



The International Younger Chemists Network Newsletter

Holiday Edition

The first year of the active contribution of the subcommittees of the IYCN is going to end. We can reflect on some important highlights regarding the development of our organization within this period. It is based on this premise that the Social Media Team decided to launch a Holiday Edition of our newsletter.

The main event of the year was definitely the 1st IYCN Assembly held last summer in Sao Paulo, Brazil, during the IUPAC General Assembly and World Chemistry Congress. The election of the first IYCN Chair and Vice Chair took place and also the support as well as the integration into IUPAC were clearly the two main achievements. A brief summary about the meeting is included in this newsletter.

Another highlight is the publication of the IYCN representative interviews in *ChemViews Magazine* (a publication of Wiley). The article is shortly featured in this issue of our newsletter. It was the interview most often read in 2017 in *ChemViews Magazine* and thus showing the interests that IYCN has sparked in the chemistry community.

We have created a section where newly recruited volunteers in IYCN can introduce themselves, and thus we hope we can encourage new volunteers to join.

Overall, we can look back at the exciting year of 2017 and for that we want to thank all active and supportive members for their time and efforts spent on different projects. I hope the progress continues to the next year.

With this, I wish you and us all the best in 2018.

Sebastian Weber
Editor IYCN Newsletter
Leipzig University, Germany



IYCN

"To create a unified global network of young chemists to:

- communicate,
- collaborate,
- educate, and
- mentor"

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Upcoming Events and Activities

IYCN to Collaborate with ACS Nigeria International Chapter to organize Undergraduate Research Poster Session during Annual Symposium, March 4-7, 2018.

For information and participation please contact Emmanuel Ohaekenyem (ecohaekenyem@yahoo.com).

Link to event: www.acsnigeriachapter.org/

Events to lookout for

Chemistry Conference for Young Scientists, February 21-23, 2018, Belgium. Link to event: www.chemcys.be

Young Chemists Committee (YCC) Programs at the Spring ACS National Meeting in New Orleans, USA. Link to event: www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/national-meeting.html?sc=home_4up_NO18_od

IYCN was at ICYC2017 in Malaysia!

The International Conference for Young Chemists (ICYC2017) was held on the 16-18th August, 2017, in Penang, Malaysia. The theme of the meeting was "Synergy and Emergence in Chemistry for a Better Tomorrow" (<https://www.icyc2017.com/>). IYCN was represented at the meeting by Dr. Hooi-Ling Lee who is one of the founding members of the IYCN Public Outreach committee. Hooi-Ling introduced IYCN in a virtual session co-organised with the Younger Chemists Committees (YCC), where it was the first time a virtual presentation was made at ICYC. "Chemistry, the Global Economy and Jobs" by Dr David Harwell, the Director of Talent Pool at American Geophysical Union, presented this topic for the virtual session. The YCC was represented by Dr. Phumvadee Wangtrakuldee and she helped to coordinate the session with Hooi-Ling. The presentation summarized the goals of IYCN and highlighted activi-

ties that have taken place, and others that are currently being planned. It received a positive response from the audience and we are working to expand our network to include these people at future events.

Hooi-Ling Lee

IYCN Public Outreach group
Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry
School of Chemical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia,
Penang, Malaysia
hlllee@usm.my

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Hooi-Ling engaging with the audience at ICYC2017 (Picture credits to Roy, ICYC)

IYCN-IUPAC partnership: for guidance and sustainability within the Union as well as the profession

The International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN) was officially established on July 11, 2017 with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) during the 46th World Chemistry Congress (WCC) and IUPAC 49th General Assembly (GA) of held in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The IYCN was initiated to create a truly international platform for younger chemists to communicate, collaborate, educate and mentor. Fostering sustainable development is part of IUPAC's strategic plan. In implementing this plan, the younger generations have to be properly groomed to improve upon the present day achievements of the union. It was based on the above premise that the leadership of IUPAC have graciously accepted IYCN as a partner. This was seen in the successful participation in and organization of several activities during the WCC and General Assembly in Brazil.



Ilya Vorotyntsev (IYCN Chair), Richard Hartshorn (IUPAC Secretary) and Natalia Tarasova (IUPAC President) during the MoU signing ceremony

Delegates of the IYCN were selected into the IUPAC Young Observers (YOs) program. The IYCN organized the Young Researchers in Chemistry symposium on Green Chemistry and Intellectual Property which featured invited speakers. The Networking Poster Session and YO's reception featured presentations about young chemists activities from 8 countries and 14 IUPAC bodies. The session was an eye-opener for many as they learned about the activities of IUPAC and young chemists programs in the different countries represented. The World Chemistry Leadership Meeting (WCLM) which as part of the GA programs also provided an opportunity for IYCN delegates as YOs to network with top scientists in different field and learn more about the recent trends in the multi-disciplinary area of materials and green chemistry.

Another interesting and equally important outcome of the Brazil meeting was that the IYCN had its first formal Assembly and Election of Chair and Vice-Chair. The election produced Ilya Vorotyntsev (Russia) and Evijola Llabani (Albania) as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. Generally, the outcome of the multiples engagements has left many young chemists more informed and willing to be involved in future projects of IUPAC. It has been an exciting meeting and we all hope for more fruitful years to come.



Delegates from different countries during the 1st IYCN Assembly

Nnanake-Abasi Offiong

IYCN Social Media subcommittee
University of Uyo, Nigeria
nnanakeoffiong@gmail.com

Ilya Vorotyntsev

IYCN Chair
Nizhny Novgorod State Technical University, Russia
ilyavorotyntsev@gmail.com

Christine Dunne

IYCN Advisor
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, USA
christine.dunne11@gmail.com

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IYCN reaches out to the scientific community

"The Future of Chemistry is Global" is the title of an article published in December 2017 in *ChemViews Magazine*. The article was written by our active members Paula C. P. Bueno, Sophie Carencio, Christine Dunne, Lori Ferrins, Evijola Llabani, Nnanake-Abasi Offiong and Ilya V. Vorotyntsev. During a period of a few weeks the article was read for about 2500 times, which is quite impressive and shows the interest of the chemical community into our work in IYCN.

The short history and motivation for founding the IYCN is reflected by the authors from their own experience and efforts. They provided insights into how the IYCN is currently organized and what are the aims of the project IYCN. The authors reflected on how they got involved with the IYCN and what is important for them. The reader is informed where the IYCN had some greater appearance, like scholarships for the participation at different conferences.

Furthermore, information about the distribution of

IYCN in the world is given and the way how to get involved with IYCN is shown.

Also, the perspective of the IYCN to influence and support the development of the young chemist all over the world is highlighted. With the article we hopefully reached out into the scientific community and encouraged young chemists to get involved into this project.

The original article can be found under the following link:

DOI: [10.1002/chemv.201700099](https://doi.org/10.1002/chemv.201700099)

Sebastian Weber

Editor IYCN Newsletter
Leipzig University, Germany

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Advertorial



Volunteers Needed Section:

- Finance Team Lead
- Website Manager (Social Media)

Candidate for finance team lead must have had leadership experience in the past plus fundraising skills.

Candidate for Website Manager (Social Media) must be conversant with necessary ICT tools to manage (provide and edit content) in a website.

Interested persons should send their CV and volunteer motivation to iycn@iupac.org and copy iycn.chair@gmail.com.

Our New Volunteers in IYCN



Amusan Oluwatobi Omotola obtained his B.Tech in Pure and Applied Chemistry from Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Oyo state, Nigeria in 2014. He is currently a M.Sc. Chemistry student at University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Sub-committee/Position: Member, Governance.



Bianca Davids received her B.Sc. in Geology and Chemistry in 2015, and her B.Sc. (Hons) in Chemistry in 2016 from the University of Johannesburg (UJ), South Africa. She is currently an MSc student at UJ focusing on organometallic chemistry and catalysis.

Selected Awards

- University of Johannesburg Faculty of Science Undergraduate Top Achiever Award, 2013-2015
- South African Chemical Society (SACI) James Moir Medal Recipient (granted to honours students at South African universities and universities of technology who have obtained an average of 75 % and above for their honours degree), 2016

Sub-committee/Position: Volunteer, Social Media



Insa Seck received his M.Sc. in Chemistry and Biochemistry in Natural products in 2011, PhD in Organic Chemistry from Cheikh Anta DIOP University He is currently an Assistant Professor in Organic Chemistry in Cheikh Anta DIOP University.

Since 2014 he is member of the Senegalese Committee for Chemistry (CSC) and since 2015 he is member of the West African Society of Chemicals (SOACHIM).

He has done a research internship at the University of Vigo from September 2014 to May 2015 at the Department of Chemistry, Laboratory of Organic Chemistry (QO2).

Sub-committee/Position: Member, Finance



Torsten John received his B.Sc. in Chemistry in 2012 and his M.Sc. in Chemistry in 2015 from Leipzig University, Germany. He is currently a Ph.D. student in Biophysical and Computational Chemistry at the Leibniz Institute of Surface Engineering (Germany) and Monash University (Australia).

Torsten is active in the German Chemical Society (GDCh) and is the Secretary of the European Young Chemists' Network (EYCN).

Selected Awards

- Endeavour Research Fellowship, 2018, Department of Education and Training, Australian Government, Australia
- SciFinder Future Leaders program, 2017, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), American Chemical Society (ACS), USA
- Early Career Researcher Award, 2016, Peptide Users Group Melbourne, Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI), Australia
- PhD fellowship, 2016, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Germany

Sub-committee/Position: Member, Finance



Evijola Llabani, born in Albania, received her B.S. in Chemistry and Biology in 2013 from St. John's University in Queens, NY, USA. She is currently doing her Ph.D. in Chemistry as a Cancer Scholar for Translational and Applied Research (C*STAR) fellow at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL, USA, working on target identification and validation of a potent anticancer compound in the laboratory of Professor Paul J. Hergenrother.

Selected Awards

- 2015-2018 C*STAR Fellowship, CARLE Hospital & UIUC
- 2015-2017 ACS Leadership Development Institute YCC-Track Organizer, ACS
- 2015-2016 Zumdahl Teaching Excellence Fellowship, UIUC
- 2013 Gold Key in Chemistry for Academic Excellence, St. John's University

IYCN Position: Vice-Chair

Submission to the Newsletter

If you want to submit an article or some information to the newsletter please follow the submission guidelines. The most up to date version can be found under the following link:

[Dropbox](#)

Or just contact us via the following mail address:

socialmedia.iycn@gmail.com

We would like to encourage you all to provide us with interesting content about your work in the subcommittees, presence of IYCN at conferences, ideas for a fruitful international cooperation, your visions for the network, and/or interesting reports about IYCN related topics. Only with your help we can establish an interesting newsletter which provides you useful information about the organization and recent progress within.

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IYCN Steering Committee Leads

- **Conference Presence**
Catherine M. Rawlins
rawlins.c@husky.neu.edu
- **Finance**
Felicia Lucci
felicia.lucci@gmail.com
- **Governance**
Sophie Carenco
sophie.carenco@gmail.com
- **Public Outreach**
Lori Ferrins
l.ferrins@northeastern.edu
- **Social Media**
Nnanake-Abasi Offiong
nnanakeoffiong@gmail.com

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Contact Information:

International Young Chemists Network

iycn@iupac.org

socialmedia.iycn@gmail.com

iycnglobal.wixsite.com/iycniycn

facebook.com/IYCN.global/

linkedin.com/in/intlyoungerchemistsnetwork/

twitter.com/IntlYoungerChem

Editor:

Sebastian Weber

socialmedia.iycn@gmail.com