



# VYA Monthly Bulletin

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 Vietnam Young Academy, <http://vietnamyoungacademy.org>, Email: [info@vietnamyoungacademy.org](mailto:info@vietnamyoungacademy.org)  
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## 1. Highlight

### 1.1. *The WHO recognized the nCoV test kit of Vietnam*

Congratulations to Vietnamese Colleagues and Viet A Technology Joint Stock Company in Vietnam.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recognized the quality of the nCoV test kit in Vietnam, issued the emergency use list number (EUL).

The information was shared by *Việt Á* Technology Joint Stock Company on April 26. WHO assessed "LightPower iVA SARS-CoV-2 kit 1st RT-rPCR Kit produced by Viet A company according to the Emergency Use List Process (EUL) and issue EUL code 0524-210-00".

These are two types of nCoV diagnostic kits using molecular biology techniques (RT-PCR and real-time RT-PCR) which have been researched and developed successfully by Military Medical Academy and *Việt Á* Technology Joint Stock Company. The Ministry of Science and Technology is a research funding unit. The test kit was licensed by the Ministry of Health and put into mass production in Vietnam in early March.

Mr. Phan Quoc Viet, General Director of *Việt Á* Technology Joint Stock Company, told VnExpress that having the approval of WHO will help products easily be exported to countries around the world. Organizations such as the World Bank and the CHAI Foundation will put the product into the program of buying financing for countries around the world.

Earlier on April 21, the British Department of Health and Social Care also granted a European standard (CE) and free circulation (CFS) license for the nCoV test kit in Vietnam. The Covid-19 test kit can be sold freely in all member states of the European Economic Area including the United Kingdom.

"After being licensed by the UK Ministry of Health and Social Care, the COVID-19 test kit has been exclusively ordered by a partner for distribution in the UK, India and Mexico, USA and some countries in Europe with the commitment of at least 1 million tests / month" Mr. Viet said.

The Vietnamese test kit is rated to be of the same quality as the WHO kit and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) but has more advantages in sensitivity, specificity and stability, as appropriate with many types of testing equipment. Integrated tests require only



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one test, avoiding manipulations causing inaccurate results. This integration helps to shorten the time and fewer testing steps, so the cost of the kit is reduced. The cost of researching the kit was funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology, so the current price is only VND 400,000-600,000 / set.

The kit is prepared in the form of a solution, checking for SARS-CoV-2 in patient samples from nasal and oral swabs, pleural fluid and blood samples. Except for the time of sample processing and extraction, the kit gives the result after about one hour. (Source: Vnexpress.net)

### **1.2. Prof. N. T. K. Thanh was a panel member for a webinar “Can Materials Science Counter the COVID-19 Pandemic?”**

The webinar on a discussion with materials researcher at the frontlines of battling the corona virus was held on Thursday, April 16. This event was co-presented by the Materials Research Society and The Society for Biomaterials.

The recording of the [webinar](https://mrs.digitellinc.com/mrs/sessions/31978/view) can be viewed in the link below after simple registration:  
<https://mrs.digitellinc.com/mrs/sessions/31978/view>

### **1.3. VYA members attended the meeting with Ministry of Planning and Investment from Vietnam**

Prof. N. T. K. Thanh as Chair of VYA Advisor board, Dr Le Minh Hoa and Dr Linh Nguyen as VYA member participated in the Vietnam Intellectual Society (VIS) meeting at the Embassy of Vietnam in London on 9 February 2020. The aim of VIS is to bring together and to develop intellectuals and experts in many fields such as science and technology (e.g., nanotechnology, information technology, artificial intelligence) finance, business management, medicine and pharmacy, etc.

Following the meeting, they had another day working with Minister of Planning and Investment from Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Chi Dung on 29 February 2020. They contributed ideas for the establishment of Viet Nam National Innovation Center (NIC) in Hoa Lac, Viet Nam.

Embassy of Vietnam at UK will accompany with the authorities and organizations of UK and Vietnam to support the implementation of VIS-UK projects and plan. Together with VYA, VIS-UK will promote and support the implementation of ideas, projects and programs in the fields of science, technology, digital media, cyber security, smart factories and smart city and

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environmental technology. These activities will contribute to the development of Vietnam, build a strong relationship between Vietnam and UK and other organizations in the world.

### 1.4. New VYA member

We are delighted to announce that Dr Tran The Son has just joined VYA. He is a Vice Rector of Korea – Vietnam Friendship IT College, Da Nang city, Vietnam. He got PhD degree in Communications Network from Northumbria University - Newcastle Upon Tyne (UK). His study focus on Application of Mobile Agents for Network Operation and Management, Smartphone technology, and intelligent mobile Ad-hoc networks, Visible Light Communications System, and photonics system.



### 1.5. VYA Wiki Page:

Dr. Robert Lepenies is a [research scientist at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research](#) and an executive committee member of the [Global Young Academy](#). He is working on improving the visibility of global young scientists<sup>1</sup>

<https://tools.wmflabs.org/reasonator/?q=Q75833130&lang=en>

and created a VYA Wiki page:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:GlobalYoungAcademyTeam/Vietnam\\_Young\\_Academy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:GlobalYoungAcademyTeam/Vietnam_Young_Academy). To help the process and save labour time, we request all VYA members to send your ORCID or Google page to: Dr Nguyen Minh Nam (email: [minhnam1984@gmail.com](mailto:minhnam1984@gmail.com)). Wikidata will automatically source all publications without anyone having to input manually.

## 2. VYA Community news

### 2.1. VYA Community Publication

- Duman, F.D., Sebek, M., **Thanh, N. T. K.**, Loizidou, M., Shakib, K., and MacRobert A. J. (2020) Enhanced Photodynamic Therapy and Fluorescence Imaging using Gold Nanorods for Porphyrin Delivery in a Novel in Vitro Squamous Cell Carcinoma 3D Model. *Journal of Materials Chemistry B. In Press*



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- Panariello, L., Wu, G., Besenhard, M.O., Loizou, K., Storozhuk, L., **Thanh, N. K. T.**, and Gavriilidis, G. (2020) A modular millifluidic platform for the synthesis of iron oxide nanoparticles with control over dissolved gas and flow pattern. *Materials*. **13**: 1019. [Gold Open Access](#)
- Ozkahraman, B., Emeriewen, K., Saleh, G., and **Thanh, N. T. K\*** (2020) Engineering Hydrogel Nanoparticles to Enhance Transdermal Local Anaesthetic Delivery in Human Eyelid Skin. *RSC Advances*. **10**: 3926-3930. [Gold Open Access](#).
- Rossi, F., Huat, K. E., **Thanh, N. T. K\*** and Su X. D. (2020) An Antimicrobial Film Activated by Light Powered Energy Transfer between Anisotropic Metal Nanoparticles and Photosensitizer. *ACS Applied Bio Materials*. **3**: 315-326. [Green Open Access](#).

### 3. Call for new members

We are inviting high quality applicants to join VYA. There are four application deadlines each year, which are on January 31<sup>st</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup>, and October 31<sup>st</sup>.

The deadline for the next application round is on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The application form and guideline are available on our [VYA website](#). Please contact Dr. To Thanh Loan (email: [totloan@itims.edu.vn](mailto:totloan@itims.edu.vn)) for more details.

### 4. Funding and award opportunities

#### 4.1. Innovation Scholars secondments: biomedical sciences, strand 2, strand 3

UKRI invites applications for individuals from any discipline wishing to spend up to 36 months (full or part time) on secondment in the biomedical sciences sector. They are running 3 identical streams, which open on the same date but have different close dates:

- strand 1 closing 15 April 2020
- strand 2 closing 13 May 2020
- strand 3 closing 1 July 2020

More information in click [here](#).



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### **4.2. Innovate UK Smart Grants: January 2020**

Opportunity to apply for a share of up to £25 million to deliver ambitious or disruptive R&D innovations that can make a significant impact on the UK economy.

- **Competition opens:** Friday 10 January 2020
- **Competition closes:** Wednesday 27 May 2020 12:00pm

More information in [here](#):

### **4.3. SBRI: monitor and visualize domestic pollution to safeguard health**

Organisations can apply for a share of £100,000 including VAT, to develop an air quality monitor to provide information and advice on pollutants in the home.

- **Competition opens:** Thursday 20 February 2020
- **Competition closes:** Wednesday 20 May 2020 12:00pm

More information in [here](#).

### **4.4. MSCA Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)**

**Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)** funds short-term exchanges of personnel between academic, industrial and commercial organisations throughout the world. It helps people develop their knowledge, skills and careers, while building links between organisations working in different sectors of the economy, including universities, research institutes and SMEs.

**Proposals must include at least three partners**, which can be academic or non-academic organisations from **three different countries**. At least **two of these should be from the EU or associated countries**.

Exchanges between organisations in EU or associated countries must be between different sectors. In worldwide partnerships, exchanges within the same sector are possible.

**Details** [here](#)



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**Deadline: 28 April 2020.**

Partners from non-European countries including **ASEAN can join.**

### **4.5. UK: Welcome Trust International Training Fellowships in Health**

This scheme offers nationals of low- and middle-income countries the opportunity to receive training in health at postgraduate or postdoctoral level. **Details** [here](#)

**Deadline: 30 April 2020.**

ASEAN Countries Eligible.

## **5. News on Global Young Academy**

### **5.1. COVID-19 and the first e-AGM**

The Covid-19 outbreak has resulted in much of the world's business being conducted online, and this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will follow the same path. Since we are unable to hold the AGM and Conference like we usually would, selected meeting elements are going to take place digitally. On our website and in your email inbox, the Executive Committee and the GYA Office are hitting the ground running and have begun planning for e-meetings. Here is the **timeframe** for this year's e-AGM and its supporting activities:

26-29 May: pre-AGM science leadership workshop for new members

8-12 June: e-AGM

June/July (dates to be confirmed): e-Conference "Heal the Earth: Sustainable Development Goals in a Changing World"

Because of different time zones and the demanding nature of online meetings, **we will not schedule full-day meetings during the AGM week.** But if possible, please reserve this time for meetings and interaction (synchronous and asynchronous) with GYA members, just as you would have done had you flown to India.





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Please find all further developments, news and information on the 2020 e-AGM posted on the AGM Microsite: <https://agm.globalyoungacademy.net/>

You can also find a more thorough description of the e-AGM on the AGM Ticker here:

<https://agm.globalyoungacademy.net/ticker2/>

### **5.2. Beyond Boundaries: A global message from young scientists on COVID-19**

Note: The full version of this Statement is available here:

<https://globalyoungacademy.net/publications/beyond-boundaries-a-global-message-from-young-scientists-on-covid-19/>

All infographics are available here:

<https://globalyoungacademy.net/gya-covid-19-statement/#infographics>

**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.** Global health and the economy are at serious risk if proper mitigation measures are not taken in each country. 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 as 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:**

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.



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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.

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.

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**

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.

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

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**

Act responsibly in our use of global platforms to share and exchange information and experiences, and present the credentials for statements we make.

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.

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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.

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.

Together, we can develop stronger science-informed networks for information exchange that will combat the effects of this pandemic and provide long-term collaborative benefits.

### **Contributors:**

Paulina Carmona-Mora, biochemist, United States

Victorien Dognon, microbiologist, Benin

Sandeep Kaur, chemist, India

Shabana Khan, geographer, India

Robert Lepenies, political scientist, Germany

Boon Han Lim, engineer, Malaysia

Sandra Lopez-Verges, virologist, Panama

Felix Moronta, biologist, Italy

Connie Nshemereirwe, educator, Uganda

Justine Nzweundji, plant biologist, Cameroon

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Wibool Piyawattanametha, biomedical engineer, Thailand

Anet Režek Jambrak, food engineer and food scientist, Croatia

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Anina Rich, cognitive neuroscientist, Australia

Michael Saliba, physicist, Germany

Yoko Shimpuku, nursing scientist, Japan

Velia Siciliano, medical biotechnologist, Italy

Udi Sommer, political scientist, Israel

Fernando Valiente, biochemist, Chile

Koen Vermeir, historian and philosopher of science, France

Andre Xuereb, physicist, Malta

### **5.3. GYA developing COVID-19 repository**

The GYA has established a page on our website (<https://globalyoungacademy.net/covid19/>) to act as a repository for young academies 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](mailto: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 academies for joint activities, or an exchange of experience and best practices.

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