



FASC Newsletter 7, July 2022

For those member counties who belong to the Commonwealth there is an opportunity for these Societies to nominate three Early Career Chemists to go to the Commonwealth Chemistry event in the West Indies in May 2023. Details on registration and abstract submission are also listed. Also, the ABC Chem event is approaching and registration is open.

Neil Coville

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- i) 44th SACI Convention 2023.
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- v) NanoAfrica 2022
- vi) African Materials Research Society (AMRS) Dakar, Senegal.

DETAILED CONFERENCE INFORMATION

New conferences data given at the end of the newsletter. See FASC website for older data: <https://www.faschem.org/>

ABOUT FASC

FASC website

The FASC website is now up and functioning. Information on the FASC history/the updated FASC constitution/old copies of the newsletter/copies of the African J of Chemistry etc., etc. has been loaded onto the site. <https://www.faschem.org/>

FASC membership and invoices

Payment of fees

Payment of fees has proven to be an issue for many Societies. Transfer of monies to the FASC account has not been simple for some.

To circumvent this problem it has been suggested that payment can be made at the ABCChem meeting in December. It is suggested that this could be done in US dollars at the FASC GM. This could be paid for the two years (2022/2023).

Importantly payment will be required to VOTE (be a voting member) at the GM.

To make the payment at the GM it is important that Societies apply for membership BEFORE the GM.

Please apply online: http://www.faschem.org/contact/membership_application

Important points

- 1) Invoices to Chemical Societies went out in February. Cost for 2022 will be US\$100 per Society. (A charge of \$50 will be levied for 'Associate Member countries')
- 2) Individual membership will be available at US\$10 pa.
- 3) A new category 'Young affiliate member' will allow for post-graduate membership (at US\$5 pa).
- 4) To be a voting member at the GA, Society dues must be paid for that year

What does FASC do?

FASC has now been in existence for 15 years and encourages African Chemical Societies to join FASC. What does it do?

- 1) FASC currently produces the African Journal of Chemical Education (Editor: Dr Engida, Ethiopia; temechegne@faschem.org)
- 2) FASC is coordinating the Atlantic Basin Conference (ABC) on Chemistry in Morocco (December 2022 ; Chair: Prof Mamia el Rhazi, FASC President)
- 3) FASC has a General Assembly every two years that rotates around the African continent. The next one in December 2022 will be held in collaboration with the ABC event (Organisers: Tunisia)
- 4) FASC has a web site (currently being updated) to inform all of FASC activities
- 5) FASC is a member of IUPAC
- 6) FASC produces a monthly newsletter
- 7) FASC, with the financial support of the RSC, supports young African chemists to attend conferences
- 8) FASC members work closely with PACN
- 9) FASC works with the RSC, ACS and IUPAC seeking support for African chemists
- 10) FASC will produce: FRONTIERS IN CHEMISTRY – SPECIAL VOLUME ON AFRICA in 2022

The future

- 1) To become financially independent
- 2) To grow the number of member countries
- 3) To coordinate workshops/seminars within member countries

Information for the newsletter

Please send all information to Laila Smith (fasc@wits.ac.za), 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 (<http://www.faschem.org/>).

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, there could be a small charge. For advertising costs, contact the FASC office in South Africa: laila.smith@saci.cac.za

CHEMISTRY NEWS

African Chemical Societies and Other News

i) South Africa

Winners of the 2021/2022 NSTF-South32 Awards

The Gala Event of the prestigious NSTF-South32 Awards took place on Thursday, 21 July 2022. It was the 24th celebration of South African excellence through this flagship project of the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF).

The TW Kambule-NSTF Award: Emerging Researcher

This award went to Dr Banothile Makhubela – Senior Lecturer and Director: Research Centre for Synthesis and Catalysis, Dept of Chemical Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Johannesburg

“For her contribution to nano- and organometallic-catalysis directed towards green and sustainable chemical processes, Dr Makhubela's research applies such catalysts to converting waste materials like lignocellulose and a greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide (CO₂), into sustainable chemicals and fuels”.

ii) Dr Adeyemi Adeleye

In one of the recent editions of Chemical and Engineering News (ACS) 12 ‘up and coming’ researchers were identified. One of these chemists was Dr Adeyemi Adeleye, who was born in Nigeria.

“Adeyemi Adeleye develops iron-sulfur nanoparticles for remediating soils contaminated with toxic arsenic. He’s working to mitigate the toxicity of the nanoparticles themselves and studying how well they can immobilize arsenic and protect crops like lettuce and animals like earthworms. Adeyemi Adeleye struggles with his houseplant relationships. During a video call, he holds his office plant up to the camera. Some of the once-green leaves have gone brown, and he’s worried.

“I feel that it just doesn’t look as happy,” he says. “This is my cycle with plants. We start on a good note, at some point something goes wrong, and the relationship nosedives.” Luckily, Adeleye, an environmental chemist at the University of California, Irvine, is better at building relationships with collaborators from different disciplines. His work on nanoparticles for environmental remediation and water treatment spans chemistry, materials science, biology, and these days, agriculture. Adeleye designs nanomaterials to trap toxic arsenic in contaminated soil without harming critters such as earthworms and plants like lettuce. Exposure to arsenic, typically from drinking contaminated water or eating crops like rice that take it up from the soil, causes heart disease and cancer. The metalloid is naturally present in some parts of the world, including the US and Bangladesh, and is stirred up by agricultural and mining activities. Arsenic has also

been used in pesticides, but most of these products have been phased out as the human health impacts of arsenic have become widely known. Dealing with arsenic contamination is extremely challenging, Adeleye says, because the metalloid can't be broken down like organic contaminants. He hopes to immobilize arsenic within contaminated soils so that it won't wash into bodies of water during rainstorms and so that crops might one day be safely grown on contaminated land. Iron nanoparticles show promise for immobilizing arsenic in the lab—they have a high surface area and readily reduce and immobilize the metalloid—but these particles can be toxic to living creatures. “We’ve had a lot of scientific and technological breakthroughs that later on we figured out, oops, this was a bad idea,” Adeleye says. His recent work shows that nanoparticles made up of a mix of iron and sulfur are nearly as effective at immobilizing arsenic as those made from elemental iron while being less toxic to earthworms. The next question, Adeleye says, is, “Hey, can we actually reuse that soil for growing things?” For example, he wonders if these nanoparticles could be used in urban gardens where city dwellers grow food. Adeleye and green-thumbed collaborators are studying how lettuce, which tends to take up toxic metals and arsenic, grows in contaminated soil treated with the nanoparticles. They’re still analyzing the results, but Adeleye’s nanotechnological soil treatment seems to have a protective effect. Lettuce grown in arsenic-contaminated soil is stunted, but lettuce grown in contaminated soil mixed with the nanoparticles grows more normally. Whether the lettuce is safe to eat will require further study. Not only is Adeleye a skilled scientist, but he’s also great at building a team, says Arturo Keller, an environmental scientist at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Keller, who was Adeleye’s adviser through graduate school and a postdoc, says Adeleye got more done by recruiting a team of undergrads to work on his projects. “He was really good at making sure they understood the work” and were listed as authors on the resulting publications, Keller says. “He makes sure everyone is feeling comfortable.” Adeleye is now using artificial intelligence to design tailored versions of the nanoparticles—for example, predicting ways to make them interact with arsenic more strongly while decreasing their potential toxicity. He’s also exploring their use for wastewater treatment, including removing and breaking down per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which are toxic, persistent organic pollutants commonly found in the water supply. All that and fretting about his office plant. “I’m still hopeful this one will live and be happy,” he says.—KATHERINE BOURZ

Taken from C &EN 2022iii) Senegal

The Senegalese Committee For Chemistry (<https://csc.ucad.sn>) will be organizing their 5th Annual Days of Chemistry of Senegal on November 22-23, 2022, in Dakar.

The general theme is: Developing Energy And Mining Resources Through Chemistry. "Water, Environment, Health" and "Mining and Energy" are the main topics. Non-theme communications are also welcome.

More information can be found in our website, especially in the flyer:

https://csc.ucad.sn/images/CSC/FLYER_JACS_2022_VF_19072022.pdf .

(See advert at end of newsletter).

Prof. Modou Fall, UCAD, Dakar

iii) **Tunisia**

Fourth Tunisian Chemical Society Conference on Coordination Chemistry JCC 2022),

<http://www.sctunisie.org/4thjcc/>

The JCC 2022 is being organized by The Tunisian Chemical Society; Coordination Chemistry Group in collaboration with the RSC Tunisia Local Section and which will be held from 29 September to 02 October 2022 at Blue Marine Hotel (former Laico). Yasmine Hammamet/ Tunisia

(See advert at end of newsletter) <http://www.sctunisie.org/4thjcc/>

Pr Hatem BEN ROMDHANE.

President of the Tunisian Chemical Society

iv) **South Africa: Global Battery Experiments**

Be part of a brighter energy future!

As the local South Africa North section of the Royal Society of Chemistry, we are excited to share an opportunity for you to enthuse learners about the relevance of chemistry to solving global sustainability challenges. There are two kinds of experiments, one that requires a laboratory and basic chemicals and one that does not. Take a look and use our [Facebook page](#) to let us know if you would like some advice and let us know how it goes by posting a photo of your class participating in the global experiment. Our local RSC will award a prize for the best photo from a South African school group posted on our Facebook page.

To tackle our growing climate crisis, we need to move away from fossil fuels and embrace electrification. A crucial part of this journey is bigger and better **batteries**; we need them to be a sustainable storage solution to ease our energy transition. Taking part in our global battery experiment will give you the opportunity to explore the science behind batteries – and why they are such an important part of our bright energy future.

Go to [Take charge: a global battery experiment | RSC Education](#) for further information

The event is open to all, but only SA schools that submit their photos will be eligible for the prize.

Sadhna Mathura

v) **Nigeria: OWSD Nigeria National Chapter event**

The OWSD Nigeria National Chapter - Port Harcourt branch invites interested OWSD members to participate in the 6th Biennial International Conference on Diversity and Innovation in Science for Sustainable Development.

This conference will take place from 19-23 March 2023 at the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

OWSD Secretariat

vi) **Mauritius: Virtual Conference on Chemistry and its Applications**

8th-12th August 2022, VIRTUAL event. vccamru@uom.ac.mu

Virtual Conference on Chemistry and its Applications

"Resilience and Sustainable Research through Basic Sciences"



8 – 12 August 2022

Abstract submission
15-May-2022
Extended till 31 May 2022

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.

We will be graced by the participation of three Nobel laureates.

vccamru@uom.ac.mu

Scan me for details!



vii) **Plenary speaker at the ABC Chem event: Prof Teri Odom**



ABC Chem
ATLANTIC BASIN CONFERENCE ON CHEMISTRY

13-16 DECEMBER 2022
MARRAKECH, MOROCCO



CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY & HEALTH
Professor Kelly Chibale
Department of Chemistry
University of Cape Town
South Africa



EDUCATION & SCIENCE COMMUNICATION
Dr. Temechehn Engida
Program Officer
UNESCO-IICA
Ethiopia



GREEN CHEMISTRY
Professor Jillian Buriak
Department of Chemistry
University of Alberta
Canada



MATERIALS & NANO CHEMISTRY
Professor Teri Odom
Department of Chemistry
Northwestern University & Nano Letters
United States

Professor Teri Odom



Department of Chemistry, Northwestern University, USA

Teri W. Odom is Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Chemistry Department at Northwestern University. She is an expert in designing structured nanoscale materials that exhibit extraordinary size and shape-dependent optical and physical properties. Odom has pioneered a suite of multi-scale nanofabrication tools that have resulted in plasmon-based nanoscale lasers that exhibit tunable color, flat optics that can manipulate light at the nanoscale, and hierarchical substrates that show controlled wetting and super-hydrophobicity. She has also invented a class of biological nanoconstructs that are facilitating unique insight into nanoparticle-cell interactions and that show superior imaging and therapeutic properties because of their gold nanostar shape.

Odom is a Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS) and a Fellow of the Materials Research Society (MRS), the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), the American Chemical Society (ACS), the American Physical Society (APS), and the Optical Society of America (OSA). Select honors and awards include: the RSC Centenary Prize; the ACS National Award in Surface Science; a Research Corporation TREE Award; a U.S. Department of Defense Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellowship; a Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship at Harvard University; an NIH Director's Pioneer Award; the MRS Outstanding Young Investigator Award; the National Fresenius Award from Phi Lambda Upsilon and the ACS; an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship; and a David and Lucile Packard Fellowship in Science and Engineering.

Odom was founding Chair of the Noble Metal Nanoparticles Gordon Research Conference (GRC) and founding Vice-Chair of the GRC on Lasers in Micro, Nano, Bio Systems. She was an inaugural Associate Editor for *Chemical Science* and founding Executive Editor of *ACS Photonics*. She is Editor-in-Chief of *Nano Letters*. Odom's Personal Story of Discovery was featured by ACS Publications.

Taken from conference web site.

Younger Chemists' News

i) Commonwealth Chemistry: Nomination of Early career chemists

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to invite you to choose your country's delegates for the 2nd Commonwealth Chemistry Congress. A key aspect that differentiates the Commonwealth Chemistry Congress from other scientific meetings is the underlying principle of **equal representation for all Commonwealth countries** and a unique focus on creating an **enabling environment for early career chemists**.

Every Commonwealth country will be represented by up to three Early Career Chemists. In addition, the President or one office holder from South African Chemical Institute will be invited to join the Congress and participate in the 3rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Commonwealth Chemistry on Thursday 25th May 2023.

We expect that, wherever possible, the travel and accommodation for the three Early Career Chemist delegates and the Chemical Society representative will be funded by their society or

university/organisation. Where it is not possible to secure some or all of the funding to cover these costs, Commonwealth Chemistry will provide funding to ensure their participation. Accommodation for the Congress will be at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre. The cost for the accommodation and conference attendance is expected to be in the region of USD835.00 per delegate.

For wider participation, an additional two delegates per country may attend, however these will not be funded by Commonwealth Chemistry. These additional delegates can be either Early Career Chemists or AGM delegates.

If you are interested in sending additional delegates to the Congress, we ask that you **contact the Secretariat by Monday 22 August 2022**. Based on these expressions of interest, the Local Organising Committee will calculate the cost per additional delegate, which we will share with you in early September. We will then ask for confirmation of the number of delegates and their roles by mid-September.

The Early Career Chemist delegates for each country will be chosen by the Chemical Society or designated organisation. Attached is a document with more information about the selection criteria for delegates. We have also attached a template application form that you may wish to use to evaluate the applications in your country. Within this form we have suggested each applicant provide a letter supporting their attendance and the information and documents needed by the Scientific Organising Committee. This form is also available [to download from our website](#) if you would like to share the link with your Early Career community.

In selecting the successful candidates, the panel must consider diversity and inclusion – in particular the target for the Congress of 40% female participants – and ensure that at least one of their delegates is a woman. We also ask that you consider diversity across the scientific themes to ensure a balanced programme.

You must complete the evaluation and selection of your delegates and provide their details to the Secretariat by **Tuesday 1 November 2022**.

We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming your delegation to Trinidad and Tobago in May 2023.

Dr Ale Palermo, Dr Andrew Shore and Dr Aurora Walshe

ii) African Young Chemists Network (AYCN)

The African Younger Chemists Network (AYCN) seeks to display the unique talents of young researchers on the continent and to provide a platform for constructive career development and engagements across the globe.

Contact email: aycn.chemists@gmail.com; Contact people: Ms Bianca Davids, Dr Sadhna Mathura

iii) International Young Chemists Network (IYCN)

The International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN; <https://www.iycnglobal.com/>), affiliated organization of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) is organizing a **series of FREE live workshops** devoted to support and empower early-career chemists with **professional development skills** to advance their careers.

Stephen O Aderinto: soaderinto1@sheffield.ac.uk

Royal Society of Chemistry News



i) GSK/RSC Hands-On GC-MS & LC-MS Training Courses

Through our partnership with GSK we are delighted to announce that we are able to run the following Hands-On GC-MS (Gas Chromatography with Mass Spectrometry) and LC-MS (Liquid Chromatography with Mass Spectrometry) training courses in 2022.

Please see the timetable below for forthcoming courses for which we are still open to applications. Please carefully note the deadlines to complete them. We hope to reschedule our GC-MS 2021 training course for Ethiopia this year. Applicants who originally applied and were successful will be given priority to attend. Full details will be provided on www.rsc.org/events/africa. Please email Africa@rsc.org with any enquiries.

Course Type	Location	2021 Dates
LC-MS	Kenya	22-26th Aug 2022
GC-MS	Ethiopia	TBC – rescheduled from 2021

ii) Pan Africa Chemistry Network

The Pan Africa Chemistry Network (PACN) has a LinkedIn group where members share information related to PACN activities, news, and events from across Africa. You can apply to join this group here <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1900756/>

Commonwealth Chemistry

Register and abstract submission for Commonwealth Chemistry event

3rd Commonwealth Chemistry Posters – Building Networks to Address the Goals, 28 – 29 September. A unique opportunity awaits you at this year's 3rd Commonwealth Chemistry Posters. The only chemistry posters event that is delivered by and for Commonwealth countries, it gives you the chance to engage with top chemists, to find potential collaborations and to network with your peers. Plus, if you are an early career chemist, you will have the opportunity to present a poster of your work to a wider audience – a potential springboard to new opportunities and collaborations.

As a collective of over 40 Commonwealth countries, Commonwealth Chemistry brings together individuals, communities and organisations working in the chemical sciences to develop networks, promote collaboration and address shared problems set out in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Improving human health, sustainable food production, clean energy, reducing pollution, reducing waste... chemical scientists across the Commonwealth are working on solutions to transform our world. Commonwealth Chemistry Posters is one of the ways in which we celebrate and elevate the role and practice of the chemical sciences, to society and policymakers across the Commonwealth.

Why attend?

Early career chemists:

- Present a poster of your work to scientists from across the Commonwealth and reach a wider audience – you could also win a 'best poster' prize and be featured on the Commonwealth Chemistry website

- Discuss your work with those who may be addressing the same sustainable development goals, share methodologies and challenges
- Grow your network and the potential for new collaborations at a critical time in your career

For established chemists:

- Expand your networks and discover new talent in your field
 - Find out about research taking place around the Commonwealth, related to your area of interest
 - Seek out potential new collaborations
 - Help guide early career chemists by sharing your knowledge and experience
- This event is open to all Commonwealth nationals and places are limited so we strongly recommend that you register early.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are pressing concerns that unite us – the Commonwealth chemistry community – to find solutions.

Discover the latest research in response to the SDGs at 3rd Commonwealth Chemistry Posters, the only chemistry posters event that is delivered by and for Commonwealth countries.

Poster events are a potential springboard to new opportunities and collaborations. If you're an early career chemist you can present a poster on one of six themes and engage with top chemists, find potential collaborations, and network with chemists from across the Commonwealth – you could also win a 'best poster' prize and be featured on the Commonwealth Chemistry website.

This free online event aims to celebrate and elevate the role and practice of the chemical sciences across the Commonwealth – and you can be part of it.

[Submit your abstract by 14 August]

Dr Ale Palermo, Dr Andrew Shore and Dr Aurora Walshe

AFRICAN JOURNALS OF CHEMISTRY

i) African Journal of Chemical Education

The online version is to be found on the FASC website (www.faschem.org, under Journal) and the AJOL website (www.ajol.info).

AJCE, 2022, 12(2) ISSN 2227

Qi.Zhao, John Bradley, K.M. Chan, and N.H. Zhou; Design and testing of the micro filter paper fuel cell p1

Eshetu Desalegn Alemneh; Assessment of current status of hands on, minds on and hearts on activity during science session: the case of primary schools in Woldia town p19

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Mirtachew Tihar Ali and Annette Lykknes; In-service chemistry teachers' reflections on and experiences with supervised laboratory instruction in Ethiopia p 60

Jean Baptiste Bunane, Edwige Kampire and Claude Karegeya; Teachers' perceptions on the impact of continuous professional development to promote quality teaching and learning of chemistry: a case of Rwamagana secondary schools, Rwanda p 96

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Enquiries and manuscripts should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief: email eic@faschem.org, PO Box 2305, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Dr. Temechegn Engida e-mail: temechegne@faschem.org

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

Upcoming events

- i) **Fourth Tunisian Chemical Society Conference on Coordination Chemistry**, 29th Sept – 2nd Oct, Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia. <http://www.sctunisie.org/4thjcc/>
- ii) **5th Annual Days of Chemistry of Senegal** on 22-23, November, 2022, Dakar, Senegal. https://csc.ucad.sn/images/CSC/FLYER_JACS_2022_VF_19072022.pdf
- iii) **Virtual Conference on Chemistry and its Applications**, 8th-12th August 2022, VIRTUAL event. vcccamru@uom.ac.mu
- v) **ACRISE 2022, 5th African Conference on Research in Chemical Education**, 7th-9th December 2022, Cairo, Egypt. <https://arice.online>
- v) **45th Annual International conference of the Chemical Society of Nigeria**. Yola, Nigeria, 18-23 September 2022.conferencehelpdesk22@chemsociety.org.ng
- vi) **44th SACI Convention 2023**. Stellenbosch, SA, 9-13 January 2023
- vii) **The 2nd African Traditional and Natural Product Medicine Conference**, Ranch Hotel, Limpopo, SA, 19-21 October 2022 (www.faschem.org)
- viii) **ABCChem**. Marrakech, Morocco, 13-16 Dec 2022, (www.faschem.org)
- ix) **CATSA 2022**. Drakensberg South Africa 13-16 Nov 2022 www.catsa.org (see FASC website www.faschem.org)
- x) **NanoAfrica 2022**. 23-29 October 2022, Cape Town. info@nanoafrica2022.co.za (see FASC website www.faschem.org)
- xi) **African Materials Research Society (AMRS 2021)**. 12-15 Dec 2022, Dakar, Senegal www.africanmrs.net (see FASC website www.faschem.org)



FASC

Federation of African Societies of Chemistry

i) ABCChem



ii) Senegal



iii) Tunisia

SCTUNISIE.ORG

Home Committees Speakers Program Abstracts Registration Venue

RSC LOCAL SECTION TUNISIA

The Tunisian Chemical Society Coordination Chemistry Group
in collaboration with the RSC Tunisia Local Section
organizes
the Fourth Tunisian Chemical Society Conference
on Coordination Chemistry
JCC 2022
29 September to 02 October 2022, Blue Marine Hotel (former Laico) Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia



FASC

Federation of African Societies of Chemistry