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Upcoming Events and Activities in 2019

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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 financial support for travel awards and poster/oral-presentation awards.

Open Position

We are looking for highly motivated chemists to join the IYCN team! Our governance team is looking for people interested in tracking the diversity of our membership, helping formalize relationships with chemical societies and ensuring we are on track to meet our goals.

Furthermore, our International Society Liaison team is looking for people interested in establishing collaborations with chemical societies and organizations in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. If you are interested, please send your CV and a brief statement of interest to IYCN@IUPAC.org if you are interested!
Chair’s Message for the General Assembly

Dear delegates and observers,

Thank you all for attending in person & virtually and my sincere apologies for not being there with you. We are excited to have you and work with you today!

The current IYCN board has worked tirelessly to organize this day and many IYCN events throughout the week as you might have noticed from the full agendas, and I am so grateful and appreciative of each and every one of them. We hope that today you get to reach important milestones for our network by voting on the status & bylaws, electing the next executive team, and setting the new direction of IYCN for the upcoming years.

The past 2 years have been instrumental in building the IYCN board and subcommittee structure, expanding the network, and spreading our message across continents. We are currently reaching 18K+ people monthly and have had representation at 35+ international conferences. Our public outreach team has managed to successfully translate 2 science experiments in 22+ languages and launch an experiment competition, whose winners will be announced this Tuesday. The governance team and the executive board wrote and revised the status and bylaws that you have today, while the social media team has revamped our social media profile and continuously published our accomplishments in our quarterly newsletter. A huge shout out goes to the finance team that raised multiple funds to support our events during this conference.

Our journey up to here has not been a smooth sail, yet we have managed to prevail and march forward thanks to the enthusiasm and passion of the active members and IYCN leaders from 25 different nationalities. Hence, I would like us all to take a moment and thank our members and our fearless role models who have made this happen: Lori, Catie, Courtney, Sebastian, Willis, Bailey, Fatima, Gabi, Sophie, Felicia and the most recent team additions Torsten and Natalie. They are an incredible group of people that have worked relentlessly to establish, develop and improve our network so a huge round of applause goes to them!! I can only hope that the new board learns from their experiences and follows on their footsteps.

I personally feel very fortunate and honored to have worked alongside this group and been a part of this journey, and I’m really excited about the future of IYCN!

Have a great meeting!

Best wishes,

Evijola Llabani, former IYCN Chair (2017 to 2019)
Short Summary IUPAC 2019 Paris

IYCN organized a variety of young-chemist events during the 47th International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) General Assembly and World Congress in Paris, France. This year's conference was a particularly special gathering, as 2019 marks both the 100 year anniversary of IUPAC and the United Nations' International Year of the Periodic Table (IYPT).

Notably, this General Assembly was also the first to take place since IYCN and IUPAC signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2017, establishing IYCN as an IUPAC-affiliated organization. We had a highly visible platform to advertise our events and the ongoing projects within IYCN to a wide international audience. In July alone, IYCN reached nearly 240,000 people through our social media channels and now has over 2,500 followers!

IYCN Recognition at IUPAC Events

IUPAC100 Celebration Ceremony

A unique opening ceremony was held on the conference's main stage to celebrate the many accomplishments of IUPAC100 -- the shining star of which was the Periodic Table of Younger Chemists (PTYC), co-sponsored by IYCN and spearheaded by one of the IYCN's founding members, Dr. Christine Dunne. The final element awardees were announced and recognized on stage before the completed version of the PTYC was unveiled for the first time.

A large portion of this ceremony was devoted to a roundtable discussion between the now-President Elect of IUPAC, Dr. Javier Martinez, and IUPAC100 committee members about the role that younger chemists will play in the future of IUPAC and beyond. One of these IUPAC100 organizers was IYCN’s Dr. Hooi-Ling Lee, who highlighted the ever-quickening momentum of IYCN:

"Currently, I am with the IYCN Public Outreach group. The group started with five very passionate young female chemists from different countries. Now, we have 10 members of both genders. Looking back, it is indeed a great achievement."

She went on to vocalize the importance of younger chemists in facilitating the growth of IUPAC:

"I envision the future of IUPAC will be a platform for younger chemists and senior chemists to collaborate and form an inclusive, forward-looking organization. We will utilize the enthusiastic energy of young chemists, while at the same time receive mentoring from senior chemists."

Also on stage as an IUPAC100 organizer was IYCN Social Media committee member Dr. Nnanake-Abasi O. Offiong. When asked by Javier to name an example of how young scientists make a difference in the chemistry profession, Nnanake cited IYCN’s climate change experiment, describing it as:
"...a source of dynamic change and a way to contact underrepresented groups within our profession."

The IUPAC100 Celebration was a highly attended event and we are excited that IYCN had a strong presence during this ceremony!

IUPAC100 Sorbonne Ceremony

A separate, invitation-only ceremony was hosted later in the week for (mostly) IUPAC Council Members at the Sorbonne University. Following talks from the French Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation, the Vice-President of research at Sorbonne University, and the Director-General of UNESCO, IUPAC President Prof. Qi-Feng Zhou delivered an empowering speech about the current accomplishments and future directions of IUPAC. During this speech, he cited the IYCN as one of the primary avenues through which IUPAC is prioritizing the involvement of younger chemists within the organization. We are very excited to have received this recognition, as it speaks great volumes about the success of IYCN during its first two years as an active organization.

Events Organized by IYCN

General Assembly

After much preparation, IYCN hosted its inaugural General Assembly organized by the Governance steering committee -- a day-long meeting that gathered young chemists from all over the world to determine the future of IYCN. The group consisted of 43 delegates from 33 countries, with no more than two delegates from the same country. Both in-person, and virtual attendance was made possible on the day. The first half of the GA was dedicated to electing the 2019-2021 Executive Board and revising/finalizing IYCN's Statutes & Bylaws. The latter half of the day consisted of a strategic planning session, which reformulated IYCN's Vision and Mission statements and drafted a set of short- and medium-term goals, which will direct the activities for each steering committee over the next 2-5 years. We will continue collecting input from the 2019-2021 IYCN delegates leading up to the next IYCN General Assembly, to be held concurrently with the next IUPAC General Assembly in Montreal, Canada 2021.

IYCN Symposium

Immediate-past Conference Presence Chair, Dr. Catherine Rawlins, facilitated the IYCN Symposium, filled with talks about professional development and the personal success stories of empowered young leaders in chemistry. IYCN had the unique opportunity to interact with Dr. Georg F. L. Wießmeier, the CTO of Sibelco Group, and Ms. Michelle Lucas, a Talent Acquisition Business Partner at Sibelco, as part of a Think Tank discussion which de-mystified the opportunities for younger chemists in a professional industry. We would like to thank the French Young Chemist organizing committee for giving us the opportunity to work with them and for including us in their programming!

A Celebration of Australian Chemistry

IYCN and the Australian Academy of Science (AAS) co-organized a cocktail reception to showcase Australian chemistry research, with an emphasis on highlighting industry and
research opportunities and providing an environment for networking. Opening addresses from Prof. Frances Separovic on behalf of the AAS, Mr. Ken Xie, who is the Premier Secrétaire at the Australian Embassy in France, and Dr. Lori Ferrins on behalf of IYCN emphasized the importance of collaboration.

Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Curriculum Vitae (CV) Workshop

Led by the RSC’s Dr. Robert Bowles, this working lunch unpacked the most effective ways to cater our CV to different job postings. When we prioritize our skills differently according to each and every prospective position, it helps us avoid the “black hole” where our job applications never get read! This workshop served as a particularly engaging event which enabled the best young minds to find the best new jobs.

IUPAC / IYCN Poster Session

The IYCN Conference Presence steering committee assembled and oversaw a highly-attended poster session which highlighted the projects of younger chemists from all around the world, and/or professional development programs open to younger chemists. Posters from each of the IUPAC divisions were also present, along with posters from the ACS and RSC, who were co-sponsors of the event. This provided all the attendees a greater insight into the operations of IUPAC and showcased a fresh perspective on the priorities of today’s international younger chemists.

Bailey Mourant and Lori Ferrins
Linking the on-going research with the International Year of the Periodic Table IYPT2019 and the related events – the 3rd Chemistry Conference of Graduate, Postgraduate students and PhD candidates in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and the PhotoDaLu team activities

The year 2019 has been proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly and adopted by the UNESCO as the International Year for the Periodic Table (IYPT2019) for the celebration of 150 years since its publication by Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev. This year, IUPAC is also celebrating 100 years since its foundation. These two occasions make the year 2019 highly important both for chemists and also for the whole society. Numerous events and other initiatives have already been held, are ongoing, or have been scheduled aiming to highlight the importance of chemistry and the role of the Periodic Table of Elements in the progress of technology and society overall. Undoubtedly, significant contribution to that end have had the IUPAC 47th World Chemistry, the smaller, local events are equally important and altogether contribute with a very positive impact in the dissemination efficiency on a global basis.

One of these numerous local Chemistry Conferences taking place around the world in 2019 is the upcoming 3rd Chemistry Conference of Graduate, Postgraduate students and PhD candidates in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, to be held on 22nd and 23rd November 2019. The conference organized by the Association of Greek Chemists, the Chemists Network of Northern Greece and the Chemistry Department of the University of Thessaloniki, is dedicated to IYPT2019. Themed activities regarding the Periodic Table of Elements, its importance and the societal impact, have been envisaged. Particularly, short presentations will be given by undergraduate, postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers. The subjects will cover the importance of the chemical element(s) in the progress of the society and their impact since their discovery. During the event, special attention will be given in linking the selected chemical elements by the participants with their current on-going research activity at the University of Thessaloniki, when possible. In this vein, my research team – PhotoDaLu – will be
participating with a presentation regarding noble metals and other elements, currently in-use during our on-going research towards chemiluminescence induced photochemistry and catalysis which lies on the epicenter of our interests (you can find more information at https://photodalu.wordpress.com). Our research is funded by the Hellenic General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) and the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI) with a 3-years grant (agreement No. 776), while we have planned a wide range of outreaching activities including similar actions. Outreach will be prepared in a simplified language targeting also a broader general audience for the promotion of our team’s research outcomes, the IYCN activities and chemistry in general. You can find all the details for the up-coming conference at https://3chemauth.wordpress.com/info-in-english/.

Michael A. Terzidis,

IUPAC’s Periodic Table of Younger Chemists

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of IUPAC and the International Year of the Periodic Table, IUPAC and IYCN announced the creation of a Periodic Table of Younger Chemists. Beginning in July 2018 and ending in July 2019 at the World Chemistry Congress and IUPAC General Assembly in Paris, we honored a diverse group of 118 outstanding younger chemists from around the world. You can find all awardees on the website for the Periodic Table of Younger Chemists.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)
German Chemical Society (GDCh)
E&B Educational Resources
Schrödinger
Pearson Education
Chemical Abstract Service (CAS)
ACS Committee on International Activities
Royal Netherlands Chemical Society (KNCV)
BCNP
Sibelco
The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)
IYCN Experiment Competition Winners

The winners of our Experiment Competition were announced during IUPAC 2019 in Paris. Congratulations to the teams, Agboluaje Saheed Alabi from Nigeria and Hayden Clum / Jayquelyn Cetola from the US. Both teams received a prize of 250 USD, one sponsored by Pearson and the other by IYCN. The experiments will be translated and provided to the public on our website soon.

Does beach sand filter pollution from water?

Agboluaje Saheed Alabi

Filtering tap water or a oil/water mix through beach sand demonstrates differential filtration.

From the judges: “This experiment was really well thought out and hit on all the main points while combining great context to students.”

Ocean Acidity Lab

Hayden Clum
Jacquelyn Cetola

Shows students how adding CO₂ to water makes the solution more acidic, and how this provides the conditions necessary for an acid base reaction.
IYCN at NERM-2019, NY, USA

IYCN Secretary Fatima Mustafa attended the 42nd Northeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (NERM2019) which took place in Saratoga Springs, NY in June 23-26th, 2019. The conference was hosted by the Eastern New York Section (ENY-ACS) and showed the multidisciplinary nature of chemistry with a focus on nanotechnology, energy, and colloid and surface sciences. IYCN was promoted with distributing promotional materials among young chemists, especially during the poster session and the younger chemist committee (YCC) luncheon. IYCN was also delighted to obtain a message for young chemists from the plenary speaker, 2017 Nobel Laureate Dr. Joachim Frank. Young undergraduate and graduate students, early career chemists and senior chemists were happy to hear about our international network and many showed interest to join or to promote IYCN among their mentees and students.

Fatima Mustafa

Left: L-R Zahed Wajdan and Kevin Kirk (Clarkson University), Fatima Mustafa (IYCN secretary), Dina Moustafa and Chelsea Sweet (William Paterson University), Valerie Lenigk (Schenectady County community College), right: 2017 Nobel Laureate Dr. Joachim Frank.

Left: L-R Lawson Castaldo (Niagara University), Kevin Kirk (Clarkson University), right: 2017 Nobel Laureate Dr. Joachim Frank’s message to IYCN: “Dear Students: If you have a clever idea, don’t let yourselves to be talked out of it.”
Former IYCN Executive Board

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Lori Ferrins  Vice-Chair
Fatima Mustafa  Secretary
Catie Rawlins  Conference Presence Chair
Willis Collins  Finance Chair
Akeyo Muganda
Bailey Mourant  Governance Chair
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Contact Us

International Younger Chemists Network
iycn@iupac.org
socialmedia.iycn@gmail.com
iycnglobal.com
linkedin.com/company/iycn/
twitter.com/IntlYoungerChem
facebook.com/IYCN.global/

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