



GLOBAL YOUNG ACADEMY

September 2020 Newsletter



Dear Friends,

In a year of many firsts, September saw another first for the GYA as we held our first virtual In-person (VIP) meeting. We made a short greeting video to highlight the wide span of time zones that Executive Committee (EC) members have to navigate each month - from late night in Japan to early morning in Panama - and to provide the world with a glimpse of the truly global nature of the GYA. If you have not already watched it, please do so, and let us know if you like it.

Another important update from the EC this month is the news that next year's International Conference and Annual General Meeting will also be held virtually, and will explore the theme of "Trust in Science", which seems to be more timely than ever. More information is available below.

Keeping with the theme of virtual meetings, earlier in September, the GYA organised a meeting of over 70 representatives from 40 Young Academies and similar initiatives from around the world - the largest meeting of its kind to date - to discuss successful Young Academy activities and common challenges.

high level within the GYA after the first virtual AGM. It's especially nice to see so many of our new members taking the initiative to participate and we also hope to have many successful virtual events this year, through our members and alumni.

Anindita Bhadra (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata, India) and

Michael Saliba (University of Stuttgart, Germany)

On behalf of the GYA Executive Committee

Beate Wagner (Managing Director)

On behalf of the GYA Office

GYA News



GYA Virtual International Conference of Young Scientists Statement available!

The Conference Statement reflects the interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and global perspectives of early- to mid-career researchers, and highlights four crucial, cross-linking areas of action:

1. Enable and strengthen resource sharing through Open Science, science diplomacy and global cooperation.

4. In higher education, use the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity for innovation and inclusion.

[Read more and download the Statement here.](#)

Save the date - 2021 AGM and International Conference "Trust in Science"

An early decision has been taken by the GYA Executive Committee to hold the 2021 GYA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and International Conference of Young Scientists virtually from 28 May – 4 June 2021 due to the ongoing uncertainties related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The virtual meeting and conference will address the topic "Trust in Science", and will kick off with working group meetings and other internal discussions at the end of May, with various live meetings and means of virtual connection taking place throughout the week.



Young academies oppose funding cuts to Horizon Europe

The GYA, together with 18 European and associated young academies, has signed [an open letter](#) raising concerns over cuts to Horizon Europe funding from 2021 onwards.

Read more [here](#).

GYA online



GYA E-meeting Handbook and Format Catalogue

Created by Media Officer [Kirsten Geithner](#), this publication is a treasure trove of information for understanding the various formats of online meetings, what they are suitable for, and what software possibilities are out there. As a work in progress, your feedback is welcome!

You can access the document [here](#).

DELETE your Whova data? YES/NO

Thank you everyone for participating in this year's e-AGM and e-Conference. Many of you who receive this newsletter joined us on the Whova platform, so we would like you to consider whether you would like to have your Whova profile data removed from Whova's greater platform.

This follows the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation's principle of data minimisation. Furthermore, Whova's servers are situated in the United States and thus might result in your data being accessible by third parties with no solid redress mechanism in place for privacy violations.

To have your data be removed from the Whova platform, please write an email to support@whova.com asking for the account linked to the email you used to be deleted. A simple one-liner will suffice.

Contact us (info@globalyoungacademy.net) for further assistance or information.

Items of interest



Who gets the COVID-19 vaccine?

GYA member [Lisa Herzog](#) (University of Groningen, Netherlands) was part of a team that recently published an article in Science titled "[An ethical framework for global vaccine allocation](#)."

[Leave your thoughts on GYA News here](#)

GYA member and past Co-Chair [Tolu Oni](#) (University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine, United Kingdom) was interviewed for a recent article in Science titled "[Planning beyond the pandemic: Faculty career development in the age of COVID-19](#)".

GYA alumna and founding member [Amal Amin](#) (National Research Center, Egypt) was recently featured in Chemistry World, where she spoke of her struggles with interactive activities moving online during the pandemic. Read more [here](#).

GYA alumnus [Abel Polese](#) (Tallinn University, Estonia), a former co-lead of the GYA working group on [Open Science](#), took part in UNESCO's open science Online Regional Consultation for Eastern Europe. The workshop was part of a series of regional events which UNESCO organised to collect input and feedback to their UNESCO Recommendations on Open Science.

Please use [this form](#) to send us your stories and accomplishments - we'll include them in social media and in the newsletter!

GYA in the media

[Creating Collaborative Science Leaders](#) (KnowInnovation blog)

GYA Activities

Working Group and Strategic Project highlights

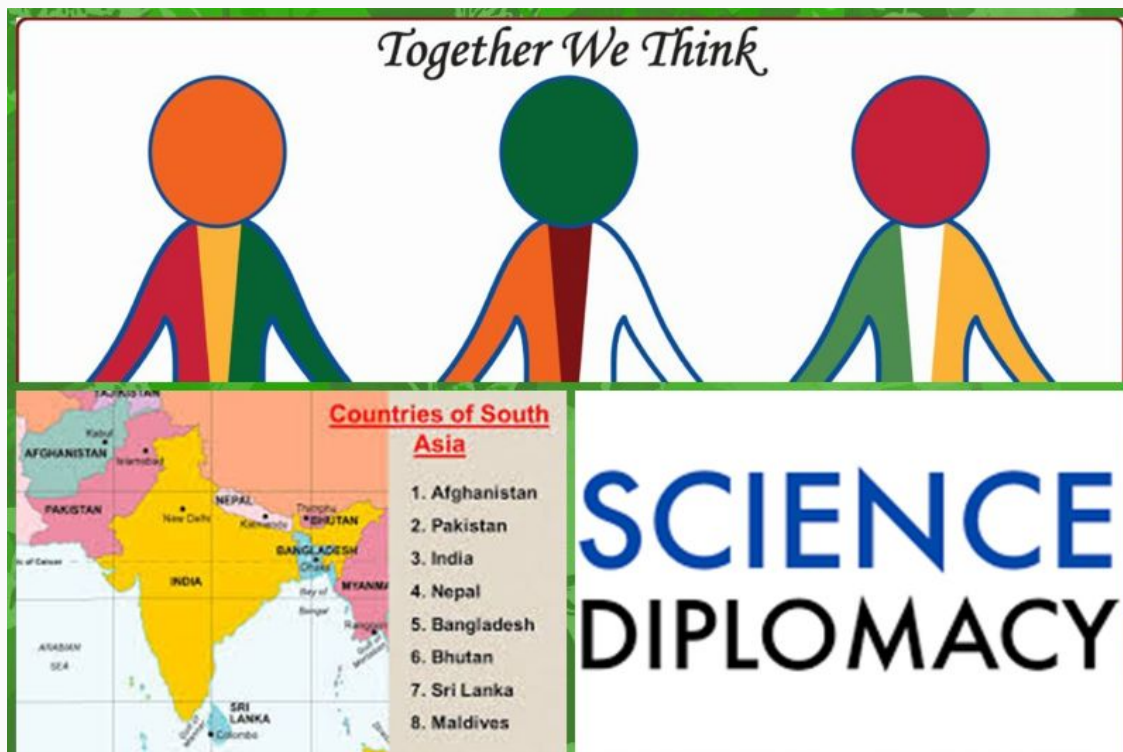


Led by GYA alumnus and former [Biodiversity working group](#) co-lead [Alexander Kagansky](#) (Far Eastern Federal University of Vladivostok, Russia), Bio2Bio group members participated in the International Forum of Biodiversity, Biomedicine, Biotechnology, Biosecurity (4Bio) in September 2020. The group have also published a paper titled "[Towards policies that capture the expected value of biomolecular diversity for drug discovery, human health, and well-being](#)" in *Biologia Futura*. More details are available [here](#).



Science Advice working group members help shape the G20 Science 20 (S20) Summit

Read more [here](#).



Science Diplomacy in South Asia: call for workshop participants

The GYA [Science Diplomacy in South Asia working group](#) is organising an online workshop on Science Diplomacy in South Asia in November and December 2020, for participants from eight South Asian countries. The workshop will consist of four 3-hour online sessions on 21 November, 28 November, 5 December and 12 December 2020 (13:00-16:00 UTC each day).

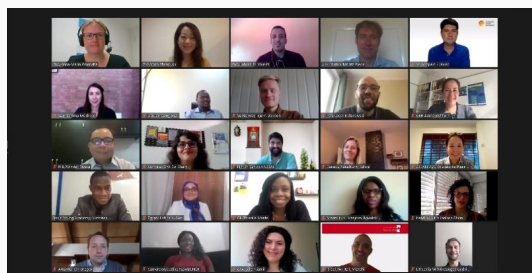
See [here](#) for details and the link to the online application form.

working group (YSAP) has chosen two proposals for online missions in 2020. [Pradeep Kumar](#) (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa) and [Filippo Rossi](#) (Politecnico di Milano, Italy) will collaborate to introduce their students to advanced molecular mechanics simulation techniques. Their YSAP mission will include a virtual tour of both their labs. [Chandra Shekhar Sharma](#) (Indian Institute of Technology, India) and [David Fernandez Rivas](#) (University of Twente, Netherlands) will conduct a tutorial and experiment with ultrasound jointly with both their teams. We are looking forward to hearing about the outcomes of both missions!

T20 Policy Brief on Climate Change

Members of the [Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction](#) working group have contributed to a policy publication titled “[Toward a comprehensive approach to youth empowerment for climate action](#)” for the T20 task force 2 (Climate change and environment). T20 is an engagement group that contributes to the G20 by providing research-based policy recommendations to the G20.

National Young Academies



Largest-ever online meeting of Young Academies

Organized by the GYA, Young Academies and similar initiatives from around the world met to exchange best practices and discuss current challenges.

Read more [here](#).

ASEAN-YSN Leadership webinar

In August 2020, the [ASEAN Young Scientists Network \(ASEAN-YSN\)](#) organised its inaugural ASEAN-YSN Leadership Webinar. The series is intended to cast a spotlight on the emerging research leaders in the region and to provide a platform for robust discourse on various themes. The theme of the inaugural webinar was “ASEAN Young Scientists: Embracing the New Normal”. For details see a brief report [here](#).

Honouring visionary ideas for a sustainable future

The [Junge Akademie Germany](#) has recently announced the winners of their 2020 *Visions/Solutions* ideas competition. For this online competition, the academy’s Sustainability Research Group had accepted entries that engaged with visionary ideas or concrete approaches to a sustainable future. Participants were asked to submit entries in the categories of *Visions* or *Solutions* in a broad range of digital formats – from images and videos to texts and songs to multimedia content. Prizes in the amount of 2,000, 1,500 and 1,000 Euros were awarded to the three best entries in each category. The Academy is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year and the competition, which received support from the UmweltBank AG for the *Solutions* category, represents a continuation of its engagement in developing innovative formats for transferring knowledge. Details about the winners and their ideas can be found [here](#).

CAYS webinar series

In August and September 2020, the [Cameroon Academy of Young Scientists \(CAYS\)](#) organised a series of webinars for a national and international audience on topical issues that cut across

effect of COVID-19 on research output in Africa. See [here](#) for more details.

NYAs and COVID-19

GYA's COVID-19 page highlights work of Young Academies

The GYA has established a page on its website (<https://globalyoungacademy.net/covid19/>) to act as a repository for young academics to link their work on COVID-19. This includes any statements or information dissemination activities, initiatives to support scientists to coordinate and facilitate institutions or governments. Please contact info@globalyoungacademy.net or Tweet with the hashtag **#covid19ya** if you want to share what your academy is doing, or want to contact other young academics for joint activities, or an exchange of experience and best practices.

COVID-19 blog post by the UK-wide Young Academy Initiative

Based on data collected in a survey of early-career researchers based in the United Kingdom, a group with GYA member [Gergely Toldi](#) (Birmingham Women's Hospital, United Kingdom), alumnus [Moritz Riede](#) (University of Oxford, United Kingdom), Project Officer Anna-Maria Gramatté and ECR Charlotta Salmi (UK) have published a blog post titled "[Covid-19 is exacerbating early-career researchers' greatest concerns](#)" in Times Higher Education (behind a registration-for-free wall). The group, with support from the Royal Society, British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering, and the Royal Society of Medicine, is currently working towards the establishment of a UK-wide Young Academy, and the survey was a part of steps taken to ascertain the interest of UK-based ECRs in such a young academy and its work.

SAYAS Webinar

The South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) held a webinar on "[Women Scientists in the Forefront against COVID-19](#)" in August 2020 in celebration of Women's month.

August in South Africa is historically devoted to celebrating the successes of women as a tribute to the more than 20,000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 in protest against the extension of Pass Laws to women.

GYA member [Sandra Lopez-Verges](#) (Gorgas Memorial Institute for Health Studies, Panama) was one of the panellists, and GYA member and SAYAS Co-Chair [Roula Inglesi-Lotz](#) (University of Pretoria, South Africa) acted as the moderator. Issues of gender and equity were front and centre as the panellists discussed the various roles they are currently playing in efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. What was clear, however, was the lack of adequate numbers of female scientists in key leadership roles to afford alternative ways of problem-solving. Whilst strides have been made in giving women a voice, more can still be done to unlock the potential of women within the African continent, within the scientific community, and society in general.

NYA Updates - share the news!

If you have any news or updates regarding your NYA, please [email Anna-Maria Gramatté](#).

Partners

What are we learning?**Asia Discussion Panel**

Moderated: Prof. Abhi Veerakumarasivam

Institute for Healthcare Development, Sunway University - Chair of INGSA-Asia

**Prof Yik-Ying Teo**Dean, School of Public Health,
National University of Singapore**Preeti Bhandari**Director for Climate Change and
Disaster Risk Management Division,
Asian Development Bank**Sir David Skegg**Emeritus Professor, Department of
Preventive and Social Medicine,
University of Otago, New Zealand**Dr Leah J Buendia**Assistant Secretary for International
Cooperation, Department of Science &
Technology, Republic of Philippines

INGSA Global Week of Dialog on COVID-19

In September, the International Network for Governmental Science Advice (INGSA) organised a [Global Week of Dialogue](#) titled "Science Advice and COVID-19: What are we learning?". Various online events looked at how the COVID-19 pandemic has tested the role and functionality of science advice and science diplomacy mechanisms around the world.

Following a keynote address by Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist of the World Health Organisation, a High Level Panel (including GYA past co-chair [Tolu Oni](#) - University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine, United Kingdom) discussed "What was done right and what has gone wrong in pandemic responses to date?", and addressed some of the main challenges the global system of science and governance have faced in recent months.

The week continued with four regional panels for Asia, Africa (with GYA alumna [Shaheen Motala-Timol](#) - Tertiary Education Commission, Mauritius), Europe and the Americas. Early responses in Asia were discussed, as were the lessons of previous pandemics applied in Africa, and the multi-level efforts in the Americas as well as the complex coordination activities in Europe.

The regional panel live session for Asia/Oceania was moderated by GYA member [Abhi Veerakumarasivam](#) (Sunway University, Malaysia), who is also Chair of the INGSA Asia Regional Chapter. The session was framed around the grand challenge of addressing the devastating impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The panel aimed at teasing out new learnings from how the region has dealt with the unprecedented circumstances of the pandemic. The panelists shared their individual organisation's or country's unique preparedness, response and recovery plans.

The INGSA week closed with a roundtable session on "Science advice in the UN and Multi-lateral System", which can be watched [here](#).

Partner Publications



Sustainability Science – Future Earth's 2019-2020 Annual Report online

Download available [here](#).

The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) Statement "[A Call to Action: Furthering the fight against falsified and substandard medical products](#)" from the member academies of IAP for Health was launched in September 2020, during the [Euro Science Open Forum \(ESOF\)](#) in Trieste, Italy.

A new IAP Communiqué on the issue of the [Development and Distribution of Vaccines against COVID-19](#) was published in September 2020.

In September 2020, The International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) published a report on "[Tracking global evidence-to-policy pathways in the coronavirus crisis: a preliminary report](#)", which documents the contexts and processes behind COVID-19-related policy interventions from over 100 countries.

Events

14-18 October 2020	Silbersalz - International Science Film Festival and Conference
20 October 2020	Young Academy of Europe Annual General Meeting, online
25-27 October 2020	World Health Summit, Berlin, Germany (in-person and virtual)
4-9 November 2020	Falling Walls Conference, online
26-28 April 2021	CILAC - The Open Science Forum for Latin American and the Caribbean, Buenos Aires, Argentina
5-7 May 2021	ALLEA General Assembly, Helsinki, Finland
28 May-4 June 2021	GYA International Conference and Annual General Meeting



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