

THE INTERNATIONAL YOUNGER CHEMISTS NETWORK NEWSLETTER

February 2022, Issue 15



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Upcoming IYCN Events

More information will follow on our Social Media channels or website soon!

Virtual Workshop Series on Professional Development Skills: “Management of Science and Innovation”. March 31st, 2022. 4:00-5:30 pm CET

All events will be FREE to attend. Please keep an eye in the IYCN social media channels or website for the link to join the events.

New Articles About the IYCN

“An overview of young chemists’ expectations towards the sustainable development of the chemical sector. Opinions that matter”, Emiel Dobbelaar and Janine Richter, *Pure Appl. Chem.* **2021**, DOI: [10.1515/pac-2021-0602](https://doi.org/10.1515/pac-2021-0602)



Support Wanted

Do you or your organization want to support IYCN and its progress?

Please contact us via the following e-mail address:
iycn@iupac.org.

We are searching for funds to support our activities including the extended development of online activities.

Greetings from the IYCN Executive Board

Dear IYCN Members, Volunteers and Partners,

We are excited to share with you updates on our past, ongoing and planned activities. Despite the global challenges imposed by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, which impacted the business of the IYCN, 2021 has seen many developments within our network as we continue to advance our projects and initiate new partnerships as the result of the invaluable effort by the IYCN members and volunteers. In December 2021, we had 498 members from 91 countries and we are eager to further expand our network and collaborate with chemical societies globally in striving for a globally sustainable future.

While we could not organize any in-person meetings around the world to raise the profile of younger chemists globally, our Conference Presence Committee continued to organize a series of virtual workshops on *professional development skills* on topics such as science communication, outreach, publishing and grant writing, with more than 500 participants and 1500 views on YouTube (https://bit.ly/IYCN_Workshop_Series). The Public Outreach Committee successfully launched the third experiment outreach competition on the theme *Food Chemistry*, linked to the UN SDG 12. Congratulations to Dr. Sandy Lama for her experiment entitled “Starch source, properties and application”. The experiment is freely available at the IYCN website (<https://www.iycnglobal.com/experiments>), where you can also find all previous competitions. Please check the IYCN social media channels and the IYCN website for updates on the virtual workshops and experiment outreach competition planned for 2022.

Moreover, we have been working in raising awareness on the importance of tackling the UN SDGs, as defined by the UN. In this regard, we organized a virtual symposium on the theme “United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for the Benefit of Society” at the 48th IUPAC World Chemistry Congress and 104th Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition, whose talks and live discussion are freely available on YouTube (https://bit.ly/IYCN_Symposium_UN_SDGs).

Our General Assembly, normally taking place ahead of the IUPAC World Chemistry Congresses, was also fully virtual this year with Delegates from 65 different countries, 140% more than at our inaugural General Assembly which took place in Paris in 2019. On the occasion, the IYCN delegates voted for amendments to the Statutes and Bylaws of the IYCN. The major change was that we now have a one-year term for the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Chair-Elect/Vice-Chair, Chair, and the new role of Past Chair. We recognized that longer commitments would impact the careers of younger scientists whose personal situation more often changes. The new structure ensures that the Chair-Elect/Chair/Past Chair is committed to the IYCN over a period of three years which ensures continuity in the organization. Moreover, we have also elected the new Executive Board of the IYCN for the period 2021-2022, with 15 Board members (9 women and 6 men) representing 12 different countries. We take this opportunity to thank the former IYCN Executive Board for their leadership, commitment, and devotion to the IYCN and the younger chemists’ community in growing the IYCN across borders.

As a network, we set several strategic goals for our term, and you will read about some of them in this newsletter. Among others, we will establish new committees on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), as well as on science for policy, so that we can actively promote EDI in our organization and participate in policy discussions. Moreover, the IYCN will strengthen its collaboration with IUPAC by launching new joint projects and working

together in different initiatives, formalize our structure and internal procedures, establish an alumni network and launch a mentoring program, among others

While the IYCN is still a young organization, we are growing at speed and look forward to engaging further and working together with the IYCN members and volunteers, as well as launching fruitful collaborations with our partners.

We take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy, successful and happy year 2022.

With best wishes,

João Borges and Torsten John

On behalf of the IYCN Executive Board

IYCN Executive Board 2021-2022



João Borges
Chair



Torsten John
Vice-Chair



Marilia Valli
Secretary



Katharina Ehrmann
Treasurer



Lori Ferrins
Past Chair / Advisor



Bianca Davids
Governance
Committee Leader



Emiel Dobbelaar
Public Outreach
Committee Leader



Willis Muganda
Finance
Committee Co-Leader



Eva Vandaele
Finance
Committee Co-Leader



Bren Felisilda
Webmaster



Arish Naim
International Society Liaison
Committee Leader



Gabriela Tormet-Gonzalez
Social Media
Committee Leader



Fatima Mustafa
Conference Presence
Committee Co-Leader



Lieke van Gijzel
Conference Presence
Committee Co-Leader



Franz Görlich
Graphic Designer

4th IYCN Outreach Competition



The International Younger Chemists Network presents the..

4th IYCN OUTREACH COMPETITION

Submit your favorite outreach experiment for our annual competition.

Winners get published online and will receive a cash prize.

March 26th – May 24th 2022

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY




The IYCN is hosting its fourth annual public outreach competition with the theme of **“Affordable and Clean Energy”**

The competition is related to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 and aims to highlight chemistry for sustainable solutions.^[1] Experiments should be targeted at the general public and convey basic chemistry principles. A template is available at <https://iycnglobal.wixsite.com/competition>.

This is your chance to share the joy and brilliance of chemistry with others for outreach. The experiments will be peer reviewed, winning submissions will receive a cash prize and be added to our [experiment database](#).

Submissions are accepted starting on the **26th of March**.^[2]

[1] <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>, online resource, last checked 22nd January 2022.

[2] This date was chosen to raise awareness for WWF’s **“Earth Hour”** at 08:30 – 09:00 pm on this day.

United Nations approved 2022 as the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development

On 2nd December 2021, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted by consensus [the resolution 76/A/L.12](#) proclaiming 2022 as the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD 2022). With this resolution, the UN emphasizes and launches a call for action by its Member States, academia, civil society, non-governmental organizations, private sector, individuals, among others, to spread and raise awareness for the vital role of basic sciences and curiosity-driven research to achieve the Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by building a more knowledge-based Society and contributing for a globally sustainable future.



www.iybssd2022.org

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has stressed the pivotal role of basic sciences in addressing the current pressing and future challenges faced by humanity. From the discovery of the sequence of the virus to the development of vaccines and therapeutic treatments for

improving the well-being and the quality of life of citizens worldwide, the key role of basic sciences has been well denoted in progressing towards a sustainable development.

The adoption of the resolution was the result of the mobilization of the international scientific community, led since 2017 by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), The European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN), and 26 other international scientific unions and research organizations from different parts of the world, under the auspices of UNESCO. Over 90 national and international science academies, learned societies, scientific networks, research, and education centers are also supporting this initiative. During this special year, they will organize events and activities all over the planet, to showcase and improve the links between basic sciences and the 17 SDGs.

The International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN) is very proud of being part of the International Advisory Committee of the IYBSSD 2022 and commits to engage into action and to support it by raising awareness for the need of basic sciences and fundamental research to tackle the SDGs for a globally sustainable future.

The IYBSSD 2022 will be officially launched with an opening conference from 30th June to 1st July 2022 at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris. Diverse events and activities will also take place around the world until 30th June 2023 to showcase the relation between the basic sciences and the SDGs.

More information can be found at the IYBSSD 2022 website: <https://www.iybssd2022.org>.

Gabriela Tormet

Did you know that Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and the International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN) are collaborating partners since August 2021?



The [IYCN](#) signed a strategic partnership with Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany in supporting activities and providing resources for empowering younger chemists globally. Merck KGaA has been successfully engaging young scientists in innovation activities and offering several [research grants](#) to early career scientists to further develop their research portfolios. Merck KGaA, in collaboration with other partners, also organizes the [Curious Future Insight™ conference](#), a world-renowned yearly event gathering outstanding scientists and entrepreneurs that shape the future of science and technology to build a better world. On the occasion, the winner of the [Future Insight™ prize](#) will be announced.

The IYCN is confident that this partnership will benefit younger chemists at different career stages worldwide. You are invited to visit the [Open Innovation website](#) of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany for more information on available opportunities!

IYCN Mentoring Program



IYCN MENTORING PROGRAM

The **International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN)** is pleased to announce the launch of the **IYCN MENTORING PROGRAM** that is intended to support PhD students in their career development.

The **IYCN MENTORING PROGRAM** aims to connect chemists from all over the world and to support and prepare current chemistry PhD students to make informed career decisions. The program duration ranges from 6 months to one year during which the mentor and the mentee are expected to meet regularly. Thus, a commitment of minimum 6 months is mandatory to be considered for admission to the program.

Become a Mentor - Are you interested in getting to know excellent and ambitious young chemists? Do you want to help support a young researcher in following their dreams and share your experience to inspire and help others? Then the IYCN mentoring program is for you. IYCN is looking for mentors from all areas and countries who would be interested in assisting young chemists to pursue their careers.

Become a Mentee - Are you planning to go abroad after your PhD but don't know what the culture, working conditions and requirements will be like? Are you looking for someone with experience to support you in making the right decisions to kickstart your career? Then the IYCN mentoring program is for you. To be eligible you should be currently doing a PhD in chemistry and expecting to earn your degree no earlier than October 2022.

The application period starts on the 1st of February 2022. Mark your calendars and stay tuned! For any further information and/or questions, please contact publicoutreach.iycn@gmail.com.

– IYCN  ENTORING PROGRAM –

Interested in Representing the IYCN? – Call from the Conference Presence Committee

The IYCN aims to increase its efforts to reach out to a broader audience worldwide, and to do so, we want to give you the opportunity to become an IYCN representative in in-person and virtual conferences, symposia, workshops, seminars or meetings. The IYCN Conference Presence Committee would like to support you by providing presentation slides or even merchandising materials. Would you like to help us?

There are different ways you can represent the IYCN, including (more than one can apply):

- Poster presentation
- Oral presentation (10 - 20 minutes)
- Brief oral presentation/elevator pitch (2 - 5 minutes)
- Networking and merchandising materials' distribution only
- One slide presentation (to be included at the end of your scientific talk)

With these presentations, we would be able to increase the visibility of the IYCN and reach out to more younger chemists globally. If you have an opportunity to represent the IYCN, please fill in the form below ahead of time (preferably 3 months ahead of time):

https://bit.ly/Represent_IYCN

After you represent the IYCN, we would be delighted to share the event you attended. Therefore, we kindly ask you to send us a brief report, including pictures of yourself while representing the IYCN, as well as of the event itself up to **one week after the conference end date, and we will share them** via our social media accounts and IYCN newsletter.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at conferencepresence.iycn@gmail.com if you have any questions.

The IYCN Conference Presence Committee

Open IYCN Calls

In this section new and open calls for volunteers, positions or projects of IYCN will be presented.

Experiment Competition: Volunteers Needed!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEER TRANSLATORS

химия
 chemie
 chemistry
 化學
 chimie
 chimie
 keemia
 kimya
 şimya
 matu
 umagwirira
 quimica
 kiimikada
 kjemi
 химия
 ximija
 kimia

Experiment outreach competition: Volunteers needed!



Interested in collaborating with us?
Send an email to:
publicoutreach.iycn@gmail.com



The IYCN is expanding its translation network and seeking volunteers to make this year's winning experiment accessible to thousands of people.

Interested in collaborating with us? Send an email to publicoutreach.iycn@gmail.com with the subject "Volunteer for Translation" and specify which languages you can help with. Certificates will be provided!

You can find examples from previous years here:
<https://www.iycnglobal.com/experiments>

New Committees on "Equity, Diversity and Inclusion" and "Science for Policy"

COMMITTEE ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



As of 2022, the IYCN will set up a new committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.



Interested in leading the new committee or joining as a member?



Complete the Google Form until March 15th 2022

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE FOR POLICY



As of 2022, the IYCN will set up a new committee on Science Policy.

Interested in leading the new committee or joining as a member?



Complete the Google Form until March 15th 2022

The IYCN is a growing network. As of 2022, we will establish two new committees, one in the broad area of "equity, diversity and inclusion", and another committee on "science for policy". With these new committees, the IYCN aims to better serve the global community of young scientists working across the chemical sciences. We are now calling for applications for those interested in joining one of these communities as either committee leader or committee member.

With the new committees, the IYCN aims to, among others, increase the diversity of our membership, organize events and provide resources, review our activities towards equity, diversity and inclusion, promote the UN SDGs, and structure IYCN's relationship with stakeholders in the policy-making process.

Please submit your expression of interest and application until **15th March 2022**:

[Equity, diversity and inclusion](#)

[Science for Policy](#)

International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD 2022): Volunteers Needed!



The IYBSSD 2022 is looking for volunteers to help in the translation of the promotion materials of the organization other than English, French and Chinese. If you are interested, please reach out to us at IYCN@IUPAC.org with the subject "IYBSSD 2022_Volunteer".

Active Members in the IYCN



Katharina Ehrmann studied Chemistry at the University of Innsbruck (Austria, 2011-2017) and University of Edinburgh (UK, 2016). She received her PhD in Technical Chemistry at the Technical University of Vienna (Austria) in July 2020 and continued her work there as a postdoctoral fellow. Since October 2021 Katharina is a research fellow at the Queensland University of Technology. Her research interests include photochemistry and the molecular design, synthesis and development of (photo)polymers and their building blocks, particularly for applications in additive manufacturing and biomaterials.

Selected Awards:

- Full scholarship International Summer School “Scientific Writing”. Awarded by TU Wien (Vienna, Austria, 2019)
- Full scholarship Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting awarded by the Council for the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings, nominated and funded by the Austrian Academy of Science (ÖAW) (Lindau, Germany and Vienna, Austria, 2017)
- Full scholarship European Forum Alpbach awarded by the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation, and Technology (BMVIT) (Vienna, Austria, 2016)
- Academic merit scholarship Master programme Chemistry awarded by the University of Innsbruck (Innsbruck, Austria, 2015-2016)

Sub-committee/Position: Treasurer



Karla Solarte is a chemistry student from Cali, Colombia studying at the Universidad del Valle. Karla is part of the natural products laboratory at her university and at this moment she is working on her review based on secondary metabolites and antioxidant activity of the fungi *Auricularia Auricularia Judae*. She lives in Saladito, a rural town outside the city where she lives with her parents and her pet Canela. During her pastime, she enjoys taking pictures of plants, running, and spending time with friends.

Sub-committee/Position: Conference Presence Team member



Yvonne Choo Shuen Lann is currently a lecturer based in the School of Energy and Chemical Engineering, Xiamen University Malaysia. She completed her BSc (Hons) Pure Chemistry from Universiti Sains Malaysia in 2014. In December 2018, she graduated with a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Newcastle University, UK for her research in the design and synthesis of functionalized polyethers and polyesters. In 2019, she was awarded element 107 – Bohrium in IUPAC's Periodic Table of Younger Chemists as one of the three Malaysians represented. She also runs a blog (yvonnechoo.tumblr.com) about her journey of becoming a scientist where she documented her STEM involvements in detail. Yvonne is a SciComm enthusiast and has a passion for ChemEd. Ever since becoming a lecturer, she actively finds ways of revamping the delivery of her courses by incorporating the use of analogies, Lego, animations and infographics in hope that her efforts will make a difference in enhancing students' learning experience. If you are interested to read about her students' creations (biochemistry infographics, university life blog posts, etc.), head over to ycxmum.wordpress.com.

Sub-committee/Position: Public Outreach Team member



Walburga Freyja Bischofberger received her B.Sc. in 2021 and studies Chemical Engineering at the Leopold-Franzens University in Innsbruck. She has been a part of the Austrian Young Chemists Network since 2018.

Sub-committee/Position: Social Media Team member

IYCN Executive Board



Chair
João Borges



Chair-Elect
Torsten John



Secretary
Marilia Valli



Treasurer
Katharina Ehrmann



Graphic Designer
Franz Göhrlich



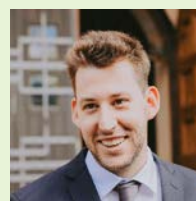
Webmaster
Bren Felisilda



Conference Presence
Lieke van Gijzel



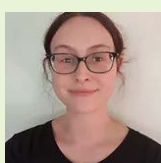
Conference Presence
Fatima Mustafa



Public Outreach
Emiel Dobbelaar



International Society
Liaison
Arish Naim



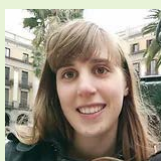
Governance
Bianca Davids



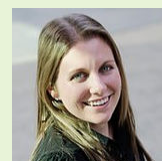
Social Media
Gabriela Tormet



Finance
Willis Muganda



Finance
Eva Vandaele



Past-Chair
Lori Ferrins

Contact Information



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<https://bit.ly/3qdgU9Q>

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