phone call regarding your scientific society and COVID-19?







ACS reached out to partner organizations which have current or pending Chemistry Enterprise Partnerships (CEP's) with ACS as well as to chemical federations worldwide, including: the European Chemical Society (EuChemS), the Federation of African Societies of Chemistry (FASC), the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (FACS) and the Latin American Federation of Chemical Associations (FLAQ). 15 societies participated in the survey including societies from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and Oceania.

### Responses

Survey respondents indicated challenges from across the spectrum from lab/research management to ensuring students have adequate financial resources to survive. From the survey results, ACS staff identified recurring themes and requests that were widespread in survey responses, including:

- Information: Survey respondents indicated that knowledge, or lack thereof, related to COVID-19 was one of the greatest challenges impacting their operations. Specific examples included: o Request for information of how other chemical societies were actively responding to COVID-19 including beneficial and ineffective actions.
- o Information on how to assist members during this unusual time period.
- o Proliferation of 'fake news,' ineffectual sanitizing products, and therapeutic techniques.
- Supplies/PPE: Two-thirds of survey participants indicated that lack of supplies, including PPE, was a problem in their country. Many societies had donated available PPE from university labs and worked on ways to produce and distribute hand sanitizer solution/gel in member laboratories to meet local needs. Other groups requested information on how to appropriately produce and distribute hand sanitizers/disinfectants.
- Revenue: The cancellation of meetings and conferences worldwide deprives many societies of financial resources needed to run programming and support the chemical enterprise.
- Concern: Many societies expressed concern about colleagues and students missing invaluable time in the laboratory; falling behind on research that cannot be conducted remotely.
- Virtual Engagement: A majority of survey respondents indicated that they and their membership would be open to engaging with other groups in virtual environments (e.g. panels, webinars) on COVID-19 or other leading topics.

Each society had an opportunity to leave comments specific to their country or national need. Selected responses are below. Please note, in order to protect privacy, names and countries were omitted.

- Fighting against fake/ineffective sanitation products this chemical society has been working with government agencies in identifying fake products. Disruption of annual high school teacher training. Request access to other chemical society's publications and education materials. Interest in webinars, but request access the day after broadcast due to poor internet connection.
- Want support for microlabs, access to "special grade chemicals," how to produce hand sanitizer, and lab safety.
- Concern about social/mental health implications of social distancing, request for "leeway in journal reviewing," and online networking.
- Resources for professional development, suggestions during and after the pandemic including providing access to resources for continuing professional development for chemists. After the pandemic: conduct an analysis of the supply chains for various chemicals, review chemical waste management, and focus on the development of new circular plastic materials.
- Noted challenges in giving training courses and looking for funding.
- Students worried about falling behind ("the lost year"), want help with access to equipment, and suggest the creation of a "global community charity."
- All events will be virtual through June.
- Idea for academic network for Covid response, and working on natural products gel delivery with antiviral properties.







- Interest in accessing journals from other editorial houses/attending webinar/seminars on the topic with experts and organizing panel with researchers on how chemistry can understand COVID-19.
- "Problem of displacement and execution of missions outside the territory;" they have started several initiatives to fight pandemic including therapeutic trials, molecular biology, etc. Government funding is required, but they have received requests for quality PPE testing and antiseptic production.
- Members having trouble getting food, and small/medium chemical businesses are suffering. Rescheduling for virtual events isn't an option as many members can't afford internet at home.

**Potential Actions** ACS is exploring how it can continue to work together with the global chemistry enterprise to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. From the survey, ACS has collected recommendations on how to respond and is exploring feasibility of some of the selected responses below.

- Virtual event with global chemistry society leaders to discuss a united community response.
- Virtual event with scientific leadership from relevant multilateral institution (such as WHO or other UN agency) to receive guidance on how societies could contribute to COVID-19 response and recovery. This could be 1 call, or divided into 2 calls: one aimed at academia and one at industry.
- ACS Webinar on how to keep research going without lab access. Additionally, daily free ACS webinars are currently being offered list available at www.acs.org/webinars

### Resources

- ACS has launched SciMeetings-an online science-sharing platform. Uploaded presentations are available for viewing by interest chemists worldwide, for free.
- ACS, ACS Publications and CAS have created a COVID-19 library of available resources freely accessible to the global chemistry community, including: o Datasets on antiviral candidate compounds
- o Report on potential therapeutics and vaccines for COVID-19
- o Chemistry related to coronavirus research across 60 peer reviewed journals
- o Preprint coronavirus research available on ChemRxiv
- o Resources for chemical education community and the transition to e-learning

ACS staff ran the survey results through a word cloud generator that produced this image: Partner societies are encouraged to visit the ACS website for free C&EN articles related to the virus, access to virtual education resources, explore the CAS COVID-19 Antiviral Candidate Compounds Dataset, and more. All COVID-19 related ACS resources are available at www.acs.org/COVID-19

ACS would like to thank the participants of this survey for their time and contributions to better understanding the global chemistry community response to the coronavirus pandemic. Any additional suggestions or ideas for events to be coordinated by ACS are welcome. Feedback or questions regarding this survey should be directed to Lori Brown (L Brown2@acs.org) or Christopher LaPrade (c laprade@acs.org).

Lori Brown; Senior Manager | External Affairs & Communications www.acs.org

## **African Academy of Sciences**







## i) Funding bold African innovations addressing health and development challenges

Nairobi, Kenya, 22 May 2020 - The African Academy of Sciences' has today announced its second Grand Challenges Africa (GC Africa) 'Transition to Scale' call with a commitment of more than US\$ 4 million to accelerate innovations with the highest potential for impact and sustainable scalability needed to achieve SDGs. "We are fully committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through rapidly scaling up and harnessing bold scientific innovations that show potential to provide sustainable solutions to complex health and developmental challenges faced by African countries." Professor Nelson Torto, Executive Director of the African Academy of Sciences.

A recent survey conducted by GC Africa cited that scale up funding was a key need of African innovators to enable them to translate their ideas from the laboratory to communities.

Through the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), a second call for funding has been announced to address the challenges and support the scaling and sustainability of health interventions in Africa. The Transition to Scale call for applications will be opened for a period of six weeks, from 22nd May 2020 at 1700hrs EAT to 30th June 2020 at 2300hrs EAT. Post proof on concept innovators specializing in health and wellbeing, environment and climate change, social sciences and humanities, natural sciences and policy and governance who are positioned to scale-up their innovative solutions for the attainment of the SDGs are encouraged to submit their applications. Final applications will be evaluated by the GC Africa decision committee based on key criteria such as the ability to demonstrate integrated innovation, impact, entrepreneurship, smart partnerships, sustainability, execution and compliance. The mentorship, training, networking and collaboration opportunities offered will help build the capacity of the innovations and fast track the potential to reach scale for lasting outcomes.

### Eligibility requirements

Applications should be channeled through the <u>Ishango Grants Management System</u> and need to meet the criteria below.

*Eligible applicants:* 

- Non-profit organization, for-profit company, or another recognized institution that is incorporated in an eligible jurisdiction in Africa and can receive and administer funding.
- Founders or Principal Investigators (PIs) should be African Citizens or residents of Africa. Where there is local international ownership, applicants should have adequate control to make executive decisions about the project. They should demonstrate a strong grip on research expertise (being the PI or collaborator) and ownership of the venture.
- Previous or current grantee of various organizations including Grand Challenges family (Grand Challenges Explorations by Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Africa, USAID- Centre for Development Innovation, Grand Challenges Canada, Grand Challenges South Africa and Grand Challenges Ethiopia), other innovation incubators and accelerators and partners who align with Grand Challenges Africa priorities will be invited to recommend innovators in their pipeline to apply for the funding.
- Projects that have demonstrated proof of concept by presenting sufficient and credible evidence to substantiate that their idea has demonstrated improved health and development outcome(s) and/or the reduction of significant barrier(s)







- to health / development and demand for the solution in a controlled or limited setting and have a plan to transition to scale.
- Any project from the Grand Challenges Family that has a Transition-to-Scale agreement with requirement for 1:1 matching through partnerships will be eligible for this funding.
- Most of the applicant's activities and budget must be carried out/spent in an eligible African country (or countries). If the nature of the proposal means that a significant amount of funding will not be spent in one of these eligible jurisdictions, applicants must provide strong reasoning and convincing arguments that ultimately the proposal will benefit people in those countries.
- A Project Lead may only be listed on one (1) application to this Request for Proposals. An institution may be the applicant on multiple applications, provided all applications have different Project Leads.
- Applications must include all required information. Only complete applications will be considered by the triage and review committees.

### **Funding scope**

The funding available for the Transition to scale round 2 ranges from \$100,001 to \$1,000,000. The selected innovators will be funded through grants or a blend between Grant and a debt. Invited grantees are eligible to apply for a follow-on transition to scale or scaling grant with a term of up to thirty-six (36) months.

This is an Open Call. Visit the Grand Challenges Africa webpage for more information.

### **Grand Challenges Africa**

The Grand Challenges family of initiatives seeks to engage innovators from around the world to solve science, technology and innovation, health and developmental challenges. Grand Challenges initiatives are united by their focus on fostering innovation, directing research to where it will have the most impact, and serving those most in need. The Grand Challenges Africa (GC Africa) scheme is part of the family and seeks to promote Africa-led scientific innovations to help countries better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by awarding seed and full grants to the continent's most impressive solutions. The AAS through its agenda setting, funding and programme implementation platform, the Alliance for Accelerating Science in Africa (AESA) implements GC Africa in partnership with the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. **Swedish** International **Development Cooperation** Agency (Sida) The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, is Sweden's government agency for development cooperation. It works on behalf of the Swedish parliament and government with the aim of implementing Swedish development policies. The goal is to enable people living in poverty and oppression to improve their lives. Sida does not implement the aid interventions but works in partnership with other actors. Sida's role is to allocate financial resources and to develop knowledge and competence, while our partners manage and execute the projects. Each country is responsible for its own development, and our local partners always have the best solutions for local problems. The portfolio of the Research Cooperation Unit at Sida is guided by a strategy from the Swedish government that promotes capacity-building for research in low/lower-middle income countries, research of high quality and innovations that are of relevance to poverty reduction and sustainable development in low/lower-middle income countries and regions. www.sida.se/english







### **Enquiries:**

Issue 05 May 2020

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### **RSC-PACN** news



As an organisation, the RSC is working hard to keep operating during uncertain times and to support our members and our global community. We have seen that the scientific community itself has come together and labs have contributed – without boundaries and without competition.

These scientists are essential to the fight against Covid-19, and to keeping daily life going.

The RSC is supporting our community in so many ways, helping chemical scientists as well as, for example, RSC members, and researchers in academia, librarians, teachers and students – as well as many others.

Some examples of the ways that the chemistry community has responded to Covid-19 can be found in this short article:

https://www.rsc.org/news-events/articles/2020/apr/chemistry-against-covid-19/

### i) Access to all Royal Society of Chemistry journals

During these challenging times, the Royal Society of Chemistry continues to guarantee access free of charge to its Journals and archive through the Research 4life Initiative. Access is available free of charge to universities and research institutions in 99 developing nations.

RESEARCH4LIFE

Get free access to Royal Society
of Chemistry journals

We work with Research4Life to offer institutions in eligible countries free or low-cost access to our journals. Check if you are on the list and register now.

This means that if you work at a registered institution in one of these countries, you now have access to everything the Royal Society of Chemistry publishes online.

Check if your institute is registered with Research4Life.

Or follow this link to register your Institution register your institute here.

We are also providing access to a wide range of information to ensure our chemical science community has access to the latest knowledge on the coronavirus pandemic. All stories related to the coronavirus can be accessed on the Chemistry World website.

https://www.chemistryworld.com/

rsc.li/research4life







## ii) PACN Analytical Training Courses

After careful consideration of the rapidly evolving situation due to COVID-19, we have taken the decision alongside GSK to postpone a number of our GCMS and LCMS courses planned for 2020.

The courses are very important to us, but the wellbeing of everyone attending any of our events is our number one priority and we believe that postponing is the most sensible approach at the current time. We are grateful for the continued support and commitment of the local organising committees, and we are making plans to reschedule postponed courses in 2021.

The selection process for applicants will still be going ahead in 2020, and all delegates will be contacted and an announcement made on this page <a href="https://www.rsc.org/events/africa">https://www.rsc.org/events/africa</a> as soon as new dates are available.

Please contact us at **events@rsc.org** if you have any questions.

GCMS	Kenya	30th March-3rd April	Postponed 2021
GCMS	Nigeria	1-5th June	Postponed 2021
GCMS	Ethiopia	22-26th June	Postponed 2021
GCMS	Kenya	22-26th June	Postponed 2021
LCMS	Kenya	6-10th July	Postponed 2021
GCMS	Ghana	3-7th Aug	Closing date for application - 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2020
LCMS	Kenya	10-14th Aug	Closed
GCMS	Nigeria	16-20th Nov	Closing date for application - 06 <sup>th</sup> July 2020

## iii) Royal Society of Chemistry: Funding opportunities

https://www.rsc.org/awards-funding/funding

### **Grants for Carers and Assistance Grants**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and following a consultation with our community we are very pleased to announce that we are extending the purpose of our Grants for Carers and Assistance Grants schemes for our members only.

The primary purpose of these schemes is to help you to attend a chemistry-related meeting, conference or workshop or a professional development event by covering the cost of care that you usually provide or specific assistance or support that you require.

However, we are now also accepting applications to cover the cost of:

- any extra equipment you may need to work from home and/or home-school those you care for (maximum £500 total cost)
- care that you usually provide whilst you attend an online meeting, conference, workshop, professional development or teaching responsibility.

Please note, where appropriate, it is expected that you have already approached your employer and that other sources for the related funds are not available.

For further information please see our webpage:

https://www.rsc.org/new-perspectives/talent/assistance-grants/

https://www.rsc.org/new-perspectives/talent/grants-for-carers/ Africa@rsc.org.







## **Funding opportunities**

### i) Nature Research Awards for Inspiring and Innovating Science

Applications as well as nominations are now being accepted for the Nature Research Awards for Inspiring and Innovating Science. These awards are given by <u>Nature</u> in collaboration with The Estée Lauder Companies. The Awards are given in two categories: 1) Scientific Achievement; and 2) Science Outreach.

Scientific Achievement Award

This award recognizes early-career women researchers. The successful applicant will have made an exceptional demonstrable contribution to scientific discovery, and may have faced significant challenges, personal or professional. The applicant will also exhibit the potential for developing and leading an independent research group. Favor will be given to applicants who have made efforts to inspire the next generation of scientists through outreach or support the retention of women in science careers.

Eligible candidates must:

- Self-identify as a woman (trans women, genderqueer and non-binary people are included).
- hold a PhD degree or a medical degree, or other type of doctorate by dissertation
- have obtained their PhD or medical degree or other type of doctorate by dissertation after 31st December 2010, which can be extended backwards by the duration of any maternity leave(s) or other absences during this period.
- At the time of application, be in a non-tenured research position.
- At the time of application, be working in natural sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics or medicine.

Science Outreach Award

This award is presented for initiatives that support girls or young women to engage with, enjoy and study STEM subjects OR to increase the retention of women in STEM careers. STEM includes natural sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine. These initiatives can be run by an individual or academic, educational, charitable, governmental or corporate entity. In the case of corporate entities, the initiatives should form part of a corporate social responsibility programme and not be part of core commercial operations. Eligible initiatives that have either:

- encouraged girls or young women to engage with and study natural sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine OR
- increased retention of women in STEM careers, with a focus on providing tools to support women through their career progression in a STEM discipline.

Entries will have shown exceptional vision, insight and/or imagination and demonstrated that they encourage, support or promote the interest of girls and/or women in STEM.

How to apply

Further information about both awards is provided in the attached guidelines.

To apply and for additional information, see:

https://www.nature.com/collections/jcpghfmqlz/applynow

Questions may be sent to <a href="mailto:awards@nature.com">awards@nature.com</a>

The deadline for applications for both awards is June 14, 2020.

### Conferences

- 1) **26th International Conference on Chemistry Education, Cape Town 2021 (**26-30 January) <a href="mailto:icce2021@allevents.co.za">icce2021@allevents.co.za</a>
- 2) 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Kenya Chemical Society, 4-7 Aug 2020, Kisumu City, Kenya







- 3) 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Pure and Applied Chemistry (ICPAC-2020), 6-10 July 2020, Mauritius, http://sites.uom.ac.mu/icpac2020
- 4) Hypothesis XV 3-5 June 2020, Cape Town, <a href="https://www.hypothesis.ws/index.php">https://www.hypothesis.ws/index.php</a>

### **Detailed Conference Information**

### i) 26th International Conference on Chemistry Education NEW DATES

The Local Organising Committee in consultation with the IUPAC Committee for Chemistry Education has decided to postpone the 26th International Conference on Chemistry Education to January 2021. The name of the conference will change to ICCE 2021. Preliminary information about ICCE 2021 is given below.

### **Dates**

26-30<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### Venue

Lagoon Beach Hotel and Conference Venue.

### **Abstracts**

The call for abstracts will be repeated later this year. If you have already submitted an abstract, you will be invited to resubmit your abstract when the submission process re-opens.

The Local Organising Committee for ICCE 2021

For registration queries: +27 (0)21 910 1913 • email: icce2021@allevents.co.za

Event Organiser office: +27 (0)21 712 0571 • email: icce@eventmanagmentsolutions.co.za

# ii) The Chemical Society of Nigeria (CSN) 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Conference. POSTPONED



The President of the Chemical Society of Nigeria, (CSN), Professor Sunday Olawale Okeniyi has ingeminated his great concern for the safety and well-being of all the members of the society. He stated this at a press release in Kaduna where he informed members and the general public that it has become expedient for the society to shift and postpone the 43rd annual International conference of the society tagged Abuja 2020 forward. The Society, in her characteristic manner usually holds the annual international conference during the third week of September annually. He however said that the society have

had to postpone this years' event from September till November 2020; in compliance with the Federal Government directives. The President said the decision was taken after reviewing and studying the current corona virus pandemic (COVID-19) situation in Nigeria and making national consultations with health experts, including daily information obtained from the Presidential Task Force (PTF) Team on Covid-19 and the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) as a result of the impact of the Coronavirus and the serious implications it would have on the annual international conference.

He said that the decision, which was taken during the online national council meeting of CSN and the conference local organizing committee (LOC), was also in demonstration of the







society's support for the various preventive measures being put in place by both the federal and state governments to checkmate and prevent further spread of the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic through interstate lockdown and restrictions on travels,

Consequently, he said that in view of the above; "We have decided to shift and postpone our 2020 annual international conference; with the theme: "Global Chemical Security and the Covid-19 Challenge: The Chemistry Perspective" from September till 22nd - 27th November 2020 at the Raw Materials Research and Development Council in Abuja, Nigeria (See attached Conference Flyer). He said that the shift in date became necessary with the hope that the ravaging outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the measures put in place by the Federal Government to prevent further spread through interstate lockdown and restrictions on travels in Nigeria and worldwide would have been totally relaxed by then.

He further enjoined members that; "as we commence our plans for a successful annual conference, please endeavour to stay safe, obey all healthy and safety conditions and maintain social distancing.

#### 10th International Conference of the Kenya Chemical Society iii)



## Hypothesis XV (3-5 June 2020)







https://www.hypothesis.ws/index.php



## **HYPOTHESIS XV Cape Town 2020 South Africa**

HYdrogen POwer THeoretical & Engineering Solutions International Symposium

Dear colleague,

finally the program of the conference has been published on the conference website.

As you can see into the program, the conference has been organised in plenary sessions plus two poster sessions.

The platform used will be Microsoft Teams and instructions will soon be sent to all participants. All presentations will be recorded and will be available for participants also after the conference, until June 12.

Kind regards,

Giuseppe Spazzafumo Coordinator of HYPOTHESIS Series

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