

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- GYA members elect new leadership
- GYA now Affiliate Member of the International Science Council
- GYA coordinating Open Science Global Working Group
- GYA signs San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)
- GYA Connections and 2019 Yearly Report available

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- Get to know the new GYA leadership [here](#).
- Download GYA Connections “Climate” [here](#).
- Download the 2019 Yearly Report [here](#).
- Visit the GYA COVID-19 resource page [here](#).
- Subscribe to our newsletter [here](#).

This bulletin provides an overview and highlights of the activities of the Global Young Academy (GYA) in the second 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.

NEWS

GYA MEMBERS CHOOSE NEW LEADERSHIP AT FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The GYA’s first-ever virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) successfully concluded on 12 June, and included the election of new leadership. To represent and lead them through the upcoming year, GYA members elected leaders – a majority of whom are women – hailing from South America, Africa, Asia and Europe to the Executive Committee (EC), which is comprised of eleven members of which two are Co-Chairs.

As Co-Chairs for the upcoming year, members chose [Anindita Bhadra](#) (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research–Kolkata, India), and [Michael Saliba](#) (University of Stuttgart, Germany). Anindita and Michael both served as members of the EC last year.

Further members of the EC are as follows: [Nova Ahmed](#) (North South University, Bangladesh), [Shalini Arya](#) (Institute of Chemical Technology, India), [Almas Taj Awan](#) (Zika Lab Diagnostics, Brazil), [Maral Dadvar](#) (Stuttgart Media University, Germany), [Mohamed Elhadidy](#) (Zewail City of Science and Technology, Egypt), [Lahcen El Youssefi](#) (Khenifra Superior School of Technology, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Morocco), [Robert Lepenies](#) (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany), [Sandra Lopez-Verges](#) (Gorgas Memorial Institute for Health Studies, Panama), and

[Yoko Shimpuku](#) (Hiroshima University, Japan). Nova, Maral, Robert, Sandra, and Yoko were all re-elected.

Looking ahead, Co-Chair Anindita Bhadra states that, “The GYA is now ready to launch its strategic plan for the next five years. In order to bring the perspectives of young scientists from across the globe to various platforms of international dialogue, the membership has chosen three areas of engagement. These are to address systemic discrimination, enable everyone to access online education, especially in the global south, and harmonise reason and sensibility to build bridges between the arts and sciences. We look forward to an active year with our partners globally.”

Co-Chair Michael Saliba adds, “The GYA, founded only ten years ago, is a relatively new voice in the concert of learned academies. As part of the young academy movement, the GYA gives young scientists a voice towards an international, intergenerational, and interdisciplinary dialogue. This fills a crucial gap which has been noticed widely in the scientific and policy community. The GYA is now a permanent fixture at important meetings such as the World Science Forum, and recently became an Affiliate Member of the International Science Council (ISC). The GYA is committed to becoming even more engaged to ensure that the voice and perspective of young scientists can shape future decision making.”

More information on the new Executive Committee members is available [here](#).

GYA NOW AFFILIATE MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

In April 2020, the International Science Council (ISC) officially welcomed the GYA to its ranks as an Affiliate Member. The GYA now stands together with over 170 international scientific unions and associations, as well as national and regional scientific organizations, including academies and research councils, forming the only international NGO that brings together the natural and social sciences. As global science organisations, both the GYA and the ISC seek to advance science as a global public good.

Immediate Past Co-Chair [Koen Vermeir](#) (CNRS, France) notes that “The GYA and the ISC are natural partners. We have worked together from the founding of the ISC, and before, with the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC). Right now, the GYA and the ISC are the only international civil society organisations that have a truly global scope and bring together the natural and social sciences. We are thus looking forward to work together more closely with the ISC and its member organizations. By becoming an affiliated member, the GYA will bring a new, young perspective to the ISC, full of new ideas and energy.”

GYA Managing Director Beate Wagner adds that “The GYA in its early years had only a considerably small group of researchers from the social sciences and the humanities in its ranks. This has luckily changed and interdisciplinary work, not only between neighbouring disciplines, is a well-established practice for many of our members. Linking up with ISC will help our members to strengthen cooperation across disciplines within the GYA and may add young voices to those of our esteemed partner organisations already working with International Science Council.”

Immediate Past Co-Chair [Connie Nshemereirwe](#) was recently featured in an ISC project titled “Rearticulating Human Development”.

In her contribution, Connie discusses how human development needs to be self-determined, but cannot be externally imposed. Connie’s article is available [here](#).

GYA CONNECTIONS AND YEARLY REPORT 2019 PUBLISHED IN JUNE

[GYA Connections “Climate”](#). The latest edition of our annual magazine contains articles written by GYA members exploring the theme “Climate” from angles including global health, ageism, and YouTubing against climate change. Further features include the GYA’s involvement at the 2019 World Science Forum, and profiles of our 2020 new members.

[2019 Yearly Report](#). The 2019 Yearly Report highlights milestones in open science work, science leadership trainings, National Young Academy developments, work with at-risk scholars, as well as the Global State of Young Scientists (GloSYS) project.

GYA SIGNS DECLARATION ON RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

During its General Assembly on 10 June 2020, the Global Young Academy signed DORA, the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment. DORA is a global initiative that aims to reform the way in which scientific research is evaluated.

GYA alumnus Koen Vermeir (CNRS, France), Immediate Past Co-Chair of the GYA, says, “We need to reform the evaluation of research. The future of science is at stake. If we select and reward the wrong candidates for the wrong reasons, all aspects of science will suffer.”

Signing DORA signals the GYA’s clear commitment to avoid shortcuts in research evaluation and to take scientific quality seriously. The GYA also hopes to inspire other Young Academies worldwide who have not yet signed DORA to consider doing so, in order to better anchor DORA and its principles among all the existing young academies.

GYA COORDINATING OPEN SCIENCE GLOBAL WORKING GROUP

The GYA is coordinating a new global working group on Open Science, comprising members from 25 National Young Academies (NYAs) from around the globe, as well as members from the GYA’s long-standing working group on Open Science.

At the Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies in August 2019, young scientists discussed how to better collaborate. One of the key recurring themes in the discussion was Open

Science. Indeed, Open Science is becoming more interesting to young scientists all over the world.

There are various implications for young scientists based on research area, geographic locations and acceptability of publication values when Open Science is concerned, and young scientists are certainly the most affected by the current changes in the publication landscape. In many countries, big changes are happening that also have a global impact, and we need to exchange more in order to understand these better and propose new actions at the national and international scales.

This new working group is also the first of its kind to connect NYAs and the GYA.

ABOUT THE GYA

The GYA is an organisation of 200 diverse researchers across disciplines who are selected based on their scientific excellence and their commitment to using their research to make the world a better place. It presently has members and alumni from 86 countries, who are passionate about the role of science in creating a better world. The GYA is hosted at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. It receives its core funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in Germany and is supported by other international donors.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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