

FASC Newsletter 1, February 2023

The New Year, 2023, is already one month in, and for many the new University year will begin soon. A successful FASC meeting, together with the ABC on Chemistry meeting, was held in Marrakech in December. At the GM, held during the meeting, the new FASC executive committee was elected. Congratulations to Prof Gloria Obuzor (Nigeria) for being elected as the new FASC President. A short profile on Gloria, as well as a listing of the new committee members, is given in the newsletter. Upcoming events listed include a Global Women's Breakfast and two events for emerging chemists.

Neil Coville.

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- ii) Biophysics in Africa conference, 2-5 May 2023, Zoom Conference
- iii) 2023 Powder Diffraction Conference,17-21 April 2023, Namibia,
- iv) American Chemical Society Nigeria International Chapter Symposium, 4-8 June. Nigeria
- v) 15th Green Chemistry Postgraduate Summer School, 5-7 July 2023, Venezia, Italy
- vi) 2023 Powder Diffraction Conference, 17 21 April 2023, Namibia,

DETAILED CONFERENCE INFORMATION

See FASC website for data on conferences 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 Journal of Chemistry etc., has been loaded onto the site. https://www.faschem.org/

FASC membership and invoices

Payment of fees

Online payment is now available to all Members and Societies

Please email <u>fasc.chem@wits.ac.za</u> and request an online payment link – Note it will be in ZAR. The Equivalent daily rate will be used when the payment link is created. You can enter card details via a safe <u>site</u>.

Mrs Laila Smith

Membership Fees

Please apply online: http://www.faschem.org/contact/membership application
Important points

- 1) Cost for 2023 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 has a General Assembly every two years that rotates around the African continent. The next one will be in Senegal in 2024
- 3) FASC has a web site (currently being updated) to inform all of FASC activities
- 4) FASC is a member of IUPAC
- 5) FASC produces a monthly newsletter
- 6) FASC, with the financial support of the RSC, supports young African chemists to attend conferences
- 7) FASC members work closely with PACN
- 8) FASC works with the RSC, ACS and IUPAC seeking support for African chemists
- 9) FASC produced 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 (<u>fasc@wits.ac.za</u>), Emmanuel C. Ohaekenyem (<u>ec.ohaekenyem@unizik.edu.ng</u>) or to me (<u>neil.coville@wits.ac.za</u>)

Laila 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

FASC news



i) FASC General meeting 2022







The FASC General Meeting was held in Marrakech on Thursday 15th December 2022. At this event, the new FASC committee was elected to run the Society affairs until the next meeting in Senegal in 2024. The names of the new committee are given below.

In electing the committee, consideration was given to ensuring there is near equal representation from the 4 geographical areas in Africa (North/South/East/West), as well as gender parity. For these reasons, the Constitution was changed a few years back to allow members to be co-opted to obtain a working committee of 8 to 10 members. This would also allow for a bigger pool of members that could assist with the running of FASC. Some photographs of the GM are shown below.

The minutes of the meeting will be published in the months ahead. Some important information form the meeting.

- 1) The GM was a hybrid event with delegates attending virtually and in person
- 2) The Emerging Chemical Scientists (supported by the RSC and the ACS) attended the meeting
- 3) The outgoing President (Prof Mama El Rhazi) gave her report; the financials were given by the Treasurer (Dr Chebude)
- 4) The new committee was unanimously elected.
- 5) Prof's Coville and Darkwa did not stand for re-election.
- 6) The next GM and FASC conference will be held in Senegal (Prof Fall, Conference Chair)
- 7) The 2026 event will be held in East Africa (venue to be decided)



Fig 1: AGM attendees



ederation of African ocieties of Chemistry

Fig 2: Some of the participants at the GM in Marrakech.

Link to other photos: http://bit.ly/3wbYbFy

Neil Coville







FASC Executive committee: (2022-2024)

i) The FASC executive for 2023

President: Prof Gloria Obuzor (Nigeria)

Past-President: Prof Mama El Rhazi (Morocco) Vice-President: Prof Hatem Ben Romdhane (Tunisia) Treasurer: Prof Vincent Nyamori (South Africa) Secretary: Prof Clarence Mgina (Tanzania)

Co-opted members

Dr Lydia Rhyman (Mauritius)

Dr Yonas Chebude (Ethiopia)

Prof Modou Fall (Senegal) 2024 Conference host

Dr Ezzahi Amine (Morocco)

Other

Afr J Chem Edu (Editor): Dr Temechegn Engida (Ethiopia)

Newsletter: Prof Neil Coville (South Africa)

FASC Office Administrator: Ms Laila Smith (South Africa)

ii) FASC President: Prof Gloria Ukalina Obuzor



Prof Gloria Obuzor

Gloria Ukalina Obuzor is a Prof. of Organic Chemistry from Nigeria who obtained her Ph.D. in 1998 in organic synthesis (organometallics) at University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), now Manchester University, under the tutelage of Dr. B. L. Booth with emphasis in the synthesis of new cyclopentadienyl and indenyl transition metal complexes. Her research areas are organic synthesis, green chemistry and phytochemistry where the rich fauna of Nigeria is explored for nutraceutical. She is an oenologist, has a passion for product development and she is the proud producer of Ukalina Wines (White and Red -produced from locally available fruits). She is currently exploring the conversion of waste to wealth and the production of bitters. Gloria Ukalina Obuzor was retained by the University of Port Harcourt after her mandatory National Youth service corp. (NYSC) in 1991 where she rose through the ranks to become a Professor in 2012. She has mentored over 100 secondary school girls. She is the first female President of Chemical Society of Nigeria (CSN) in its forty years of existence (2014-2017), the Rivers State Coordinator of Organization for Women in Science for Developing World (2010-2019), a Bureau member of International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (2019-2023, and the President of Federation of African Societies of Chemistry (FASC).







In Memoriam: Prof John Bradley: (1937-2022)

Prof John Bradley passed away in December 2022. He was an educationalist who was particularly well known for introduced the concept of 'Microscale Chemistry kits' into many African countries. He was on the Editorial Board of the FASC, African Journal of Chemical Education.



Professor John Bradley joined the Wits School of Chemistry in 1964 after completing his studies at the University of Leeds and the University of London (King's College) and his postdoctoral fellowship at Florida State University. He worked his way up the ranks and became a full professor. He spent 58 fruitful years at Wits in several capacities, all with the central theme of Chemical Education.

Early Period: Wits School of Chemistry, 1964 – 1990:

He began as a pure chemist, but through his contact with other colleagues who were concerned about the lack of conceptual learning in

undergraduate courses, he began to explore better ways of teaching chemistry. He was actively involved in curriculum development in both lecture and laboratory classes across the undergraduate spectrum (1st year general chemistry and 2nd- 4th year organic chemistry as well as 4th year science education. According to Gus Gerrans, in 1986 he introduced SGTs (Small Group Tutorials) in 1st year chemistry courses as part of what was called TLLM (Teaching Less and Learning More).

He was the driving force behind the creation of the Science Education Committee in the Faculty of Science together with notable academics in other disciplines and created Honours options in Science Education, offered primarily to teachers and teacher educators. This was followed by the creation of a Master's degree in Science Education. His concern about the poor throughput rate in the Faculty of Science led to the establishment in the late 1980s of a two-year bridging programme leading to second year BSc. This later evolved into the College of Science (a fully-fledged extended curriculum programme at Wits that ran from 1990-2004).

His mentoring approach to chemical education started with his colleagues, exemplified by the reflections of Dr Margie White, a former tutor (1981 - 2006) who reflected, "My approach to teaching changed drastically in that time.... input from John turned my understanding of chemical concepts and the teaching of them, upside down - start with the small (the microscopic) and then understand the large (macroscopic)".

During this period, he was president of SACI (1988-1990), education officer of SACI (1992-2015) and Chairman of the IUPAC committee for the teaching of chemistry.

RADMASTE (Research and Development in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education): 1990 - 2014

As his interest in Chemical Education grew, John felt the need for making a wider impact on the teaching and learning of chemistry in South Africa and later beyond. Together with colleagues in physics and mathematics, he established RADMASTE, an organisation that worked to improve the teaching of both teachers and teacher educators and began the work that led to international recognition — the development of microscale chemistry kits and accompanying materials, culminating in a NSTF award in 1998, an award from International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development, and finally an international microscale chemistry award.

A fellow microscale developer in the UK, Bob Worley reflects, "A giant in the microscale world has passed on. I was determined at the time in 1991, ... not to lose the well-known school experiment - the reduction of copper oxide by hydrogen. I found one (safe) method (developed) by John, ... which I adapted for use with equipment found in our school labs".

An article by Beverley Bell, formerly of RADMASTE, provides evidence of Important work with Chemistry teachers in Africa (50 sites in 28 Countries), South and Central America and the







Caribbean (7 countries), Europe and Eurasia (24 countries), Asia (10 countries), Indian Ocean Islands (4).

A former RADMASTE colleague and now lecturer in the Wits School of Education, Dr Mpunki Nakedi reflects, "to me John was not just a teacher, a leader or a colleague, but was like a father I feel I did not honour enough, and I am immensely grateful for that profound undeserved connection".

Throughout his career, John found time to supervise postgraduate Students, amongst them, Professor Nthabiseng Ogude (PhD 1991), Professor Elizabeth Mavhunga (Masters with distinction in 1997), Dr Betty Dlamini (PhD 2000), Dr Sabelo Manyatsi (PhD 1997) and Dr Margie White (PhD 1997).

Dr Betty Dlamini reflected, "He will indeed be remembered for his sharp observations and his gentle comments while guiding the theses writing. You just never forget his insights to your ideas as a student".

"Retirement"

John never really retired. RADMASTE moved to the Wits Education Campus in 2009, he taught chemistry courses for the honours programme in Science Education on an honorary basis from 2002 – 2018. Marissa Rollnick reflects, "I began to co-teach the course with him and gained a new insight into chemistry ideas, some so new that to understand his approach, I found it necessary to video record his classes, as what he was sharing was unavailable in any literature. In later years he began to provide "notes" which provided insight into his thinking on key topics such as 'acids and bases' and 'atomic structure and bonding".

Peter Moodie, with a physics background, relearnt most of his chemistry from John and was struck by John's ability to take a reader straight to key principles, often lost in textbooks. He writes, "I was relieved after struggling with bonding theory rules, to be reminded that bonding is simply electrostatic attraction between atoms. The physics was so obvious when he pointed out that big idea. But I wondered how many students do get lost in the labyrinth of chemical theory in various topics. John argued that these are mostly taught separately with no Big Ideas offered to create a whole picture."

John Bradley made an invaluable contribution to future science teachers, teaching final year students chemistry up to November 2022. As Professor Elizabeth Mavhunga put it, "he persistently challenged us to think big, think contemporary and never be complacent about our teaching offerings", a stimulus for her initiative to review the 4 years of the B.Ed., which she began in 2021 in collaboration with Dr Emmanuel Mushayikwa. According to Peter Moodie, John submitted a paper to IUPAC just before he went on leave in December 2022. In this paper he elucidated much of his thinking about the future direction of initial teacher education in the context of climate change and social change.

Acknowledgements:

Dr Margie White (ex-Wits), Dr Batseba Mofolo-Mbokane (Wits), Prof Paddy Lynch (Tasmania), Mina and Prof Ben Staskun (ex-Wits, Australia), Prof Gus Gerrans (ex-Wits, USA), Prof Jorge Ibanez (Mexico City), Bob Worley (CLEAPSS, UK), Marietjie Potgieter (UP), Prof Supawan Tantayanon (Thailand), Prof Leslie Glasser (Ex-Wits, Australia), Dr Betty Dlamini (Eswatini), Dr Mpunki Nakedi (Wits), Beverley Bell (ex-RADMASTE), Dr Solomon Akinyemi (Wits), Dr Sinegugu Khulu (Wits) and Dr Belinda van der Westhuizen (Wits), Peter Moodie (Wits).

By Marissa Rollnick and Elizabeth Mavhunga

African Chemical Societies and Other News

i) Mauritius

A Global Women's Breakfast is planned for 14 February.







Please see the flyer for GWB2023 (Mauritius) at the end of the newsletter.

Programme (tentative): https://bit.ly/3wEgiVb
Register: https://forms.gle/BX8rb4JpeNH43xpB9

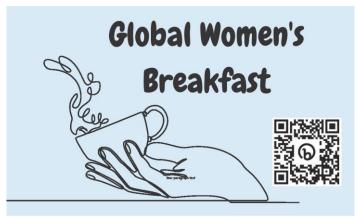












Theme: Breaking Barriers in Science





Dr Lydia Rhyman, University of Mauritius

ii) Tunisia

Report on TCC 2022

The Tunisian Chemical Society, organized from Dec 18 to 21 the "21st Edition of the Tunisian Chemistry Conference" (TCC2022). As with the last editions, TCC covered all aspects of chemistry science from fundamentals to applied chemistry.

The Organizing Committee has considered many issues to make TCC2022 an ideal forum to discuss recent progress and challenges in chemistry and to offer the delegates opportunities for cooperation and networking. For the TCC 2022 edition, The TCS invited renowned Speakers by trying to take into account both disciplinary and geographical diversity. Invited Speakers came from South Africa (2), Saudi Arabia (1), Spain (1) and France (2). Various topics dealing with modern methods of teaching, the properties of new synthetic or bio-based materials, nanotechnology and environmental analytical chemistry or medicinal chemistry were discussed.

TCC 2022 brought together more than 350 participants, and the program was busy with 133 oral communications and 189 poster communications, which covered several topics.

Link to photos: http://bit.ly/3XgA7NI







Prof Hatem BEN ROMDHANE

President of the Tunisian Chemical Society and Chairman of TCC2022

iii) 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

iii) Egypt

The Egyptian Fellowship of Chemistry Association has joined FASC.

Table: The names of Egyptian Fellowship of Chemistry Association members and their positions.

No	Name of Candidate	The Candidate position
1	Dr. Alaa Atteia	President
2	Dr. Abd El-Gany Mohamed Mosleh	Associate President
3	Dr. Ali Fawky El-Kamar	General Security member
4	Dr. Abu El-Wafaa Baker Barakat	Box security member
5	Prof. Dr. Mohamed A. Zayed	Society Member and Scientific Advisor
6	Prof. Dr. Morsy Amine Abu Yossif	Society Member and Scientific Advisor
7	Dr.Mohamed Nour Eldien Ibrahim	Society Member and Advisor
8	Dr. Chemist Ahmed El-Sayed keshta	Society member
9	Prof. Dr. Khaled Mohamed Salaam	Society member
10	Dr. Chemist Sameh Galal Shehata	Society member
11	Dr. Chemist El-Shaat Sabry Goda	Society member
12	Dr. Gama Abdel Karime Ammar	Society member
13	Dr. Tarek Mohamed Abdel Ghany	Society member

Objectives of the Chemistry Fellowship Association

- 1. Holding seminars, conferences and scientific forums and publishing its recommendations to the community through various media.
- 2. Organizing specialized scientific and administrative training programs and courses.







- 3. Organizing trips and scientific visits for chemists and science graduates to factories specialized in various chemical industries to motivate young chemists to excel in the fields of chemical sciences and to compete locally, Arably and internationally.
- 4. Organizing social trips for members of the association and their families at home and abroad.
- 5. Paying attention to, adopting and encouraging applied research.
- 6. Establishing small and medium projects to contribute to solving the problem of unemployment among graduates of faculties of science.
- 7. Holding scientific competitions and awarding honorary and encouragement prizes.
- 8. Issuing a specialized periodical scientific journal that deals with everything new in the world of chemistry, publishing applied and academic research, and publishing the recommendations of seminars and scientific conferences held by the association.
- 9. Increasing societal awareness of the role of the chemist in all areas of the chemistry world.
- 10. Awareness and education of members of the community regarding the bad use of chemicals and showing the harm caused to humans as a result of this and clarifying the optimal ways to use them, for example, the excessive use of preservatives, flavors and smells, and others.
- 11. Participation with the relevant ministries and Arab and international organizations and unions in holding scientific conferences concerned with the world of chemistry and to motivate young chemists to excel in the various fields of science and chemical research.
- 12. Maximizing the role of the chemist in developing industry by using modern technology while preserving the environment from various aspects of pollution.
- 13. Educating young chemists and emphasizing the need to pay attention to the environmental dimension and encourage research that preserves the environment from different types of pollution.
- 14. Establishing training centers and specialized scientific institutes supervised by the Ministries of Manpower and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Prof. Dr. Mohamed A. Zayed (D.Sc. Chemistry); Society Member and Scientific Advisor

African Academy of Sciences – new Fellows in the Chemical Sciences

A number of new Fellow have been elected to the AAS and some of these are from the Chemical Sciences. The most recent Fellows elected include Prof Ramasami (Mauritius). (In future months the short CV of the other elected Fellows will be given)



Ponnadurai Ramasami University of Mauritius

Discipline: Chemical Sciences

Prof Ponnadurai Ramasami, CSci, CChem, FRSC, FAAS, FICCE, MMast, received his PhD in Physical Chemistry and became full Professor in 2013. He is a Visiting Professor with the University of Johannesburg and he is Professor Extraordinarius with the University of South Africa. He was awarded the best Mauritian Scientist in 2016. He also holds a UNESCO Chair in Computational Chemistry. He leads the Computational Chemistry Group, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science at the University of Mauritius.



Taken from the AAS webpages







Emerging Chemists' News

i) IYCN survey

Dear IYCN Members,

Last October, the IYCN launched a global mental health survey of chemistry students, graduates, and early-stage researchers. Our goal is to shed light on the mental health situation in academia worldwide. This is only possible if all of you take part and share the survey with your young chemists' nationally. To date, we have responses from 25 countries.

We'd love for you to participate and share our survey with your peers: <u>tinyurl.com/2p8zmw2d</u> The survey is open until 31 January 2023. Your experiences will help us to identify and quantify problems in academia.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Torsten John, On behalf of the IYCN Board

Bianca Leigh Davids email: bdavids13@gmail.com; bianca.davids@wits.ac.za

ii) 15th Green Chemistry Postgraduate Summer School





This is a virtual meeting coordinated by the University of Mauritius

Target: Early career researchers (within eight years of the award of the PhD), including doctoral candidates from the Association of the Commonwealth Universities

Application form: https://forms.gle/3y3oM9YPRzonVmXf8

Deadline:15 February 2023









Royal Society of Chemistry News



i) Publishing in RSC Sustainability

This RSC journal deals with issues central to FASC. One of the new Associate Editors is Prof Vincent Nyamori (UKZN, South Africa). Submissions to this Journal will be FREE until mid-2025

RSC Sustainability is a gold open access journal. This means that the exceptional research you publish here can be easily accessed by people around the world. We are also paying for all article processing charges (APCs) until mid-2025, so you can gain global recognition without costing you or your funding body.

Royal Society of Chemistry

www.rsc.org

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/

AFRICAN JOURNALS OF CHEMISTRY

i) African Journal of Chemical Education







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

AJCE, 2023, 13(1) ISSN 2227-5835 is available on line

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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

ii) Other African Journals of Chemistry

- Chemistry Africa The Journal of the Tunisian Chemical Society (https://www.springer.com/journal/42250)
- See the FASC website for a complete list of Journals

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

Upcoming events with dates

- 6th Biennial International Conference on Diversity and Innovation in Science for Sustainable Development, 19-23 March, 2023 University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.
- **2023 Powder Diffraction Conference**, conference 17 21 April 2023 Namibia, https://2023sapdc.com

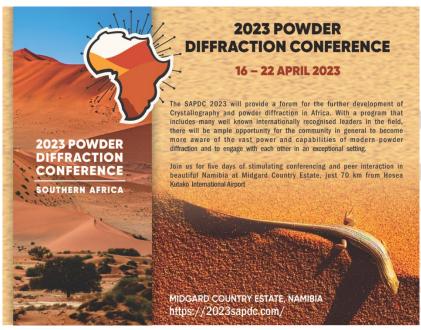






- **Biophysics in Africa conference**, Zoom Conference : 2 5 May 2023, https://biophysics2023.africanlightsource.org; https://events.saip.org.za/event/238/
- American Chemical Society Nigeria International Chapter Symposium, 4-8 June, 2023 https://acsnigeria.org/meetings-events
- 15th Green Chemistry Postgraduate Summer School 5th-7th July 2023, Venezia, Italy. https://www.greenchemistry.school/programme/
- **2023 Powder Diffraction Conference** conference 17 21 April 2023 Namibia, https://2023sapdc.com





n of African of Chemistry

On 16 and 17 April, a Topas workshop will be presented, followed by the conference from 17 – 21 April 2023. Herewith a reminder that the deadline for submitting abstracts for talks as well as for student and young scientists support is near (31 Jan) Please visit our website for further details. *Dave Billing; Chair: Local Organising Committee*





