



**GLOBAL
YOUNG
ACADEMY**

The 6th International
Conference
of Young Scientists &
GYA Annual General Meeting

**BRIDGING
WORLDS
THROUGH
SCIENCE**

25-29th May 2016
Eindhoven, The Netherlands



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Media Contact:

media@globalyoungacademy.net
+49 (0)30 20370 - 653

www.globalyoungacademy.net

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A Word from the GYA Co-Chairs

As the world becomes increasingly connected, it is essential that we young scientists ensure proper infrastructure is envisioned, constructed, and maintained to enable both the accomplishment of the best science and the best communication mechanisms to inform decision-making around crucial global issues. The Sixth International Conference of Young Scientists and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Global Young Academy was held at the end of May, in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. The AGM's theme, "Bridging Worlds Through Science" embraced the diversity of our community and encouraged us to think about the roles that science plays in connecting cultures, communities, disciplines, and ecosystems within and beyond the GYA.

The AGM provided an in-person opportunity for GYA members to actively work towards not only understanding each other, but also building connections and collaborations with each other, across our worlds. Within this broad theme, the meeting focused on Science Diplomacy and Open Science/Open Data as potential drivers for

facilitating connections. GYA members and invited guests shared their experiences in science diplomacy, recounting involvement building connections through scientific collaboration and building unconventional political relationships in order to enable other scientists to collaborate. Participants discussed the ramifications of Open Science/Open Data, suggesting that if managed wisely, these resources may serve as cornerstones in the infrastructure necessary to build better access to knowledge, enabling communal efforts towards achieving a better tomorrow. Here we have the honour of presenting the AGM 2016 report. Like every AGM before it, this year's gathering was full of intensity and progress. It brought together new members, current members, and recent alumni to discuss pressing global and regional challenges. Everyone was committed not just to improving their own Working Group's achievements, but also to building a stronger, more inclusive and influential GYA.

This is an exciting time for the GYA and this year's meeting heralded some transitions for our commu-

nity. We have six years behind us and are becoming increasingly recognized as an established and esteemed entity; our alumni community is growing. [Heidi Wedel](#), the Managing Director who has been a key part of the GYA since our founding, has passed the torch to [Beate Wagner](#). We will miss Heidi and appreciate all that she has done in support of the GYA, but we also look forward to continuing to strengthen the GYA with Beate. Another novel part of the AGM 2016 was the inception of the "Incubator" designation for nascent Working Groups to allow ideas to take shape outside of a defined Theme or Working Group. These

exciting changes will challenge us in the coming year, but they also hold promising opportunities into which we will certainly grow.

The AGM was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of many people, including the Local Organizing Committee in Eindhoven and in Kayseri, the GYA managing office, the GYA AGM Program Committee, and our generous sponsors and hosts. We thank everyone who made this possible, including all of the enthusiastic members committed to working together throughout the year to bridge our worlds and build a sustainable and inclusive future.



Orakanoke Phanraksa (Thailand) & Mary-Vaughn V. Johnson (US)
(GYA Co-Chairs)

GYA Co-Chairs Mary-Vaughn V. Johnson (US) and Orakanoke Phanraksa (Thailand)
Photo: Florian Wiencek / GYA



Executive Summary

Anina Rich (Australia)

Science, and research activities more broadly, offer a unique opportunity to bridge our differences. We have many differences in terms of country of origin, field of research, political and religious affiliations and life experiences, but through scientific endeavour, we have a language in common. At local, regional and global levels, this connection can have profound effects on peace, progress, innovation and social justice. *The Sixth International Conference of Young Scientists and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Global Young Academy (GYA)* was held from the 25th-29th May 2016 at the *Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e)* with additional support from Utrecht University and the Dutch and Twente Young Academies. The theme was *“Bridging Worlds Through Science”*, emphasising the role we all play in developing connections across many different divides with our mutual voice through the GYA and science. Reflecting the challenges of a global organisation committed to connecting regions across socio-economic and political boundaries, this meeting was initially planned to be held in Kay-

seri, Turkey, but had to be moved to Eindhoven, The Netherlands. This involved a huge amount of work by fantastic organising committees in both locations, led by *Yusuf Baran* (Abdullah Gul University) and his team in Turkey, and *Bettina Speckmann* (TU/e) and her team in the Netherlands. These efforts are very much appreciated! The support and sponsorship of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Dutch Young Academy/KNAW, Young Academy of the University of Twente, Computational Geometry Week, *Nathalie Katsonis*, *Bettina Speckmann*, Computing Sciences and Mathematics Department TU/e, Utrecht University, TU Eindhoven, the IAP and the Sabanci University was integral to making the meeting possible, as was the generous commitment by our volunteers and local organising committee. The AGM was attended by 95 members from 33 different countries. Attendees included 26 of our 33 new members inducted at the event and 8 of the graduating alumni. We also had 18 guests representing a range of scientific, diplomatic and policy positions. These included members of the GYA advisory board (*Bruce Alberts*, *Howard Alper*, *Yuko Harayama*, *Ke-*

vin Marsh, and *Helmut Schwarz*), our senior guests contributing to the panel discussions (highlighted below), our fantastic staff from the GYA office, affiliated research staff, and some members of local Young Academies. The intense four day AGM was primarily held in the city of Eindhoven at venues within TU/e. In addition to the panel discussions on Science Diplomacy and Open Science, Scientific Sessions, and critical Working Group time, there was also a visit to historic Utrecht (supported by Utrecht University) for a canal boat ride, a reception, and a dinner with local young scientists. The reception included an address by *Bert van der Zwaan*, Rector of Utrecht University, and the launch of a GYA book ‘Words of Wisdom’. The address and book launch were followed by an evening of mingling with members of the Dutch and Twente Young Academies, an excellent talk by Twente and Dutch Young Academy member Tatiana Filatova on the role individuals can play in addressing climate change, and a vibrant dinner complete with guiding discussion topics. In addition to the scheduled events, this year’s AGM was also the forum for considerable discussion of internal logistical and operational matters. We had a close-run robust election and late night discussions about our constitution and membership selection processes. There was

also an impromptu session on suggestions for improving the functioning of the GYA. At the party on the final evening, with *Rob Jenkins* acting as Master of Ceremonies, we said a fond farewell to outgoing inaugural Managing Director *Heidi Wedel*, thanked outgoing Co-Chair *Eva Alisic*, and welcomed our new Managing Director, *Beate Wagner*. The evening was enriched by the addition of a ‘graduating alumni quiz’ expertly crafted by Alumni *Wibool Piyawattanametha* and *Guru Madhavan*. In the following sections, there are more detailed descriptions of the key programme highlights from the 2016 AGM. This year, we asked GYA members to be more involved in the development of this report by summarising key events and including insights collected during the meeting that demonstrate the impact and engagement of this high-energy, demanding, and inspirational event. You will see this input in different sections of this report, either as full summaries or quotes. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this report, and to the AGM as a whole. The success and productivity of the GYA depends on the commitment of the members to a greater good, something beyond their specific research focus, field and country. Together we can, and will, use science to bridge our different worlds.



Participants of the 6th International Conference for Young Scientists in Eindhoven, Netherlands.
 Photo: Florian Wiencek / GYA



Programme Highlights



Please note, there was working group time each day, but we have clustered information on accomplishments and plans of WGs developed at the AGM at the end of this section. The following sections were contributed by different members, noted in parentheses.

Pre-AGM workshops:

23rd -24th May: Publishing models, assessment, and open science (Martin Dominik, United Kingdom)

During a two-day workshop which was an initiative of the Optimising Assessment – Promoting Excellence and Open Science Working Groups, GYA members convened to discuss the link between publishing models, research evaluation, and open science. Despite the fact that incentives linked to the

evaluation of research are fundamental to the future of academic publishing as well as the success of any policies on open science, this connection is rarely given significant attention. We came up with 15 immediate concrete recommendations, which will shortly be published in a GYA report. We also developed a set of key questions for further investigation, grouped into 5 core themes: A) A framework for the global research enterprise; B) Communication; C) Quality assessment: Making review work; D) “Open” science; and E) The publishing enterprise. Identified core issues include the need to get communication back into scientific publishing, and to pay attention to quality rather than quantity. It became obvious that

there are many examples of the scientific community having shown much creativity and ingenuity on open science, effective communication, and quality assurance. This community should therefore be in the driving seat for developing and establishing policies around ongoing innovative efforts.

25th May: Science Diplomacy Pre-AGM workshop:

Just prior to the AGM, a small group of GYA members met to explore the interactive roles of science and diplomacy. The workshop was free-form and adaptive, enabling members to discuss ideas broadly and explore case studies. As always, members shared valuable lessons from their own experiences so that we might all better develop a strategy to more effectively engage with diplomacy in our professional work and our work within the GYA. The primary outcome of the workshop was a clear desire for the GYA to continue to explore and develop our work in the diplomatic and political spheres. In fact, the workshop gave momentum to the development of an emerging incubator group working to raise diplomatic impacts of and for science globally.

Day 1: Wed 25th May

New member introductory session: (Mari-Vaughn Johnson, USA)

Co-Chair Orakanoke (Oh) Phanraksa welcomed the new GYA members in grand style. She detailed what people should expect from the AGM and reassured people that it is normal to not really know what you are getting into and also to feel a bit overwhelmed! She went over the agenda for the meeting and assured people that they would be exhausted, but not to worry, because, “there is time to sleep on the flight home!”

The AGM is a crucial aspect of the GYA membership’s capacity to function. It is at the AGM that we bond with one another and develop mutual ideas, build projects, explore hypotheses, and birth collaborations. Oh stressed the importance of acceptance and inclusivity at our meetings, reassuring new members that all GYA members have stood in their shoes and everyone at the meeting would be open and willing to help them navigate the confusion.

New members asked a variety of interesting questions, including questioning what the goals of the GYA are, how our identity is defined, and what it means to be a

member now as compared to an alumnus later. Many of these questions do not have simple answers – many are open-ended and it is our current members who will discover and define the answers together as we move forward towards our shared goals of developing our voice and making the GYA a stronger organization.

New Members

The GYA membership selection process is obviously working well: it was wonderful to welcome a diverse and engaged group of new members. Their enthusiasm, commitment and ideas were warmly welcomed!

„I was greatly impressed by the introduction for new members. My overriding impression was how successful the selection process has been. We got the right people! Loads of engagement right from the start, and loads of great ideas. This bodes very well for the future of the GYA!“
Rob Jenkins, UK

New Members 2016

The Global Young Academy warmly welcomes all its new members!



New member impressions

Connie Nshemereirwe (Uganda)

“Arriving as a new member in the building that would host the GYA AGM, the atmosphere feels pregnant. Full of promise. Promise of what, I do not yet know! I complete my registration and tentatively make my way to the lunch area. As I tuck in to my Dutch lunch, I spot a few familiar faces from the African Science Leadership Programme that I attended the year before, and walk over to say hello. Just as we are settling in to a nice chat, a rather official lady comes along and herds us off to the new member session (I would later find out that her name was Bettina, and that we would come to appreciate her tight running of the ship!)

After a few introductory remarks to just us new members, everyone else joined us for the graduation of outgoing members and the inauguration of new members. The new members were quite a group! One was engaged with studying weather systems in space, while others yet study the ethics of, what was it? I can’t really remember! In a few short hours it is already so much information to take in, that soon names and faces and titles and disciplines begin to swim all together out of one’s ears! Rob and Fridah, however, did an excellent job of whittling down the essence of each new member, although perhaps they allowed their imagination to get away from them at some point, because some of us could not recognise our own description. I, for example, went from being an Educationalist to being a Humanitarian Scientist; a title that I much preferred over my humdrum one, I must admit, and one that I have adopted since!

Co-chair Oh said it best that first day: she assured us that at first all new members are thoroughly confused, but that this would definitely lift as the days went by. And indeed, by the end of the AGM, and as a result of the excellent programme and the warm reception from all the other members, we were feeling right at home in all the brilliant, chaotic, inspiring buzz that started at breakfast and lasted late into the night every single day. This AGM that had held so much promise at the beginning had delivered above and beyond anything I could think of! I left feeling invigorated, inspired, and frankly, exhausted! But then I cannot wait to do it all again in Aviemore next year!”

Nova Ahmed (Bangladesh)

"I loved the new member inauguration! It allowed us to know what great work other researchers are doing in such an enjoyable way, beyond my expectations. The pre-organization of all the member's slides - their work description - all looked great. There were a few mistakes about the research fields of a few scientists - the best thing I learned from this was that the mistake was readily addressed, fixed and it was turned into a humorous moment. This is how you all work together to bring out the best. I am happy to part of this great community!"

Mona Khoury-Kassabri (Israel)

"This is my first year in the GYA and I feel I am lucky to be part of this group. I enjoyed every minute of the meeting, as it gives me the opportunity to meet many people from different countries and different disciplines; we usually don't have this sort of opportunity at regular academic conferences."

Kelly Babchishin (Canada)

"As a new member of the GYA, this was my first time attending the AGM. And what a meeting! It was refreshing to see so many highly motivated (and impressive) scientists and scholars united for a common goal: to help improve global issues through science. It was a great example of interdisciplinary collaborations. As a psychologist, I worked with experts in chemistry, physics, sociology, etc., etc. in a number of working groups. As early career scientists, GYA members are all very busy, but what makes GYA so impactful (and perhaps unique from other academies) is that members of the GYA actively contribute despite busy work requirements. I was impressed by the members' passion and their motivation to use what they have learned in their respective fields to help address issues of global importance. I look forward to working with the GYA members in my next five years term. Thank you for a great AGM!"

Opening drinks and dinner

Drinks and dinner at Restaurant Stads was a wonderful way to catch up with other GYA members in person, meet the new members, and start to bring together our plans for this AGM. The in-

formal setting and buffet dinner was ideal for setting the tone.

Day 2: Thurs 26th May

We started Day 2 with a Buddy breakfast, where existing and new members were paired up.



“Unguided discussion with leading world scholars outside your own discipline is incredibly valuable! Breakfast time, and especially the buddy breakfast (where current members mentor new members), is such a wonderful time to discuss broad, open-ended topics! I have learnt to bring a notepad to breakfast to quickly jot down ideas from these discussions, because they make me more self-critical about my research projects, offer new avenues of investigation, and give me lots of thoughtful material for reflection.”

Paul Mason, Australia

Panel Discussion: Science Diplomacy for International Negotiations and Peace Building

- *Helmut Schwarz*, President of the Humboldt Foundation
- *Daya Reddy*, Co-Chair of IAP Research
- *Zafra Lerman*, President of the The Malta Conferences Foundation
- GYA members *Vidushi Neergheen-Bhujun*, *Mari-Vaughn Johnson*
- Chair: *Badre Abdeslam*

(Sabina Leonelli, UK)

This engaging panel discussion had excellent presentations outlining the variety of efforts involved in science diplomacy, as well as the challenges involved in finding the appropriate language and venues to exchange insights between researchers and policy makers. It seemed clear that there is a very

precise and technical definition of science diplomacy at play here, which restricts it to activities explicitly targeted to using scientific 'leverage' (discussions and trust relations among scientists) to obtain political goals, and even more specifically, foster international relations among countries having a breakdown in communication. This has clearly been an important role for science in history, but one wonders what other roles scientists can play in a political sense, which are not yet encompassed by the label of science diplomacy. The Q&A session highlighted this

tension, particularly when a comment was made about the inherently political nature of scientific research (institutional locations and constraints).

Afternoon & Evening in Utrecht

(Paul Mason, Australia)

The Rector Magnificus of Utrecht University, Professor *Bert van der Zwaan*, hosted the GYA in the city of Utrecht. After a bus trip, and a delightful canal tour, members of the Global Young Academy arrived at an austere building with a

Official opening ceremony

- GYA members *Yusuf Baran* and *Bettina Speckmann*
- GYA Co-Chairs *Eva Alisic* and *Orakanoke Phanraksa*
- Rector TU Eindhoven *Frank Baaijens*
- IAP Science representative *Howard Alper*

“Science diplomacy can succeed where every other form of diplomacy fails”

Zafra Lerman, GYA 2016

“I love the idea that all of us are & should be scientific diplomats - just by interacting with each other in a respectful way with a similar goal can build trust that lays the groundwork for political diplomatic relations. Our individual actions matter.” *Anina Rich (Australia)*

“Stage was set with an excellent overview of science diplomacy from Helmut Schwarz and Daya Reddy. An inspiring story told by Zafra Lerman and the Malta Conferences impacting Middle East Peace Process.” *Simon Elsaesser (Sweden)*



magnificent organ, once used to house victims of the plague. Over drinks, Professor van der Zwaan delivered a charming speech, assuring members that the medieval infection had long since been controlled and no one was at risk of falling sick. His good-natured address made members laugh, but also offered wisdom for reflection and demonstrated a spirit of generosity and unity.

The GYA book *Words of Wisdom* was then launched with resounding success! Each delegate received copies to distribute to their students and colleagues at their home institution (I have shared a few copies with some of my research students, and each of them has relayed how helpful the advice has been).

Dinner was preceded by an entrée of Dutch Croquettes and a presentation by Dr *Tatiana Filatova*, member of the Dutch and Twente Young Academies of Science, who delivered an excellent presentation about the need for behavioural change in addressing the globally heterogeneous issues around climate change. Framing climate change as a societal problem was not cause for complacency, but rather a call to action for a pluralistic global response. Dinner among

members of the Global, Twente, and Dutch Young Academies was quite an experience! Having discussions with researchers from a broad variety of disciplines and countries outside the established interdisciplinary and international organisations is an important driver of research innovation. My conversation over dinner was with socio-ecologists from Brazil and Canada, a medical researcher from Hungary, a political scientist from Germany, a historian from Holland, a laboratory scientist from Malaysia, and an international development worker from the USA. This gave an opportunity to foster unconventional discussions that broaden the paradigms of each person's cultural mindset and research training. This sort of relaxed, but engaged, intercultural transdisciplinary and international conversation was occurring at every table that evening. We had an opportunity to have philosophical debates about the values of science, the politics of evidence, and the funding models that favour certain forms of data representation and disempower others.

At our table and across the room, a humanitarian focus was at the forefront of each researcher's concerns and ideals. Dinner discussion was a sobering chance to become more self-reflective about

our own research projects and more critically mindful of the academic structures we subscribe to in our day to day careers. Having these conversations, as young academics, is incredibly valuable in prompting us to step back from the usual rhythms of research and teaching in order to meaningfully reinforce, and possibly even reframe, our career trajectories. It also reinforced how powerful and transformative the experience of being a GYA member can be.

At the dinner, we trialed having specific discussion topics for each course. Around the room discussions varied widely, but all were engaged in enthusiastic discourse!

“Words of Wisdom” book launch

Words of Wisdom is a book by early-career researchers for early-career researchers. Edited by GYA members *Rob Jenkins*, *Jan-Christoph Heilinger*, and *Anina Rich*, the book contains cherished advice from academic mentors, addressing PhD students and postdoctoral researchers from various disciplines all over the world.

The book launch in Utrecht was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this successful project, with a copy

of the book placed at each dinner setting. During the AGM, we distributed 600 copies of the book, sending them home with delegates to share in their home countries. We also have a freely available downloadable copy available via the GYA website, allowing researchers world-wide to enjoy the pearls of wisdom in this collection.

Day 3: Friday 27th May

Panel on Open Science and Science Diplomacy

- *Simon Hodson*, Executive Director of ICSU CODATA
- *Sabina Leonelli*, Open Science expert, leader GYA WG “Open Science”
- *Abdullah Shams Bin Tariq*, leader GYA WG “Global Access to Research Software” (GARS)
- *Alexander ‘Sasha’ Kagansky*, GYA member and member of the WG Open Science of the Young Academy of Scotland
- Chair: *Anina Rich*

(*Sabina Leonelli, UK*)

This session discussed several ways in which Open Science is being fostered and implemented by governments and scientific programmes around the world, and

the opportunities and challenges relating to this. As Open Science has been a vibrant and active Working Group of the GYA, this session gave the opportunity to hear from our experts as well as our impressive guest on a topic that raises significant debate but also unprecedented opportunities.

Simon Hodson started us off with a discussion of intelligent data dissemination and curation, and the importance of thinking about standards, governance mechanisms and infrastructures for Open Data internationally. CODATA, the organisation that he leads, is playing a pivotal diplomatic and practical role in this respect.

Sabina Leonelli followed with a talk highlighting the challenges in implementing Open Data, particularly in research environments that are poorly resourced and not conforming to the implicit standards set by highly funded and visible laboratories and groups in key power locations in the scientific world.

Abdullah Shams bin Tariq expanded the discussion to consider open access models, the highly fruitful impact that open access to publication has had on low-income countries such as Bangladesh which cannot afford publishing subscription models, and the many

problems underlying author-pays models of open access, such as the explosion of predatory publishing in developing countries.

Sasha Kagansky rounded up the session with a talk on the importance of Open Data and Open Access in tackling key challenges by aggregating and integrating data from a variety of locations and sources, as in the case of assessing the impact of threats for biodiversity for the development of new drugs.

The subsequent Q&A discussion session, expertly managed by GYA member *Anina Rich*, raised issues of data ethics, management of data dissemination and re-use, and business models for open access and data repositories, among others.

Scientific sessions

Organised by Anina Rich and Thomas Edison de la Cruz (Yusuf Baran, Turkey; Oded Hod, Israel; and Anina Rich, Australia)

The GYA AGM is a gathering place of some of the brightest young minds from across a broad diversity of disciplines and from around the world. While the AGM is an academic, rather than a scientific, meeting, the science sessions provide an exciting opportunity to be

exposed to cutting edge research conducted by GYA members and to interact, exchange ideas, and develop collaborations among GYA members and with AGM guests about a broad variety of topics.

Science Session I: GYA member research related to Bridging Worlds Through Science

Chaired by *Yusuf Baran*. Each of nine speakers had 10 minutes, including question time, to give a talk on his or her research, highlighting how it relates to Bridging Worlds Through Science. This wonderful collection of talks took us on a journey across the world, and indeed, into the rest of the universe. The speakers were:

- *Kai Chan*: “Science Engagement: Large Social Benefits, Largely Unrewarded”
- *Ali Douraghy*: “The Indonesian Science Fund - Building Momentum through Science Diplomacy”
- *Stefan Hild*: “Discovering the Dark Side of the Universe”
- *Rym Kefi*: “Role of Collaborative Research Projects in Bridging Worlds”
- *Shamsun Nahar Khan*: “Drug

Discovery and Development: Bridging the World through Industrialization”

- *Robert Lepenies*: “Globalizing Poverty Research Through One-to-One Research Partnerships”
- *Verena Lepper*: “Bridging Ancient Worlds and Disciplines”
- *Paul Mason*: “The Critical Interpretive Science of Research Translation and Translational Research”
- *Milica Pesic*: “Natural Product Drugs for Overcoming Cancer Multidrug Resistance”

“I am mentally still on the tiny island of Elephantine, after the great talk by Verena. What an amazing mix of natural and social sciences!” *Anindita Bhadra (India)*

“Fantastic to hear about gravitational waves from one of the discoverers - and even more amazing to hear about the friendly collaboration and datasharing that was required (and actually managed) for this to occur. A bridging through science success!” *Anina Rich (Australia)*

Science Session II: GYA member Research Snapshots

Based on experience in previous years, the science session committee, led by *Anina Rich* and *Thomas Edison de la Cruz*, experimented this year with a 'TED style' forum, with 3 minute presentations that gave a succinct bird's eye view of the speakers' scientific activity. This left the audience with a clear desire to learn more, which generated plenty of dynamic offline discussion. At this AGM, we held two parallel science sessions with a total of 28 exciting scientific talks from a diversity of research fields. Our members embraced the opportunity to present a 'snapshot' of their research and motivations in a most fascinating way. We believe that this format fits well the spirit of the AGM and should be adopted for future AGMs.

IIA (Chaired by Thomas Edison dela Cruz)

Almas Taj Awan: "Recycling for a Better Future"

Yusuf Baran: "Sphingolipid Signaling in the Regulation of Drug Resistance in Chronic Myeloid Leukemia"

Anindita Bhadra: "Understanding The Evolution of Man's Best Friend"

Kit Yee Chan: "Understanding Health Systems Reforms - A south-south Approach"

Huanyu Cheng: "Wearable Tattoo Electronics Capable of Dissolving in the Human Body"

Anna Coussens: "Creating a Paradigm Shift in How We Prevent and Treat Infectious Disease" *Dilfuza Egamberdieva:* "Biochar-based Biofertilizers: Ecofriendly Sources for Sustainable Crop Production"

Laura Fierce: "Sparse Models for Simulating Aerosol Effects on Climate"

Mimi Hassim: "Why do we need to start considering fugitive emissions in petrochem industries as much as the stack emissions?"

Che-Ming Hu: "Advancing Medicine through Biologically Inspired Nanotechnology"

Maryam Matin: "Novel Approaches in Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment"

Evren Mutlugun: "Artificial Atoms-The Quantum Dots as Next Generation Energy Harvesters" *Nova Ahmed:* "Shonabondhu (Golden

Friend) to fight Flash Flood"

Rob Jenkins: "Face Recognition in 3 Minutes"

IIB (Chaired by Oded Hod)

S. Karly Kehoe: "Exploring the Roots of Exclusion: Catholic Migrants in the British Empire"

Isil Kurnaz: "ETS Proteins in Life and Death of Neurons"

Alexander Kagansky: "Linking Biodiversity and Biomedicine: Natural Extracts against Cancer"

Vidushi N. Bhujun: "Connecting Epigenetics and Natural Resources: The Road Towards Cancer Management and Biodiversity Conservation"

Boon-Han Lim: "Solar Blindness for Tropics"

Karen Lorimer: "Violence, Masculinities and Sexual Health"

Srinjoy Mitra: "Speaking the Electrical Language of the Brain and the Body"

Connie Nshemereirwe: "Measuring the Literacy Levels of University Students in Uganda"

T. N. Obiekezie: "Sq Ionospheric Source Current in the Equatorial

and Low Latitudes of Africa" *Uttam Babu Shrestha:* "When a Parasitism brings Prosperity"

Felycia Edi Soetaredjo: "The Development of Cheap Adsorbents for Removal Hazardous Substances from Water and Wastewater"

Abdullah Shams Bin Tariq: "Life in the Uni/Multiverse"

Gergely Toldi: "The Immunology of Preeclampsia"

Henri Tonnang: "Can smartphones and open source apps improve small-holder farming in Africa?"

Working Dinner: election pitches and constitutional debate

Pizza and beer turned out to be a great option for a working dinner, socialising, and laughter. It was wonderful to see so many strong candidates standing for the leadership positions, including enthusiastic new members.

An impromptu discussion over the GYA constitution, elections procedures, and the role of alumni drew a large crowd after the EC candidates presented their speeches. The members debated criteria for membership selection and metrics of diversity, including whether we

should maintain the binary system of developed and developing countries or consider other options, such as 5 regions. Although such a debate could have been very divisive and clearly emotions were strong, people were respectful and articulate; while many members wanted their points to be heard, all members listened carefully to the points made by others.

Discussion turned to the topic of elections of leadership in GYA. Everyone agreed that the campaigning speeches given just an hour earlier were an important platform to explore ideas for change in the organization. *Sameh Soror* (Egypt), immediate past Co-Chair and graduating Alumnus, explained the reasons behind the current annual election system.

Towards the end of the evening,

"I think these meetings are so important. It may sound strange that such a formal activity of revising the constitution can be exciting. Still, you may be surprised. Wonderful very personal views, also full of emotions, were expressed in a very respectful way. I think these discussions are about what defines us as the GYA and helps us to find our voice." *Koen Vermeir, France*

the discussion turned briefly to the role of the alumni.

Current members agreed that creating an expert alumni consortium would be an excellent step for the GYA.

In parallel, other members of the GYA watched and discussed a short video on Art in Science, documenting Interdisciplinarity, presented by *Alexander (Sasha) Kagansky* (see Incubator section for more details on this emerging group).

Impromptu session on internal matters:

"It was a great idea to have membership ideas and feedback about the functioning of the working groups and GYA in general. I really think this session should be institutionalized: there should be such a session at each AGM, and we should also find ways to channel this feedback (which should be open to all members and for comments) during the year." *Koen Vermeir, France*

This idea has now been incorporated into the „Shaping the GYA“ framework, defining a process to turn suggestions into concrete proposals for decisions, which

uses a GYA intranet group as core platform for discussion.

Day 4: Saturday 28th May Internal reports

Co-Chair *Orakanoke Phanraksa* and Managing Director *Heidi Wedel* reported that securing the long-term existence of the GYA was a key target of recent activities of EC and MD. Core activities (including existing projects and the AGMs), response to increased demand from international bodies and expansion of activities require sustainable funding and an expansion of staff and administration to be able to deliver.

GYA is therefore applying for a new four year core funding from the German Ministry for Education and Research. While the German government made it quite clear that they would further explicitly exclude the AGM from funding to enable other funders to step in, the negotiations to enlarge the contribution from the German Government were very promising at the time of the AGM. GYA was in the end successful in securing a budget also for an enlarged staff until 2020. In order to fulfill funding requirements, the GYA office will be relocated 2017 under the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

and will move to Halle (Saale). A diversification of funding sources will be necessary. This would also be in line with the international nature of the GYA.

"It was great to hear Oh and Heidi talk about the achievements of the GYA over the past few years. It's great to know that we have funds to run the show. Great job GYA!" *Anindita Bhadra, India*

Election & introduction of the newly elected Executive Committee (EC)

All leadership elections in the GYA occur at the AGM and a quorum of GYA members must vote in the elections for the votes to be valid. This year we almost missed making quorum, but fortunately, a missing voice arrived and we were able to vote. According to the constitution, every EC position (including the Co-Chairs) is open for election every year, although, in the interests of organisational stability, we traditionally have one Co-Chair remain. This year, *Orakanoke Phanraksa* (Thailand) was re-elected as Co-Chair for a second year and *Mari-Vaughn Johnson* (USA) was elected as Co-Chair for the first time.

Three experienced members were re-elected to the EC: [Yusuf Baran](#) (Turkey), [Fridah Erastus](#) (Kenya), and [Moritz Riede](#) (UK). We also elected 6 new members to the EC: [Thomas Edison de la Cruz](#) (Philippines), [Martin Dominik](#) (UK), [Ali Douraghy](#) (USA), [Karly Kehoe](#) (Canada), [Shamsun Nahar Khan](#) (Bangladesh), and [Samuel Sojinu](#) (Nigeria). We look forward to the new initiatives and continued commitment that this EC will bring to the GYA: thank you all for your service to our organisation.

Working group (WG) reports & plans for the year ahead

The AGM each year is an opportunity for working groups to meet in person, work frenetically to progress or finalise existing projects, and plan new ones. It is also the time to elect Theme Coordinators and Working Group Leaders. Our leadership needs to reflect our diversity, and we appreciate the additional time commitment these roles require. Effective leadership and communication is perhaps the most important factor in the success of these groups in achieving their goals but it is also essential that these leaders are well supported by active GYA members

who contribute towards our shared goals. Here, we briefly outline the current working groups and the progress they made at the AGM. With the advent of the new GYA intranet, we will have the opportunity for membership of these groups to be actively maintained and for interested members to join and see what has occurred within a given working group. We look forward to this greater flexibility in communication!

Research Environment Theme

Coordinators: [Laura Fierce](#) (USA), [Shamsun Khan](#) (Bangladesh)

Open Science WG (*Leaders: [Sabina Leonelli](#) (UK) & [Bartłomiej Kolodziejczyk](#) (Australia + USA) and [Global Access to Research Software WG](#) (Outgoing leader: [Abdullah Shams Bin](#) (Bangladesh), Leaders: [Henri Tonnang](#) (Kenya) & [Gonzalo Tornarí](#) (Uruguay)*)

Scientific and policy discussions around Open Science foster the development and implementation of research communication strategies that are inclusive, effective, and conducive to collaboration and discovery across fields and locations. The Working Group on Open Science aims to inform current transformations in publica-

tion systems, institutions and technologies by garnering and voicing young researchers' views on which scientific outputs should be disseminated, investigating the challenges and opportunities involved in implementing Open Science mandates across highly diverse research environments, promoting Open Science mandates across the GYA membership and collaborators, and promoting equal access to research software.

One key outcome of the AGM was the decision for the [Open Science](#) (OS) and [Global Access to Research Software](#) (GARS) working groups to work more closely together. At the AGM, the combined team worked together to finalise the [Global Access to Research Software](#) report, which will be launched at the end of 2016. This working group has also decided to join forces with CODATA and met with a CODATA representative at the AGM; the group has since applied for funding from CODATA for a joint CODATA/GYA task group. Discussions at the AGM made clear the need for a position statement on Open Biodata, an effort that will be led by [Paul Mason](#) and [Bart Kolodziejczyk](#). This working group will send [Henri Tonnang](#) to Open Data Week in Denver. [Sabina Leonelli](#) will present prior-

ities on Open Science policy and credits, which were discussed at the AGM, to the EU commission at the Open Science Policy Platform. The GARS and OS group will be working to secure the publication and launch of the GYA Report on Global Access to Research Software, which is now being finalised to be reviewed and approved by the EC.

Optimising Assessment–Promoting Excellence (*Leaders: [Martin Dominik](#) (UK), [Koen Vermeir](#), France)*

Focusing on the evaluation of scientific activities, the aim of this working group is to identify which indicators are used to measure excellence in science and what kind of environment would be most suitable to unleash curiosity and creativity in science, as well as to foster the development of human potential. The working group made great progress building on the pre-AGM workshop.

Specific outcomes from the AGM include:

1. Developing recommendations coming out of the “Publishing models, assessment, and open science” feedback
2. Planning for upcoming involvement in the upcoming IAP

project “Strengthening Research Evaluation”, which is being designed to gather evidence on current research evaluation practices around the world and across disciplines over a period of 18 months.

3. Developing a plan to assess how young scientists are affected by evaluation systems, focusing specifically on promotion criteria.
4. Working with GloSYS to evaluate young scientists’ perception of metrics for performance assessment.

Women in Science (Leaders: *Rym Kefi (Tunisia), Tatiana Duque Martins (Brazil)*)

This working group brings together those interested in identifying and addressing the challenges preventing equity for women in science. The group includes men and women working together for inclusive and equitable science.

During the AGM, this working group made progress on its three main activities.

1. For the *mentoring platform*, the group made plans for finalising the website to be launched officially at the end of 2016; plans were also established to add

an application form for mentees, which will allow the group to collect key information on mentees and assess progress. The next steps for this project include assessing the geographical distribution of mentors and mentees and providing resources, such as fellowships and courses, for mentees.

2. For the *CIFAR-GYA mentor-training workshop*, the group discussed key aims and planned activities during the AGM. The learning points of the meeting will be shared with the GYA members through a report that will allow others to benefit from what the participants learned and to hence increase the implementation. Every participant will work with at least one new mentee.
3. For *Survey on the Perception of Success*, the group discussed preliminary findings based on analyses undertaken in Israel with GYA funding. It was decided to increase the sample size, to increase the impact and reliability of the findings. The group promoted the survey among GYA members during the AGM, with a final total of 114 participants. They also discussed with the GLOSYS team whether some of these data

could be mutually beneficial.

The Global State of Young Scientists (*Outgoing Leader: Karen Lorimer*; new distributed leadership structure outlined below)

The project aims to compile a report on the state of young scientists around the world, drawing on new and established evidence and insights from relevant researchers, experts, and institutions working in this field.

The WG meetings at the Eindhoven GYA annual meeting resulted in the development of WG subgroups and a key decision to change their leadership structure as Karen stated she was stepping back from the overall WG lead role. The group decided to go with a model to encourage distributed leadership for the group, with various people leading on key tasks distributed amongst the subgroups. *Karen Lorimer* and *Kelly Babchishin*: developing the core survey instrument and governance documents for GloSYS; *Borys Wrobel* (and others): developing ideas to measure the impact of the GloSYS project findings (from precursor to ASEAN, and planning for Africa). *Anna Coussens* supported by *Mona Khoury-Kassabri*: leading the GloSYS Africa project, with

Badre Abdeslam, Abidemi Akindele, Mohammed Farag, and *Fridah Kanana* as ‘Regional Champions’. *Oh Phanraksa*: leading the completion of the ASEAN report. *Kelly Babchishin* and *Felicya Edi Soeta-redojo*: leading gender subgroup analyses of GloSYS data to determine if an academic paper can be generated examining the state of women in academia (collaboration with the Women in Science WG).

The “Words of Wisdom” project (Leader: *Rob Jenkins*)

The book Words of Wisdom was launched at the AGM (see section on Utrecht reception). *Rob Jenkins, Jan-Christoph Heilinger* and *Anina Rich* finalised the plans for the dissemination of the book, and discussed with others the possibility of other similar endeavours inspired by the Words of Wisdom project. These include possible National Young Academy versions, and other collections. As this project has been completed with the publication of the book, this working group was declared officially closed, although there will be continued work to ensure distribution of the book to contributors, the GYA scientific network and beyond. There is also a link in the book for collecting any additional contributions for a possible second edition.

Science Outreach & Education Theme

Coordinators: Karly Kehoe (Canada), Wilfred van der Wiel (The Netherlands)

Measuring Excellence in Scientific Engagement (Leader: Kai Chan (Canada))

This working group focuses on how institutions measure and value engagement beyond academia. The Measuring Excellence in Science Engagement (MESE) group has developed a manuscript based on their survey of researchers and scholars. In total, there were over 1000 respondents from over 50 countries, including over 500 principal investigators, and the remainder from students and postdocs. This survey is the first of its kind investigating the extent to which and the metrics by which institutions measure engagement (roughly, outreach) activities, the perceptions of rewards for these activities in various review processes and hiring decisions, and the amount that individuals engage in these activities. We have analyzed the survey results across these dimensions, circulated a first draft of the manuscript, and revised the manuscript with additional analyses.

Expedition Mundus (*Outgoing leader: Bettina Speckmann (The Netherlands), Leaders: Thomas Edison de la Cruz (Philippines), Juan Eduardo Escrig Murua (Chile)*)

This working group revolves around a game designed to impart research skills to young people. It crosses disciplinary boundaries and focuses on encouraging curiosity-driven critical thinking. During the AGM two new members volunteered to run Mundus in their countries (Cambodia and Mauritius) and some of the team began thinking about funding applications to support its delivery there.

"The group energy is very high, all members actively contribute to the discussion and we have a strong commitment to deliver the Mundus game to countries of members through science for youth programs. It is such an amazing group; people from different discipline backgrounds are committing to work together built to a learning platform online for children." *Rothsophal Nguon (Cambodia)*

Science, Education and Youth (*Leaders: Anindita Bhadra (India), Isil Kurnaz (Turkey)*)

This working group aims to bring research into communities and work with young people to boost their confidence and engagement with academic researchers. We had a number of really useful meetings at this year's AGM and while much has already been accomplished by this working group in the past, the decision was taken to move things in a different direction with the new Learning Space project (see incubator projects).

Young Scientists Ambassador Program (YSAP; Leaders: Alexander (Sasha) Kagansky (UK), Bing Chen (Canada))

This program gives GYA members an opportunity to set up an event that connects with the boundary between education/outreach/science promotion, and, very importantly, science diplomacy. It aims to help young people see science as a way to encourage and open. An interest in science offers a great opportunity to promote the good understanding of the world around and the free communication between scientists and

the public. In the year prior to the AGM in Eindhoven we have accomplished five ambassadorships: (i) *Ghada Bassioni* from Egypt organised a Science Day programme for the 4th grade kids in Dortmund (Germany); (ii) *Thomas Edison de la Cruz* from Philippines conducted a science education event for young scientists using Expedition Mundus game in Klagenfurt (Austria); (iii) *Vidushi Neergheen-Bhujun* from Mauritius organised a Nature Conservation event at a primary school in Edinburgh (Scotland), followed by a field trip with students to the Royal Botanic Gardens; (iv) *Sasha Kagansky* from Scotland organised the Chromosome and Cancer Biology event at a high school in Moca (Mauritius); and (v) *Maslov Dmitry* from Russia connected with the FabLab for promotion of digital fabrication and 3-D future with young scientists in Belgrade (Serbia). Two of the trips were also funded by the North South Interdisciplinary Grant program.

Science & Society Theme

(Coordinators: Rieko Yajima (USA), Ali Douraghy (USA))

Invisible worlds (Outgoing leader: Moritz Riede (UK); Leader: Stefan Hild (UK))

This working group links with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission. It aims to identify and highlight complex “worlds” that are emerging issues of societal relevance that are insufficiently recognised and addressed by the public and policy makers, but are emerging issues of high societal relevance.

The project is in the wrap-up phase right now and at the AGM the final steps were presented. Of the many ideas and suggestions for “invisible worlds” that were submitted by our members, the “invisible data trail” everyone (mostly unconsciously) leaves in everyday life will be developed into a short story and infographic. The plan is to present this to the JRC and approach policy makers in the European Commission to highlight both the concept of “invisible worlds” in general and the challenges with the “invisible data trail” in particular.

Solid Waste Management & Green Economy (Leader: Sherien Elagroudy (Egypt))

This working group aimed to produce a policy-oriented report evaluating progress towards sustainable waster management targets as well as assessing current policies. The report on the global state of solid waste management is anticipated to be released in late 2016.

Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction (Leaders: Shabana Khan (India), Jackie Dawson (Canada))

This working group focuses on the role of young scientists in advancing the understanding and informing of decisions in a changing climate and situations of uncertainty and disaster risks.

The majority of the members of this WG were unable to attend the 2016 AGM, but the WG continues to make progress, including development of a manuscript in progress on “Positioning Young Scientists Working in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change (CC) with members of GYA, UNMGCY, and others. The CCDRR WG has also developed

a partnership with the World Meteorological Organization’s Societal and Economic Research Applications working group for the Polar Prediction Project (PPP-SERA) and will be working collaboratively with young scientists during the International Year of Polar Prediction (YOPP) (2017-19) that is focused on better understanding and informing information provision and decision-making in light of changing Arctic and Antarctic climate systems. Finally, the group aims to increase the outreach of research on CC & DRR through Youtube videos or other media.

Importance of Fundamental Research (Leaders: Julia Baum (Canada), Oded Hed (Israel))

This working group focuses on the importance of fundamental research, defined as research that aims to understand humanity and the natural world without specific consideration of an end-product. The project has three strands: an infographic to promote the value of such research; a survey to assess perceptions of researchers on the availability of funding for such research relative to more applied research; and an analysis of funding trends in multiple countries for basic versus applied research.

For the 2016 AGM, the Fundamental Research WG:

1. Finalised an infographic that communicates the value of fundamental research, to be launched on social media to help promote the final report in fall 2016.
2. Developed an international survey to examine the perceptions of researchers and the importance of fundamental and applied research to major funding bodies
3. Interpreted and analyzed international research funding data
4. Developed a database of resources on the value and importance of fundamental research
5. Made significant progress in gathering Canadian, Israeli, and Australian data and is in the process of drafting final reports
6. Collected and initiated analysis on Poland, Thailand and the Netherlands

Since the 2016 AGM, the Importance of Fundamental Research Group has been actively promoting their survey that investigates researcher perceptions of funding for Fundamental Research. Thus

far, over 2300 responses from 67 countries have been contributed. The working group is currently focused on summarizing the results of the Canadian data for a smaller report that will contribute to the overall international report. The compilation and analysis of data from other profile countries is also currently underway, with some preliminary analysis of survey responses already completed.

Science + Art = Peace + Justice
(Leaders: Alexander (Sasha) Kagansky (UK), Borys Wrobel (Poland))

The aim of this WG is to help society through synthesis of science and arts. The objectives are: 1) to help GYA outreach using methods of arts (film, music, etc.); 2) to foster innovation via synthesis of research and arts project; 3) To help peace-building processes. The developments have been: 1) a GYA Documentary on Interdisciplinarity that was completed in May and has now got Russian subtitles made by volunteer students (if you can help with more languages, please get in touch with the WG leaders). This will now be shown in over a hundred universities as well as at the UNESCO Days of Science and Peace; 2) An interview series 'science + arts = peace and justice' has resulted in a short documentary (<https://glo->

[balyoungacademy.net/the-well-tempered-brain-or-what-thinking-sounds-like/](https://glo-balyoungacademy.net/the-well-tempered-brain-or-what-thinking-sounds-like/)); 3) An experimental project 'nano-brain symphonies/ well-tempered brain' has been started, and the first workshop was held on August 13th in Edinburgh, in collaboration with '9 evenings revisited' Science Arts Nexus, attended by 6 GYA members in Edinburgh. The GYA report of this event can be found at <https://globalyoungacademy.net/the-well-tempered-brain-or-what-thinking-sounds-like/> ; 4) *Nerina Finetto* has proposed to work on interviews with GYA members (in progress).

New 'incubator' category

Based on a suggestion by *Rieko Yajima* at the 2015 AGM in Canada, at the 2016 AGM we initiated the development of a new "incubator stream" for the design of GYA activities, with the goal to provide a supportive environment for experimenting with new ideas that could turn into future working groups. Incubator initiatives are encouraged to identify a concrete issue that is relevant and timely, and on which the GYA is particularly well-suited to drive a change. With a modest fixed amount of non-competitive funding, incubator groups of at least 3 GYA members should demonstrate that their envisaged

efforts stand out and that there is a workable plan for activities that have potential to ultimately lead to a change. With the incubator stream, GYA members are given an easily accessible space to try and share new ideas, as well as dedicated support, encouraging them to develop an effort together and to experience how far they can go.

Incubator group: Science Diplomacy (Leader: Almas Awan (Brazil), Martin Dominik (UK))

A "Science Diplomacy" group was formulated with the passion of letting GYA members engage, assess and intervene in current and upcoming global policy agenda as science diplomats. The main objectives of the group were defined through meetings and discussions with the interested GYA participants:

1. To scope out a comprehensive list of global policy bodies that influence global policy agenda
2. To strive towards ensuring GYA member representation within these bodies
3. To respond to the next global policy agenda with a view to position GYA as central to ad-

vancing this agenda from the perspective of young scientists; and to inform future projects in the working group.

Incubator group: The Learning Space (Leaders: Anindita Bhadra (India), Isil Kurnaz (Turkey))

The Learning Space will comprise two main elements: 1) School projects (India, Cambodia, Uganda, Mauritius and Canada) and 2) Web presence. The aim is to connect school projects or projects involving school pupils in 5 countries (mostly rural-based projects and all being led by people from different disciplines) by using the theme of sustainable development. The projects are very different and target different age groups but they all share the same focus on SD . The group wants to see how different disciplines can approach the same thing and how pupils respond to this. The lessons learned from the school/pupil projects will then be shared, along with other tips and techniques on the website/web platform. The group has divided into two, with members either working with the schools/pupils or on the collection of material for the website. The members from Mauritius and Cambodia plan to apply for GYA incubator funds to get things off the ground.

Incubator group: Biodiversity and Biomedicine (Leaders: *Alexander (Sasha) Kagansky (UK)* and *Vidushi Neergheen-Bhujun (Mauritius)*)

This new Incubator Group convened around a mutual interest in preserving biodiversity and promoting human health. The group's mission is to develop a database of pharmacological capacities of rare and endemic species of plants, animals, fungi and other microorganisms from biodiverse regions of the world. Two of the founding members received the GYAs North-South grant in 2014 and have developed a database of over 20 species from Mauritius. The project will expand to contain hundreds of medicinal extracts from different parts of the world. In addition to building this body of scientific and medical knowledge, the group also aims to reach out to local communities for documenting their indigenous local knowledge (ILK) regarding plant, fungal, and algal medicinal properties. Improving this line of communication will build scientific understanding of the ethnobotanical knowledge held by local populations and will also enable scientists to develop strategies to better preserve biodiversity through novel approaches based on interactions with local communities, including indigenous

local knowledge-holders. Ultimately, the group will share syntheses of science and ILK with local, national, and regional policy makers, as well as scientific communities to build better science and policies to protect rare and endemic plants and traditional and ILK systems.

Farewell party & dinner: Fond farewells with a bit of humour

Our final night was a buffet dinner and drinks. Our Master of Ceremonies, *Rob Jenkins*, kept us laughing and controlled proceedings masterfully. We said farewell to our inaugural Managing Director (MD), *Heidi Wedel*, and heard a wonderful account of her first days as the GYA MD – involving a small space, no computer, an extremely small budget, and no other people! To build the GYA up to the organisation that it is today is nothing short of extraordinary and reflects Heidi's excellence at her job and her dedication to the GYA mission. We welcomed our new MD, *Beate Wagner*, who joins us in July. It was great to meet Beate at this AGM and have the sense that we are in safe hands.

Orakanoke Phanraksa (Thailand)

"It is hard to say goodbye to someone who has been less of a co-worker and more of a friend, sister, and sometimes a big boss! It was at the AGM in Johannesburg in 2012 when the GYA members first met Dr. Heidi Wedel, our first Managing Director of the GYA. That year, we saw her running around, collecting boarding passes in addition to facilitating the Co-Chairs running the meeting. Wasn't that amazing to see someone who has devoted all of her energy just to ensure everything would run smoothly for the GYA? That is her, our Heidi! Now that she is leaving, we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for what she has done for the GYA. Each activity and event of the GYA comes and goes, but the memories of having her as the first MD will stay in our heart forever. Still, although she is leaving, we are very lucky as prior to her departure in July, she found a great successor, Dr. Beate Wagner. Many of us had a chance to meet Beate at the AGM 2016. But for those who have not yet met her, there will be more opportunities to meet and witness how great she is. To Beate, welcome on board! We would like to welcome you to our GYA family and are looking forward to working with you in the coming years."

We thanked outgoing Co-Chair, *Eva Alisic*, for her wonderful service this year, and then had a well-prepared, informative and at times outright hilarious quiz of the 8 outgoing members who were present, prepared by alumni *Wibool Piyawattanametha* and *Guru Madhavan*. All outgoing members who are transitioning to alumni were warmly thanked, and we look forward to continued input. The outgoing members attending the conference (or, in the case of Bettina, actually running the conference!) contributed so much to this

AGM, including raising important questions about the way in which we can best benefit from alumni input and connections while keeping the direction of the GYA driven by the current membership: we thank *Abdullah Shams Bin Tariq*, *Abidemi Akindele*, *Aftab Chatta*, *Arianna Betti*, *Bettina Speckmann*, *Jeremy Kerr*, *Maryam Matin*, and *Sameh Soror* for their service.

"I thought the graduation ceremony was great fun and I appreciated it a lot. A nice mix of bizarre, obscure, and real history." *Jeremy Kerr (Canada)*

"We joined the GYA 5 years ago, as first selected member intake. At this point it was not clear in our minds (may be also in founders' minds!), what are we going to do for this organisation, and what our role would be. Now, when we look back over the five years and see where is the GYA standing now, the recognition GYA receives around the world, it makes us feel satisfied that our participation contributed to push the GYA to this position. Yet, our feelings are mixed, being proud of the achievement, happy to see newer generation continuing what we have started and sad for ending our membership term in the GYA. However, we still see opportunities to serve the GYA as Alumni. Alumni can and should play a role in supporting the GYA, its membership and their activities. In conclusion, we see graduation into alumni not as an end for the relationship but a start of a new phase of strong relationship." *Sameh Soror (Egypt)*

"It was a hilarious evening, with touching words, born comedians as quiz masters, and creative human buzzers. We also had a beautiful example of science diplomacy in action: a member from India spontaneously standing up and telling about the friends she made with members from Bangladesh and Pakistan." *Eva Alisic, Australia*



Newly elected EC

Our thanks to the following people:

Local Organising Committees

The Netherlands: Bettina Speckmann, Riet van Buul – de Greef, Arthur van Goethem

Turkey: Yusuf Baran, Elvan Ceyhan, Ali Koşar, Bahar YeUş Kara, Zeynep Aycan, Nihal Aydoğan

Programme Organising Committee

Yusuf Baran & Oded Hod (Chairs), Abdeslam Badre, Thomas Edison de la Cruz, Mari-Vaughn Johnson, Jeremy Kerr, Orakanoke Phanraksa, Anina Rich, Bettina Speckmann

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