



8th International Conference of Young Scientists
and GYA Annual General Meeting 2018

7 -11 May 2018 Pattaya, Thailand

“Forever Young? Sustainable and Healthy Longevity through Science and Technology”



GLOBAL
YOUNG
ACADEMY

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and Research**

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Participants of the GYA 8th International Conference for Young Scientists at the conference venue in Pattaya, Thailand. Photo: GYA Office

A word from GYA co-chairs

The GYA's Annual General Meetings (AGM) and conferences are at the heart of our year-round activities, and our recent meeting in Thailand was no exception. We – 114 GYA members and alumni – came together with speakers, guests and partners for interdisciplinary exchange, capacity building and to spread the spirit of our active organisation. At this conference, we addressed the timely theme of healthy aging under the lens of sustainable development. With this focus, we looked not only to medical scientific developments, but more broadly to individual, community and environmental aspects of aging societies.

At the opening of this AGM, the GYA inaugurated and warmly welcomed 45 new members, who represent more than 34 countries; among them our first members from Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Lebanon, Panama, Peru, and Albania. This year for the first time, we integrated a science leadership workshop for new members as a pre-conference element of the AGM, continuing our tradition of nurturing the next generation of science leaders. We aim to have as a recurring event for new members at every AGM. We also said farewell to 45 members, who are now part of our growing alumni. In fact, as of May 2018, the GYA now counts more alumni (216) than members (200). We consider them a wealth of resources and look forward to working with the many active GYA alumni to establish long-term alumni relations.



Photo: GYA Office

This AGM and Conference capped a year in which the GYA particularly shone in being the voice of young scientists worldwide. We were active in international forums on policy for science as well as science for policy; these fora included the World Science Forum, the Next Einstein Forum, and the United Nations Youth Forum. In addition to these were our contributions through our internal working groups, such as the work of the Young Scientist Ambassador Programme (YSAP) that led missions in Pakistan, Costa Rica and Tanzania.

The YSAP aims at opening up the minds of school children to science and research and its potentials for societal and community improvement. With the in-person meeting in Thailand, we hope that our members, alumni and partners have once again found inspiration to continue engaging in society in the coming year.

To the local organisers in Thailand we owe our sincerest gratitude – led by GYA alumna and former Co-Chair Orakanoke Phanraksa and GYA member Numpon Mahayotsanun; with the assistance of a fantastic group of young scientists and researchers from the Thai Young Scientists Academy (TYSA) and the incredible support from the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) – they all elegantly hosted this successful event. We would also like to thank all the national and international sponsors of the event, our strategic partners who attended some or all of the event, our advisory board members, GYA members on the programme organising committee, the previous Executive Committee (EC) and the GYA Office for their support.

On behalf of the newly elected EC, we look forward to a productive and energetic year to come, in which key GYA projects are fostered and fresh perspectives contribute to debates, discussions and actions on science for a better world.



GYA Co-Chairs

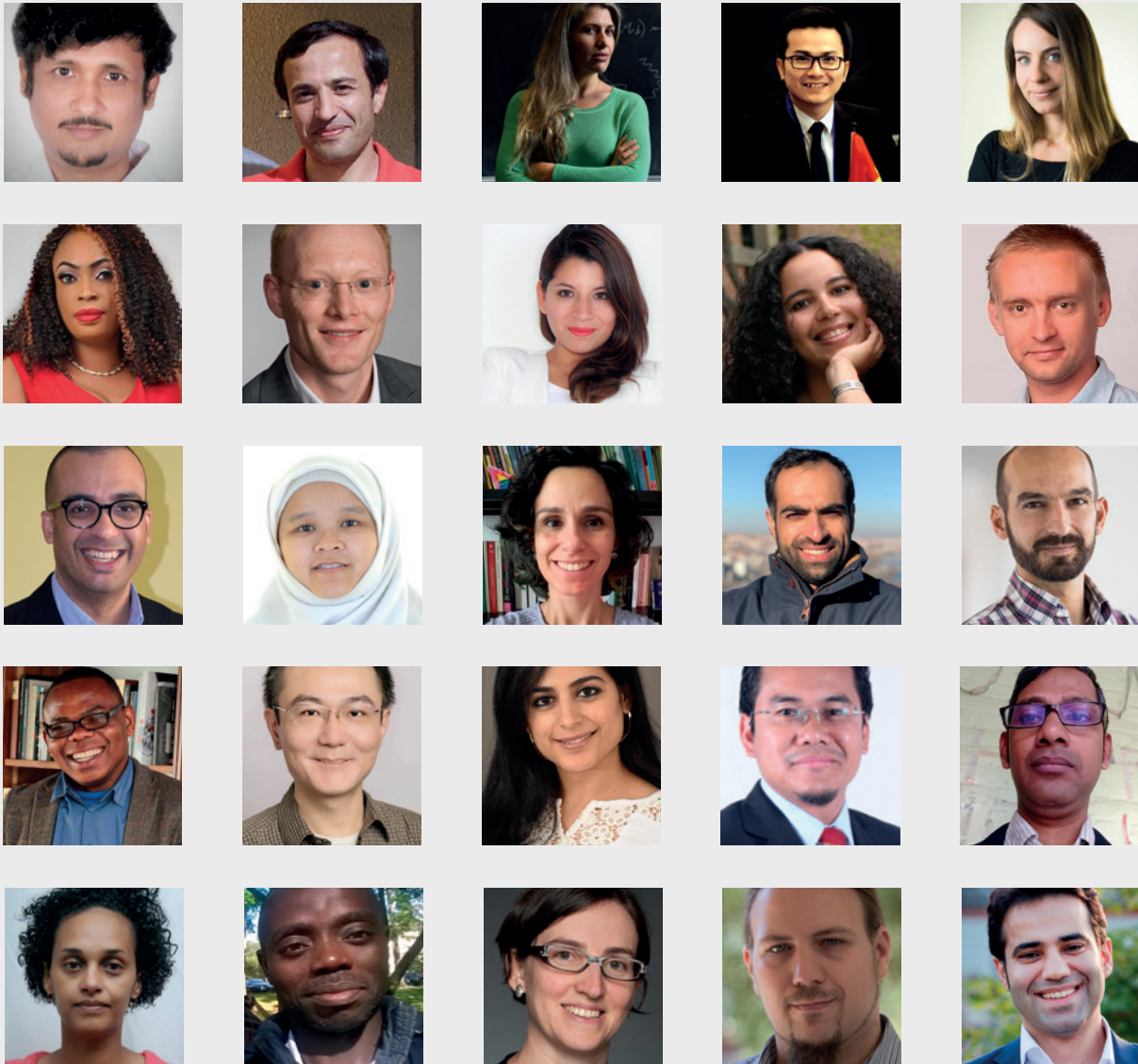
Tolu Oni (UK)

&



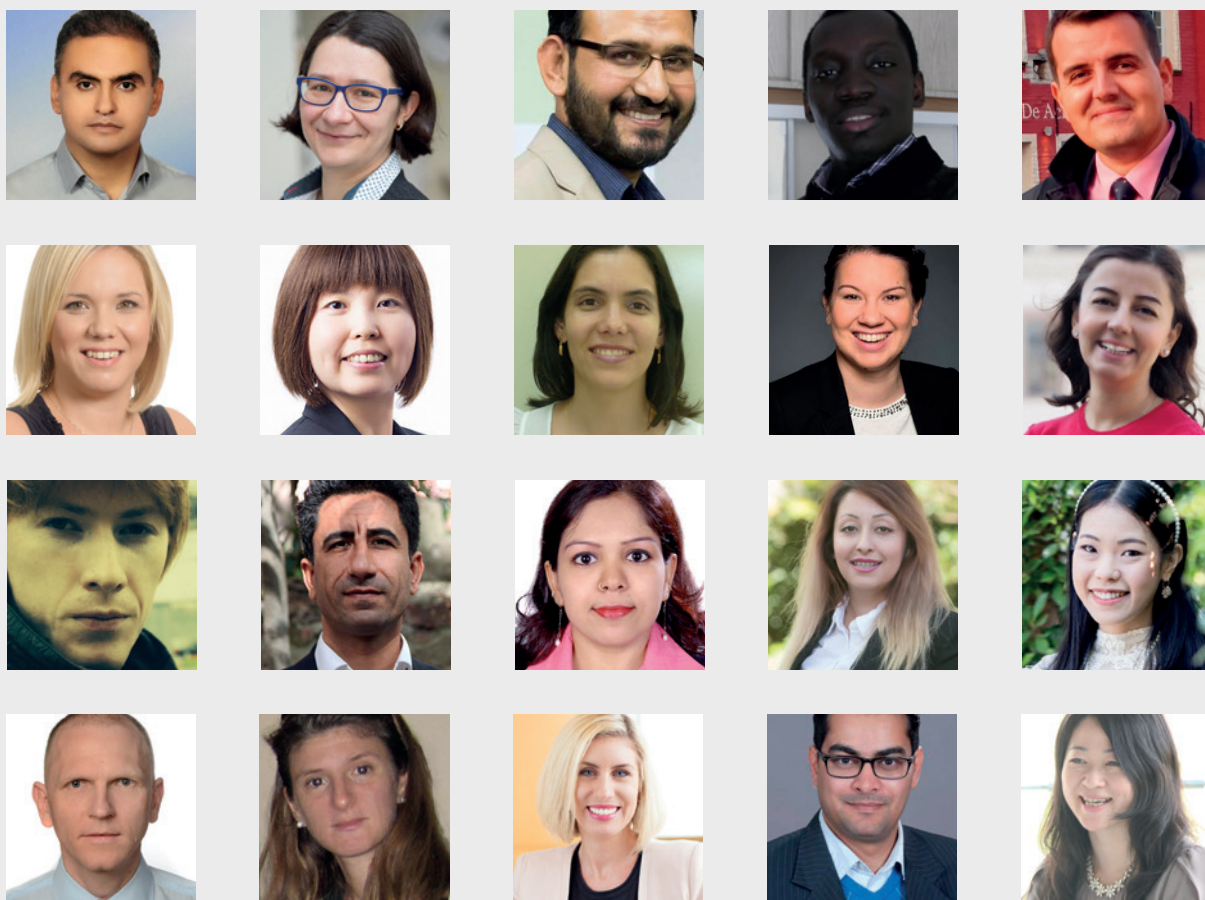
Connie Nshemereirwe (Uganda)

New Members 2018



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Line 1: Abhijit Majumder, Ali Jahanshahi, Amanda Weltman, Bach Xuan Tran, Camila Ortolan Fernandes de Oliveira Cervone
Line 2: Chioma Daisy Onyige, Christopher Paul Barrington-Leigh, Clarissa Jazmin Rios Rojas, Dalal Najib, Dmitry Alexeev
Line 3: Elhadidy Mohamed, Fatin Aliah Phang, Flávia Ferreira Pires, H. Abdalhadi M. Alijla, Ignacio Palomo
Line 4: John Kuumuori Ganle, Junpeng Li, Karin Carmit Yefet, Khamarrul Azahari Razak, Krishanu Biswas
Line 5: Liya Wassie Dubale, Malan Ketcha Armand Kablan, Marie-Eve Sylvestre, Michael Backes, Michael Saliba



Line 1: Mohammad Reza Salimpour, Monika Kędra, Muhammad Saif Ur Rehman, Patrick Brandful Cobbinah, Rigers Bakiu
 Line 2: Roula Inglesi-Lotz, Ruodan Shao, Sandra L. Lopez-Verges, Sarah Morales, Seda Keskin-Avcı
 Line 3: Sergey A. Kostyrko, Sezgin Bakirdere, Shalini Subash Arya, Shima Taheri, Soracha Thamphiwatana
 Line 4: Stefan Kohler, Stefania Mondello, Stéfanie von Hlatky, Suraj Bhattarai, Yoko Shimpuku

Forever Young?

Sustainable and healthy longevity through science and technology

Lisa Herzog (Germany)

The theme of the GYA's 2018 international conference for young scientists addressed the pressing, worldwide issue of healthy aging. The theme corresponds to the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 focusing on good health and well-being, as well as those related to hunger, water, sanitation, responsible production and consumption, and stable, peaceful and sustainable cities and communities. This wide-ranging view on healthy and sustainable aging welcomed contributions from many diverse disciplines and backgrounds.

Beyond questions of individual health, demographic shifts can be witnessed across the globe. Some countries are seeing a continuous rise in births and significant recent improvements in maternal-child health, leading to situations where up to five generations in one family are still alive, sometimes living in one home. In other countries, due to low

birth rates and increasing longevity, the median age of the population is rising. This increased longevity both results in, and is the result of, a number of social, economic and political effects involving family structures and caregiving, mobility, housing and health needs, to name but a few drivers.

In this context, a number of questions arise:

- How are scientific advances and technological developments implicated in healthy aging? What role should science play in technological and social innovations of the future?
- How are different communities, countries, cultures and organizations responding to changing demographics? Which, if any, changes to political and social structures are needed to address these challenges?



- How do different generations interact with and influence each other, and society at large?
- How do changing demographics interface with urbanization and the dynamics in rural areas? How do we build cities and infrastructures that comply with the needs of both the young and old?
- What values should guide research and policy decisions? Is there a tradeoff between longevity and sustainable resource management?
- How can healthy aging challenges be correlated with broader questions about sustainability, environment protection, poverty and social justice?

The conference location in Thailand additionally provided a platform for scientific exchange and discourse within the national context of Thailand and the regional contexts of the ASEAN and Asian

nations. Panel contributions and discussions by local and regional participants in the conference enriched and strengthened the conference overall and in this respect, specifically.

To address the questions above, panels focused on three broad facets of the conference topic. Panel I looked at medical and individual aspects: What does healthy aging mean for individuals as embodied beings? Panel II focused on social aspects: Communities for healthy longevity and for all ages. Finally, Panel III examined environmental aspects – humans and nature. A keynote lecture by Prof Harald zur Hausen on cancers linked to infections contributed in-depth insights into certain aspects brought up in Panel I.



Photos: GYA Office

International conference for young scientists

Shalini Arya (India)

The international conference was opened by esteemed guests, Dr Narong Sirilertworakul (President, NSTDA), Dr Flavia Schlegel (Assistant Director General, UNESCO) and Prof Dr Depei Liu (President, IAP). Dr Sirilertworakul emphasized the importance of involving young scientists (and more women) in global organisations and thanked the GYA for its work in this regard.

Dr Schlegel added that UNESCO strongly believes in science as a force for good, which should be

accessible to everyone, and should be used to benefit everyone worldwide. Regardless of age, we should all be responsible global citizens, and agents of social change. Dr Depei Lui underscored the historical connection between the Interacademy Partnership (IAP) and the GYA, as well as the IAP's further commitment to supporting the voice of young scientists. He congratulated the GYA on its advancements over the last 8 years in raising the profile of young scientists within the global science-policy community.



Narong Sirilertworakul opened the international conference in Thailand; to his right Flavia Schlegel, Depei Liu, and Lisa Herzog. Photo: GYA Office

Panel I – What does healthy aging mean for individuals as embodied beings?

Shalini Arya (India)

The speakers on this panel agreed on the importance of remaining “young at heart”, and of individuals playing a role in shaping their own experiences. In a world with an increasingly older population, it is necessary not only to inquire about problems resulting from this development, but also about what resources older adults possess (e.g., more memories and often a more optimistic approach towards life). At the same time, age-friendly policies are necessary to combat ageism and to foster healthy aging. In discussions, an inclusive view on healthy aging was emphasized: health being a state of physical, mental and social

wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. This panel was introduced by moderator and GYA member, Prof Dr Abdeslam Badre (Mohmmad V University and EDU Globe Consulting). Dr Yongyuth Yuthavong, Senior Advisor to the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Prof Dr Helene Fung (Developmental Psychology, Chinese University Hong Kong) and Dr Suraj Bhattarai (Scholar of International Health & Tropical Medicine, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine) gave talks in answer to the question: *What does healthy aging mean for individuals as embodied beings?*



Yongyuth Yuthavong spoke on the first conference panel on healthy aging; to his right, Abdeslam Badre and Suraj Bhattarai. Photo: GYA Office

Panel II – Communities for healthy longevity, communities for all ages

Gergely Toldi (Hungary)

Panel II explored the effects of an aging population on communities and societies, as well as societal and technological measures to address these issues. The example of technological advances in smart devices was addressed, including their use in, e.g. medical emergencies, or to enhance an active lifestyle for elderly populations. It was emphasized that communities can combat problems of declining social capital through community empowerment – connecting elderly people with one another and the surrounding society. There was consensus that a wider collaboration between sectors is necessary to support the various needs of an aging population

and their communities. One first step would be for societies to reflect on their attitudes towards aging, and establish ways to support all members of society in preparation for the inevitable. The panel was moderated by GYA member Prof Dr Suzanne Bouclin (University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law). Prof Dr Depei Liu (President, IAP), Dr Agachai Sumalee (Department of Civil Engineering, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang), Dr Naoki Kondo (Assoc. Prof., School of Public Health, University of Tokyo) and Dr Daniel Ochieng Orwenjo (Department of Language and Communication Studies, Technical University of Kenya) spoke from different disciplinary perspectives on the panel topic.



Kevin Marsh explored environmental impacts of longevity and growth in Africa in his panel talk; to his right Clarissa Rios Rojas, Shalini Arya and Pavinee Chinachotti. Photo: GYA Office

Keynote lecture – Cancers linked to infections

Nova Ahmed (Bangladesh)

The GYA welcomed Nobel Laureate Prof Dr Harald zur Hausen, who spoke about a number of viral infections linked to different cancers, as well as about the varying latency period between infection and tumor generation. One conclusion of his work is that prolonged breast-feeding of infants has been shown to reduce the risk of infection for certain viruses linked to cancer. Prof zur Hausen was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2008, for discovering the relationship between the human papilloma virus (HPV) and cervical cancer.

Panel III – Humans and nature – environmental aspects of sustainable and healthy longevity

The interplay between humans and our environment – from food production and intake to climate change and agricultural production – was explored in the context of Asia and Africa, as well as at an individual level. Panellists showed how different levels of population growth (high in Africa, low in many industrialized countries) and different climate and technological conditions go together with global trends of urbanization and increased per capita consumption. Although we see differences in regional development, the overall environmental impact of a growing population will be worldwide,

and thus requires both individual global social awareness as well as action at a global level towards implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. GYA member, and founder and director at Ekpapalek, Dr Clarissa Rios Rojas, moderated this panel, which included contributions from Prof Dr Kevin Marsh (Tropical Medicine, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford), Prof Dr Pavinee Chinachoti (President of the Food, Science and Technology Association of Thailand) and Prof Dr Shalini Arya (Assistant Professor, Food Engineering and Technology, ICT Mumbai).



Suzanne Bouclin moderated the panel on communities and aging; to her right Daniel Ochieng Orwenjo, Naoki Kondo, Agachai Sumalee and Depei Liu. Photo: GYA Office



Prof Dr Harald Zur Hausen speaking at the Leopoldina. Photo: David Ausserhofer for the Leopoldina

World café

In a world café style discussion session, participants debated issues surrounding provocative questions related to the conference topic. These questions (below) combined with the dynamic format in which participants rotate to a new table every few minutes, introduced new perspectives and stimulated thinking ‘outside the box’.

Provocative questions:

1. Is there a right to attempt to maximize one's length of life in a world of scarcity?
2. Should euthanasia be legalized in aging societies, and if so, how could abuse be prevented?
3. How does healthy aging relate to socio-economic equality? To put it starkly: is it healthy aging just for the rich?
4. How should the human right to health be weighed against the rights of animals and concerns for the natural environment?
5. What, if anything, would be lost if human beings became immortal?
6. Does it make sense to talk about any notion of „natural“ aging and dying, or are we in the realm of artificiality anyway?
7. If you could spend a large sum of money on one research question in order to help societies manage demographic change, which question would that be?
8. Do different cultures give different answers to the questions about healthy aging, e.g. because they prioritize different values?
9. What defines immortality? Could/should we one day “live” without physical bodies?
10. Is there a unique role for young scientists in addressing challenges and opportunities related to healthy aging and if so, what is it?



” As a new member, I found the GYA 2018 AGM truly inspiring. Meeting and working with brilliant young scientists from across the world was a great opportunity. We were able to connect, strengthen our collaboration, and come up with great ideas and projects.

“

– Seda Keskin, Turkey + Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Member Lightning Talks

Sustainable and healthy aging

Yoko Shimpuku (Japan)

GYA members gave dynamic short presentations on their research related to healthy aging. The topics ranged from global trends of aging to new technologies being proposed or developed. The following insights into member research provide some examples: Preventive and precision medicine for diabetic patients, the potential utility of stem-cells against aging, technology to reduce age, and an antioxidant oil using nanotechnology that promotes the absorption of antioxidants.

Furthermore, relationships among health, wealth, and technology, the popularity of smart devices, advanced video devices, etc., in approaches to healthy aging and the context of mental health in developing countries were discussed. In all, the audience was captivated by the identification of global trends and innovative problem-solving technologies being addressed by young scientists and scholars.

What do you do and why?

Anna Harris (The Netherlands)

In the words of presentation coach, Lisa Shufro, a good presentation gives its audience a “gift”. The over 40 lightning talks by GYA members in two parallel sessions gave listeners a wealth of gifts and insights into a wide variety of research, science and science for policy topics.

Some highlights from members’ research include: research on plant biomes, astronomy in Namibia, frog sex chromosomes, the effect of the weekly cycle on decision-making, the nano-level of the human body, waste and the green economy, healthy deliveries of babies, how technologies are replacing clinical skills, microbial environments, how to think with sounds, smart concrete, solar energy research, optimizing maize agronomy in sub-Saharan Africa, species protection, microalgae to promote bio-based economy, nudging towards sustainability, knowledge as a moral issue, space radiation, nanomaterials and climate change, scientific input in global policymaking and atmospheric aerosol.

Gala dinner with cultural performance

At a celebratory gala dinner, GYA members had a chance to sit down with speakers, guests and local sponsors. The dinner was opened by Dr Flavia Schlegel, Assistant Director-General at the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with an inspiring talk about the spirit of youth remaining with us throughout life. In addition, the GYA welcomed four of its Advisory Board members: Prof Yuko Harayama (Japan), Prof Kevin Marsh (Kenya), Dr Narong Sirilertworakul (Thailand), and Linda Nordling (South Africa). A highlight of the evening were three Thai cultural presentations: Klong Sabad Chai (drum beat), Ramakien (Thailand’s national epic), and Lao Kra Top Mai (bamboo dance) – the last of which ended with a lively, interactive dance session.



Left: GYA Member Lisa Herzog (Germany) addresses provocative questions on healthy aging during the world café discussion.

Left 2: Three past co-chairs: GYA alumni Greg Weiss, Orakanoke Phanraksa and Eva Alisic; with Alexander Kagansky (centre) at the opening diversity dinner.

Center: GYA Member Nova Ahmed (Bangladesh) presents her work in a Member Lightning Talk session.

Right: Outgoing member Rym Kefi (Tunisia) presents during a Member Lightning Talk. Photos: GYA Office





Gergely Toldi addressed the plenary during conference discussions. Photo: GYA Office



” *I am motivated to tackle medical challenges and my passion is to develop novel therapeutics for patients. I believe that cross-disciplinary collaboration is important to create such innovation. The 2018 AGM gave me an opportunity to work with many talented scientists with diverse expertise from around the world to create projects and exchange ideas. By building a collaborative approach, we will be able to make an immediate and meaningful impact to our world.*

“

– Soracha Thamphiwatana,
Thailand + Nanoengineering/Nanomedicine



Sandra Lopez Verges, Abhijit Majumder, Ismet Mamnoon and Shalini Arya on the first evening of the week-long event: the AGM opened with a dinner celebrating members' diversity. Photo: GYA Office



” Personally, a 5-year term for membership is rightly set. In my first year, I got to know the GYA by meeting colleagues of very diverse backgrounds in a joyful setting. In my second year, I become part of the family, actively involved in various discussions and happily participating in GYA activities. In my third year and beyond, it is time to contribute further, either by becoming the lead of a working group or contributing to the EC, for this ,other‘ family that we belong to. I love the energy, admire the creativity and adore the passions of this global family!

“

– Hong Ching Goh,
Malaysia + Urban studies and natural resource governance





Photos: GYA Office

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Pre-AGM workshops

Monir Uddin Ahmed (Bangladesh)

This year, two pre-AGM workshops took place before the official meeting began. A science leadership workshop for (mainly) new members was a rich source of learning and eased new member integration into the GYA. Throughout the two-day workshop, the facilitators (KnowInnovation associates, experienced GYA members and regional partners) shared important tools for team building, idea generation, inspiring creativity, giving and seeking feedback and understanding and utilizing diversity. Participants were introduced to communication tools and interpersonal skills which can be used in their career development, as well as in the context of active GYA membership.

In addition, pre-meeting webinars on presentation coaching were offered by coach, Lisa Shufro, and followed up by a half-day masterclass and individual coaching in Thailand. The session focused on helping GYA members improve how to communicate their work to professionals outside their field of expertise, how to understand differences between conference and academic presentations, how to prepare non-academic talks of different lengths, how to use visual aids and notes as supports rather than crutches, and finally how to gain confidence and fluency when presenting on-stage.



Eva Alisic and Moritz Riede observed some of the outcomes of the first pre-AGM science leadership workshop for new GYA members. Photo: GYA Office

Inauguration and introduction to the GYA

Lisa Herzog (Germany)

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) officially opened on 8 May with a welcome by GYA Co-Chairs Tolu Oni (South Africa) and Moritz Riede (UK), as well as Prof Dr Jutta Schnitzer-Ungefug, Secretary General of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. Following their remarks, the GYA's 2018 new members were inaugurated. This year, the GYA welcomed 45 young scholars and scientists (23 female and 22 male), pushing the GYA's gender balance to 57% male and 43% female. Each new member introduced himself or herself in a six-word-description.

Moritz and Tolu then presented inspiring facts and figures about the GYA and elaborated on various ways to become actively involved: the GYA is strengthened by its members! They emphasized the need for mutual respect across cultures, and the character of the GYA as a forum for learning and exchange. The session was concluded with a diversity exercise, facilitated by GYA member Connie Nshemereirwe (Uganda), to challenge our assumptions about differing attitudes to life, time, organisation, and more, and it brought about an increased mutual understanding, and lots of laughter.



GYA Co-Chairs Tolu Oni (r.) and Moritz Riede (l.) welcomed new GYA members to their inaugural AGM: Rigers Bakiu (centre). Photo: GYA Office



New GYA members being formally inducted into their 5-year membership. Photos: GYA Office



” Honoured to be selected as a new member of the highly-recognized institution after a tough competition amongst hundreds of accomplished scientists worldwide. “
#gyagm2018 #representingNepal



– Suraj Bhattarai (Nepal),
Health Sciences, Medinice



Working Group fair



Left: Koen Vermeir and Anna-Maria Gramatté (GYA Project Officer) in front of a poster from the Global Access to Research Software group, which launched a report in March. Center and right: GYA members interacting during the Working Group fair. Photos: GYA Office

For the first time at the 2018 AGM, Working Groups (WGs) and Incubators, as well as internal GYA committees, were invited to present themselves in an open fair session. Representatives of each group were located next to informative posters throughout the large conference room, and members had the opportunity to browse the diverse member-led projects and ask questions and discuss plans with project leads. New members actively approached already engaged members from over 20 WGs and Incubators, and existing members also found new paths to involvement in projects and committees.





” Working in the Women in Science group to improve women conditions in science around the world and help girls and young women to empower themselves and follow their dreams in any field, one of them being science!



– Sandra Lopez (Panama),
Health Sciences, Medicine

We believe that Science and Art together can contribute to peace and justice globally.

Working Group

Women in Science

Science Education

Science + Art = Peace and Justice

Join us young

Do you want to be a

Get to know us

Get to know us

Get to know us

Aims | Why join us

- connects scientists with artists in mutually beneficial creative collaborations
- aims at dissolving artificial barriers between disciplines to address inequality and injustice globally
- offers new opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and communication
- Dolphinet project listens to the conversations of dolphins
- event on the well-tempered brain in 2017
- photo competition for young academy members

Lead: Mari-Vaughn Johnson

NYA round table

Representatives from 12 national young academies (NYAs), similar bodies and NYA initiatives came together at the international conference, including from Nigeria, Germany, Thailand, Vietnam, Poland, India, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Hungary, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Participants discussed NYA-related issues, such as how to establish an NYA, young academies' relationships to respective senior

academies, as well as NYAs' independence, activities and projects. Science outreach and science advice were also discussed, as were ideas for future joint projects. The next Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies is planned to take place in 2019 in Vietnam.

SDG workshop with National Science Museum

Anindita Bhadra (India)

As part of the AGM's science outreach programme, members from the GYA Science Education for Youth working group and further meeting participants attended a session with the National Science Museum Thailand. The workshop focused on selected United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

and their implementation. Participants discussed activities by the GYA and the Science Museum in the field of the SDGs, and how public engagement with the SDGs could be fostered. Outcomes from the workshop discussions were displayed at the National Science Week in Thailand from 16-20 August 2018.



Local science outreach at Burapha University

John Malone (USA)

Following the AGM, GYA members John Malone (USA), Alexander Kagansky (Russia), Shamsun Khan (Bangladesh), Sergey Kostyrko (Russia), Mahesh Kumar (India), Clarissa Rojas (Peru), Felycia Soetaredjo (Indonesia), and Abdalhadi Alijla (Sweden) presented research seminars at Burapha University, Thailand, as part of an outreach activity for the Global Young Academy Young Scientist Ambassador Programme (YSAP).

The goal of YSAP is to build connections between researchers in different countries and the outreach activity facilitated interactions between researchers in Thailand and seven countries. More than 65

students, researchers, and staff attended the research seminars, which focused on GYA members' areas of expertise. After the seminars, GYA members were given tours of several research facilities, enabling time for more detailed discussions and brainstorming for collaborative research projects.

GYA members were also able to address questions from local high school students that attended the event from Assumption College-Sriracha and the Princess Chulabhorn Science High School-Chonburi, providing students an opportunity to interact with scientists from around the world.



Photo: GYA Office

New Leadership elected



To represent and lead them through the upcoming year 2018/19, GYA members re-elected Tolu Oni (UK) and elected Connie Nshemereirwe (Uganda) as their Co-Chairs. Additionally, the following members were elected to serve on the 2018/19 Executive Committee:

From top left: Adewale Adewuyi (Nigeria), Anina Rich (Australia), Tolu Oni (UK), Laura Fierce (USA) was re-elected; Connie Nshemereirwe (Uganda).

From bottom left: Xuan Bach Tran (Vietnam) newly elected, Shaheen Motala-Timol (Mauritius), Rothsopha Nguon (Cambodia), Abdalhadi Alijla (Sweden), Yoko Shimpuku (Japan) and Koen Vermeir (France), who is newly elected.

GYA over the past year and looking forward

2017/18 GYA Co-Chairs, Tolu Oni and Moritz Riede, reported on GYA activities and developments over the past year. At the beginning of its term, the Executive Committee (EC) 2017/18 organised itself around thematic portfolios and drafted a plan of action, focusing on the following dimensions: inputs, processes, outputs and outcomes. Suggested priorities, derived from member input at the 2017 AGM, included an external impact evaluation of the GYA with a view to a post-2020 strategic plan, a focus on Latin America (growth of young academics, GloSYS LAC, LAC-SLP), fundraising activities, improved internal and external communications, as well as further discussion of alumni roles. In the introductory session of the 2018 AGM, EC members reported on their activities from the past year within their portfolios and answered members' questions. Further reports included a financial overview, new communication tools on the GYA website, and insights into the member selection process.

In preparation for the 'Future of the GYA' session at the end of the AGM week, members voiced their input on their expectations and what they perceive as priorities for the 2018/19 Executive Committee in an online 'lightning round'. Proposals related to the member selection process and to the at-risk scholars mentoring programme were laid out and discussed; both discussions will be continued in online forums to be decided upon by the membership over the coming year. GYA members can find read about the internal AGM sessions in greater detail in the official AGM minutes.

Finally, the planned impact assessment of the GYA and its activities was introduced. Considering the upcoming 10-year anniversary of the GYA, an evaluation of GYA goals and achievements, as well as future plans, is warranted. Members contributed diverse ideas in a fruitful discussion about the development and impact of the GYA.



GYA members Maarten van Herpen and Mona Khoury-Kassabri addressing GYA constitutional issues. Photo: GYA Office



GYA members expand their networks at the AGM: Left: Liya Wassie Dubale and Ibrahim Sidi Zakari; right: Xuan Bach Tran and Soracha Thamphiwatana. Photo: GYA Office



” After attending three consecutive AGMs, I find that the GYA is a global mirror to know oneself, understand one’s own standing in the global village, feel the diversity in the world, see the global issues and problems and contribute. In this way, we have the potential to have a global impact: though the science leadership programme, science diplomacy, science policy advice, and the global status of young scientists discussion.

“

– Monir Uddin Ahmed,
Bangladesh + Molecular/Microbial Epidemiology



” The number of smart ideas and fascinating research I’ve encountered at #gyagm2018 will inspire for a long time: from shark protection in the Mediterranean, to smart cement, astrophysics, history of migration in Cambodia, cheap solar cells, homemade flood warning sensors. My head is still buzzing long after the conference is over. No other conference is this enriching - members should try to attend all 5 conferences (and then attend even more as alumni).

“

– Robert Lepenies,
Germany + Political Science & Political Philosophy

AGM 2018 Committees & Programme

Local Organising Committee

Thailand

Dr Numpon Mahayotsanun, GYA and Thai Young Scientists Academy (TYSA)

Dr Orakanoke Phanraksa, GYA alumna

Dr Wibool Piyawattanametha, GYA alumnus

Dr Nonglak Meethong, GYA

Dr Suvaluk Asavasanti, TYSA

Dr Kheamrutai Thamaphat, TYSA

Dr Phiangphak Sukkharak, TYSA

Dr Nuwong Chollacoop, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)

Dr Kampanart Silva, Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology (TINT)

Mullika Kulsiriprueck, NSTDA

Thaneeya Wongchan, NSTDA

Parichart Khamput, NSTDA

Person, Position Profession, Institution, Town, Country

Programme Organising Committee

Prof Lisa Herzog, Co-Chair POC, Germany

Prof Thomas E. de la Cruz, Co-Chair POC, Professor of Syntax and Language Variation, Utrecht University, Philippines

Dr Monir Uddin Ahmed, Position Profession, Institution, Town, Country

Dr Anindita Bhadra, Position Profession, Institution, Town, Country

Dr Anna Harris, Position Profession, Institution, Town, Country

Dr Rob Jenkins, Position Profession, Institution, Town, Country

Prof Anina Rich, Position Profession, Institution, Town, Country

Dr Uttam Shrestha, Position Profession, Institution, Town, Country

Dr Gergely Toldi, Position Profession, Institution, Town, Country

Prof Ghada Bassioni, Position Profession, Institution, Town, Country

Pre-Conference

	Sunday, 6 May 2018	New Members
8:00 – 18:00	Science Leadership Workshop for New Members	

Day 0

	Monday, 7 May 2018	Internal GYA Day
8:00 – 18:00	Science Leadership Workshop for New Members	
12:00 – 18:00	EC In-Person Meeting	
15:00 – 18:00	Masterclass Presentation Coaching	
Afternoon	Arrival and Registration	

Day 1

	Tuesday, 8 May 2018	Internal GYA Day
07:30 - 09:00	Buddy Breakfast	
09:00 – 11:00	<p>Official AGM Opening</p> <p>Welcome</p> <p>Prof Dr Tolu Oni and Prof Dr Moritz Riede (GYA Co-Chairs)</p> <p>Prof Dr Jutta Schnitzer-Ungefug (German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina)</p> <p><i>Inauguration of New Members</i></p> <p><i>Introduction to the GYA</i></p> <p><i>Ice-breaking activities</i></p> <p><i>Cultural dexterity exercise</i></p>	
11:00 – 13:00	Fair – Working Groups, Incubator Groups, Member Committees	
14:00 – 16:00	Plenary – Internal Reports – GYA in the last year	
16:30 – 18:30	Working Group Time	

Day 3	Wednesday, 10 May 2018	Public Day (until 16:00)
07:30 – 09:00	Working Group Breakfast and Working Time GYA and National Young Academies breakfast meeting	
09:00 – 10:00	Key Note Talk – Cancers Linked to Infections Prof Dr Harald zur Hausen , <i>Prof emeritus, Heidelberg University</i>	
10:00 – 11:30	Plenary – Panel III: Humans and nature – environmental aspects of sustainable and healthy longevity Prof Dr Kevin Marsh , <i>Tropical Medicine, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford</i> Prof Dr Pavinee Chinachoti , <i>President of the Food, Science and Technology Association of Thailand</i> Prof Dr Shalini Arya , <i>Assistant Professor, Food Engineering and Technology, ICT Mumbai</i> Moderation: Dr Clarissa Rios Rojas , <i>Founder and Director at Ekpapalek</i>	
12:00 – 13:00	World Café Discussion	
14:00 – 15:30	Member Lightning Talks– What do you do and why? <i>two parallel sessions</i>	
16:00 – 18:00	Parallel session Science Outreach Workshop with the National Science Museum – GYA and public engagement of SDGs	
16:00 – 18:00	Parallel session - Working Group Time	
18:00 – 19:00	EC Elections	
Day 2	Wednesday, 9 May 2018	Public Day
07:30 – 10:00	Working Group Breakfast and Working Time	
10:00 – 10:45	Plenary – Conference Opening Ceremony Dr Narong Sirilertworakul (<i>President, NSTDA</i>) Dr Flavia Schlegel (<i>Assistant Director General, UNESCO</i>) Dr Depel Liu (<i>President, IAP; Co-Chair, IAP for Health</i>)	
10:45 – 12:15	Plenary – Panel I: What does healthy aging mean for individuals as embodied beings? Prof Dr Helene Fung , <i>Developmental Psychology, Chinese University Hong Kong</i>	

Dr Yongyuth Yuthavong, Senior Advisor to the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
Dr Suraj Bhattarai, Scholar of International Health & Tropical Medicine, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Moderation:
Prof Dr Abdeslam Badre, Mohammed V University,
EDU GLOBE CONSULTING - Founder

13:30 – 15:00	Plenary – Panel II: Communities for healthy longevity, communities for all ages Dr Agachai Sumalee , Department of Civil Engineering, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang Dr Naoki Kondo , Associate Professor, Department of Health Education and Health Sociology, School of Public Health, The University of Tokyo Dr Daniel Ochieng Orwenjo , Senior Lecturer, Department of Language and Communication Studies, The Technical University of Kenya Moderation: Prof Dr Suzanne Bouclin , University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law
15:00 – 15:30	Meet the AGM sponsors
16:00 – 17:30	Member Lightning Talks – Sustainable and Healthy Ageing
17:30 – 18:00	EC Pitches
19:00 – 22:00	Gala Dinner with all GYA members, guests and sponsors

Day 4	Friday, 11 May 2018	Internal GYA Day
07:30 – 09:00	Working Group Breakfast	
09:00 – 10:30	Plenary – Working Group and Incubator presentations of plans for the coming year	
10:45 – 11:30	Plenary – Discussion and finalisation of conference statement	
11:30 – 13:15	Plenary – Future of GYA session	
14:00 – 15:00	EC photos and group photo	
15:00 – 16:15	Working Group Time / EC-EC business transition meeting	
16:30 – 18:30	Working Group Time / EC and Advisory Board meeting	

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Members of the Local Organising Committee of the GYA 8th International Conference for Young Scientists at the conference venue in Pattaya, Thailand. Photo: GYA Office



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