



# FASC

**Federation of African  
Societies of Chemistry**

## FASC Newsletter 10, October 2020

*In this month's newsletter you will find some articles on the 2020 Nobel prize winners in Chemistry, a listing of some upcoming webinars (AYCN, PACN), new data from two journals (African Scientific Africa, Chemistry Africa), some new sites on the virus and awards (The Analytical Scientist Power List 2020; 2020 AAS Fellows in Chemistry). Also – note the Commonwealth Chemistry survey request; please complete if applicable. What this shows – life is continuing onwards and that eventually there will a return to old structures, no doubt with modification to take account of new realities.*

Neil Coville

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  3. African Materials Research Society (AMRS 2021) Dakar, Senegal
  4. ABC Chemistry conference 2022/2023
- **Detailed Conference information**

## ABOUT FASC

### Information for the newsletter

Please send all information to either Beth ([admin@faschem.org](mailto:admin@faschem.org)), Emmanuel C. Ohaekenyem ([ec.ohaekenyem@unizik.edu.ng](mailto:ec.ohaekenyem@unizik.edu.ng)) or to me ([neil.coville@wits.ac.za](mailto: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](mailto:yonasc@faschem.org) ; [yonasdb1@yahoo.com](mailto:yonasdb1@yahoo.com)).

## CHEMISTRY NEWS

### 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://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/300124671/covid19-the-nz-strains-and-our-second-wave-of-coronavirus?cid=app-iPad>

<https://ig.ft.com/coronavirus-global-data>

[https://theconversation.com/coronavirus-vaccine-what-we-know-so-far-a-comprehensive-guide-by-academic-experts-147881?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20October%2015%202020%20-%201759617052&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20October%2015%202020%20-%201759617052+CID\\_3b7e068d20647d2a496a2c102c40fb93&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_africa&utm\\_term=Coronavirus%20vaccine%20what%20we%20know%20so%20far%20%20a%20comprehensive%20guide%20by%20academic%20experts](https://theconversation.com/coronavirus-vaccine-what-we-know-so-far-a-comprehensive-guide-by-academic-experts-147881?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20October%2015%202020%20-%201759617052&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20October%2015%202020%20-%201759617052+CID_3b7e068d20647d2a496a2c102c40fb93&utm_source=campaign_monitor_africa&utm_term=Coronavirus%20vaccine%20what%20we%20know%20so%20far%20%20a%20comprehensive%20guide%20by%20academic%20experts)

<https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>

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

## African Chemical Societies News

No news this month

## Younger Chemists' News

### i) African Young Chemists Network (AYCN)

See the Google form link introducing the AYCN and requesting for volunteers to populate the various subcommittees. <https://forms.gle/hVAM8UeEY57hjusPA>

The form will be open until the end of the year.

Contact email: [aycn.chemists@gmail.com](mailto:aycn.chemists@gmail.com); Contact people: Ms Bianca Davids, Dr Sadhna Mathura

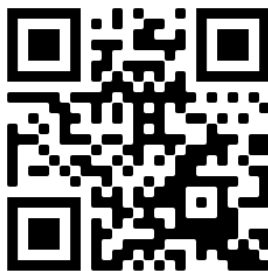
### ii) International Young Chemists Network (IYCN)



*Fostering Innovation through Collaboration*

November 24, 2020

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM (CET)

*Via GoToWebinar*Registration for FREE: [bit.ly/InnovCollab](https://bit.ly/InnovCollab)

ChemVoices is a partnership between the International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN) and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and aims to give early-career chemists a platform through which they can discuss and share experiences, along with advice, on topics that are important to them. To learn more visit: [www.ChemVoices.org](http://www.ChemVoices.org)

This webinar will highlight the professional background and collaborative experience of three early-career chemists who have been successful in building and managing international collaborative networks throughout their careers. After their introduction, a moderated panel discussion will take place with speakers focusing on providing insights and advice on how to create and manage collaborative initiatives to foster innovation and advance professional development.

Join us to hear from:

Dr. Torsten John – Postdoctoral Researcher at the Department of Biological Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA (@torsten\_john)

Dr. Marilia Valli – Postdoctoral Researcher at the Sao Carlos Institute of Physics, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil (@mariliavalli)

Dr. Nnanake-Abasi Offiong – Postdoctoral Researcher at the International Centre for Energy and Environmental Sustainability Research, University of Uyo, Nigeria (@emeraldbright)

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

## RSC News

### i) PACN webinars

# 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:

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>

<https://www.rsc.org/events/detail/45451/pacn-webinars-poor-quality-medicines-and-sub-saharan-africa>

## **Title: PACN Webinars: Poor Quality Medicines & Sub-Saharan Africa**

### **Webinar 1 - 30/11/20, 11am (UK Time)**

The reality of combatting poor quality medicines in Africa - global trends & industry response

In the first webinar we will explore the current global situation on the widespread problem of poor-quality medicines and the impact COVID-19 is having on this serious health problem. Experts will delve into what is a poor-quality medicine, how common are they and who is most affected. We will then take a closer look at the reality of combating poor quality medicines in Africa, highlighting local and international efforts, and explore how a multi-national company such as GSK is responding to this problem.

- ☐ **Professor Paul Newton**, Oxford University, UK
- ☐ **Prof Wilson Eruhn**, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria
- ☐ **Adefunke Evbodaghe**, Legal Senior Counsel, Anti-Counterfeiting EMEA, GSK

**Webinar 2 - 1/12/20, 11am (UK time)****Detecting & distinguishing poor-quality medicines/analytical approaches & new technologies**

In the second seminar our experts will focus on the vital role the chemical science can play in the detection of poor-quality medicines and in the advancement and discovery of new technologies. There will be an emphasis on the analytical techniques available and the challenges faced, plus a look at new technologies involving advanced molecular tags to identify counterfeits. Industry leader Domino will then share how as a business they are continually developing their anti-counterfeiting coding and printing technologies.

- ☐ **Dr Harparkash Kaur**, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- ☐ **Prof Sunday Okeniyi**, Atiba University Oyo, Nigeria
- ☐ **David Izuogu**, University of Cambridge
- ☐ **Craig Stobie**, Director – Global Sector Management, Domino

*The PACN Team*

**Commonwealth Chemistry - survey**

Commonwealth Chemistry, with support from the Royal Society of Chemistry, is launching a survey for early career chemists across the Commonwealth, and is encouraging you to share your views by completing it and in turn influencing the future plans and actions by Commonwealth Chemistry. The results will be discussed at the Commonwealth Chemistry Executive Board and you are encouraged to answer the questions as transparently as possible so that the results are truly representative of your experiences as a chemist in your nation.

As an early career chemist, we need your help to support us with shaping the future of chemistry. We want to uncover the challenges, needs, and opportunities that you are facing in an academic environment.

If you are within the first 10 years of your career (after completing your most recent degree and excluding any career breaks), tell us about education, training and funding, your working environment, career progression, networks and collaborations. Your feedback will be used to influence the strategy and direction of Commonwealth Chemistry.

This survey should take around 20 minutes to complete. Thank you in advance for your time.

[Complete and share the survey](#) by **14 November**.

To show our appreciation, everyone who completes the survey can enter our prize draw to win a £100 Amazon voucher. Three winners will be selected at random and announced in November.



## Early career chemists in the Commonwealth: we need your feedback to inform the Commonwealth Chemistry strategy



Please contact [insights@rsc.org](mailto:insights@rsc.org) if you have any questions about the survey.

### Power List 2020 of the Analytical Scientist

Ten Chemists working in Africa have been enlisted on the Power List 2020 of the Analytical Scientist. <https://theanalyticalscientist.com/power-list/2020>

#### Introducing The Analytical Scientist Power List 2020!

In October 2020, leading industry publication The Analytical Scientist announced the release of its annual Power List. The Power List celebrates the tremendous range of talent, ingenuity and leadership present across all corners of analytical science. This year, they have done so by highlighting the pioneering work and passion of 10 leading minds from each major continent (Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, South America, North America). To identify the top scientists in the field, the publication held open nominations and passed these on to a panel of independent judges, who chose 60 winners. Editor of The Analytical Scientist, Matthew Hallam, said “Thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate – and congratulations to our winners! Our community is nothing short of brilliant, and it’s our pleasure to celebrate the stories of its members again in 2020.”

#### How was the Power List generated?

- Open nominations were held
- Nominations were forwarded to a panel of leading scientists from around the world (who were modest enough to not vote for themselves!)
- Judges gave each nominee a score – combined scores were generated and nominees were ranked to give a top 10 for each continent

#### About The Analytical Scientist

Analytical chemistry has an enormous impact on our lives, from ensuring the safety of the food we eat to providing an understanding of our environment, energy supplies, and the medicines we take. The Analytical Scientist integrates all aspects of the topic, telling the stories of the people, innovations and technologies shaping analytical science – and the lives of those it touches.

The Analytical Scientist launched in January 2013. It encompasses a print magazine and a global website optimized for tablets and smartphones. The Analytical Scientist can also be found on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). [www.theanalyticalscientist.com](http://www.theanalyticalscientist.com)

***Prof. Marian Asantewah Nkansah (PhD, MRSC)***

***Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, (KNUST), Kumasi-Ghana***

## **Nobel Prizes in Chemistry 2020**

Two articles on the 2020 Nobel Prize awards

### **The first article**

<https://apnews.com/article/nobel-prizes-chemistry-archive-stockholm-14ba023fa7a90b34df2d7a6d0314c796>

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for developing “molecular scissors” to edit genes, offering the promise of one day curing inherited diseases.

Working on opposite sides of the Atlantic, Frenchwoman Emmanuelle Charpentier and American Jennifer A. Doudna came up with a method known as CRISPR-cas9 that can be used to change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms. It was only the fourth time that a Nobel in the sciences was awarded exclusively to women, who have long received less recognition for their work than men in the prize’s 119-year history.

Charpentier and Doudna’s work allows for laser-sharp snips in the long strings of DNA that make up the “code of life,” allowing scientists to precisely edit specific genes to remove errors that lead to disease in humans — and is already being used for that purpose.

“There is enormous power in this genetic tool, which affects us all,” said Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry. “It has not only revolutionized basic science, but also resulted in innovative crops and will lead to groundbreaking new medical treatments.”

Gustafsson said that, as a result, any genome can now be edited “to fix genetic damage.”

Dr. Francis Collins, who led the drive to map the human genome, said the technology “has changed everything” about how to approach diseases with a genetic cause, such as sickle cell disease.

“You can draw a direct line from the success of the human genome project to the power of CRISPR-cas to make changes in the instruction book,” said Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, which helped fund Doudna’s work.

But many also cautioned that the technology raises serious ethical questions and must be used carefully. Much of the world became more aware of CRISPR in 2018, when Chinese scientist He Jiankui revealed he had helped make the world’s first gene-edited babies, to try to engineer resistance to future infection with the AIDS virus. His work was denounced as unsafe human experimentation because of the risk of causing unintended changes that could pass to future generations, and he’s been sentenced to prison in China.

In September, an international panel of experts issued a report saying it’s still too soon to try to make genetically edited babies because the science isn’t advanced enough to ensure safety, but they mapped a pathway for countries that want to consider it.

“Being able to selectively edit genes means that you are playing God in a way,” said American Chemistry Society President Luis Echegoyen, a chemistry professor at the University of Texas El Paso.

Charpentier, 51, spoke of the shock of winning.

“Strangely enough I was told a number of times (that I’d win), but when it happens you’re very surprised and you feel that it’s not real,” she told reporters by phone from Berlin after the award was announced in Stockholm by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. “But obviously it’s real, so I have to get used to it now.”

When asked about the significance of two women winning, Charpentier said that while she considers herself first and foremost a scientist, “it’s reflective of the fact that science becomes more modern and involves more female leaders.”

“I do hope that it will remain and even develop more in this direction,” she said, adding that it’s “more cumbersome to be a woman in science than to be a man in science.”

Three times a woman has won a Nobel in the sciences by herself; this is the first time an all-female team won a science prize. In 1911, Marie Curie was the sole recipient of the chemistry award, as was Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin in 1963. In 1983, Barbara McClintock won the Nobel for medicine.

Doudna told The Associated Press of her own surprise — including that she learned she’d won from a reporter.

“I literally just found out, I’m in shock,” she said. “I was sound asleep.”

“My greatest hope is that it’s used for good, to uncover new mysteries in biology and to benefit humankind,” said Doudna, who is affiliated with the University of California, Berkeley and is paid by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which also supports AP’s Health and Science Department.

The breakthrough research done by Charpentier and Doudna was published in 2012, making the discovery very recent compared to much Nobel-winning research, which is often only honored after decades have passed.

Speaking to reporters from the Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens in Berlin, which she leads, Charpentier said despite how recently it was developed, the method is now widely used by scientists researching diseases, developing drugs and engineering new plants. Among the most promising therapies already being developed are for eye diseases and blood disorders, such as sickle cell disease and beta thalassemia, she said. It could also have applications in the growing field of cancer immunotherapy.

Developing hardy crops is another promising direction, said Charpentier. “I think this is very important considering the challenge we are facing of climate change,” she said.

The Broad Institute at Harvard and MIT have been in a long court fight over patents on CRISPR technology, and many other scientists did important work on it, but Doudna and Charpentier have been most consistently honored with prizes for turning it into an easily usable tool.

The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and prize money of 10 million kronor (more than \$1.1 million), courtesy of a bequest left more than a century ago by the prize’s creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. The amount was increased recently to adjust for inflation.

On Monday, the Nobel Committee awarded the prize for physiology and medicine for [discovering the liver-ravaging hepatitis C virus](#). Tuesday’s prize for physics honored breakthroughs in [understanding the mysteries of cosmic black holes](#).

The other prizes are for outstanding work in the fields of literature, peace and economics. Larson reported from Washington, and Jordans from Berlin. AP Chief Medical Writer Marilynn Marchione in Milwaukee and AP Science Writer Seth Borenstein in Kensington, Maryland, contributed to this report.

Read more stories about Nobel Prizes past and present by The Associated Press at <https://www.apnews.com/NobelPrizes>

## The second article

### CRISPR genome editing gets 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

[https://cen.acs.org/people/nobel-prize/CRISPR-genome-editing-gets-2020-Nobel-Prize-in-Chemistry/98/web/2020/10?utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=CEN](https://cen.acs.org/people/nobel-prize/CRISPR-genome-editing-gets-2020-Nobel-Prize-in-Chemistry/98/web/2020/10?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_campaign=CEN)

Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna recognized for their invention of gene editing tool

by [Ryan Cross](#)

OCTOBER 7, 2020

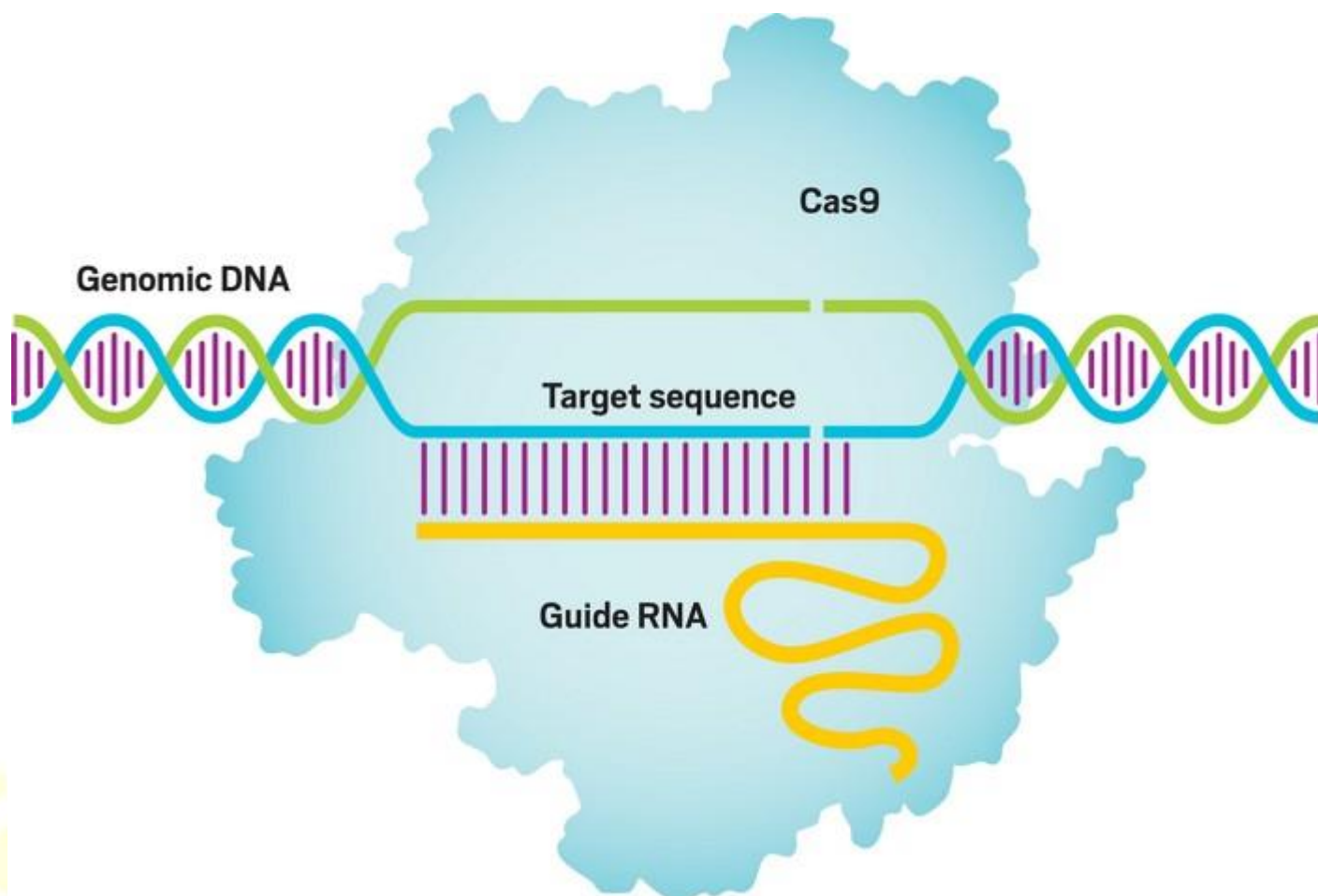


Credit: Vilnius University; Laura Morton Photography  
Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna

The 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has gone to Emmanuelle Charpentier and [Jennifer A. Doudna](#) "for the development of a method for genome editing." That method, formally known as CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing, but often simply called CRISPR, allows scientists to precisely cut any strand of DNA they wish. In the 8 years since its creation, scientists have published thousands of experiments using CRISPR to alter DNA in organisms across the tree of life, including butterflies, mushrooms, tomatoes, and even humans. CRISPR has been a boon for biologists who use the molecular scissors to probe the code of life in fundamental science experiments. But researchers have wasted no time in applying the tool to [agriculture](#) and human health. Several groups are using CRISPR to change the DNA of livestock and crops. Others are using CRISPR as the basis of one-time therapies that could potentially offer cures to genetic diseases like [sickle cell disease](#) and muscular dystrophy. CRISPR has even been used to make simple [diagnostic tests](#) during the coronavirus pandemic.

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Credit: Adapted from OriGene Technologies

CRISPR gene editing is derived from a primordial immune system in bacteria called clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats. The synthetic guide RNA created by Charpentier and Doudna, which is complementary to a target DNA sequence, directs the Cas9 enzyme (light blue) to a specified location for DNA cutting. Some applications require an additional DNA template (not shown) to fill in the cut.

“The number of discoveries in biomedicine that have had the impact that Jennifer’s and Emmanuelle’s had can be counted on the fingers of one hand: recombinant DNA, PCR, DNA sequencing, and now CRISPR,” says Fyodor Urnov, a gene editing scientist at the University of California, Berkeley. “We have never had a technology as powerful and versatile as genome editing with CRISPR, and it is a thrill to work with it daily.”

Charpentier, who is now at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, and Doudna, at UC Berkeley, began working together in 2011. The two scientists were inspired by a strange, and little-studied bacterial immune system. It turns out that bacteria get viral infections just like people do, and some bacteria used an enzyme called Cas9 to chop up invading viruses and store molecular mugshots of them to quickly attack any repeat invaders. In 2011, Charpentier worked out the details of how two bacterial RNA molecules—called tracrRNA and crRNA—controlled this process (*Nature* 2011, DOI: [10.1038/nature09886](https://doi.org/10.1038/nature09886)).

The two scientists began thinking about how they could retool this bacterial immune system into something that could be easily programmed for gene editing. They synthesized a new molecule called the single-guide RNA, which combines crucial features of the two bacterial RNAs to direct Cas9 to a specific site in DNA for cutting (*Science* 2012, DOI: [10.1126/science.1225829](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1225829)).

It was the tool that scientists had been waiting for. The method is cheaper, faster, and easier to use than previous gene editing tools, which required complex and costly protein engineering every time scientists wanted to edit a new sequence of DNA. Other labs began adopting the technique within a year. Multiple companies dedicated to developing CRISPR gene editing therapies for cancer and rare genetic diseases were founded within two years.

Some of those firms count Charpentier and Doudna among their founders. Today, scientists can readily order Cas9 and guide RNAs customized to target a specific sequence of DNA. CRISPR opened up gene editing to the masses.

“This is a well-deserved and predictable opportunity to celebrate CRISPR pioneers for the development of their revolutionary technology,” says Rodolphe Barrangou, a gene editing scientist at North Carolina State University who began studying the CRISPR immune system in bacteria before it was conceived as a gene editing tool.

“I think this is a very well selected prize,” says American Chemical Society (ACS) President Luis Echegoyen. Even though CRISPR’s applications are in the realm of biology, the technique “requires very sophisticated and very serious chemistry,” he says. “I think everyone has been waiting for CRISPR to be awarded the prize because the implications are truly amazing. Some things are so evident that they are going to have major implications for the future that you don’t need to wait around to figure out if this is really going to have an impact on humanity.” C&EN is published by ACS.

A Nobel Prize for CRISPR was highly anticipated, and many scientists speculated about who would be included, and who would be left out.

Surprisingly, the Nobel committee did not include Feng Zhang, a scientist at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, in the award. Zhang is widely regarded as one of the inventors of CRISPR. His group independently described the creation of CRISPR gene editing in January 2013. It was the first demonstration of the tool in mammalian cells. But Zhang’s original paper relied on using the two bacterial RNA molecules—tracrRNA and crRNA—rather than the single guide RNA developed by Charpentier and Doudna, which is the version widely used by scientists today.

Another contender for a CRISPR Nobel Prize was Virginijus Siksnys of Vilnius University, who independently described CRISPR-Cas9’s potential for genome editing just months after Charpentier and Doudna. He was awarded the [Kavli Prize in Nanoscience](#) along with Charpentier and Doudna in 2018.

Charpentier and Doudna will equally share the prize money of roughly \$1.1 million. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the usual Nobel Prize ceremonies will be held virtually, with winners receiving their medals and diplomas in their home countries.

“It’s wonderful to see Jennifer and Emmanuelle recognized in this way,” says David Liu, a chemist at the Broad Institute, who has created new versions of CRISPR called base editors. “With new treatments for human genetic diseases already in patients, with early positive outcomes, the era of human genome editing has already begun, and Emmanuelle and Jennifer are two of the key pioneers responsible for initiating this new era.”

*Chemical & Engineering News*

ISSN 0009-2347

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## African Academy of Sciences – 2020 Fellows in Chemistry

### Kayode Oyedode Adebawale

Professor Kayode Oyedode Adebawale was born January 11, 1962. He completed his BSc, MSc and PhD programmes at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He became a Professor of Industrial Chemistry in 2006. He had postdoctoral experience at the Eberhard Karls University, Tuebingen, Germany and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Italy. He has won several accolades which include Fellow, Nigeria Academy of Science, Polymer institute of Nigeria, Chemical Society of Nigeria and Science Association of Nigeria. Outside the shores of Nigeria, Fellow Royal Society of Chemistry, Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung and lately, African Academy of Science. Professor Adebawale has a track

record of distinguished research and service and he is currently conducting research in Applied Chemistry (Industrial Chemistry). Professor Adebowale has published widely in both National and international Journals of repute and has served as external examiners in Nigeria and beyond. To date, he has published over 130 research articles and a national patent. On the Google scholar, he has an H-index of 40; On Scopus an H-index of 35. He has mentored several Bachelors, Masters, and fourteen Doctoral students who are distinguished scholars in their respective institutions in Nigeria and abroad. He is the Chairman of the Chemical Society of Nigeria (South Western Region). He has won research grant of the International Foundation for Science IFS, Sweden. He is a recipient of the prestigious 2013 African Union Kwame Nkrumah Continental Scientific Award in Science, Technology and Innovation. He has attended the Senior Executive Course of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies leading to the award of Member of National Institute, mni. He is currently the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Professor Adebowale is on the International Scientific Advisory Board of the African Centre of Excellence for Water and Environmental Research (ACEWATER). He is currently involved with the Nigerian Young Academy, where he supports two national awards for young scientists one of which is for distinguished young women in Chemical Sciences research. He is married to Dr Yemisi Adebowale and they are blessed with three children.

### **Dhanjay Jhurry**

Professor Dhanjay Jhurry was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius (UoM) in March 2017. He is championing the vision of a research-engaged and entrepreneurial university working in close partnership with the public and private sectors as well as with the community to foster innovation. He is putting a lot of emphasis on organizing research at the University around the SDGs and is leading various initiatives to develop human, intellectual, business and social capital through an inclusive and openness approach. Under his leadership over the past 3 years, the University of Mauritius has championed the concept of international education diplomacy and built strong partnerships with Universities worldwide. He held previously (2012 to 2017) the post of National Research Chair in Biomaterials and Drug Delivery under the Mauritius Research Council, while heading the Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research (CBBR), a centre attached to the University of Mauritius which he founded. Prof Jhurry studied at Bordeaux University (France) and received his PhD in Polymer Chemistry in 1992. After spending three years as Research Chemist at Flamel Technologies Company in Lyon, France working on biomedical polymers, he joined the Dept. of Chemistry at the University of Mauritius as Lecturer and was appointed Professor in 2005. Prof Jhurry worked on sucrosebased polymers for his PhD. His mainstream research in polymer science, biomaterials and tissue engineering, nanotechnology/nanomedicine and drug delivery has led to over 75 papers in scholarly journals, with an h-index of 20. He has received various national and international awards and recognition including the first Best Mauritian Scientist Award in 2011, the ‘Grand Officer of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean’ and the ‘Commander of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean’ insignia by the Rep. of Mauritius in 2019 and 2012 respectively as well as the ‘Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques’ insignia by the Rep. of France in 2007. Prof Jhurry is an elected member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) since July 2017 and a member of the Scientific Council of the Francophone Association of Universities (AUF) since September 2019. He is a Board member of the Regional Multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence (Mauritius) since January 2020. He was

appointed Chair of the ACU SDG Network in January 2020. He is also a member of Ashinaga's KenjinTatsujin International Advisory Council (Ashinaga Africa Initiative) and he was Vice-President of the COMESA Innovation Council from 2013 to 2015

## AFRICAN JOURNALS OF CHEMISTRY

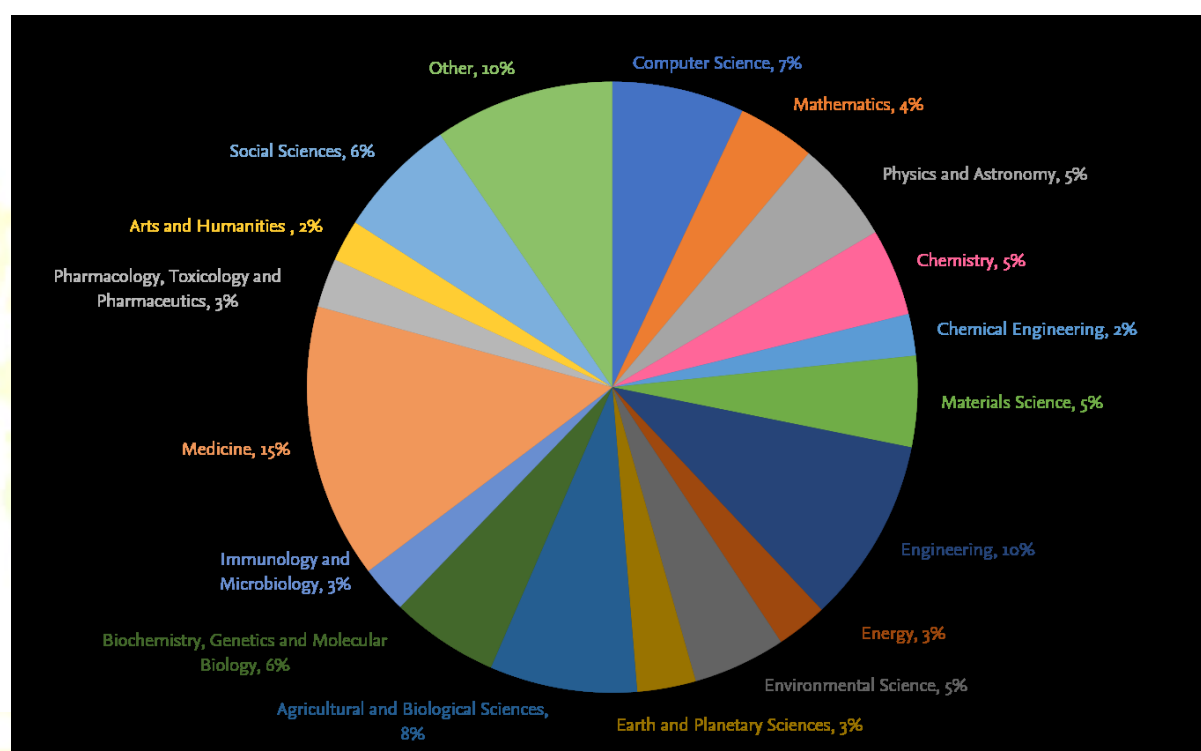
- **Scientific African**

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

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

Elsevier have published data on publication outputs in Africa, some of which relate to Chemistry. See their report on **Research and health capacity building 2020** in <https://elsevierfoundation.org/resources/elsevier-in-africa/>

An example from the article showing the contribution of Chemistry (5%) to the “**Main areas of focus of African research**” (taken from the above)



- **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](mailto: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](https://www.springer.com/chemistry/journal/42250?utm_source=hybris&utm_medium=email&utm_content=internal&utm_campaign=JFTT_2_aww_2018newjournals)

It gives me a great pleasure sharing with you the contents of the Special Issue: The Editors' Contributions to Chemistry Africa (**Volume 3, Issue 3, 2020**).

I would like also to thank those who recommended their close colleagues to contribute, though not members of the EB. But we planned the SI open to you and to your network.

We have now a remarkable collection of papers with numerous downloads and some are already cited.

Thank you for time and efforts; this SI will certainly attract more and more readers and authors. It will also help us in our application for indexation in Scopus and Emergent Science Citation Index (ESCI). Our applications will be submitted later this week.

Please convey my very best regards and acknowledgements to your co-authors, and young students/researchers in your respective teams.

**Mohamed Mehdi Chehimi**

**Executive Editor-in-Chief of Chemistry Africa**

<http://www.springer.com/chemistry/journal/42250?detailsPage=societies>

- **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](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](mailto: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](http://www.faschem.org)) and in the AJOL website ([www.ajol.info](http://www.ajol.info)).

- **South African Journal of Science** [TOC@assaf.org.za](mailto:TOC@assaf.org.za)

- **Journal of the Chemical Society of Nigeria**

[csnjournals@gmail.com](mailto:csnjournals@gmail.com); [csnjournals@yahoo.com](mailto:csnjournals@yahoo.com); [editor@chemsocnigeria.org](mailto: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](mailto:ajpac@academicjournals.org) help desk: [helpdesk@academicjournals.org](mailto:helpdesk@academicjournals.org);  
URL: [www.academicjournals.org/journal/AJPAC](http://www.academicjournals.org/journal/AJPAC)

## CONFERENCES/WOKSHOPS

### Reports

No reports

### Upcoming events

1. **43<sup>rd</sup> Annual international conference of the Chemical Society of Nigeria** Abuja, 22-27 November
2. **26<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chemistry Education**, Cape Town 2021 (26-30 January) [icce2021@allevents.co.za](mailto: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

### Detailed conference information

## 1. 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual international conference of the Chemical Society of Nigeria

**43<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE of Chemical Society of Nigeria (CSN) 2020**

**Venue:** RAW MATERIALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (RMRDC) 17, AGUIYI IRONSI WAY, MAITAMA DISTRICT, ABUJA NIGERIA

**Date:** SUNDAY 22ND - FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2020

**Theme:** GLOBAL CHEMICAL SECURITY AND THE COVID-19 CHALLENGE: THE CHEMISTRY PERSPECTIVE

**Sub-Themes:**

- ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN CHEMICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY: THE RESPONSIBLE CARE INITIATIVES
- PROMOTION OF CHEMISTRY RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE HEALTH, PEACE, ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- ROLE OF CHEMISTS IN THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES
- FOOD SECURITY: APPLICATION OF CHEMISTRY IN THE VALUE CHAIN OF FOOD PRODUCTION
- CHEMISTRY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
- HAZARDOUS CHEMISTRY AND GLOBAL WASTE TO WEALTH MANAGEMENT
- INNOVATION AND RESEARCH IN COMPUTATIONAL CHEMISTRY AS A PLATFORM FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND ICT

**CONFERENCE SPEAKERS:**

**Prof. Joseph I. Obiagwu,** Executive Professor of Chemistry, University of Nigeria & Executive Director of CSN & NACSON (Nigeria) Association, Abuja, Nigeria

**Prof. Joseph I. Obiagwu,** Executive Professor of Chemistry, University of Nigeria & Executive Director of CSN & NACSON (Nigeria) Association, Abuja, Nigeria

**Dr. Peter Adigwe,** Director General, CSN, National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research & Development (NIPRD), Abuja, Nigeria

**Dr. Adenike Adedokun,** Nigerian Maritime Regulatory Authority, Abuja, Nigeria

**Dr. Geoffrey Okeke,** Director of Chemistry, Technical University of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya

**Dr. Adekunle Akinde,** National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Abuja, Nigeria

**Dr. Adekunle Akinde,** National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Abuja, Nigeria

**ACTIVITIES**

**Day 1: Sunday 22nd November, 2020**

- Arrival of CSN, State & National Council Members
- Arrival of Chapter's President for Annual National Chemistry Competition
- CSN National Executive Council Meeting

**Day 2: Monday 23rd November, 2020**

- Conference Advancement and Awareness Road Walk (Starting 08:00 AM)
- Arrival of other Participants & Delegates
- Delegates Registration of participants
- Annual National Chemistry Competition
- CSN National Council Meeting
- CSN Networking Event

**Day 3: Tuesday 24th November, 2020**

- Delegates Registration Continues
- Plenary Session 1
- Opening Ceremony / Keynote Address
- Tea Break
- Award Ceremony for Annual Chemistry Competition Winners
- CSN Annual Special Awards
- Lunch
- Plenary Presentation Commences
- CSN Annual General Business Meeting (AGM)
- National Election
- Presidential Business Cocktail

**Day 4: Wednesday 25th November, 2020**

- Annual Women in Chemistry Breakfast
- Plenary Session 2 & 3
- Capacity Building Training Workshop for Chemistry Teachers (Secondary & Tertiary)
- Parallel Activities (Technical / Scientific Sessions)

**Day 5: Thursday 26th November, 2020**

- Plenary Session 4 & 5
- Parallel Activities (Technical / Scientific)
- Reception / Light Dining / Country Visits
- Annual Conference Dinner & Award Night

**Day 6: Friday 27th November, 2020**

- Departure of Participants

**REGISTRATION GUIDE**

REGISTRATION	Early Bird	Early Bird (Students)	Early Bird (Professionals)	Early Bird (Government)	Early Bird (Corporate)	Early Bird (Non-Profit)	Early Bird (Other)
Early Bird	100,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Early Bird (Students)	50,000.00	25,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Early Bird (Professionals)	100,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Early Bird (Government)	100,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Early Bird (Corporate)	100,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Early Bird (Non-Profit)	100,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Early Bird (Other)	100,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00

**ENQUIRIES**

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## 2. 26th International Conference on Chemistry Education

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 January 2021.

### Venue

Lagoon Beach Hotel and Conference Venue.

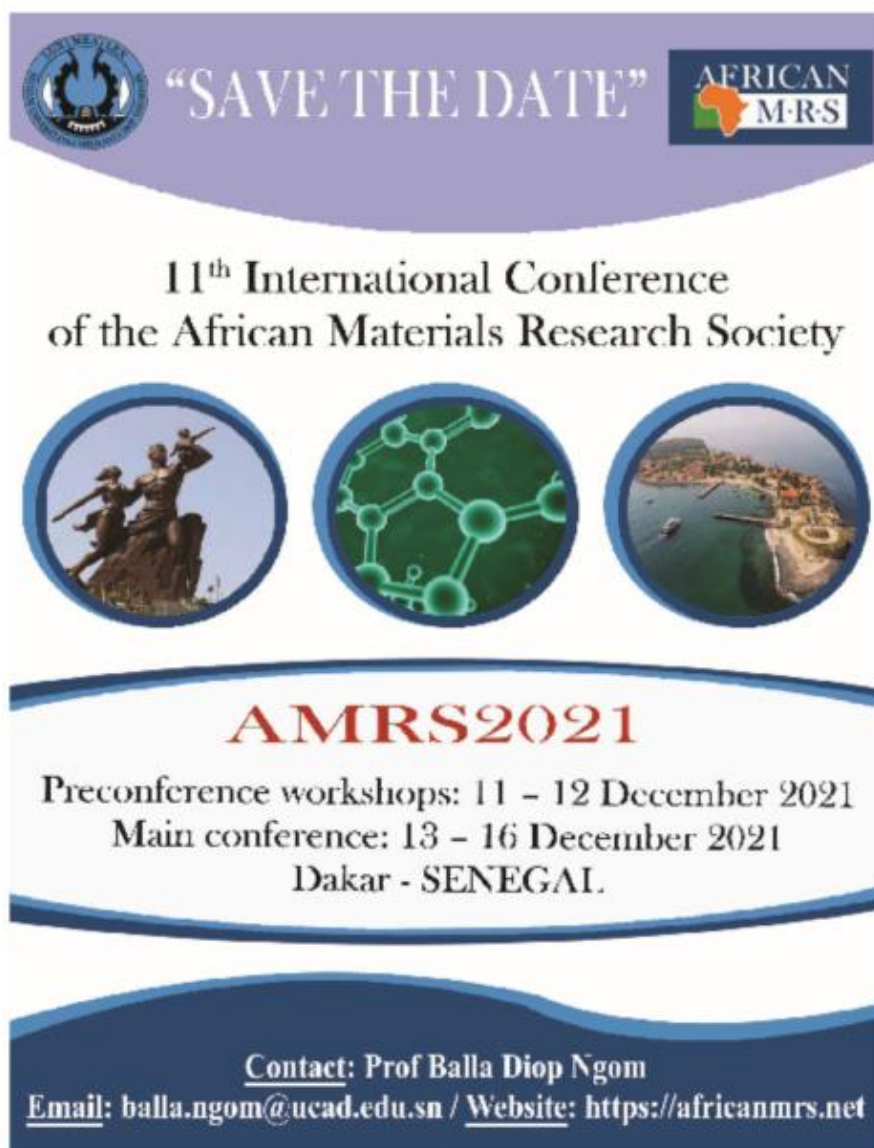
### Abstracts

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](mailto:icce2021@allevents.co.za)

Event Organiser office: +27 (0)21 712 0571 • email: [icce@eventmanagementsolutions.co.za](mailto:icce@eventmanagementsolutions.co.za)

### 3. AMRS 2021



“SAVE THE DATE”

AFRICAN M-R-S

11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:balla.ngom@ucad.edu.sn) / Website: <https://africanmrs.net>

### 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

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## Second Atlantic Basin Conference on Chemistry

### Marrakech



Federation of African  
Societies of Chemistry

FASC

Federation of African  
Societies of Chemistry