

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Annual General Meeting to go virtual.
- GYA warmly welcomes new members.
- GYA COVID-19 Statement released; accompanying infographic now available in 24 languages.
- GYA contributes to G-Science Academies of Science and Medicine COVID-19 Statement.
- COVID-19 information repository for young academies and partners continues to grow.
- GYA to help establish European Commission Open Access publishing platform.

This bulletin provides an overview and highlights of the activities of the Global Young Academy (GYA) in the first quarter of 2020: the purpose is to help identify and strengthen cooperation with our strategic partners. This bulletin complements our monthly newsletters (archive available [here](#)), which provide more comprehensive details. In this issue, we share updates on the selection of our new members, the transformation of our in-person Annual General Meeting into a virtual meeting, the GYA's Statement on COVID-19, as well as the establishment of a COVID-19 young academy information repository.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- Read about the e-AGM and International Conference [here](#).
- Get to know the new GYA member cohort [here](#).
- Download the GYA's COVID-19 Statement [here](#).
- Download the G-Science Academies of Science and Medicine COVID-19 Statement [here](#).
- Visit the GYA COVID-19 resource page [here](#).
- Subscribe to our newsletter [here](#).

NEWS**GYA TO HOLD ITS FIRST VIRTUAL AGM**

In light of worldwide repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GYA [Executive Committee](#) has come to the decision not to hold an in-person Annual General Meeting (AGM) and International Conference of Young Scientists this year in Kolkata, India. Instead, the GYA will hold these meetings virtually for the first time since its founding.

The e-AGM is planned for GYA members and alumni only from 8-12 June, during which time new members will be inaugurated and a new Executive Committee elected. Arrangements are also being made to create virtual spaces to support Working Group and committee meetings, as well as enable informal encounters.

The GYA's 2020 digital International Conference of Young Scientists on the topic "Heal the Earth: Sustainable Development Goals in a Changing World" will be open to members, alumni and external guests from 29 June–10 July 2020. To allow for maximal inclusion over all time zones and by those with varying degrees of internet access, most of the conference will be asynchronous, and will include recorded talks and moderated message boards, as well as forums, where invited guests and young scientists can contribute. More information is available [here](#).

GYA'S NEW MEMBER COHORT SELECTED

Under the leadership of [Mohamed Elhadidy](#) (Zewail City for Science and Technology, Egypt) the 51-member Selection Committee of the GYA finalised the selection of 40 new members to join us in June 2020 for a tenure of five years.

Each application was evaluated by at least three Selection Committee members in two successive rounds of reviews, and scored based on the excellence of their scientific research, but also importantly, on demonstrated societal engagement.

The [new member cohort](#) includes members from 30 different countries, from all GYA general disciplines, and includes 23 females, 1 non-binary, and 16 males.

We are delighted that a number of our new GYA members are also members of – or in leadership positions in – their country's National Young Academy. We also welcome a number of Young Affiliates of The World Academy of Science.

BEYOND BOUNDARIES: A GLOBAL MESSAGE FROM YOUNG SCIENTISTS ON COVID-19

The Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has disrupted the world and it will not be the last pandemic to wreak havoc on humanity. To mitigate transmission of the virus, we need rapid, synchronised international action. Governments must consider the best science available to make informed decisions, the public must act responsibly, and young researchers must recognise that they can be a crucial part of the solution. This Global Young Academy (GYA) Statement delivers specific recommendations for governments, the public, and young researchers.

GOVERNMENTS SHOULD:

1. Promote a shift from global health security to global health solidarity. Although we need to temporarily close borders to contain the spread of COVID-19, in the long term we need to change the current framing of health security. Instead of believing that we can protect borders from the incursion of disease, we should build global partnerships that benefit our collective health.
2. Exchange information quickly and openly, promote information exchange networks between national science advice mechanisms and implement open science policies. More efficient and free exchange of information will

let us gain invaluable time in responding to crises, saving many lives.

3. Recognise the importance of multiple disciplines for decision-making. Given the evolving nature of the science underpinning pandemics, the science advisory mechanisms supporting policymaking must be composed of diverse perspectives so that a full assessment of the intended and unintended consequences of policy actions can be quickly and thoroughly made.

4. Take into account the long-term impact of the pandemic on health and society as well as the importance of prevention. Young researchers, accessed through the National Young Academies and the GYA, can provide important contributions to both immediate and long-term responses.

THE PUBLIC SHOULD:

1. Take precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19, and play our part in controlling the pandemic by following guidelines, sensibly using and distributing resources, and supporting vulnerable members of society.
2. Avoid spreading misinformation. Encourage responsible use of social media. Learn to distinguish fear-based from fact-based information to avoid rumors or “fake news”, and highlight when we are uncertain about the veracity of the information

on (or we should simply not share anything that cannot be verified).

3. Seek expert opinion and guidance about our local situation, and ensure that the information we accept about the situation around the world is from a reliable source.

YOUNG RESEARCHERS SHOULD:

1. Act responsibly in our use of global platforms to share and exchange information and experiences, and present the credentials for statements we make.
2. Contribute by translating science communication to local languages and “lay person” terminology, and adapting the message to local contexts. Play an active role in interpreting complex scientific information to the general public in non-technical language.
3. Help to bridge the gap between science and policy. Take the initiative to approach the government if we have relevant knowledge, whether this is directly regarding the pandemic or in fields relating to human reactions and behaviour.
4. Play an active role in promoting good practices and advising the people around them. Establish strong connections across various stakeholders, such as the government, civil society and the wider public regarding the role of science in improving our global health.

INFOGRAPHIC OF OUR COVID-19 STATEMENT TRANSLATED INTO 24 LANGUAGES




GYA member [Felix Moronta](#) (International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Italy) developed the Infographic at right based on our COVID-19 Statement. Please consider distributing throughout your respective networks.

The Infographic is also available in 24 different languages and counting. For an overview, please visit our dedicated COVID-19 page at www.globalyoungacademy.net/covid19/


Beyond Boundaries

A global message from young scientists on COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the world. In consequence, global health and the economy are at serious risk. In order to implement sustainable mitigation measures, the Global Young Academy delivers **specific recommendations** for:

 Governments	 Young researchers	 Public
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote a shift from global health security to global health solidarity 2. Exchange information between national science advice mechanisms and implement open science policies 3. Recognise the importance of multiple disciplines for decision-making 4. Take into account the long-term impact of the pandemic on health and society as well as the importance of prevention 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Act responsibly in the use of global platforms to share and exchange information 2. Contribute by adapting scientific communication to local contexts and in local languages 3. Help to bridge the gap between science and policy, but acknowledge uncertainty 4. Play an active role in promoting good practices and advising people around you 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19 2. Avoid spreading misinformation. Ensure that the information about the situation is from a reliable source 3. Seek expert opinion and guidance about the local situation 4. Show solidarity with those around you

See the full version at: www.globalyoungacademy.net



GYA IS PART OF A GLOBAL GROUP OF G7 SCIENCE ACADEMIES THAT RELEASED COVID-19 STATEMENT

Since 2005, the National Science Academies of the G7 countries, sometimes in cooperation with other relevant countries, have met annually to develop policy recommendations to be delivered to the leaders of each country. In 2012, when 15 academies met in Washington DC, they decided to use the term G-Science for the group because the issues addressed are essentially global. This year, to reinforce this global perspective and recognising the importance of young researchers in finding solutions for global challenges, G-Science invited the GYA to participate.

The 2020 G-Science meeting was planned to take place in Washington DC, to be hosted by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in March, but the meeting had to be cancelled because of the COVID-19 outbreak. It is therefore very apt that the NAS took the initiative for an additional urgency statement responding to the global emergency of COVID-19.

GYA Executive Committee member [Yoko Shimpuku](#) (Hiroshima University, Japan), one of the GYA delegates, says: "I found it very important because when the statement was developed, the COVID-19 positive cases started to be found in Africa, where shortages of healthcare providers are serious already in everyday life, and healthcare systems are generally fragile compared to developed countries. I was worried as donor countries were facing tough moments themselves and starting to stop international aid projects."

GYA Co-Chair [Koen Vermeir](#) (CNRS, France) also invited as a delegate to the meeting, states: "It is important that the voice of this global group of academies is heard. This statement will be delivered directly to the most influential heads of state and it is crucial to convince them of the need for better international cooperation. Many countries would have had more time to prepare for COVID-19 if only there had been better communication and cooperation between relevant policymakers. Especially a better interlinked and integrated science advice mechanism between countries would have been very helpful for a more timely and evidence-informed response."

Yoko Shimpuku adds: "I truly believe that the significant part of this statement echoes the GYA Statement on COVID-19. We need solidarity and humanity, avoid unnecessary conflicts and discriminations, and support one another through the network of academies to fight against the virus with evidence-based solutions."

Read the G-Science Statement here: "[The Critical Need for International Cooperation during COVID-19 Pandemic](#)".

GYA HELPS OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING TAKE A LEAP FORWARD

The GYA is part of a consortium, led by F1000 Research, a leading Open Access publisher, and also including Eurodoc and LIBER as partners, that was awarded a European Commission contract to build and promote an open access publishing platform.

The GYA has an active Open Science Working Group and works closely together with the global network of National Young Academies.

This new collaboration, which will involve outreach and training activities, is also a great opportunity to promote Open Science more generally.

Read more [here](#).

UNTIMELY PASSING OF INCOMING MEMBER JON TENNANT

[Jon Tennant](#) (IGDORE, Indonesia) was set to join the ranks of the GYA this year and his shining light would have bolstered the GYA in ways that we can now only imagine. The GYA Family join all who knew Jon in mourning his passing. We wish his family, and all those who knew and loved him, solace in this time of grief. Jon was world-renowned for his ingenuity, creativity, capacity to collaborate and his unwavering commitment to Open Science at the service of humanity. He exemplified all that the GYA stands for: kindness, generosity, research excellence, a strong sense of the significance of science and technology in addressing global challenges, and a willingness to work hard to make the world a better place.

We were delighted with Jon's application and were eagerly awaiting to welcome him as a member of the GYA in the coming weeks. Jon had already informed us of his plans to link Open Science to United Nations policies, and particularly the Sustainable Development Goals. We had been looking forward to Jon's leadership and vision, and will continue these efforts in his memory.

ABOUT THE GYA

The GYA was founded with the vision to give a voice to young scientists around the world. By empowering early- to mid-career researchers to lead international, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational dialogues, the GYA mobilises talent from six continents for capacity-building, mentoring, providing science advice, engaging in science policy and improving the existing research environment. Members are chosen for their demonstrated excellence in scientific achievement and their commitment to service. Currently, there are 200 GYA members and 258 alumni from 86 countries. The GYA Office is hosted at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, in Halle (Saale), Germany.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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