

## FASC Newsletter 7, July 2020

The search for a vaccine or medicines that will control the extent of the effect of the virus continues onwards. Chemists are playing a major role in these activities. There are lots of articles in the scientific journals and the popular press on developments. But it is not always easy to determine, what is fact from what we all would like to see – simple cures! Fortunately science is a self-correcting process and the 'real' data will emerge as time goes by. The AJCE has put out a request for articles on how Covid-19 has affected teaching in Africa. See the section below and reply directly to the editor

#### Neil Coville

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43<sup>rd</sup> Annual international conference of the Chemical Society of Nigeria VCCA-2020, Mauritius

International Inorganic Chemistry Virtual Conference in Kenya, Nairobi 26th International Conference on Chemistry Education, Cape Town 2021 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Kenya Chemical Society, Kenya African Materials Research Society (AMRS 2021) Dakar, Senegal







#### Information for the newsletter

Please send all information to either Beth (admin@faschem.org), Emmanuel 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

#### Some useful sites for hard data i)

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 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.









Fig 1: ABC Chem conference flyer

## **IUPAC**

# i) IUPAC Periodic Table Challenge 2020

Following the tremendous success of the Periodic Table Challenge in 2019, IUPAC is relaunching a whole new PT Challenge! Three levels to play and brand new questions. Let's fill up the world map again with your element Avatars. A new leader board has begun! New Certificates for the 2020 PTChallenge will be given out for successful completions!

Launch the week of June 1, 2020

- Here's where you can play: <a href="https://iupac.org/periodic-table-challenge">https://iupac.org/periodic-table-challenge</a>
- The new PTChallenge will run all year!
- Follow us on Twitter @iupac #PeriodicTableChallenge
- New! Periodic Table Challenge merchandise will be available on the IUPAC Shop at <a href="https://iupac.org/shop/">https://iupac.org/shop/</a>







## 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;

## I. 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

## The latest version is now available in AJCE, 2020, 10(2)

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## **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 Published articles of chemistry. are https://kenyachemicalsociety.org/journals. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editorin-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=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\_epublication/chem">http://reference.sabinet.co.za/sa\_epublication/chem</a>).

## • 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 <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: <a href="mailto:ajpac@academicjournals.org">ajpac@academicjournals.org</a>; help desk: <a href="helpdesk@academicjournals.org">help desk: helpdesk@academicjournals.org</a>; <a href="mailto:uRL">URL: www.academicjournals.org/journal/AJPAC</a>

#### • Scientific African

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







## **Commonwealth Chemistry**



Commonwealth Chemistry is keen to support chemical societies and their members across the Commonwealth at this difficult time. The Executive Board, chaired by Dr Vicki Gardiner, has been looking at different ways of doing this and would like to propose the following:

## Access to Chemistry World Magazine

The Royal Society of Chemistry would like to offer unlimited access, free of charge, to its flagship magazine *Chemistry World* until the end of December 2020.

Chemistry World covers science news, research, reviews, features and opinions, providing a wide range of information relevant to chemical scientists globally. It is also provides access to a variety of free webinars through the same site.

This is available to all members of the individual Chemical Societies part of Commonwealth Chemistry and so please do promote to your membership. Gaining access is simple, each individual member just needs to create an account at this link: www.chemistryworld.com/commonwealth-chemistry.

## Accessing RSC Education Resources

For Commonwealth Chemistry societies who have members based in the education sector, a variety of resources are available to access at <a href="www.edu.rsc.org">www.edu.rsc.org</a> including the Chemical Education Research and Practice journal.

Additionally, all <u>online PD courses</u> are free until the end of August 2020, however please note that the content for these educational resources is focused primarily on the UK curricula.

## • Virtual Poster Competition

To bridge the gap between now and the rescheduled Congress 2021, the Scientific Organising Committee is arranging a virtual poster competition scheduled for August 2020. This is open to early career chemists selected to attend the 2020 Congress on behalf of your country. The competition will bring together the early career chemists from across the Commonwealth in a virtual format to share their research, network and engage in scientific debate.

We will send a separate communication about this competition shortly. We would ask that you encourage your selected early career chemists to take part in this event as it presents a great opportunity to start networking with people they will meet at the 1<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Chemistry Congress that will take place in Trinidad and Tobago in May 2021.

We hope you will find these offers useful. *Commonwealth Chemistry Secretariat* 







#### **RSC-NEWS**

## Building a better chemistry culture

Chemistry World and the Inclusion and Diversity team at the Royal Society of Chemistry are proud to offer the first of a monthly webinar series *Building a better chemistry culture* to support the chemical sciences community in response to and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the series, we will illuminate the science behind the issues being experienced and provide support tailored to the needs of chemical scientists including sharing coping strategies and reducing stigma around mental health and wellbeing.

Watch past webinar recordings and stay updated on information about upcoming webinars by following the link to our project hub page: <a href="https://www.rsc.org/new-perspectives/talent/inclusion-and-diversity/activities/better-chemistry-culture-webinars/">https://www.rsc.org/new-perspectives/talent/inclusion-and-diversity/activities/better-chemistry-culture-webinars/</a>

This month

## August - Tackling bullying and harassment

Thursday 13 August 2020, 15:30-16:30 BST

The fourth webinar in the *Building a better chemistry culture* series will focus on bullying and harassment in the chemical sciences, including in the context of changing work environments due to COVID-19. The Royal Society of Chemistry reports Breaking the barriers and Exploring the workplace for LGBT+ physical scientists provided evidence of bullying and harassment in the chemical sciences community, alongside a systemic failure of the sector to deal with these issues effectively which may lead to loss of talent.

Our speakers David Richardson (Universities UK taskforce member and Vice-Chancellor, East Anglia University), Carole Mundell (University of Bath and Chief Scientific Adviser to Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Kevin Coutinho (Chair of the Board of Trustees for Windsor Fellowship and Athena SWAN and Gender Equality Policy Manager, University College London) will discuss:

- What bullying and harassing behaviours look like in professional contexts
- The impact that bullying and harassment can have on individuals and on careers
- The difficulties that people face in struggling to talk to friends and colleagues about their experiences
- How institutions can enact mechanisms to bring about positive culture and behaviour change

BSL interpretation is provided by Rachael Dance, Cambridgeshire Deaf Association.

More info and registration: <a href="https://www.chemistryworld.com/webinars/tackling-bullying-">https://www.chemistryworld.com/webinars/tackling-bullying-</a>







## and-harassment-building-a-better-chemistry-culture/4012148.article

Building a better chemistry culture is a webinar series by the Royal Society of Chemistry and Chemistry World to support the chemical sciences community in response to and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the themes in the series, we will illuminate the science behind the issues being experienced and provide support tailored to the needs of chemical scientists including sharing coping strategies and reducing stigma around mental health and wellbeing.

## Past events

## July - managing isolation

Thursday 16 July 2020 at 15:30-16:30 BST

The third webinar in the *Building a better chemistry culture* series will focus on isolation and loneliness, looking beyond COVID-19 lockdowns to explore the context for why someone in the chemical sciences may feel isolated and how building meaningful connections can help create a sense of belonging.

https://www.chemistryworld.com/webinars/managing-isolation-building-a-better-chemistry-culture/4011984.article

## June - Flexible working - Building a better chemistry culture

Thursday 18 June 2020 at 15:30-16:30 BST

The second webinar in the *Building a better chemistry culture* series focuses on the challenges of a new remote working culture, which is being experienced by many chemists as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the opportunities that arise from supporting flexibility in work environments. It is an opportunity to discuss the challenges of working remotely and from home, which may be further emphasised for those with caring responsibilities, laboratory scientists and collaborative and international teams.

Find out more and view recording: <a href="https://www.chemistryworld.com/webinars/flexible-working-building-a-better-chemistry-culture/4011937.article">https://www.chemistryworld.com/webinars/flexible-working-building-a-better-chemistry-culture/4011937.article</a>

#### May - Kindness

Thursday 21 May 2020, 15:30-16:30 BST

The first in the *Building a better chemistry culture* webinar series coincides with Mental Health Awareness Week (MHAW, 18-24 May) and highlights the MHAW theme of kindness. We explore how to build a better chemistry culture through the incredible impact of kindness.

Find out more and view recording: <a href="https://www.chemistryworld.com/webinars/kindness-building-a-better-chemistry-culture/4011630.article">https://www.chemistryworld.com/webinars/kindness-building-a-better-chemistry-culture/4011630.article</a>







#### **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: <a href="https://www.rsc.org/news-events/articles/2020/apr/chem-vs-covid-ellie-edf/">https://www.rsc.org/news-events/articles/2020/apr/chem-vs-covid-ellie-edf/</a>

You can help us celebrate the chemists across the world who are making the difference by sharing your stories with us, either <u>by e-mail</u>, 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.







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
GeWis	Renyu	22 Zoth Julie	1 ostponed 2021
LCMS	Kenya	6-10th July	Postponed 2021
GCMS	Ghana	3-7th Aug	Postponed 2021
LCMS	Kenya	10-14th Aug	Postponed 2021
GCMS	Nigeria	16-20th Nov	Postponed 2021

**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/

## Conferences

- 1. 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual international conference of the Chemical Society of Nigeria Abuja, 22-27 November
- 2. VCCA-2020, Mauritius 1-31 Aug 2020 http://sites.uom.ac.mu/vcca2020
- **3. International Inorganic Chemistry Virtual Conference in Kenya,** 1<sup>st</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020, at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. <a href="http://chemistry.uonbi.ac.ke/odhiambor@uonbi.ac.ke">http://chemistry.uonbi.ac.ke</a>/ odhiambor@uonbi.ac.ke
- 4. 26th International Conference on Chemistry Education, Cape Town 2021 (26-30 January) icce2021@allevents.co.za.
- 5. 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Kenya Chemical Society, 4-7 Aug 2020, Kisumu City, Kenya.
- 6. African Materials Research Society (AMRS 2021) 13-16 Dec 2021, Dakar, Senegal <a href="https://africanmrs.net">https://africanmrs.net</a>

#### **Detailed Conference Information**

i) 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual international conference of the Chemical Society of Nigeria







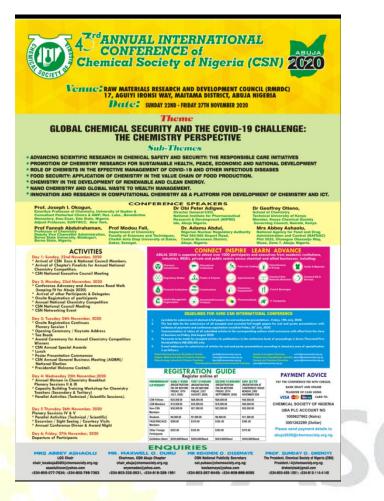


Fig 4: CSN International Conference Flyer

#### ii) VCCA-2020

During this unique situation, we came up with the idea of organising a Virtual Conference on Chemistry and its Applications (VCCA-2020) from 1-31 August 2020. VCCA-2020 has been endorsed by IUPAC.

The website of the conference is: http://sites.uom.ac.mu/vcca2020

There will not be live presentations and thus one does not have to be always online.

There will be Nobel Prize presentations including;

Prof Robert Huber (1988 Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry)

Sir (Prof) Richard Roberts (1993 Nobel Prize Winner in Physiology or Medicine)

Prof Ada Yonath (2009 Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry)

Prof Jean-Pierre Sauvage (2016 Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry)









#### Virtual Conference on Chemistry and its Applications

Research and Innovations in Chemical Sciences, Paving the Way Forward 1" to 31" August 2020

#### BACKGROUND

A Virtual Conference on Chemistry and its Applications (VCCA-2020) will be held from 1st to 31st August 2020. The Organising Committee has adopted the theme "Research and Innovations in Chemical Sciences: Paving the Way Forward" for this virtual event.

This virtual conference will provide an online platform for participants to present, share and discuss recent findings of their research covering all topics related to Chemistry and interdisciplinary Sciences.

This virtual conference will also provide the opportunity for scientists to interact in the current situation the World is facing due COVID-19 and there are several travel restrictions.

#### DEADLINES

**Abstract Submission** 15th June 2020 Notification of Acceptance 30th June 2020 10th July 2020 **Early Registration** Presentation Submission 15th July 2020 Full Paper (Optional) 1st November 2020

#### TOPICS

**Agricultural Chemistry Analytical Chemistry Biophysical Chemistry Chemical Biology Chemical Education Chemical Engineering** Chemical Physics **Chemical Safety** Cheminformatics & Bioinformatics **Chemistry of Natural Products** Computational/Theoretical Chemistry **Cosmetics Chemistry Environmental Chemistry** Food Chemistry Forensic Science Industrial Chemistry **Inorganic Chemistry** Material Science & Nanotechnology **Medicinal Chemistry Organic Chemistry** Petroleum Chemistry **Pharmaceutical Chemistry Physical Chemistry Polymer Chemistry** 

Interdisciplinary Chemistry Fields

The virtual conference will be held online and there will not be the need to travel. There is no need to be always online as there will not be live presentations.

We look forward to welcoming you, academicians and researchers, to participate in this virtual conference.

For more information about the conference, registration, and submission of abstract, please visit:

https://sites.uom.ac.mu/vcca2020/

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1 +230 4037507 vccamru@uom.ac.mu



Dr Lydia Rhyman

## iii) INTERNATIONAL INORGANIC CHEMISTRY VIRTUAL CONFERENCE IN

**KENYA;** THEME: Inorganic Chemistry for Social Development

Following the success of the First International Inorganic Chemistry Conference in 2018, we hereby announce the Second International Inorganic Chemistry Conference, that will be held virtually on 1<sup>st</sup>– 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020, at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. The Conference is jointly being organized by the Department of Chemistry, University of Nairobi and the International Science Programme of Uppsala University, Sweden.

The conference's objective is to discuss trends of Inorganic chemistry in social development through research, industry and academia in view of the pandemic. The conference will bring together practicing chemists in industry, academia, researchers, entrepreneurs and policy makers to discuss the trends and wider application of Inorganic Chemistry in social development and







environmental management in Africa in general.

On behalf of the organizing committee, we cordially invite you to participate in the Conference by submitting an abstract, for consideration of virtual oral presentation. Upon acceptance of abstract and subsequent presentation of your work, participants will be required to submit full manuscripts to the conference organizers for consideration of publication in the African Journal of Physical Sciences.

#### 2. CALL FOR PAPERS

Abstracts must be in English, typed in 12 point Times Roman, single line spacing and with the title presented in 14 point. The abstract should not be more than 300 words and must be a Microsoft Office Word file (.doc, .docx). Abstracts should be submitted to odhiambor@uonbi.ac.ke.

## 3. THE CONFERENCE WILL COVER THE FOLLOWING THEMATIC AREAS:

- 1) Trends in syntheses and applications of Inorganic chemistry
- 2) Computational/Combinatorial chemistry
- 3) Nanochemistry and application of nanomaterials
- 4) Environmental Pollution Management
- 5) Advances in mineral extractive technologies
- 6) Information Technology application in Theoretical Chemistry teaching
- 7) E-learning of Inorganic Chemistry

# 4. IMPORTANT DATES:

- 1) Deadline for abstract 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020
- 2) Deadline for notification of acceptance 15th September 2020
- 3) Deadline for registration 1st September 2020
- 4) Deadline for submission of full papers 30th October 2020
- 5) Conference venue: University of Nairobi, Nairobi
- 6) CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

US\$ 75.00 Participants: US\$ 50.00 Students

7) Exhibitors Companies, organizations or individuals interested in exhibiting merchandize or in holding vendor demonstrations are welcome. Registration fee for exhibition is US\$ 100.00 for space.

#### 8. Contact Details

For additional details, visit the Department of Chemistry website at <a href="http://chemistry.uonbi.ac.ke/">http://chemistry.uonbi.ac.ke/</a> or contact odhiambor@uonbi.ac.ke

## iv) 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 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

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



Fig 5: KCS conference flyer







## v) AMRS 2021

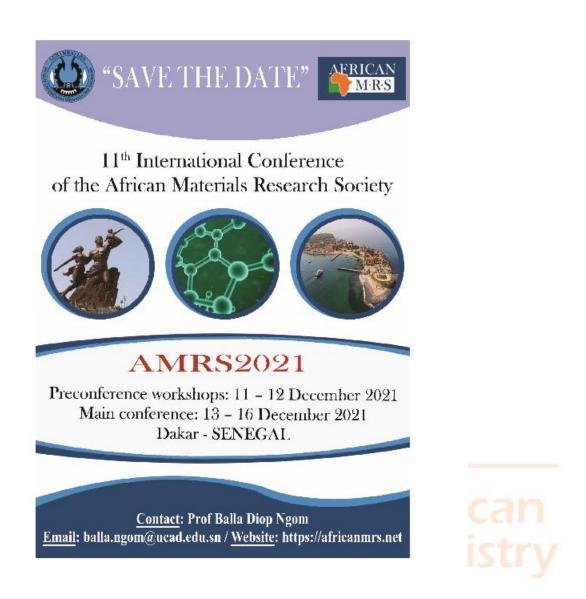


Fig 6: AMRS2020 conference flyer





