



**GLOBAL  
YOUNG  
ACADEMY**

## Newsletter January 2018

### Foreword by the Co-Chairs

Dear Sir or Madam,

We hope you had a great start into 2018! For the GYA, this year will again bring many exciting events, which includes our AGM in Pattaya, Thailand, from 7-11 May, for which the preparations are in full swing, and many other activities organised by our members. Still further events will also take place, such as the upcoming Next Einstein Forum in Rwanda in March, where GYA members will contribute, participate and meet.

This time of year is one of the most exciting times for the GYA: the announcement of the selected new GYA members! Successful applicants will be notified next week and the February newsletter will contain further details.

Wishing you happy reading and looking forward to an exciting 2018!

Tolu Oni & Moritz Riede  
GYA Co-Chairs  
*On behalf of the Executive Committee*

## Table of contents

1. [GYA News](#)
2. [GYA in the Media](#)
3. [Activities](#)
4. [National Young Academies](#)
5. [News from Our Members](#)
6. [GYA Strategic Conferences](#)
7. [Upcoming Events](#)

## AGM 2018 updates

Continued progress is being made on the upcoming AGM and International Conference for Young Scientists 'Forever Young? Sustainable and healthy longevity through science and technology', 7-11 May, in Pattaya, Thailand. Confirmed speakers include Prof Harald zur Hausen, who was awarded the *Nobel Prize* in Medicine in 2008 for finding the connection between HPV viruses and cervical carcinomas. Special guests will include Princess Sumaya bint Hassan of Jordan, who is active at a local, regional and international level in the promotion of science, research, and technology. In addition to the main programme, we are planning pre-conference workshops for building capacity among our members, which is at the core of many of our activities. Registration will open in early February, and continuous updates are available on the [event site](#).

## GYA publishes Statement addressing the world's vanishing flora and fauna

In January 2018, the GYA issued a Position Statement titled '[Global Young Academy Position Statement on Conservation of Biodiversity: Protecting Molecular Diversity and Biomedical Discoveries](#)'. Driven by the Bio2Bio Working Group, the Statement outlines key challenges and possible avenues for solving them. The Statement was sent to various national academies of science and universities around the world, as well as to partners such as the World Health Organization, the International Council for Science, and the United Nations Environment Programme. Additionally, output from group members recently appeared in *The Journal of Global Health*, which published a viewpoint article titled '[Biodiversity, drug discovery, and the future of global health: Introducing the biodiversity to biomedicine consortium, a call to action](#)'.

## Members of GloSYS Africa research team met in Halle 15-16 January

Members of the GloSYS Africa research team, including core team members [Abidemi Akindele](#) (GYA alumnus), [Abeslam Badre](#), [Anna Coussens](#), and [Mona Khoury-Kassabry](#), converged at the GYA offices in Halle in January. The two-day meeting included an intensive workshop in which the project's research assistants received training from project advisor Lynn McAlpine on the collection and analysis of interview data. In parallel, the core GYA team met with GloSYS project researcher Marie Neumann to discuss the data collected to date, project logistics and milestones, as well as to organise the upcoming workshop [side event](#) at the Next Einstein Forum (see further information below). The GloSYS team left Halle having solved a number of logistical issues and with an even stronger sense of purpose and team spirit, and ready to begin the third project phase, which involves the collection and analysis of roughly 80 hours of interview data.

## GYA in the Media

- *European Parliamentary Research Service Blog*: '[MEPs meet scientists once](#)

[Young Scientists \(GloSYS\) Africa study to deepen understanding of early-career scientists and scholars in Africa and the African diaspora'](#)

- *Scientific American*: '[Diplomacy for Scientists](#)'
- *The Globe and Mail*: '[Sensing a moment, Canadian scientists swing for the fences](#)'

## Activities

### New Incubator Group 'Trust in (young) Scientists'

At the beginning of this year a new incubator group, [Trust in \(young\) Scientists](#) was approved for funding. The group aims to help build confidence and trust in science by creating a series of video clips that show the 'human faces' of science, and providing reasons for understanding why science is trustworthy.

### Open Science Working Group

#### Open Access and the Evaluation of Research – Koen Vermeir reports on conference in Toulouse, France

GYA member and Co-Chair of the [Open Science Working Group](#), [Koen Vermeir](#), reports on a conference on [Open Access and the Evaluation of Research: Towards a New Ecosystem](#). The conference took place on 13 and 14 October 2016 in Toulouse, France. Read the report [here](#).

### OpenCon 2017: Koen Vermeir runs do-a-thons

Like every year, [OpenCon](#) was a dynamic event promoting open science with students, young researchers and senior stakeholders. It is the place where bottom-up innovation around open science is occurring and where a grassroots dynamic is fruitfully combined with lots of technical expertise and policy experience. Read more [here](#).

### Bio2Bio at the World Social Science Forum

The GYA [Bio2Bio Working Group](#) will contribute a session titled 'Biodiversity and Biomedicine: Sustainability for Human Health' during the [World Social Science Forum](#) in Japan from 25-28 September 2018.

## National Young Academies

### Two newly formed NYAs in Northern Europe

Young Academy Finland (YAF) is an independent, cross-disciplinary forum for some of the most promising young researchers in Finland in all disciplines. The YAF was formed in April 2017 at the initiative of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters. <https://acadsci.fi/en/academy-club-for-young-scientists.html>

The Estonian Young Academy of Sciences (EYAS) was established in 2017 at the initiative of the Estonian Academy of Sciences as an independent organisation

society. Moreover, the EYAS advocates the continuing relevance of scientists' role in societal and cultural processes, and seeks to provide input into the prosperity of Estonian science. <http://www.akadeemia.ee/en/eyas/>

### **Arab-Germany Young Academy ([AGYA](#)) launches science comic**

The 1st AGYA Science Comic was launched on 26 January 2018 in Berlin. In the comic (available as a [.pdf file](#)), the AGYA Science Jinn sets out to explain scientific revelations to young and forever young readers. His first mission is pictured in the graphic novel 'The Rise of the Incredible Salty Salicornia Power Plant' about the next botanic superhero of our times – the powerful Halophyte. (In a humorous aside, the comics claims that the Science Jinn is '... currently an advisor for the new Berlin airport – but even his powers are sometimes limited...')

### **Junge Akademie calls for defence of academic freedom and freedom of publishing**

In August 2017, academic publishing companies including Cambridge University Press revealed that they were increasingly receiving demands for censorship from the People's Republic of China (read The Guardian article [here](#)). In response, on 24 January 2018 the [Junge Akademie at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities](#) (BBAW) issued a press release calling for the defence of academic freedom. An excerpt from the press release reads as follows: 'The Junge Akademie regards these developments with utmost concern and calls on all academic publishers to stand up for the principles of the freedom of academia and publishing as well as academic integrity and quality, and to defend these principles as well as their authors and readers against any and every attempt at political control and other types of restriction issuing from the People's Republic of China or any other possible direction.'

The press release is available [here](#).

### **Asian Young Academies Meeting**

From 11-13 February 2018, The Israel Young Academy is organising a meeting of the Asian Young Academies titled 'Science and Society: Challenges and Prospects', in Jerusalem, Israel. More information on the programme is available [here](#).

## **News from Our Members**

As a standing member of the committee, GYA member [Robert Lepenies](#) was invited by the Inter-Academy Partnership Science for Poverty Eradication Committee (IAP-SPEC) to attend and represent the GYA at the most recent meeting from 8-9 December 2017 in Beijing, China. Read more about the committee and meeting [here](#).

[Tolu Oni](#) co-authored an article titled '[Diplomacy for Scientists](#)', which appeared in Scientific American on 4 January. The article profiles five important skills that early

[Abdeslam Badre](#) wrote a post for the Next Einstein Forum (NEF) titled 'International scientists collaborate on Global State of Young Scientists (GloSYS) Africa study to deepen understanding of early-career scientists and scholars in Africa and the African diaspora'. You can read the post [here](#).

[Koen Vermeir](#) attended the sixth round of the European Parliamentary Research Service, Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA) meeting of the [MEP-scientist pairing scheme](#). The meeting kicked off with the '[Science meets Parliaments](#)' event, co-organised with the European Commission's [Joint Research Centre](#) (JRC) on 28 November 2017. A blog post on the event titled 'MEPs Meet Scientists Once Again' is available [here](#).

[Syed Ghulam Musharraf](#) has been selected as one of the participants for the Regional Conference to Promote Safe and Secure Science in the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia between 5-9 February 2018. The event is organised by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM).

[Binyam Sisay Mendisu](#) was selected as the NEF Ambassador for Ethiopia from 2017-2019. One NEF Ambassador is selected from each African country to join the ranks of the NEF's young science and technology champions. NEF Ambassadors, all of whom are under 42 years of age, drive the NEF's local public engagement activities while growing their own careers through the NEF's partnerships.

[John Malone](#) attended The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum on 30-31 January. The forum provided a platform for youth to engage in a dialogue with EU Member States and to discuss the policy frameworks and promote innovative, institutionalised approaches and initiatives for advancing the youth development agenda at the national, regional and global levels with a view to promoting solutions to the global challenge of strengthening resilience and sustainable development. Read more [here](#).

[Alexander Kagansky](#) has written a blog post titled '[Blockchain to fight the information inequality?](#)' In his post, Alexander addresses the cost of information inequality for the public, particularly regarding academic publishing.

## GYA Strategic Conferences

**21-23 March 2018.** The Second Women in Science without Borders Conference will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the title of [WISWB-Indaba-'Resilience in Diversity'](#). A common focus cutting across this *conference* will be the role that women play in influencing positive outcomes within the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) ecosystem as thought leaders and mentors,

issues, where presenters will share their cutting-edge research. Members of the GYA Women in Science Working Group will attend. Further information can be found [here](#).

**26-28 March 2018.** The [Next Einstein Forum Global Gathering 2018](#) connects science, society and policy in Africa and the rest of the world – with the goal of leveraging science for human development globally. The GYA, in partnership with the [Canadian Institute for Advanced Research](#), the [African Institute for Mathematical Sciences](#), and the [African Academy of Sciences](#), are co-organising a Women in Science leadership workshop [pre-event](#) on 22-24 March to support the development of the next generation of female researchers. The GYA is also partnering with the [Robert Bosch Stiftung](#) and the [University of Pretoria](#) to co-organise a 25 March workshop titled 'Connecting Networks to Co-Design Transformative Science Leadership Programmes for Africa.' Further, the GloSYS Africa team will present its initial study results in a [side event](#) on 28 March. GYA members are also contributing to the development of the NEF Science Leadership Programme [pre-event](#) on 25 March. The Next Einstein Forum is an initiative of the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences ([AIMS](#)) in partnership with the Robert Bosch Stiftung. The Global Gathering 2018 will be held in Kigali, Rwanda under the patronage of H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda. GYA asks all members who will attend to please let the office know ([info@globalyoungacademy.net](mailto:info@globalyoungacademy.net)) so that everybody can link up more easily. The GYA is also proud that our members [Aminata Garba](#), [Rym Kefi](#) and [Maha Sayed Aly Nasr](#) have recently been named Fellows of the Next Einstein Forum.

**25-27 April 2018.** The GYA Working Group Global Migration and Human Rights will hold an International Conference titled 'Global Individual Responsibility – The Role of the Citizen in Refugee Integration' at the Munich Center for Ethics, University of Munich. The conference is funded by the [Fritz Thyssen Foundation](#), and will open with a public keynote lecture by Professor Alison Philipps, who holds a UNESCO Chair for Refugee Integration at the University of Glasgow.

## Upcoming Events

**11-13 February 2018.** Meeting of the Asian Young Academies [Science and Society: Challenges and Prospects](#), in Jerusalem, Israel.

**26-28 March 2018.** Next Einstein Forum ([NEF](#)), Rwanda.

**25-27 April 2018.** A workshop titled 'Global Individual Responsibility: the Role of the Citizen in Refugee Integration' is being organised by GYA members [Eva Alisic](#), [Jan-Christoph Heilinger](#) and [Karly Kehoe](#).

**7-11 May 2018.** [GYA International Conference for Young Scientists 'Forever Young? Sustainable and healthy longevity through science and technology' and AGM](#) in

**8-14 July 2018.** European Science Open Forum (ESOF), France. More details are available [here](#). We will also be contacting you closer to the date to find out who will be there.

**22-24 October 2018.** CILAC (Open Science Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean), Panama City, Panama. The deadline for proposals is 28 February. See <http://forocilac.org/en/> for further details. We are also currently exploring the possibility of organising a capacity-building workshop for young scientists in attendance. If you have further ideas and/or suggestions and would like to co-ordinate them with the GYA, please email [info@globalyoungacademy.net](mailto:info@globalyoungacademy.net).

---

You want to learn more about GYA activities throughout 2017 and about upcoming events? [Visit us on our website](#).

---



Facebook



Twitter



Website

*Copyright © 2018 Global Young Academy, All rights reserved.*

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

