

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- GYA members elect new Executive Committee during AGM and Conference in Washington, D.C.
- 22 Young Academies and 2 Young Academy initiatives come together during largest-ever ENYA meeting in Berlin
- GYA cooperation on research excellence with InterAcademy Partnership and International Science Council yields joint publications

## ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- [Read GYA Connections 12, which examines the theme Transformation](#)
- [Download the new report “Snapshots of Reform – Researcher Evaluation within Science Organizations”](#)
- [Learn more about the 2024 GYA AGM and International Conference](#)

This bulletin provides an overview and highlights of the activities of the Global Young Academy in the second quarter of 2024, and complements our monthly newsletters (archive available [here](#); [subscribe here](#)), which provide more comprehensive details.

## DYNAMIC 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Over 145 members, alumni and external partners of the GYA participated in various sessions of the GYA’s 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and International Conference of Young Scientists “Transformative and Inclusive Science for a Sustainable Future”, which took place in May 2024.

The GYA was joined by over 60 members and alumni of the U.S. National Academies’ [New Voices in Science, Engineering, and Medicine](#), as well as locally-based [Mirzayan Fellows](#). The meeting was hosted at the [U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine \(NASEM\)](#).

The week’s activities included eight workshops, four Conference panels and a keynote talk, a Science Diplomacy Breakfast, a U.S. Partnerships Expo, a GYA Activities Fair and working group meetings, and the induction of 44 new GYA members.

One workshop, “Women in Science for Peace”, explored divergent individual approaches to conflict as a basis for equipping participants with a more nuanced understanding of conflict resolution and negotiation in a variety of contexts. The workshop was funded by a grant from the [Henry Luce Foundation](#). With this grant, the GYA was able to offer financial support for the first time to mothers with small children to attend the event with their child and a supporting caretaker.

At a Gala Dinner hosted at the French Embassy to the United States, the Counselor for Science and Technology, Mireille Guyader, welcomed guests, and former GYA Advisory Board member Bruce Alberts gave a keynote talk.

The week also included the election of new GYA leadership. To represent and steer the organization through the upcoming year, GYA members elected leaders hailing from Africa, Asia, Europe and North

America to the Executive Committee (EC), which is composed of 11 members, of which two are Co-Chairs. As Co-Chairs for the upcoming year, members chose [Chandra Shekhar Sharma](#) (Indian Institute of Technology, India) and [Yensi Flores Bueso](#) (University College Cork; University of Washington in Seattle, Ireland/United States). Yensi served as a member of the EC last year.

Further EC members are as follows: [Devina Lobine](#) (Higher Education Commission, Mauritius), [Francesco Maurelli](#) (Constructor University, Germany), [Hiba Baroud](#) (Vanderbilt University, United States), [Hussam Hussein](#) (Jordan), [Justine Nzweundji-Khum-bah](#) (Institute of Medical Research and Medicinal Plants Studies, Cameroon/Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, Kenya), [Markus J. Prutsch](#), (European Parliament, Belgium), [Sam Chan Siok Yee](#) (Universiti Sains Malaysia), [Sri Fatmawati](#) (Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember, Indonesia), and [Wasim Sajjad](#) (National University of Medical Sciences, Pakistan). Markus, Devina, Hussam, and Sri Fatmawati served as EC members last year.

Read a [narrative report on the Conference panels, and find links to watch recordings here](#).

A [website report on the AGM and Conference](#) summarizes the week’s events here, and an in-depth report will be published in the coming months.

## 2024 EUROPEAN YOUNG ACADEMIES MEETING

Organised and hosted by the German Junge Akademie, and co-hosted by the GYA, the European Young Academies (ENYA) meeting brought together representatives from 22 Young Academies and 2 Young Academy initiatives, and again was the largest-ever ENYA meeting to date.

The GYA was represented by EC member and GYA YASAS Delegate [Markus Prutsch](#) (European Parliament,

Belgium), YASAS Observer [Stella Tsani](#) (University of Athens, Greece), EC member [Hussam Hussein](#) (Jordan), and alumnus and co-lead of the 2021/22 GYA Sasha-Kagansky Interdisciplinary Grant, [Bernardo Urbani](#) (Venezuela).

Participants in the Young Academies session shared successfully finalised projects at some of the Young Academies, and examined opportunities specific to the Young Academies, as well as the challenges of working within networks of established science academies/ science organisations such as the IAP, ISC, or ALLEA.

The presentations showed that membership of Young Academies in such established networks carry numerous opportunities for the YAs and can bring added value to the established networks as well. Nevertheless, membership in established networks also brings a number of challenges for the Young Academies relating to time constraints, available resources, and the level of independence of a Young Academy.

For the second time since an inaugural joint meeting in 2022, the 2024 meeting was held in conjunction with the ALLEA General Assembly and Public Symposium on “Research collaboration in a shifting geopolitical landscape”, which provided opportunities for joint discussions and planning of future joint activities.

[Read more on the meeting here.](#)

### **GYA COLLABORATION ON RESEARCH EVALUATION WITH THE INTERACADEMY PARTNERSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL**

GYA members have long lobbied for a broader understanding of research excellence, as we see that excellent research can only exist when built upon earlier research (which needs to be rigorous but has not always led to groundbreaking new knowledge).

The best research instruments are also important for success. In many instances, excellence in research also builds on excellently-managed transnational researcher networks. When it comes to applied research, excellence in collaboration with other stakeholders from society is required, i.e., working with local communities or in the economic sphere.

As scientific excellence determines career progress, especially for early-career researchers, GYA members represent a community that is disproportionately affected by the various approaches to defining it.

The current academic reward system leans heavily towards a narrow “publish or perish” research culture that confines the scope of research to academic publishing and often prioritises quantity over quality, as well as prestige over integrity.

That is why the GYA is engaged in cooperation with the IAP and ISC to work on a new understanding of scientific excellence. To help map the global situation, in 2023 the organisations jointly released the report “[The Future of Research Evaluation: A Synthesis of Current Debates and Developments](#)”. Building on this, we then focused on how science organisations, including Young

Academies, go about assessing their members. We felt it necessary to take critical stock of our own practices when discussing the reform of other organisations.

The new report “[Snapshots of Reform – Researcher Evaluation within Science Organizations](#)”, was introduced in an expert workshop at the ISC headquarters in Paris in May 2024 and further discussed in two webinars in June 2024.

The report reflects the practices and aspirations of IAP and ISC membership – including Young Academies – and is meant to lay the groundwork for future actions.

### **SAVE THE DATE - 2025 AGM & CONFERENCE IN HYDERABAD, INDIA**

The 2025 GYA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and International Conference of Young Scientists will take place in Hyderabad, India from 10-13 June 2025. The meeting will be hosted by the Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INYNAS), and co-organised by the GYA, INYNAS and the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), and the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad.

More information is [available here](#).

#### **ABOUT THE GYA**

The vision of the GYA is *science for all; science for the future*, and its mission is to give a voice to young scientists and researchers around the world. The GYA, founded in 2010, is an independent science academy of 200 outstanding early- to mid-career researchers from six continents who are selected from across disciplines based on their academic excellence and commitment to engage with society. GYA members serve five-year terms, and the GYA presently counts members and alumni from 101 countries. The GYA administrative Office is publicly funded and hosted at the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. The wide array of GYA activities are supported by a range of international public and private funders. This publication was made possible with the help of GYA's core funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the German State of Saxony-Anhalt.

#### **GYA Co-Chairs**

[Chandra Shekhar Sharma](#) (Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad, India)

[Yensi Flores Bueso](#) (University College Cork; University of Washington in Seattle, Ireland/ United States)

#### **Managing Director**

[Beate Wagner](#) (Germany)