

THE INTERNATIONAL YOUNGER CHEMISTS NETWORK NEWSLETTER

February 2021, Issue 13



In this Issue IUPAC

- Greetings from the IYCN Chair
- IYCN participated in the first virtual conference LatinXChem
- IYCN participation in SNIC ChnmSG3 2020
- Latin American Network of Young Scientists working in Chemistry (LANYSC): an initiative to connect chemists from Latin America
- Public Outreach Competition 2021
- Global Women's Breakfast 2021
- IUPAC World Chemistry Congress 2021
- Active Members in the IYCN
- Contact Information

Upcoming Events and Activities in 2021

The next International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN) virtual workshop of the series on professional development skills will focus on Science Outreach (flyer attached) and will take place on February 25th at 2:30 pm CET via GoToWebinar platform.

The workshop is completely FREE but requires registration via the following link: https://bit.ly/Science_Outreach

New Articles About the IYCN

“Chemistry Public Outreach in the Time of COVID-19”, Hossny Ismail, Shaimaa Goher, Soledad Martínez, Adalgisa Martínez-Silveira, *ChemViews* **2020**, DOI: [10.1002/chemv.202000109](https://doi.org/10.1002/chemv.202000109)

“International Younger Chemists Network”, *The Chemical Bulletin* **2020**, 107(10).

“Welcome from IUPAC”, Christopher Brett and Richard Hartshorn. *AsiaChem* 2020, 1, DOI: [10.51167/acm00003](https://doi.org/10.51167/acm00003)



Support Wanted

Do you or your organization want to support IYCN and its progress?

Please contact us via the following e-mail address: iycn@iupac.org.

We are searching for funds to support our activities including the extended development of online activities.

Greetings from the IYCN Chair

2020 has posed many challenges to all of us, and we hope that you are all safe and well. In a year that has seen the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, global attention to the Black Lives Matter movement and increased focus on the value of diversity, there have been many bright moments. We want to take a moment to reflect on all of the achievements that IYCN volunteers have made in this year, and to thank each and everyone member of IYCN for their efforts.

At the beginning of this year, we were enthusiastically searching for opportunities to raise IYCNs profile at conferences and scientific meetings around the world and by March we realized that we would need to pivot. And pivot we did, we sought to organize more collaborative events that gave members the opportunity to engage on a wider platform. We created webinars in collaboration with the European Young Chemists Network (EYCN) that were focused on addressing the misinformation that was prevalent around COVID-19. We launched ChemVoices, a collaboration with IUPAC that seeks to give early-career chemists the opportunity to discuss issues, and topics that are most relevant. The conference presence team has also organized workshops that are focused on providing professional development opportunities like how to write a grant, selecting (and thriving) during graduate school, and many more! We are also about to release videos that were submitted in support of our Virtual Visibility program for early-career chemists and we are excited for you to learn about the research that many of our members have been working on. Of course, you were all engaged throughout this process and many of you have attended one or more of these sessions, so thank you!

This year also saw the successful completion of the second experiment competition, hosted by the public outreach team. Congratulations again to Soledad Martínez and Dr. Adalgisa Martínez-Silveira for their experiment entitled “Detection of the production of CO₂ by *S. cerevisiae* during sugar fermentation and preparation of acid-base indicator.” The public outreach team has also been adding experiments that are free to download from our website, and that are available in multiple languages. This is such a significant undertaking and seeks to make chemistry more accessible around the globe!

We also want to take a moment to thank the Executive Board of IYCN. They have shown incredible leadership and resolve to continue to drive IYCN towards its goals in 2020, despite everything else that has been going on. We would like to highlight the contributions of Dr. Catherine Rawlins (graphic designer), Dr. Natalie LaFranzo (international society liaison team), and Dr. Courtney Ngai (public outreach team) who have each given IYCN their valuable time and who have made the decision to step away from their roles with the network. Thank you for everything that you helped to achieve - being the first graphic designer, starting a new team, and driving the experiment competition and the IYCN translation network, respectively!

We are beyond grateful to have the opportunity to work with each and every one of the enthusiastic volunteers that IYCN attracts. It has been a great privilege and we look forward to the future of IYCN!

Wishing you all the best for 2021,

Lori Ferrins, Bailey Maurant and Fun Man Fung

IYCN participated in the first virtual conference LatinXChem

On September 7th, Latinx scientists from around the world participated in the first LatinXChem conference that took place entirely online through Twitter. The idea and format of this conference were inspired by the Royal Society of Chemistry's #RSCPoster Twitter Conference. In total, more than 1000 scientists shared their posters, which were divided into different categories, according to research area. The event was mainly oriented to Latinx scientists and researchers, but an audience from all around the world was interacting during the 24 hours conference.

IYCN participated in the section of Chemistry Education, using the hashtag #LatinXChemEdu and #Ed53, with the work "IYCN's Experiment Database: Communicating chemistry concepts in different languages". The poster was about one of the projects created and managed by the IYCN Public Outreach team: the experiment database, which features reactions that have been translated in up to 20 languages.

Communication and education are two of the pillars of IYCN; however, communicating chemistry for different audiences is still a challenge, mainly because there are many countries where outreach resources for scientists aren't readily available. Considering this, the Public Outreach team created an experiment database available at <https://www.iycnglobal.com/experiments>. With the help of dozens of volunteers from around the world, several experiments have so far been designed, translated and proof-read, and can be freely downloaded as a PDF file.

Two of the languages in which the experiments are available are Spanish and Portuguese, so it was important for IYCN to show to Latinx scientists that these resources are available and can help professors, lecturers, instructors, and scientists that are looking for outreach material for chemists.

The IYCN poster was liked and retweeted highlighting the potential of virtual events to unite the global chemistry community and to help scientists to divulge their work in an open and easy manner.

Gabriela Tormet-González

IYCN participation in SNIC ChnmSG3 2020

The 3rd Chemistry National Meeting Singapore (ChnmSG3) organised by the Singapore National Institute of Chemistry (SNIC) was held via zoom on 10th September 2020. IYCN was represented by Dr. Fung Fun Man and Teo Rui Yang from the National University of Singapore (NUS), who presented a poster “The International Younger Chemists Network: Connecting, Supporting, Advocating and Empowering Younger Chemists Globally” at the conference. The two speakers discussed the shared goals between IYCN and SNIC reflected in similar events that both organisations have organised in the past. These shared goals include the youth mentorship, public outreach, and the empowerment of women in STEM fields. The two speakers also stressed the importance of strengthening partnerships between IYCN and SNIC, as well as with IUPAC, which both organisations are a part of. The presentation ended with a Q&A segment.

Fun Man Fung



Fun Man Fung (left) together with Teo Rui Yang presenting IYCN at the 3rd Chemistry National Meeting Singapore.

Latin American Network of Young Scientists working in Chemistry (LANYSC): an initiative to connect chemists from Latin America



Latin American Network of Young
Scientists working in Chemistry

LANYSC

Young scientists are becoming more involved in societies and networks due to the dynamic of the present chemistry world. Currently, several initiatives are serving young chemists internationally (e.g. IYCN) as well as locally (chapters on societies). However, an organization dedicated to support the early-career professionals in chemistry from and for Latin American people did not exist.

About 6 months ago, a group of young professionals working in chemistry from Ecuador, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay, and Venezuela decided to organize the Latin American Network of Young Scientists working in Chemistry (LANYSC). The goal of this organization is to serve as a connecting platform among Latin American professionals working in chemistry around the region and to increase the awareness of the scientific work developed by these professionals.

LANYSC's mission is to promote divulgation and encourage scientific and innovation-related initiatives in Latin America to increase collaboration and development between early-career chemists or related professionals from the region. To accomplish this mission, LANYSC's vision is looking to provide a platform that will enhance the interaction, collaboration, and active training of people working on topics and techniques related to chemistry. This platform will allow the sharing of knowledge and resources available in Latin America and the world. Moreover, this platform will allow an expansion of the collaboration opportunities between alumni, researchers, universities, and companies in the world of chemistry.

Unlike other international organizations of young chemists, we understand that the academic training process in our region often takes longer than in other regions of the world and for this reason, LANYSC has not established age limits for membership. We aim to encompass professionals who have completed their last academic degree (undergraduate, specialization, master's or doctorate), and/or have started their independent research career (postdoctoral and/or assistant professor) in recent years.

LANYSC's team of active volunteers developed several activities to serve the aforementioned purposes. The initiative "Latin American Chemists around the World" involves the divulgation, once per week via social media, of a profile of a LatinX early-career chemist. LANYSC also works on the dissemination and promotion of academic events using our social media networks. We share any event related to chemistry and/or other areas that will take place in our region or around the world. In these past weeks, the organization has been planning and looking to host its first webinar and virtual networking events to discuss different topics of interest to young professionals in the Latin American region.

To become a member, you must fill out a form found on the organization's website (<https://latyoungchem.wixsite.com/lanysc>). There is no fee to join the organization. Being an active member or working voluntarily in any of the LANYSC's teams is not mandatory for members, however, this option is recommended to facilitate the creation of links and collaborations with other Latin American colleagues. Moreover, this opportunity could serve as a personal opportunity to develop transferable skills such as leadership, teamwork, communication, etc.

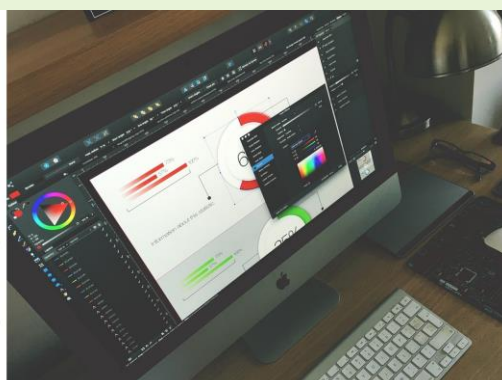
Website: <https://latyoungchem.wixsite.com/lanysc>

Instagram: [lanysc](#)

Twitter: [@LANYSC1](#)

Gabriela D. Tormet-Gonzalez and Julio E. Terán

Graphic Designer Wanted!



We are looking for a new graphic designer! If you're interested, please apply via the following email: socialmedia.iycn@gmail.com. Please send us an example of a flyer about the representation of IYCN at a conference and your CV together with a short motivational statement by **28 February 2021**.

Public Outreach Competition 2021

Stay tuned for the Public Outreach Competition 2021. At the end of November, we announced the topic for this year's competition, Food Chemistry - together with our November SDG theme: Responsible Consumption and Production. You can already start collecting ideas for experiments. More information about the competition will follow soon – so keep an eye on our social media accounts! You can find information about the previous winners and their experiments in the two publications listed below. All information will be announced via our social media channels, and at the website <https://www.iycnglobal.com/experiments>. You can also have a look into our experiment database and read the previous experiments.

2019: Engaging the Next Generation

https://www.chemistryviews.org/details/ezone/11180786/Engaging_the_Next_Generation.html

2020: Chemistry Public Outreach in the Time of COVID-19

https://www.chemistryviews.org/details/ezone/11279433/Chemistry_Public_Outreach_in_the_Time_of_COVID-19.html



#IYCNOutreach #competition #foodchemistry
#chemistry #outreach #experiments

We would like to announce that the theme for the 2021 Outreach Competition is Food Chemistry - stay tuned for more details!



IYCN is looking for additional volunteers for our translation network. Volunteers will be asked to translate or review the translation of one of the experiments in our database. Be a part of communicating chemistry to a global audience! Please email publicoutreach.iycn@gmail.com with the subject line "translation network" if interested.

Global Women's Breakfast 2021



This year's IUPAC Global Women's Breakfast (GWB2021) is happening on **February 9**. Chemists worldwide will be sitting down to breakfast, and the theme for this year is "Empowering Diversity in Science". We encourage you to check out the IUPAC website (<https://iupac.org/gwb/2021/>) to find an event near you, or to organize your own! As of February 2 (one week out from the GWB) there are already 260 breakfasts registered on the website, so you are bound to find one near you! Breakfast events can be small or large, formal or casual, and groups are encouraged to connect with another breakfast if possible.

Successful GWB events in 2019 and 2020 have demonstrated the need to build a network of both women and men working together to address the barriers and inequalities faced by women in science. IYCN enthusiastically supports GWB and several of our members are involved in the task group and are organizing events in their local areas.

If you are interested in hosting a breakfast of your own, you can find all of the relevant information and resources here: <https://iupac.org/gwb/information/>.

IUPAC World Chemistry Congress 2021



The organizing committee of the **IUPAC | CCCE 2021** World Chemistry Congress has decided that this year's conference will be an entirely virtual event to ensure the health and safety of the chemistry community. This means that, although we would be delighted to meet you all in-person, that will not be possible this time.

However, we are very pleased to inform you that we will be organizing the following events under the umbrella of **IUPAC | CCCE 2021**:

- 1) The 2021 IYCN **General Assembly** will be held online immediately prior to the beginning of the formal programming of **IUPAC | CCCE 2021**. We are currently finalizing the list of IYCN Delegates and we will be soliciting nominations for the positions of Chair-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary in the coming months.
- 2) The IYCN virtual symposium on “**The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for the Benefit of Society**” (<https://www.cheminst.ca/conference/ccce2021/program/program-overview/chemistry-for-society/>), under the *Chemistry for Society* theme, which will feature 5 non-invited talks open to the younger chemists community working on the Sustainable Development Goals for the betterment of the Society. The symposium already includes presentations from Luc Allemand (International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development 2022 and Afriscitech), Brenda Koekkoek (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management), and Anindita Bhadra (Global Young Academy).
- 3) The IYCN/ACS Younger Chemists Committee joint workshop “**Younger Chemists’ Soft Skills Development Workshop**” (<https://www.cheminst.ca/conference/ccce2021/program/program-overview/workshops/>).

The abstract submission deadline is quickly approaching on **March 16th, 2021**, and we would very much like to have the support and active participation of the community of younger chemists in the conference, in particular in the events in which IYCN is involved. We encourage you to submit an abstract for our symposium (<http://iupac2021.org>) as we have slots for oral presentations open to those working on the SDGs either on an individual basis or as part of an organization, and to attend our sessions during **CCCE2021**.



Active Members in IYCN



Thomas Odey Magu received his Bachelor of Science with honors in Chemical Sciences from the Cross River University of Technology, Calabar, Nigeria, in 2012. In 2017, he received his Master of Science in Physical Chemistry (Bio-renewable Energy). His early professional career started in 2011 as a quality assurance intern in Joek Laboratories, Calabar, Nigeria. He joined the University of Calabar as a Graduate Assistant in the Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry in February 2016. He served as American Chemical Society, University of Calabar International Student Chapter Faculty Advisor and the President of All Nigeria Students in Beijing China (ANSIC). He is currently a Chinese Government PhD Research Scholar in Chemistry and Physics of Polymers, Institute of Chemistry, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing and also a Lecturer in the Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, University of Calabar, Nigeria.

Selected Awards

- Research patent from the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Presidential Standing Committee on Inventions and Innovations (PSCII), Nigeria
- Scholarship from Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), Nigeria for his M.Sc.
- Chinese Government Scholarship (CSC) for his PhD

Sub-committee/Position: Governance



Ernest Opoku received his B.Sc.(Hons) Chemistry and M.Phil. Theoretical and Computational Chemistry degrees from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana in 2016 and 2019, respectively. Ernest is currently a Ph.D. student in Theoretical and Computational Chemistry at Auburn University, USA. He is also the Leader of the Centre for Molecular Quantum Chemistry, Department of Basic and Computational Sciences, Koachie Health Systems, Accra, Ghana.

Ernest is a member of the Ghana Chemical Society (GCS), the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN).

Selected Awards

- Graduate Fellowship Award, 2020, Auburn University
- KNUST CoS Postgraduate Research Grant, 2019

Sub-committee/Position: International Society Liaison



Bren Mark Felisilda received his B.Sc. in Chemistry in 2008 from Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan (Philippines) and his M.Eng'g in Applied Chemistry in 2014 from Hanbat National University (South Korea). He finished his PhD in Electroanalytical Chemistry last 2018 in Curtin University (Australia) working with Prof Damien Arrigan on an electrochemical strategy for biomolecular detection. He recently started as a PD2PI Fellow at the Institute of Physical Chemistry – Polish Academy of Sciences.

Bren is an active member of the Integrated Chemists of the Philippines, the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and the Royal Society of Chemistry. He recently joined the International Younger Chemist Network and serves as a part of the Social Media team.

Selected Awards:

- Dept of Science and Technology (DOST) Scholarship – 2004-2008
- Hanbat National University Graduate Scholarship – 2012-2014
- Curtin International Postgraduate Scholarship – 2014-2018
- WA Top Finalist – Kelly Future Scientist Award – 2017

Sub-committee/Position: Social Media



Alexander John Cruz received his degree in chemical engineering at the University of the Philippines in 2014. He worked as a process engineer at Shell before pursuing a 1-year fully-funded research stint at the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore at the National University of Singapore. Driven by curiosity in materials science and chemical engineering, Alex's Ph.D. at KU Leuven in collaboration with Vrije Universiteit Brussel and imec, tackles the cross-fertilizing fields of porous materials chemistry and nanotechnology. In general, he is passionate about the translation of lab-based cutting-edge research to industrial-scale process technologies, unconfined by conventional subject boundaries.

Selected Awards:

- Infineon Technologies Ph.D. Pitch, Grant Winner (2019)
- VU Brussels Ph.D. Cup, 1st Place Winner, jury's choice (2018)
- Venice International Academy on Sustainable Energy, 1st Place Poster Award (2018)
- Singapore President's Graduate Fellowship (2016)
- Professor Teodorico Festin Award for Excellence in Chemical Engineering (2014)

Sub-committee/Position: International Society Liaison

IYCN Executive Board



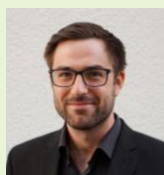
Chair
Lori Ferrins



Chair-Elect
Bailey Maurant



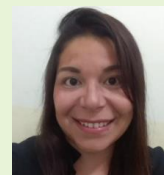
Secretary
Fun Man Fung



Treasurer
Max Männel

Vaccant

Graphic Designer



Webmaster
Gabriela Tormet



Conference Presence
João Borges



Finance
Willis Muganda



Public Outreach
Courtney Ngai



International Society
Liaison
Torsten John



International Society
Liaison
Natalie LaFranzo



Social Media
Sebastian Weber



Governance
Stephen Aderinto

Contact Information



iycn@iupac.org



iycnglobal.com



[linkedin.com/company/iycn/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/iycn/)



socialmedia.iycn@gmail.com



twitter.com/IntlYoungerChem



facebook.com/IYCN.global/

Editor-in-chief: Sebastian Weber, socialmedia.iycn@gmail.com

© 2021, International Younger Chemists Network