



FASC

Federation of African
Societies of Chemistry

FASC Newsletter 9, September 2020

Tougher lockdown levels in Europe and a slow recovery to lower lockdown levels in African countries – the new world. The move to e-learning is now in full swing world-wide. And this has meant the move to virtual conferences/workshops/seminars is now the way forwards. From personal experience, there are still technical issues that are being resolved with the virtual events but time will sort this out. It reminds me of when we moved from transparencies to power point at events in those early days; there were many, many issues at the beginning. But, now all has been resolved. I attach some reports on the recent poster event at the Commonwealth Chemistry event.

Neil Coville

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REPORT ON CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

- Report on the CC Commonwealth Chemistry Posters – Partnership for the Goals (virtual poster meeting)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

1. 43rd Annual international conference of the Chemical Society of Nigeria
2. 26th International Conference on Chemistry Education, Cape Town 2021
3. African Materials Research Society (AMRS 2021) Dakar, Senegal
4. ABC Chemistry conference 2022/2023

Information for the newsletter

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

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

The numbers of virus cases (and deaths) keeps rising. Still no vaccine! But there are many sites now available that summarise the current status of drug development.

- i) **Some useful sites for hard data**

<https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>

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

CHEMISTRY NEWS

1. African Chemical Societies news

i) Kenya

• Dr Leonard Gitu

Dr Leonard Gitu, KCS National Chairman was recently appointed by Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Kenya to the MultiSectoral Committee on Sound Chemicals Management.

Among the key functions of the committee include:-

- i. Review of National Policy on Sound Chemicals Management
- ii. Promote collaboration and partnership among key stakeholders
- iii. Review and endorse SAICM implementation plan
- iv. Promote awareness and advocacy on Sound Chemicals management
- v. Coordinate data Collection, analysis and information knowledge management
- vi. Support decision making among the Chemical management stakeholders
- vii. Develop joint multi-sectoral projects and implementation activities.

ii) African Journal of Chemical Education (AJCE)

The online version is available at the FASC website: www.faschem.org, under Journal) and the AJOL website (www.ajol.info).

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

iii) Chemistry Education during covid-19

It has been over months since schools, colleges and universities have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The question is to what extent and how we managed to continue chemistry education at all levels.

I understand that some forms of technology-enhanced distance education have been in Progress. Schools were using social media like Telegram for sharing assignments and exams; Others were using online web-based approaches.

But for the sake of making systematic interventions in Africa, AJCE is calling for papers, Short communications and/or letter to the editor highlighting your experiences and reflecting on your successes and challenges.

Temechegn Engida

Email: temechegn@gmail.com

2. Younger Chemists' News

i) African Young Chemists Network (AYCN)

More information will become available on this network in the months ahead.

For information contact: Ms Bianca Davids bdavids13@gmail.com

ii) International Young Chemists Network (IYCN)

Bailey Maurant, Lori Ferrins, Sophie Carencio, Natalie LaFranzo, and Catherine M. Rawlins
Chemistry International January-March 2020 16-19

The International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN) began as a task force at the 2015 ACS National Meeting in Boston between a group of young chemists from the USA, Africa, Southeast Asia, and Europe. The ultimate goal was to create a unified international network for younger chemists to connect and share ideas. Successful efforts led to the official launch of

IYCN as an associated organization of IUPAC at the 46th World Chemistry Congress (IUPAC2017) held in Brazil.

iii) **Chemvoices**

IYCN-IUPAC YOUNGER CHEMISTS SHOWCASE



<https://chemvoices.org/> and <https://iupac.org/chemvoices/>

3. **RSC news**

i) **Poor-Quality medicines & Sub-Saharan Africa**



**Poor quality medicines
& Sub-Saharan Africa**

PACN Webinar
30 November - 1 December 2020
Online

Registration deadline:
29 November 2020

 ROYAL SOCIETY
OF CHEMISTRY | PAN AFRICA
CHEMISTRY NETWORK



The Pan Africa Chemistry Network (PACN) Congress is the Royal Society of Chemistry's flagship annual event for the African chemical sciences community. In 2020, the Congress is moving online and will feature two webinars on the theme of:

A recent *Study on the Public Health and Socioeconomic Impact of Substandard and Falsified Medical Products* by the World Health Organisation has shown that ~10% of medical products circulating in low-income and middle-income countries are either substandard or falsified, leading to increased morbidity and mortality, adverse drug reactions, economic losses and diminished public confidence in health systems. This serious public health problem has been compounded by COVID-19.

Both webinars will give participants the opportunity to listen to leading international experts from both academia and industry, including Africa based experts, shine a spotlight on this global problem. They will discuss the reality of combatting poor quality medicines in Africa and explore the role the chemical sciences can play in driving and implementing innovative, effective and sustainable chemical solutions to this global issue. There will also be an opportunity at the end of both seminars for participants to ask questions.

Both webinars are free to attend but you must register in advance.

To register follow the link <http://rsc.li/PACN2020>

We look forward to welcoming you to the discussion.

4. RSC-PACN news



i) Chemistry against COVID-19

The Royal Society of Chemistry is continuing to work hard to provide valuable support to our community which is playing an important role in the global response to COVID-19. We are sharing #ChemVSCovid hero stories to celebrate these vital contributions. Read our first story here: <https://www.rsc.org/news-events/articles/2020/apr/chem-vs-covid-ellie-edf/>

You can help us celebrate the chemists across the world who are making the difference by sharing your stories with us, either [by e-mail](#), or using the hashtag #ChemVSCovid on social media. [Find out more](#).

ii) 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. https://www.rsc.org/campaigns/m/v18/co/pacn_research4life/

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/>



iii) **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 all of our analytical 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.

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

Royal Society of Chemistry: Funding opportunities <https://www.rsc.org/awards-funding/funding>

iv) **Grants for carers and assistant 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/>

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 <https://kenyachemicalsociety.org/journals>. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor-in-Chief at eic.jkcs@gmail.com 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=email&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: <http://www.scm Mauritania.org/journal-scm>; M A Sanhoury, JMCS Coordination Editor.

- **South African Journal of Chemistry**

This Journal is published electronically. The webpage is: <http://www.saci.co.za/>. Details of the journal and the editors can be seen at <http://www.journals.co.za/sajchem/>. 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 (http://reference.sabinet.co.za/sa_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 eic@faschem.org, PO Box 2305, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. *AJCE*, 2016, 6(1) ISSN 2227-5835 The online version appears in the FASC website (www.faschem.org) and in the AJOL website (www.ajol.info).

- **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 <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/south-african-journal-of-chemical-engineering/>

- **African Journal of Pure and Applied Chemistry**

EditorialOffice: ajpac@academicjournals.org help desk: helpdesk@academicjournals.org;

URL: www.academicjournals.org/journal/AJPAC

- **Scientific African**

Published by the [Next Einstein Forum](http://www.next-einstein-forum.com) in collaboration with Elsevier.

<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/scientific-african>

REPORT ON CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

i) **Report on the CC Commonwealth Chemistry Posters – Partnership for the Goals (virtual poster meeting) by Dr Sadhna Mathura**

The event was very well organised. The OC kept us INDIVIDUALLY informed all the way, with tailored step-by-step guidelines and information. They were also available in real-time for troubleshooting, which was fantastic. The iPoster platform was quite seamless and integrated well with MS Office so creating the poster (a few weeks before) was easy enough. There will always be technical issues based on internet speed, hardware etc., but they had multiple access points to interact with others. Some of us were initially taken off guard because when a conference starts in real life, there's usually a formal programme with a buzz of activity etc. Here, we had 3x 3hr-slots corresponding to different time zones in which to be present to discuss our work. You had to engage... click on a poster, read it, click on an author and invite them to a video, voice or text chat etc. And judges came to you to do similarly. It took a bit of multi-tasking skill to have all the windows opened if multiple people tried to speak to you on multiple access points! But once you got the hang of navigating the system, it was fine. I simply opened a room in the most visible access point and many of us used it as a starting point for dialogue.

All in all, an enjoyable experience. It was really quite humbling to see so many hard working women across our continent who were trying to keep a household and discuss their high-impact work at the same time. Phenomenal really. Lots of opportunity to network and to share resources, which was what a lot of the conversations I was in, was about.

Dr Sadhna Mathura

University of the Witwatersrand

ii) **Report on the Commonwealth Chemistry Posters – Partnership for the Goals by Ale, Sarah, Rachel and Stuart**



<https://rsc.li/commonwealthchemposter>

On behalf of the Commonwealth Chemistry Executive Board and the Scientific Organising Committee, thank you very much for participating in last month's 'Commonwealth Chemistry Posters – Partnership for the Goals' virtual poster event. We have received many lovely comments and positive feedback on the quality and design of the posters, the knowledge, enthusiasm and passion with which they were presented, and the friendly and open way in which everyone engaged and networked over the course of the six sessions.

It was obviously a new experience for everyone to hold the event virtually across the many different time zones of the Commonwealth (108 posters were presented, and 38 countries participated). Thank you for taking the time to familiarise yourself with the online platform, for your patience with the technology, and for your flexibility in attending all the sessions, which we appreciate were sometimes outside normal working hours. If you presented a poster, we hope you appreciated and benefitted from the opportunity to not only present your own research but view the work of your fellow presenters. All the posters are still available to view at (LINK REMOVED) and will remain so at least until the Congress next year to allow the discussion and engagement to continue (since the event was and remains invitation-only, however, we would ask that you kindly do not share this link with anyone who was not involved in the poster event). We would encourage you to follow up on any conversations you started during the event and remember you can use the Contact Author button on a poster to get in touch with the presenter. In addition, please do share your ideas and suggestions with us by emailing externalrelations@rsc.org.

The poster prize judges had the very difficult job of selecting winners from such a large number of high-quality posters. They were extremely impressed by the scientific quality of all the posters, the inventiveness and creativity with which they were designed, and the way in which the presenters linked their research to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The poster prize winners are listed below, and we would like to congratulate them as well as everyone who presented – without your enthusiastic participation the event would not have been the success that it was.

Thank you once again for your involvement – in whatever capacity -- in this Commonwealth Chemistry event. We look forward to engaging with you in the months to come as we look ahead to the Congress in 2021.

Poster Prize Winners (in alphabetical order, no ranking of posters is implied, all the winners are equal)

Poster presenter	Country	Poster title	Theme
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Amanda Bongers	Canada	Teaching what we practice: An analysis of organic chemistry textbooks using Green Chemistry metrics	Green Chemistry & Catalysis
Anna Garden	New Zealand	Tuning the catalytic activity of nanoscale MoS ₂ for the hydrogen evolution reaction	Green Chemistry & Catalysis
Cynthia Ibeto	Nigeria	Wood Ash effects on Soil Properties and Lactuca sativa Growth in Soils amended with Digestate and Poultry litter	Food & Agriculture
Geeta Devi Somaroo	Mauritius	Assessing the potential of briquette production from sugarcane trash from a life cycle perspective	Energy & Materials
Ireshika De Silva	Sri Lanka	Banana leaf mediated green synthesized palladium nanoparticles as effective catalysts for the Suzuki-Miyaura cross coupling reactions under aerobic and ligand free conditions	Green Chemistry & Catalysis
Jermaine Smith	Jamaica	Rare-Earth Perhalogenated Terephthalate Metal-Organic Frameworks: Fluorescence Sensors for Iron, Copper and Nitroaromatic Explosives	Energy & Materials
Juma Mmongoyo	Tanzania	Bioactive compounds in Diospyros mafiensis roots inhibit growth, sporulation and aflatoxin production by Aspergillus flavus and Aspergillus parasiticus	Biodiversity & Natural Products
Kessy Kilulya	Tanzania	Occurrence of Aflatoxins in Maize, Maize Products and Spices Produced and/or Marketed in Selected Areas of Tanzania, their Detection and Remediation	Food & Agriculture
Krishna Kumar Kotra	Vanuatu	Towards Building National Drinking Water Standards of Vanuatu: Applied Research and Capacity Building	Water & Environmental Chemistry
Madina Mohamed Adia	Uganda	Oral Toxicity of the Leaf Extracts and Antiplasmodial Activity of the Compounds isolated from the extracts of Clerodendrum rotundifolium Plant species in Uganda	Biodiversity & Natural Products
Mutenta Nsokolo Nyambe	Zambia	In vitro and in silico anti-cancer activity of altissimin: a flavonoid C-apioglucoside isolated from Drimia Altissima (Asparagaceae)	Biodiversity & Natural Products
Natalia Shakela	Namibia	Evaluation of the effectiveness of activated carbon produced from Senegalia mellifera and Dichrostachys cinerea in the removal of the drug diclofenac sodium from aqueous solution.	Water & Environmental Chemistry
Ngonye Keroletswe	Botswana	Cellulose functionalized membranes as potential filters for removal of suspended particles in drinking water	Water & Environmental Chemistry
Nikolai Holder	Barbados	Biochemical Methane Potential Mapping: Sustainable Fuel Production for the Caribbean Region	Energy & Materials
Nur Hidayah Azeman	Malaysia	Tapered optical fibre for Pb(II) ion based carrageenan-carbon nanotubes nanocomposite	Water & Environmental Chemistry
Sadhna Mathura	South Africa	Investigating the structure-function relationship of two single nucleotide polymorphisms in hGSTP1-1	Health & Wellbeing
Siu Yee New	Malaysia	Smart Nanosensor Derived from Silver Nanoclusters: A Sustainable Method to Meet Medical Needs in Limited Settings	Health & Wellbeing
Thimmaiah Govindaraju	India	Differential detection of Alzheimer's disease	Health & Wellbeing

Yalinu Poya	Papua New Guinea	Ammonia Synthesis using Cobalt Rhenium Catalysts Supported on Magnesium Oxide	Green Chemistry & Catalysis
Zeyar Min	Trinidad and Tobago	Excited-state intermolecular proton transfer (ESIPT) and intramolecular energy transfer in a novel Lanthanide Metal-Organic Framework (Ln-MOF) materials with ratiometric tunable photoluminescence and sensing capabilities	Energy Materials &

Ale, Sarah, Rachel and Stuart
Commonwealth Chemistry Secretariat

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/WORKSHOP


1. **43rd Annual international conference of the Chemical Society of Nigeria** Abuja, 22-27 November
2. **26th International Conference on Chemistry Education**, Cape Town 2021 (26-30 January) icce2021@allevents.co.za.
3. **African Materials Research Society (AMRS 2021)** 13-16 Dec 2021, Dakar, Senegal <https://africanmrs.net>
4. **ABC Chemistry conference** Morocco Dec 2022
5. **IYCN Workshop series: Preparing and Thriving in Graduate School**

Detailed conference information

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[illegible]

3. AMRS 2021



“SAVE THE DATE”

AFRICAN M-R-S

11th International Conference
of the African Materials Research Society

AMRS2021

Preconference workshops: 11 – 12 December 2021
Main conference: 13 – 16 December 2021
Dakar - SENEGAL.

Contact: Prof Balla Diop Ngom
Email: balla.ngom@ucad.edu.sn / Website: <https://africanmrs.net>

African
chemistry

4. ABC Chemistry Conference 2022/2023

The conference date has been moved to late 2022/early 2023. It will be held at the Palais des congrès – Marrakech, Morocco. 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.

الجمعية المغربية للكيمياء التحليلية من أجل تنمية مستدامة

Association Marocaine de Chimie Analytique pour un Développement Durable

1

Second Atlantic Basin Conference on Chemistry

Marrakech



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5. IYCN Workshop series: Preparing and Thriving in Graduate School

IYCN Workshop Series *Professional Development Skills*



Preparing and Thriving in Graduate School

October 15, 2020

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (EDT)

Via GoToWebinar

Registration: <http://bit.ly/ThrivingGradSchool>



This free workshop will share insights into life in graduate school and provide the tools and advice for students to succeed, from starting the application process to getting a degree. An introduction about the readiness for graduate school, deciding on the best graduate program, preparing the motivation letter, and the general application process will be given. Then, we will shine the light on graduate school's life, challenges and how to thrive! The topics to be covered will include keeping the balance between research, course load and personal life, time management, mentor expectations and mentee responsibilities, maintaining mentor-mentee professional healthy relationships, seeking mentors/peer's support, and learning non-technical skills.

Join us to hear from:

Prof. Sam Pazicni - Assistant Professor at University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

Dr. Nadine Borduas-Dedekind - SNSF Ambizione Fellow at ETH Zurich, Switzerland

with support from:

