



International Younger Chemists Network – Executive Board

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Proposal on the future relationship & collaboration between the IYCN and IUPAC

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Dear Professor García-Martínez,
Dear Dr Soby,
Dear IUPAC Leadership,

The Executive Board of the International Younger Chemists Network (IYCN) would like to acknowledge the continuous and invaluable support of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) over the past seven years. The IYCN was established as a task force during the ACS Fall National Meeting in Boston (USA) in 2015, and formed its initial structures at the EuChemS Chemistry Congress in Seville (Spain) in 2016. The IYCN's official launch as an associated organization (AO) of IUPAC was underscored with an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was signed at the IUPAC World Chemistry Congress in São Paulo (Brazil) in July 2017.

The MoU between the IYCN and IUPAC was set to be in effect for five years (1.2.) with the option to amend, update, or extend it at any time upon agreement by both parties (4.1.). The current MoU expired in July and **we would like to ask IUPAC to extend it** and include possible amendments after a discussion between the IYCN and IUPAC.

IUPAC has been instrumental with its logistic and administrative support of the IYCN's finances, mentoring as well as the promotion of our organization during its establishment and growth phase. We can look back at several successful collaborative projects, such as the Periodic Table of Younger Chemists, the ChemVoices webinars series, and the Global Conversation on Sustainability, but also initiatives led by the IYCN to promote IUPAC activities, such as the ongoing webinar series on the IUPAC Top Ten Emerging Technologies in Chemistry.

As a truly international network with the vision to "connect and empower younger chemists globally", we strongly believe that the values of the IYCN and IUPAC have many things in common. We thus want to propose to IUPAC to **consider a closer formal relationship between the IYCN and IUPAC** beyond the status as an AO. The IYCN would be truly honored to **become an integral part of IUPAC as a substructure within the organization**, and we would like to discuss this option with you. Organizations such as the EYCN in Europe (part of EuChemS), the YCC in the US (part of the ACS), the JCF in Germany (part of the GDCh), or the JIQ in Spain (part of RSEQ) are examples of early-career networks. All these networks are formally part of their respective chemical societies, while IUPAC does not have an early-career network on its own. Many members of the chemistry community currently also believe that the IYCN is already the younger chemists' section of IUPAC, as has also been apparent in IUPAC's recent structure review. We thus believe that it would be mutually beneficial to join our efforts as one organization.

We understand that such a step requires several discussions and approval steps, and, thus, we would like to request an extension of the MoU until an integration can be achieved (if desired). To expedite the discussions, we summarize some of the aspects that would be important to the IYCN to be discussed:

- **Membership fees:** Membership to the IYCN is free of charge. We would like to keep this but we understand that there would be the need to discuss how this could be realized. An option could be an IYCN-only free membership or an IUPAC membership which is free for “young chemists”. The latter may attract some members to IUPAC that may remain as members once they are no longer eligible to be IYCN members. Membership for young chemists at national societies is usually connected to substantially reduced fees or is free, while societies such as the GDCh or ACS also provide fellowships to their young members to attend conferences, which makes membership attractive. Our free IYCN membership allows young chemists to join regardless of their financial background and increases the reach of IUPAC-IYCN projects.
- **Delegates at the IYCN:** The IYCN currently accepts delegate nominations from all 193 UN member states. We would have to discuss whether and how this can be continued as we want to remain a truly global network, i.e. without being limited to countries which have National Adhering Organizations (NAOs) at IUPAC. The fees to become an NAO represent a major financial burden for some societies, and some countries are not organized into chemical societies. Our goal is to remain inclusive for all younger chemists.
- **Independence of the IYCN:** It is important to the IYCN that the network can continue to run its own projects, sponsoring, Social Media and outreach in an independent dynamic manner, while regularly (annually or semi-annually) exchanging with the IUPAC Secretariat and Leadership. We believe that this dynamic is important to keep the ideation of new projects and motivation of volunteers high.

We are looking forward to hearing from IUPAC about their expectations and whether you can envision such an integration of the IYCN into IUPAC and how this could be realized. We are looking forward to your feedback and ideas.

Last, but not the least, our delegates have approved us to start discussions with IUPAC on integrating the IYCN into IUPAC (100% voted in favor with 46.97% voter turnout). Our proposal has also been endorsed by former Chairs of the IYCN, namely Dr. João Borges (2021-2022) and Dr. Lori Ferrins (2019-2021).

On behalf of the IYCN Executive Board,



Dr. Torsten John
Chair of the IYCN