



VYA Monthly Bulletin

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1 Highlight

1.1 *The Fourth Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies*

After the successful Third Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies (WWMYA), hosted by the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) in July 2017, the Vietnam Young Academy (VYA) is hosting the next WWMYA in 29th July to 2nd Aug 2019. This WWMYA brings together representatives from existing and newly-establishing young academies all over the globe. Currently, almost 50 National YAs or similar organisations exist (<https://globalyoungacademy.net/national-young-academies/>), and about 20 young academy initiatives from all over the world are working towards the establishment of a NYA in their countries.

The previous three WWMYAs have shown that providing a platform for exchange and future collaboration to the NYAs and NYA initiatives is highly beneficial for them. These meetings aim to:

- Provide great opportunities for NYA representatives to exchange ideas and expertise, discuss successful young academy activities, develop common positions and best practices for cooperation both on a global and on regional levels.
- Enhance the capacity of young academies and their representatives to engage with policymakers and civil society in their countries and region, and to define priority areas for joint action, e.g. a joint science advice project on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

Eleven NYAs and NYA Initiatives from around the globe have nominated one member each for the Programme Organising Committee (POC), thereby ensuring that the meeting agenda will reflect the global nature of these meetings. Approximately 40 delegates from NYAs and academy initiatives are expected to participate in the WWMYA, as well as GYA representatives, guest speakers from relevant science networks and international organizations (e.g. IAP, NASAC, AASSA), and senior academy representatives.

The 2019 Worldwide Meeting will further strengthen NYAs around the world and address their role in the process of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In doing so, the meeting will carry forward the outcomes from the previous WWMYAs and the 2017 WWMYA in South Africa in particular. The role of young academies both within their national context and on the regional or global levels will be the focus of the meeting. **“Young Academies for Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies”** was chosen as the title of the meeting by the POC. It is intended to help NYAs to develop effective pathways how



young academies can further the SDGs.

Some additional parts of the meeting will be reserved for:

- The discussion and exchange of internal NYA-related matters, e.g. questions of funding, member selection, engagement and equity, providing support and mentoring for newly-establishing NYAs, engaging with diaspora young scientists, how to deal with declining levels of academic freedom and trust in science.
- Existing and planned NYA activities for at-risk scholars, which might lead to further future collaborations.
- A science outreach activity that will further enhance NYAs' capabilities for science education and communication.

A Meeting Statement with recommendations on the benefits of having a young academy (in countries without or with senior academy), and on engagement by young scientists in regions not covered by IAP member academies will be published shortly after the meeting. A more detailed meeting report will follow by the end of 2019. Furthermore, it is expected that the establishment of further NYAs, particularly in Asia and Africa, will be accelerated through this meeting. For example, after the 2017 WWMYA, the Albanian Young Academy was established and NYA initiatives in a number of countries started their work, e.g. in Bangladesh, Nepal, Hungary, Colombia, Zambia.

Participation by invitation only.

1.2 Confirmed invited speakers for WWMYA

- *Prof. Jit Kang Lim*, Universiti Sains Malaysia. He is a member of Young Scientist Network of Academy Sciences Malaysia.
- *Prof. Jesus de la Fuentes*, Institute of Materials Science of Aragón, Spain. He is a member of Global Young Academy (GYA), vice president of Spanish Young Academy.
- *Prof. Nguyen Thi Kim Thanh*, University College London, UK. She was a co-founder of GYA, Founder of VYA and currently Chair of the VYA Advisory Board,
- *Assoc. Prof. Martin Dominik*, University of St Andrews, Scotland. He was an executive member of GYA
- *Assoc. Prof. Le Minh Hoa*, University of Northumbria, England. He was an operating member of VYA.
- *Dr. Lam Ngoc Hanh*, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA. She is the chair of VYA in 2018 and co-chair of VYA in 2019.
- *Dr. Ta Thu Hang*, The University of Queensland, Australia. She is a co-chair of VYA



in 2019.

1.3 Programme Organising Committee

The Programme Organising Committee includes representatives from the VYA, the GYA and the following young academies: Cameroon Academy of Young Scientists, Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, Indian National Young Academy of Science, Young Academy of Japan, Dutch Young Academy, Nigerian Young Academy, Sri Lanka Academy of Young Scientists, Thai Young Scientists Academy; as well as the young academy initiatives from Bangladesh, Hungary and Nepal.

1.4 Funding for WWMYA 2019 and NMH meetings

The meeting organisers have been able to secure funding from the IAP for Policy project on the UN SDGs (<http://www.interacademies.org/36061/Improving-Scientific-Input-to-Global-Policymaking-with-a-focus-on-the-UN-Sustainable-Development-Goals>). These funds will be used to cover travel for a number of WWMYA participants. The GYA Office is in communication with individual participants.

The IAP project on the SDGs recently published its report on "Improving Scientific Input to Global Policymaking" (<https://globalyoungacademy.net/a-call-to-action-on-the-un-sdgs-for-young-academies/>) which included action recommendations on the UN SDGs for young academies too.

We are very grateful for National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED), Vietnam for funding NMH meeting.

We also received support from the following partners:

- Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)
- German Federal Ministry of Education & Research (BMBF)
- The National Science and Technology Development Agency, Thailand
- Duy Tan University, Da Nang, Vietnam
- University of St Andrews, UK



- Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City
- Korea - Vietnam Friendship Information Technology College
- Office for Naval Research Global
- Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1.5 Nanomaterials for Healthcare (NMH) meeting

The WWMYA will be preceded by the 2-day Inaugural Conference of the Vietnam Young Academy on “Nanomaterials for Healthcare”, from 29-31 July 2019.

Details on how to register or submit an abstract can be found on the Conference website [here](#).

The deadline for submitting abstracts for oral presentations is now closed, for flash talks and poster presentations are still open until 30st June 2019.

We have a full program of exciting talks from international leading scientists around the world.

1.6 Travel grants to attend WWMYA and NMH Meetings

VYA is applying for a grant to support the WWMYA and NMH meetings. The application is to give support to Vietnamese researchers to go to the conference, given that they will make an application to join VYA before the conference. Please contact us urgently to be included in the list as a potential awardee for travel grant.

2 VYA community news

2.1. Prof Thanh appointed as Editor-in-Chief of Royal Society of Chemistry Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Book Series

Congratulations to Prof Nguyen T. K. Thanh, FRSC, FInstP, FIMMM, FRSB at Department of Physics and Astronomy for her appointment as *Editor-in-Chief* of Royal Society of Chemistry Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Book Series.

Initially, the Editorial Board was Prof Paul O'Brien CBE FRS FEng FRSC, Prof Harry Kroto FRS, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry and Prof Harold Craighead former Director of The Nanobiotechnology Center, Cornell University who all acted as Series Editors.

Prof O'Brien became Editor-in-Chief in 2010 and remained in the position until his death last year, and Harry Kroto remained as an honorary Series Editor until his death in 2016.

With contributions from leading experts in nanoscale research, the series provides a



comprehensive resource of books covering key topics such as the characterisation, performance and properties of nanostructured materials and technologies and their applications.

Since the publication of the first book in 2005 on Nanotubes and Nanowires by C N Ram Rao and A Govindaraj, the series has covered subjects such as polymer-based nanostructures, nanodiamond, fullerenes and nanoarchitectonics as well as the applications of nanomaterials in art conservation, food, health and energy.

2.2. VYA community publications

1. Rossi, F., Thanh, N. T. K* and Su X. D. (2019) *Gold nanorods embedded in polymeric film for killing bacteria by generating reactive oxygen species with light*. *ACS Applied Bio Materials*. [In Press](#)
2. Huang, H., Du Toit, H., Ben-Jaber, S., Thanh, N. K. T., Parkin, I. P., and Gavriilidis, A. (2019) *Rapid Synthesis of Gold Nanoparticles with Carbon Monoxide in a Microfluidic Segmented Flow System and Their SERS Application*. *Reaction Chemistry and Engineering*. 4: 884–890. [Gold Open Access](#).
3. LaGrow, A.P, Besenhard, M.O., Hodzic, A., Sergides, A., L. K Bogart, Gavriilidis, A., and Thanh, N. T. K* (2019) *Unraveling the Growth Mechanism of the Co-Precipitation of Iron Oxide Nanoparticles with the Aid of Synchrotron XRD in Solution*. *Nanoscale*. 11: 6620-6628. [Gold Open Access](#).
4. Hobson, N. J., Weng, X., Ashford, M., Thanh, N. T. K., Schatzlein, A. G., Uchegbu, I. F. (2019) *Facile Aqueous, Room Temperature Preparation of High Transverse Relaxivity Clustered Iron Oxide Nanoparticles*. *Colloids and Surfaces A: Physicochemical and Engineering Aspects*. 570: 165-171. [Gold Open Access](#).
5. Yang, J., Dong, Y., Wang, J., Jiang, J., Zhu, Y., Wu, Y., Wan, F., Zhang, P., Chen, T., Zhou, W., Wu, P., Thanh, N. T. K., Tran, N. Q., Chen, J., and Chen, S. (2019) *Hydroxypropylcellulose coating to improve graft-to-bone healing for anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction*. *ACS Biomaterials Science and Engineering*. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/acsbiomaterials.8b01145>
6. Hobson, N.J., Weng, X., Siow, B., Veiga, C., Ashford, M., Thanh, N. T. K., Schatzlein, A.G., Uchegbu, I.F. (2019) *Clustering Superparamagnetic Iron Oxide Nanoparticles Produces Organ Targeted High Contrast Magnetic Resonance Images*. *Nanomedicine*. 14: 1135-1152. [Gold Open Access](#).
7. Le Duc Hien, Nguyen Phuc Duong, Luong Ngoc Anh, To Thanh Loan, Siriwat



Soontaranon, Anne de Visser, (2019) Correlations between structural, magnetic and electronic transport properties of nano-sized (Sr, La)-(Fe, Mo) double perovskites. *Journal of Alloys and Compounds*. 793: 375-384. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jallcom.2019.04.193>

3 New VYA member

We are delighted to announce that Dr Nguyen Minh Nam has just joined VYA. Nam has been working as a postdoctoral associate at School of Medicine, Yale University. He is in the process to relocate back to Vietnam. He has an extensive academic background in biological sciences combined with strong practical work experience in basic and translational research, especially in cancer biology fields. By using bioinformatics tools, he established a novel prognostic gene signature in colorectal cancer, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and glioma which would help to develop adjuvant therapeutic strategies for cancer treatment and provide a new insight to elucidate cancer heterogeneity in both genetic and epigenetic aspects. Currently, he is focusing on developing the bone-specific adjuvant therapies that is designed to disrupt adaptation of metastatic breast cancers and to prevent the inflammatory conversion of quiescent bone cells before extensive colonization takes place in the skeletal compartment.



4 Call for new members

We are inviting high quality applicants are invited for joining VYA. There are four application deadlines each year, which are on January 31st, April 30th, July 31st, and October 31st.

The deadline for the next application round is on July 31st, 2019. The application form and guideline are available on our [VYA website](#).

However, due to the WWMYA, it will be a great benefit for VYA members to join the meeting. The application will be assessed on the ad-hoc basis before the meeting.

5 News on Global Young Academy

5.1 10-year anniversary of GYA

This month GYA celebrate its 10-year anniversary at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and



International Conference of Young Scientists. They welcomed 43 new members and said goodbye to the outgoing members. They also elected their new leaders, and as a clear indication of our diversity in action, the new EC is made up of members from 5 continents, a majority of whom are women. As Co-Chairs for the upcoming year, members chose Connie Nshemereirwe (Uganda) and Koen Vermeir (France). Connie and Koen were both re-elected – last year Connie was a Co-Chair, while Koen was a member of the EC. The other EC members are as follows: Nova Ahmed (Bangladesh), Anindita Bhadra (India), Maral Dadvar (Germany), Robert Lepenies (Germany), Sandra Lopez-Verges (Panama), Marian Nkansah (Ghana), Anina Rich (Australia), Michael Saliba (Switzerland) and Yoko Shimpuku (Japan). Both Anina and Yoko were re-elected.

5.2 European Young Academies meeting in Helsinki

Young Academies from all over Europe met in Helsinki, Finland, on 17-18 May 2019. The meeting, organised by the Young Academy Finland, brought together more than 25 participants representing 16 young academies and academy initiatives.

Participants continued discussions from last year's meeting in Amsterdam, looked into young academies' best practices, and discussed current developments around Plan S.

A discussion of future collaboration and joint projects was also part of the meeting:

- the Young Academy Finland will run a project on young researchers as knowledge brokers to build the capacity of early-career researchers to engage in science advice, but also to establish more effective and open channels between science and society, as well as to increase the collaboration between Young Academies in Europe.
- the German Young Academy is developing a science outreach project for academy members to go to unexpected places and talk about science to the public. They will invite young academies globally to join them.
- the GYA is currently coordinating the drafting of a joint young academy statement on the core principles and roles of young academies, which will be published later in 2019.

The European Young Academies will meet again in Berlin, Germany, in 2020.

5.3 Congratulations to the newly-launched Hungarian Young Academy

The launch of the Hungarian Young Academy (HYA) was announced on 7 May 2019 during the Annual General Meeting of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS) in Budapest, Hungary. Preparations to establish the HYA had already started in 2017, with GYA member Gergely Toldi (UK) engaged in the work of the ad-hoc committee of the HYA from the beginning. The HYA joins a growing worldwide network of young academies, becoming the



40th young academy to be established.

6 Conference news

6.1 *Request a Woman Scientist*

The Request a Woman Scientist platform connects our extensive multidisciplinary network of vetted women in science with anyone who needs to consult a scientist for a news story, invite a keynote speaker or panelist for a conference or workshop, find a woman scientist to collaborate on a project, or serve as a subject matter expert in any capacity. Importantly, 500 Women Scientists is committed to diversity and inclusion, not just in our scientific fields, but in our society as a whole.

Female scientists needed: sign up for a female scientist database of experts: <https://500womenscientists.org/request-a-scientist> (*only takes a few minutes*)

6.2 *First Rencontres du Vietnam Soft Matter Science*

The conference will take place at the beautiful conference centre, ICISE, in the coastal city of Quy Nhon, central Vietnam, during July 14th - 20th, 2019.

The conference is among a series of scientific meetings and events organised by Rencontres du Vietnam, a non-profit organisation and an official partner of UNESCO since 1993. Rencontres du Vietnam's mission is to foster scientific exchanges between Asia-Pacific scientists and colleagues from other parts of the world.

For the inaugural conference, we will focus on recent advances in Soft Matter Science, particularly on the following:

- Active matter, colloids, polymers, and liquid crystals
- Self-assembly at nano- and micro-scales
- Biological soft matter
- Interfaces and interactions

Please find further details in the attached announcement, as well as on the event's webpage and the registration page: <https://www.icisequynhon.com/conferences/2019/soft-matter-science/>

The deadline for abstract submission is **June 3rd, 2019**. Note: late abstract submission may still be accepted as the online submission is still active.

For questions regarding the scientific program, please contact: Tuan Tran (ttran@ntu.edu.sg)



7 Funding opportunities

7.1 2020 Australia-Germany Joint Research Co-operation Scheme

This scheme a joint initiative of Universities Australia and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and aims to foster collaboration between Australian researchers and researchers from German universities and research institutes.

The scheme supports exchanges for Australian researchers to spend time at partner institutions in Germany and for collaborating German researchers to spend time at Australian universities. The inclusion of early career researchers is a significant focus of this scheme and projects that do not include ECRs on both sides will not be considered.

For more information and the Application Form visit:

<https://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/global-engagement/international-collaboration/international-agreements-and-activities/Australia--Germany-Joint-Research-Cooperation-Scheme#.VQZmAqN--9I>

Deadline: 13 June 2019

7.2 Wellcome Trust – Innovator Awards

The Wellcome Trust Innovator Awards are open to researchers who are developing healthcare innovations that could have a major and measurable impact on human health. Funding is maximum of £500,000 or £750,000 for multidisciplinary collaborations. Researchers can work in any scientific discipline, including a discipline outside life sciences, and on any type of technology. Examples of technologies include:

- therapeutics (small molecules or biologics)
- vaccines
- devices
- diagnostics
- digital technologies
- regenerative medicine

Applications can be submitted to the Wellcome Trust at any time.