



NIGERIAN YOUNG ACADEMY

THE NEXT DECADE OF MY SCIENTIFIC CAREER

**The Academic Trajectory and
Ambition of NYA Members
2010 – 2020**

VOLUME I

NIGERIAN YOUNG ACADEMY

**THE NEXT DECADE OF
MY SCIENTIFIC CAREER**

**The Academic Trajectory and Ambition of
NYA Members
2010 – 2020**

Volume I

**Compiled on behalf of the NYA by
Charles Adetunji
Oluwabunmi Oyeboode
Anthony Ugbenyen**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	3
Preface	4
Acknowledgements	5
The Executive Council (2019 – 2021)	6
The Year Book Committee	7
The Emergence and Evolution of the Nigerian Young Academy.....	8
NYA Executive Council Members since Inception	22
Members	24
Fellows	26
Members Profile	27
Fellows Profile	81



Foreword

I was there when the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) was launched on the 30th of August 2010 at the Redeemer's University, Mowe (now at Ede). My team had been involved in discussing and negotiating the need to have an academy comprising young academics of Nigerian extraction, and making the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) to midwife the birth. Establishing the NYA was in line with the evolving a movement to identify and motivate distinguished young researchers (below 45 years of age) for global relevance as they continue to strive for excellence in their pursuit of world class research. The NYA was launched at the close of a two-day workshop (29-30 August, 2010) and has since gone on to become one of the foremost young academies in Africa.

Fast forward to eleven years later, the NYA members have added many feathers to their caps. Many have now been promoted to the professorship cadre and have held high offices in their various institutions. They have also gone on to make their marks in several global bodies, including the umbrella body for young academies, the Global Young Academy (GYA). More importantly, their contribution to knowledge in their various areas of specialization, which span all fields of knowledge in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities, is noteworthy.

I consider it a privilege to write a foreword to this first compendium of the members of the Nigerian Young Academy since its inception eleven years ago. I have always been a lover of stories, especially biographical and historical. I see it as a very powerful way of driving home a message, albeit subtly at times.

I believe that reading about these scholars will go a long way to give a clear picture of the upside of Nigerian academics and perhaps encourage those who have written off research in Nigeria to have a rethink. I also expect these stories to inspire younger people to aspire to distinguish themselves in their different careers like the academics whose academic trajectories are presented in this book. Finally, reading these stories will certainly affirm that there is hope for Nigeria, the African continent, and indeed, our world!

Dr M. Oladoyin Odubanjo

Executive Secretary

The Nigerian Academy of Science

Lagos, 2nd of August, 2021



Preface

In today's rapidly evolving world, ten years is a long time. We have chosen to mark the first ten years of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) by taking stock of the pedigree of members since inception. This compendium was originally conceived at the start of 2020 and was scheduled to be released during the 10th Anniversary celebrations. However, the COVID-19 pandemic created challenges that we have now finally managed to surmount. The efforts of the committee that compiled this volume (Drs Charles Adetunji, Oluwabunmi Oyeboode and Anthony Ugbenyen) are indeed noteworthy.

The NYA currently comprises 58 members, including 12 females. Fellows (that is, former members) of the Academy are now 52 in number, including seven females. Based on their disciplinary backgrounds, the members are organised into three broad working groups: Biological and Health Sciences with 31 members; Physical, Engineering and Technology with 19 members; and Social Sciences and Humanities with eight members. These numbers show that while progress has been made over time, the Academy still suffers gender and disciplinary disparities. The Academy continuously strives towards closing these gaps, with steps such as raising the age limit for aspiring female members to 45 years against 40 years for male members.

Over the years, the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) has consistently nurtured the NYA. We have enjoyed the support of the NAS Secretariat led by Dr Oladoyin Odubanjo, as well as the rank and file of NAS. Indeed, the last 10 years have been productive, and we look forward to the next 10 with anticipation of higher productivity.

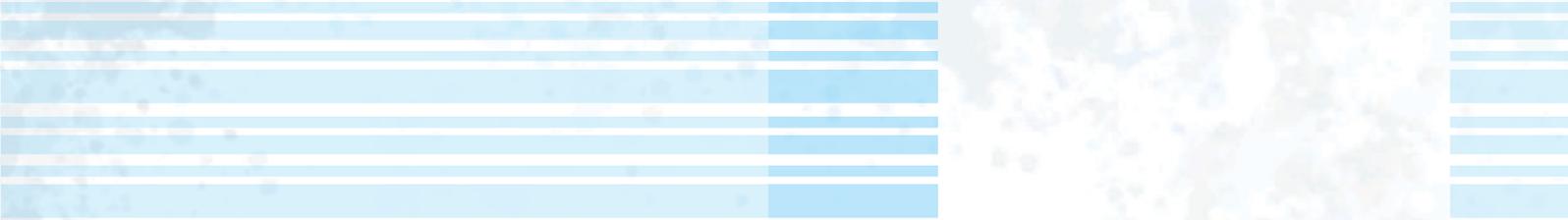
By the very design of the NYA membership selection process, it is certain that the members, who become fellows after five years of membership, possess very competitive research profiles. This compendium is our way of telling our story – a story of hope that is embedded in the potentials of our country's youthful talent; a story of legacies that the past generations can look back upon; and a story of prospects that future generations can look up to. With this aim in mind, it is my pleasure to present to you this compendium that documents the trajectory and future outlook of some of Nigeria's finest young scientists and academics.

Dr Abiodun Egbetokun

President (August 2019 - August 2021)

The Nigerian Young Academy

Ile-Ife, 2nd of August, 2021



Acknowledgements

We specially thank Dr. Kehinde Ayoola of the Department of English, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State for the editorial support which he graciously provided for this work. Dr Idowu Kazeem's work on the layout and photographs is well appreciated. Our immense gratitude also goes to the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) Secretariat under the leadership of Dr. Oladoyin Odubanjo, the Executive Secretary. We appreciate the administrative support of Mr. Samuel Shofuyi of NAS. We also thank Mr. Oseghale Ehilen for the secretariat support he has provided. And we say a special thank you to Professor Emmanuel Unuabonnah (the pioneer President) and all the founding fathers of the Nigerian Young Academy.

The Executive Committee (2019 – 2021)



Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun
President



Dr. Aliyu Muhammad
Vice-President



Dr. M. Idowu Kazeem
General Secretary



**Dr. Muhammad
Auwal Ibrahim**
Assistant General Secretary



Dr. Isaac Akinwumi
Financial Secretary



Dr. Lukman Olasukanmi
Treasurer



Dr. Chinwe Chukwudi
Publicity Secretary



Dr. Anthony Ugbenyen
Technical & Logistics Secretary



Dr. Temitope Olomola
Ex-Officio I



Dr. Oluwatosin Rotimi
Ex-Officio II

THE YEAR BOOK COMMITTEE



Dr. Charles O. Adetunji
Edo State University, Uzairue



Dr. Oluwabunmi O. Oyebode
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife



Dr. Anthony M. Ugbenyen
Edo State University, Uzairue

THE EMERGENCE AND EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN YOUNG ACADEMY

Synopsis

Ten years after the establishment of the Nigerian Young Academy, a lot has happened in the lifetime of the Academy that could simply be summarised as the good, the bad and the ugly. This introduction presents the growth of the Academy by highlighting lessons learnt and explaining some of the measures taken that have led to the emergence of an active and thriving Young Academy. It also highlights some administrative steps that have been taken to sustain a broad national membership in an Academy with a limited period of membership.

Background

An academy is a type of national merit-based learned society dedicated to a defined field of knowledge that may or may not be state funded. There are academies of science, arts, engineering, education and letters. In some countries, some of these academies exist differently while others have been merged. Since 2010 when the Global Young Academy (GYA) was founded, there has been an increase in the number of national young academies around the world.¹ The young academies presently operate a national unified platform for all young researchers irrespective of discipline and generally have a four- or five-year single tenure of membership. Nigeria was privileged to have five (5) young scientists who were part of the founding members of the GYA and these were also instrumental to the creation of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA).

Establishment of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA)

In Nigeria, the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) facilitated a workshop at the Redeemer's University, Mowe (from 29th – 30th August, 2010) to establish the NYA. The Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) was inaugurated on Monday, August 30, 2010 at the close of the Inaugural Workshop held at the Redeemers University, Mowe (now Ede). Some key participants at the inauguration were the incumbent President of the Nigeria Academy of Science, Prof. Oye Ibidapo-Obe; the first Vice President of the Nigerian Academy of Education, Prof. Nduka Otonti; and the Vice President of the Nigerian Academy of Engineering, Prof. Ayodele Ogunye. Professor Oyewale Tomori, the then Vice-Chancellor of the Redeemer's University who later became president of the Nigerian Academy of Science, was also instrumental to the establishment of the Academy.²



Figure 1: The Inauguration Workshop of the NYA held in August 2010.

After the inauguration of the NYA, the president and vice presidents of the senior academies present at the occasion, and Prof. Oyewale Tomori selected twelve participants as members of a steering committee. The members of the steering committee included: Dr. E.I. Unuabonah, Redeemer's University, Mowe (now Ede) (Chairman); Dr. O.M. Akpa, Redeemer's University, Mowe (now Ede) (Secretary); Dr. O.O. Omorefosa, University of Benin, Benin City; Dr. A.J. Akindele, University of Lagos, Lagos; Dr. A.E. Ofomaja, University of Benin, Benin City (now deceased); Dr. I.C. Uzochukwu, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka; Dr. M.N. Ekor, Redeemer's University, Mowe (now Ede); Dr. O.S. Asaolu, University of Lagos, Lagos; Dr. S.I. Ola, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife; Dr. P. Ekemezie, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka; Dr. T.N. Obiekezie, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka; and Dr. M.O. Ogundiran, University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

The steering committee's mandate was to steer the new Young Academy to her first General Assembly (GA) where the first set of members and executive committee would be inducted and elected, respectively. They were given a mandate of eight months to achieve this goal. The feat was achieved as the first 23 members of the NYA were inducted and a set of officials (a 7-member executive committee) was elected to lead the NYA for 2 years at the First General Assembly and Scientific Conference held at the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO) from 23rd–25th May, 2011.

Scope, Operation and Activities of the NYA

The scope of the Nigerian Young Academy is to provide recognition for excellence and raise the profile of young researchers nationally. Additionally, members are expected to play a crucial role as inspirational figures for a new generation of researchers, and raise the profile of Science, Humanities, Arts and Education. The NYA is the unified platform for the exchange of ideas across disciplines and regions, nurturing outstanding and aspiring young academics and professionals towards improving the state of the nation.

To ensure the smooth operations within the NYA, a policy document and constitution was formulated at its inception. This has since been reviewed and adopted for use by the Academy. This document essentially guides the general operations of the Academy and is upheld by the Executive Committee (EC) under the leadership of the President of the Academy. The EC meet virtually on a monthly basis and holds two physical meetings annually. The General Assembly (comprising all current NYA members) is the highest decision-making body of the NYA. After a membership tenure of five years, a member exits the NYA and subsequently conferred the fellowship of the academy – Fellow NYA.



Figure 2: Some of the First Batch of NYA Fellows (standing) with Members of the High Table (seated) at the 2016 General Assembly held at Sheraton Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos.

With a national membership spread but a lack of permanent physical secretariat infrastructure, operating a secretariat is an area where considerable time and effort has to be invested to have a functional Academy. The secretariat is mobile but robust enough to efficiently handle the operations of the NYA. The secretariat under the leadership of the General Secretary and the President, administers issues such as issuing membership certificates (given alongside the constitution to new members during induction), providing membership information and register, general correspondence with NYA members, GYA and other interested parties, and keeping full digital records of all Academy documents. However, there are ongoing efforts towards having a permanent physical secretariat in the near future. A request for secretariat space is currently under consideration at the Covenant University. Meanwhile, the Nigerian Academy of Science is presently hosting the NYA's Project Assistant employed at the beginning of 2021, being a further step in the Academy's efforts to have a physical secretariat.

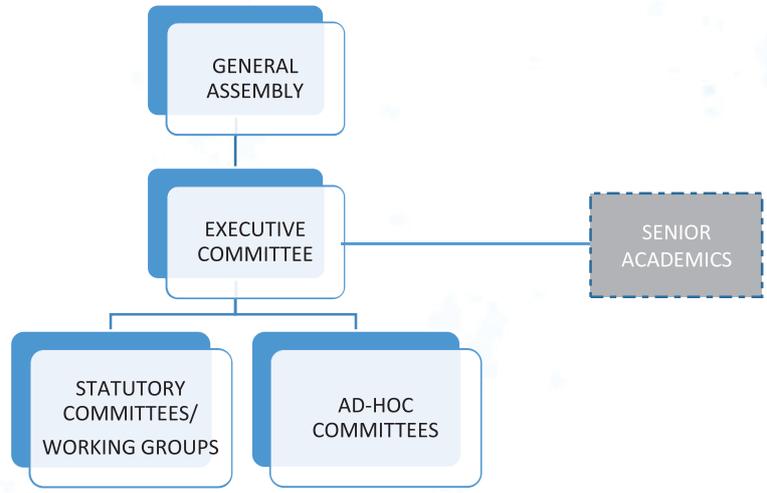


Figure 3: The NYA Organogram

The financial officers (President, Financial Secretary and Treasurer) meet regularly to attend to financial needs, plans and strategies. They are the enforcers of the Financial Regulations of the Academy (a separate document which spells out the general financial privileges and limits within the Academy). Vouchers are raised in respect of any payment to be made and receipts as well as spending profiles are normally requested from whoever receives funds. Cheques and electronic transfers are the main modes used for payments thereby reducing direct cash operations to a minimum.

The NYA publishes a quarterly newsletter which has grown to become a good way of keeping the membership and friends of the Academy updated with activities in the Academy and progress of members and Fellows.³ This and other publicity initiatives are driven by the Publicity Committee led by the Publicity Secretary. In addition, the Annals of Science and Technology, an official Journal of the Academy has continued to grow and is now in the fourth volume. The journal receives contributions from far and wide and has lived up to the reputation of being a high impact journal with international acknowledgements.

The Academy operates three distinct working groups:

- (i) Biological and Medical Sciences
- (ii) Physical Sciences, Engineering and Technology
- (iii) Social Sciences and Humanities

Every member is expected to belong to at least one of these groups under the leadership of a chairperson. These working groups have the mandate of coordinating research activities among members taking into cognizance the common interest of members and engaging in communal outreach within the NYA. Having identified four cardinal sustainable development goals (SDG4: Quality Education, SDG5: Gender Equality, SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation & SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) as short to medium term target areas where the NYA has relevant and growing competence, these working groups drive a significant part of the actualisation of the identified goals through their activities. The working groups now have access to seed funding from the Academy to enable them kick-start their projects. They have the task of sourcing additional funding from external sources in driving their projects further.

The Academy utilises committee systems in the execution of tasks, most of which are on an ad-hoc basis. As an Academy with service and volunteerism as part of her core values, all members are given opportunity to serve on committees (appointed by the Executive Committee) thereby availing members avenues to express themselves freely and air their views while working as part of a team.

Membership

From the very beginning, the Academy has operated with the firm realisation that an Academy is as strong as its membership. Excellence has remained the keyword on the conscience of the Academy and that is always been the basis for the selection of new members into the Academy. The system of recruitment of new members is a peer-review merit-based process that involves all members of the Academy. Although the constitution allows for a maximum capacity of 100, the membership of the Academy is yet to cap 70. The admission rate is currently at an average of 17% of annual applications with the Academy consistently sensitising eligible colleagues across the country about the benefits of NYA membership. This is a reflection of the strong standards that the Academy enforces. As an example of the seriousness attached to discipline and academic integrity, the Academy has, in some cases in the past, removed some of its executive members for not living up to their responsibilities. A few members have faced disciplinary committees and ended up losing their membership for unethical behaviours.

The peer-review process entails three rigorous stages the first of which is the pre-screening stage during which all applications are shortlisted based on the general advertised eligibility criteria and each application is then classified for peer-review under the relevant working group. The next stage, carried out within each working group, involves the assessment of each application received by three different reviewers from within the Academy (including Fellows of the Academy) who use a list of well-defined parameters (including qualification, recent high visibility publications, fellowship awards, research relevance, recent conference attendance, and professional affiliations)

in scoring the applications for membership they receive. The point-by-point allocation as well as the overall score by each reviewer is then presented to the working group by the Chairperson for consideration and consent. The report of all applications sent to each working group is then presented to the EC.

The third stage is the presentation of the ranked applications to the General Assembly through the President for consideration. Once the General Assembly considers the report and approval is given, the full report of the entire application for the year under review is sent to the Nigerian Academy of Science for transparency and advisory purposes. It is only after this is done that the candidates are notified of the result of their application. The whole process of assessment is completed in three months. The current membership of the Academy is comprised of individuals across all the six geopolitical zones in the country, which includes those from both the academia and research institutes. Efforts geared at encouraging greater female membership amidst consideration of their specific roles as mothers are now factored into the membership admission criteria of the Academy.

One of the challenges the Academy has experienced over the years is with helping potential and previously unsuccessful applicants understand the objectivity of the membership admission process while disabusing their minds of feelings that the Academy's membership criteria and admission are unfair. To this end, the advertisement and admission forms have been modified recently, removing perceived ambiguities identified by potential and unsuccessful applicants.

General Meetings

With the spread of membership across the country, the annual General Meeting has been carefully moved around different venues to reflect the national identity of the Academy. The Annual General Meeting (also referred to as the General Assembly) is the only compulsory event that members are expected to attend annually and failure to do so attracts appropriate sanctions backed by the constitution of the Academy. The event which held as a physical meeting from 2011 to 2019 has also entailed financial and logistic support from the hosting university. Of the nine general meetings held till date, only one was held outside a university and it was in conjunction with the NAS in 2016 (with funding from NAS and TWAS-ROSSA). The 2016 event was organised as an international conference with participants drawn from several African countries including Ghana, Benin, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Kenya, Egypt, Sudan, Senegal, Uganda and Ethiopia. There was a strong resolve to work together at the end of the conference. Some of the events have been held in institutions where the Academy does not actually have any member to attract young intellectuals in such institutions and those around them to apply to become members of the Academy. With the hard work of the Central Organizing Committee and support from the hosting university and the NAS, the events have been successful.

The General Assembly have always been held alongside annual conferences during which members and non-members (most of whom are also young or mid-career researchers) have the opportunity to present some of their research findings and also engage in critical discussions on topical issues. Awards for best presentation in both oral and poster sections are given during these

annual conferences to serve as encouragement for guest presenters. The General Assembly is however not open to non-members (including Fellows of the Academy) as this is an exclusive meeting for only current members of the Academy. The meeting normally gives an opportunity for the President to present an annual report of activities carried out by the Academy during the year under consideration, while submitting the planned activities for the coming year to the GA. At the GA, the Academy's financial report is also presented while constitutional clarification or amendment and elections (in the case of an election year) are also done.

The NYA remains profoundly grateful to the Vice-Chancellors and management of the following institutions for the support received during the respective periods of hosting the Academy's GA and annual conferences: Federal University of Technology, Owerri (May 2011); Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka (June 2012); University of Ibadan, Ibadan (July 2013); University of Ilorin, Ilorin (July 2014); Federal University of Technology, Minna (May 2015); TWAS-ROSSA (August 2016); Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun (August 2017); University of Medical Sciences, Ondo (August 2018); and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (August 2019). In December 2020, occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Academy hosted a hybrid 10th Anniversary and GA with the support of the University of Lagos. The event which had no conference component was held at the NSPRI Guest House Annex. NAS has also consistently supported every annual GA and conferences.

As expected of an Academy that remains active all year round, some meetings are held online to attend to issues of urgent importance and other matters the EC considers can be handled virtually.

Finance

As expected, organising the various NYA events require funds. Members pay an annual due that enables the EC function administratively while seeking for better funding opportunities that will assist with the execution of major activities in the Academy. Every hosting university has generously provided cash and in-kind support to the NYA while hosting various activities. Support from the NAS has been enormous over the years and for this the NYA is immensely grateful. In-kind support has also been received from bodies such as Inqaba Biotech, May & Baker Nigeria Plc., and Africa Center of Excellence on Neglected Tropical Diseases and Forensic Biotechnology (ACENTDFB), Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria. Some individuals and organisations have also supported the Academy in cash donations and these include Mr. Nakama Keri, Dr. Boladale Adebawale, FUNMAN, Nigeria Limited, Finlab Nigeria Limited and Department of Systems Engineering, University of Lagos.

The NYA has received sole or joint grants from the U.S. Department of State through the U.S. Consulate General Lagos, Nigeria (2016), The World Academy of Sciences Regional Office for sub-Saharan Africa (TWAS-ROSSA) (2016), IAP-Carnegie Harnessing Science, Engineering and Medicine to Meet Africa's Challenges Small Grants Scheme (2017), main and supplementary InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) African Academies Diaspora Fellows Program (AADFP) (2018), COVID-19 Africa Rapid Grant Fund (2020) etc. In addition, the NYA has also received

several Travel grants from the NAS, GYA, IAP, Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) and Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF).

The process of applying for grants, executing projects and reporting with documentation has helped us grow in our own accountability as an Academy. We have also realised that the integrity that comes with carrying out each project right is basically what opens the door for the next opportunity. It also took some time for us to gain our footing as an Academy before exploring these funding opportunities. It takes a good foundation to build a lasting structure and so the first few years of putting our roots down has now given birth to the rising shoot that is now able to explore diverse opportunities.

National Awards

With a view to encouraging other early to mid-career researchers who are not members of the NYA, six annual competitive awards have been instituted in recognition of excellent young researchers in the country. These awards are part of the Academy's contribution (in collaboration with donors) to promoting the development of science and technology as well as a robust research culture (in line with global best practice) in Nigeria. Original research, excellence and societal relevance of research works presented are considered as topmost factors in assessing these applications. Members of the Academy are not allowed to contest for these awards so as to avoid any form of conflict of interest. The prizes have become very competitive and there are now cases of up to three candidates scoring far above 70% (the minimum eligibility score) in some of the categories. The Academy administers the award by releasing a call for application, assessing the applications received within the working groups in the Academy (similar to the peer-review method used for membership) and receiving the General Assembly's approval for recommended winners. The donors are then contacted with a full breakdown of the process leading up to the choice or otherwise of winners.

These prizes are kind donations from senior erudite scholars who out of their generosity fund the prizes monetarily while the Academy provides a certificate as well as fund the administration of the prizes. All except one of the current prize donors are Fellows of Senior Academies in Nigeria of which four are Fellows of NAS and one is a Fellow of Nigerian Academy of Letters. In all, the Academy now administers seven national prizes: Professor Oyewale Tomori National Young Scientist Prize in Microbiology (instituted in 2013); Professor Aderemi Kuku National Young Scientist Prize in Mathematical Sciences (instituted in 2013); Professor Kayode Adebowale National Young Scientist Prize in Chemistry (instituted in 2014); Professor Friday E. Okonofua Young Scientist Prize in Health Sciences (instituted in 2016); Professor Kayode Adebowale National Young Scientist Prize for Women in Chemistry (instituted in 2017); Prof. Olurotimi Taiwo National Young Researcher Prize in Linguistics (instituted in 2018); and Prof Hillary Inyang National Young Scientist Prize in Geoenvironmental Sciences (instituted in 2021).

Relationships

The Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) has been the only Senior National Academy that the NYA has remained in good relationship with. From the very beginning when NAS facilitated the

establishment of the NYA, NAS has remained a true Senior Academy providing oversight and supportive roles in many ways to the NYA. This understanding relationship culminated in the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two academies in 2017. Pursuant to this MOU, NAS has continuously provided financial and administrative support as well as mentorship to the NYA at organizational, individual and group levels. The NYA submits an annual report of her activities to NAS for consideration. Efforts to connect better with the other Senior Academies in the country are still on-going. The NYA looks forward to being able to relate with all Senior Academies in a truly close manner.

Apart from a number of former members of the NYA serving as members of the GYA in the past, the NYA relates well with other National Young Academies within the African sub-region. There have been previous inter-academy collaborations and interactions culminating in the establishment of a Liaison Office at the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) office in Nairobi. The NYA has participated in the four worldwide meetings of young academies (WWMYA) that have been facilitated by the GYA. These meetings have provided platforms for note comparison and cross-fertilisation of ideas among different young academies across the world. An outcome of the WWMYA is the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Young Academies that was launched at the World Science Forum in Budapest, Hungary in November 2019 and the NYA is a signatory to this declaration.

Advocacy and Workshops

Beyond the General Assemblies and annual conferences, the NYA has been involved in organizing workshops for young scientists with the aim of mentoring younger scientists. Several of these events have been organized in collaboration with NAS, other African Academies (senior and young), research institutes, and universities that have served as host institutions for these events. The Academy now organizes an average of three workshops a year on different general, specialized and research related issues. These events give room for some hands-on demonstration and general deliberations on the thematic focus while affording selected participants the opportunity of showcasing some of their research findings. Case studies (some of which are NYA developed) and round table discussions are also included in these workshops. Pre- and post-workshop questionnaires are normally administered to help gauge the expectation of some participants as well as quantify the workshops' deliverables. The first of these workshops was held in October, 2011 at the Covenant University, Ota, with the theme 'Essentials of Quality Research Output'.

The National Workshop for Chemical Scientists with the theme “Recent Advances in Chemistry” was held between 24th and 26th March, 2013 at the National Secretariat of the Nigerian Academy of Science within the University of Lagos. In 2014, NYA held two workshops for young researchers in collaboration with the Postgraduate School, University of Ibadan, Ibadan. The success of the first workshop held mainly for scientists between the 12th and 13th of March 2014, inspired the Postgraduate School, University of Ibadan, to initiate a second one for researchers in the Social Sciences and Humanities between 14th and 15th May 2014. A workshop for Young Statisticians on “Recent Advances in Smoothing and Regression for Longitudinal, Spatial and Event History Data” was held at the University of Ilorin on 7th and 8th July, 2014 in conjunction

with the University's Department of Statistics. The report of this workshop was featured in the World Statistics Newsletter (August 26, 2014; Volume 1, Issue 10).⁴

A Research for Development workshop was organized by the NYA and hosted by the National Mathematical Centre, Abuja in 2015. Capacity Building Workshop for Young (Early-Career) Women Academics in Nigeria organised by the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) in conjunction with the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) with the support of the United States Consulate General Lagos and hosted by the College of Medicine University of Lagos (CMUL) and the BRAINS initiative on 15th and 16th June, 2016. The first anti-plagiarism workshop organised by the NYA was hosted by Covenant University, Ota on the 5th of February, 2018. As part of an IAP-Carnegie supported project, a Capacity Building Workshop for Young (Early-Career) Women Academics in West Africa was organized in conjunction with six other West African Academies (including NAS) and the event took place on 7th and 8th March, 2018 at the Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI) Guest House Annex, Harvey Road, Yaba, Lagos.

A workshop on Distributional Regression Models for Analysis of Spatial Data was organised in conjunction with the Department of Statistics, Federal University of Technology, Akure from the 19th to 21st June, 2018. An Anti-Plagiarism workshop organised by the NYA was hosted by the African University for Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja on the 10th of December, 2018. The Academy was part of the joint organisers of the 4th TWAS Young Affiliate Network (TYAN) International Thematic Workshop and 1st African Symposium hosted by the Sub-Saharan African Region of TYAN that took place from 10th to 14th June, 2019 at the Heritage Continental Resort Hotel, Ijapo Estate, Akure. Another anti-plagiarism workshop was held at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria on Monday 26th August, 2019.



Figure 4: A cross section of participants at a Capacity Building Workshop for Young (Early-Career) Women Academics in Nigeria held at College of Medicine University of Lagos (CMUL), Lagos in June 2016.

The anti-plagiarism workshops have recently become the most popular workshop series organised by the NYA. These workshops became necessary as a result of some of the unethical research activities that some researchers across the country have been engaging in, which has

threatened to erode the confidence of the scientific community on reports from Nigerian research. The workshops are aimed at sensitising the public especially postgraduate students and young researchers on the dangers associated with plagiarism. It also seeks to provide general education on how to be a prolific researcher without engaging in plagiarism and how to attain excellence in academia. In addition to these workshop series, the Academy has recently engaged on a massive media campaign against unethical practices in academics. These have been featured in top outlets including Nature.^{5,6}

The initial gains from these workshops on plagiarism were later extended to an actual national survey which was conducted to generate some empirical data on the subject. The results from the national survey revealed that plagiarism is rampant among researchers in the country due to a variety of factors. These include ignorance, “publish or perish” syndrome, poor mentoring and lack of research infrastructures. Editorial rigour of the editorial offices of local journals has also been found to be largely culpable in plagiarism related problems. It was also observed that this unethical practice cuts across all strata of the academic community irrespective of gender, age and discipline. What is more worrisome is the fact that the survey suggested that many researchers across the country do not know what constitutes plagiarism. The need for these workshops was, therefore, justified as a first step in raising sufficient awareness for students and researchers across the country.



Figure 5: A cross section of some female participants at a Capacity Building Workshop for Young (Early-Career) Women Academics in West Africa held at Yaba, Lagos in March 2018.

With the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown and its attendant challenges, the NYA like most other organizations has had to evolve in its style of operations. In this regard, a series of webinars have been adopted to continue to engage with researchers and students on topical issues. For instance, between July 2020 and May 2021, the Academy held up to seven webinars with average attendance of 50 participants on topical issues including plagiarism, systematic reviews and science-policy linkage.

In relation to SDG 16, the Academy aims to implement massive media campaigns to draw attention to the state of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria. The Internal Displacement

Monitoring Centre reports 417,000 new IDPs between January and June, 2018 – the fourth highest globally, surpassed only by Ethiopia, Syria and Democratic Republic of Congo – all due to the Boko Haram insurgency and herdsmen crisis. The aim of the visits to the IDP camps was to explore first-hand the challenges of the IDPs as a basis for understanding the types of support that will serve them best. Two of the largest IDP camps in Abuja (New Kuchingoro and Karonmajigi) were selected and visited by the Academy in 2018. Some relief materials were presented on behalf of the NYA in each camp.⁷



Figure 6: A cross section of the NYA delegation and internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the New Kuchingoro IDP camp in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria in December, 2018.

The NYA in collaboration with NAS has been part of the Schlumberger Excellence in Education Development (SEED) Secondary Schools Science Project Challenge. NYA members have served as mentors and members of panels of judges over the years.²

After observing a recurrent challenge from poor mentorship of young researchers around the country, the NYA recently put up a new training workshop centred on academic mentoring. Recently, the Global State of Young Scientists (GloSYS) Africa project of the Global Young Academy (GYA) identified mentoring as a key factor lacking in the African research setting.^{8,9} This realisation propelled the NYA to adopt mentoring as an important strategy to improve research excellence in Nigeria. We believe that to reinstate a vibrant academic culture that celebrates ingenuity and excellence, proper mentorship, as a matter of urgency, must take centre stage in the development of academics and researchers. The NYA is organizing a Mentorship Training Workshop designed to empower early to mid-career researchers to become effective mentors; so that they in turn can produce a generation of well-groomed academics/researchers. The training would be in-depth and hands-on, and successful candidates would be supported by follow-up activities and resources. The maiden edition was disrupted by the COVID-19 lockdown but would happen as soon as it is practically possible.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NYA joined other scientific bodies like NAS to provide evidence-based policy advice. In particular, the Academy issued two separate statements that offered recommendations on how to manage the pandemic, including an early warning on the

need for a well-monitored lockdown. We also produced and disseminated arguably the first multilingual infographics (in English, Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa and Pidgin) to create public awareness on COVID-19 in the country. The NYA was particularly excited when a Fellow of the Academy was selected into the Ministerial Expert Advisory Committee on COVID-19 of the Federal Ministry of Health of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Flying the Flag

Members of the NYA past and present have continued to respond to the challenge of raising the standards of excellence and integrity in their career paths. A number of members and former members of the NYA have risen to the peak of their professional careers and some are already occupying both elective and appointed administrative positions. As excellent researchers in their own right, it is no surprise that the NYA has produced people with several laurels and distinctions at both national and international levels. The NYA has produced members who are African Academy of Science (AAS) Affiliates, TWAS Affiliates, Africa Science Leadership Programme (ASLP) Fellows and GYA executive members.

The NYA has been represented at several meetings, conferences and workshops in and outside the country. The Academy has at different times been represented at Africa Young Academies Regional Conferences, invited NASAC meetings and workshops, NAS events and workshops, GYA initiatives and meetings, and several other similar initiatives.

Our Dream

In the past ten years, we have done a lot to publicise the NYA and recruited what could arguably be the most qualified individuals that fit the admission criteria. We hope the next ten years would consolidate on the achievements of the past. We anticipate that the NYA would continue to be blessed with individuals who, above the basic requirements of excellence and integrity, are selfless, have a strong sense of service and demonstrate commitment to the vision of the Academy.

Specifically, we look forward to taking our anti-plagiarism workshops to every university in the country and raising a huge level of national awareness on the subject of plagiarism. It is our hope that beyond plagiarism, the whole issue of conducting research with integrity would be accepted nationally with the possibility of having research integrity offices in our research centres and universities. We intend to also create a more suitable environment for academic culture based on effective mentoring of younger colleagues. To this end, we intend to make our mentoring training a national event with continuous engagement of those trained for up to three years. We envisage our journal would grow in readership, acceptance and subscription to become an international journal.

There is a lot still to be done in terms of advocacy and engagement with government and civil society organisations, as well as high school outreach. A developing nation like Nigeria needs a young academy that can project the desired future into reality and this is what the NYA must become. We must rise up to contribute our quota to the growth and development of Nigeria (individually and collectively). By the year 2030, the seventeen goals of the United Nations SDGs are expected to be achieved and it is envisaged that Nigeria should be a major contributor to this

on the continent. The NYA has embraced this challenge but now needs to be at the forefront of advocacy and execution of SDG initiatives in conjunction with other stakeholders. The NYA must consciously help change the negative mindset about Nigeria.

The Academy needs to better leverage on existing memoranda of understanding such as the ones entered into with the New York Academy of Sciences and the Nigerian Academy of Science.

Conclusion

The growth of a young academy with tenured membership is an exciting yet challenging process. For the NYA the initial four to five years were used to set a lot of foundational issues in place and this has enhanced the building of a growing structure that has been able to stand the test of time. With an initial strength of 23 members, the NYA now has a total of 37 former members (Fellows) and 47 current members that spread across the entire nation with all the geopolitical zones represented. As the voice of young researchers in the nation, the NYA continues to strive to ensure that it remains a bold, courageous and yet sonorous voice that can truly represent and demonstrate what excellence breeds. We have enjoyed some measure of support from one senior academy (NAS), but we believe that this can even be further enhanced as we reach out to other senior academies. We have carefully evolved a financial system that can be subjected to any type of audit check and our mobile vibrant administrative process has been stripped of its initial hiccups. Even without a physical secretariat (which we are hoping to have soon), we have managed to build a strong centre that holds nicely. We have been able to attract a few external grants and we hope to build on this success in the future.

Emmanuel I. Unuabonah, Ede

Abidemi J. Akindele, Lagos

Emmanuel E.O. Odjadjare, Benin City

Temitope O. Olomola, Ile-Ife

Abiodun A. Egbetokun, Ile-Ife

Further Reading

1. National Young Academies. Global Young Academy.
<https://globalyoungacademy.net/national-young-academies/>
2. 2014 Annual Report/ Year Book The Nigerian Academy of Science.
<https://docplayer.net/56344113-Annual-report-year-book-the-nigerian-academy-of-science.html>
3. <http://nigerianyoungacademy.org/publications>
4. <https://www.worldofstatistics.org/files/2014/08/August-26-2014.pdf>
5. L. Nordling (2018). Widespread plagiarism detected in many medical journals based in Africa.
www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-07462-2
6. L. Nordling (2018). In Nigeria, a battle against academic plagiarism heats up. Science Mag.
<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/06/nigeria-battle-against-academic-plagiarism-heats>
7. D. Mba (2019). Educating children displaced by Boko Haram is vital for Nigeria's future. Science Africa Magazine.

<https://sciafmag.com/2019/10/08/educating-children-displaced-by-boko-haram-is-vital-for-nigerias-future/>

8. I. Friesenhahn, C. Beaudry, (2014). The Global State of Young Scientists. Project Report and Recommendations.
https://globalyoungacademy.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/GYA_GloSYS-report_webversion.pdf
9. C., Anna, A. Akindele, A. Badre, F. Kanana, M. Khoury-Kassabri (2018). “What's stopping young African scientists from achieving their potential”. The Conversation Africa
<https://theconversation.com/whats-stopping-young-african-scientists-from-achieving-their-potential-97404>

NYA Executive Committee Members since Inception

2011 - 2013

Unuabonah, E.I.	President
Akindele, A.J.	Vice- President
Sojину, O.S.S.	General Secretary
Osemwegie, O.O.	Treasurer
Levi, N.	Financial Secretary
Eseola, A.O.	Publicity Secretary
Obiekezie, T.	Technical and Logistic Director

2013 - 2015

Akindele, A. J.	President
Nwankwo, L. I.	Vice President
Igbinosa E. O.	General Secretary
Gayawan, E.	Financial Secretary
Isaac, C.	Treasurer
Atolani, O.	Publicity Secretary
Yusuf, R. O.	Director of Technical/Logistics
Unuabonah, E. I.	Ex-Officio I
Obiekezie, T.	Ex-Officio II

2015 - 2017

Odjadjare, E.	President
Kolawole, M.	Vice President
Omorogie, M.	General Secretary
Isaac, C.	Financial Secretary
Adebayo, A.	Treasurer
Jaiyeola, T. G.	Publicity Secretary
Erukhainure, O.	Director of Technical/Logistics
Akindele, J.A.	Ex-Officio I
Gayawan, E.	Ex-Officio II

2017 - 2019

Olomola, T. O.	President
Igbinosa, I. H.	Vice President
Omoruyi, I. M.	General Secretary
Rotimi, O. J.	Financial Secretary
Adebayo, E. A.	Treasurer
Kazeem, M. I.	Publicity Secretary

Egbetokun, A. A. Technical and Logistics Secretary
Odjadjare, E. E. O. Ex-Officio I
Jaiyeola, T. G. Ex-Officio II

2019 - 2021

Egbetokun, A. A. President
Muhammad A. Vice President
Kazeem, M. I. General Secretary
Auwal, M. A. Asst. General Secretary
Chukwudi, C. U. Publicity Secretary
Akinwumi, I. Financial Secretary
Olasunkanmi, L. O. Treasurer
Ugbenyen, A. Technical and Logistics Secretary
Olomola, T. O. Ex-Officio I
Rotimi, O. J. Ex-Officio II

Members

1.	Abubakar, Ibrahim Babangida.....	27
2.	Adedokun, Oluwaseun.....	28
3.	Adefegha, Stephen Adeniyi.....	29
4.	Adegun, Olumuyiwa.....	30
5.	Ademosun, Ayokunle.....	31
6.	Adetunji, Charles Oluwaseun.....	32
7.	Akinwumi, Isaac Ibukun.....	33
8.	Akuru, Udochukwu B.....	34
9.	Alabi, Okunola Adenrele.....	35
10.	Bawa-Allah, Kafilat.....	36
11.	Busari, Ayobami Adebola.....	37
12.	Chukwudi, Chinwe Uzoma.....	38
13.	Dauda, Akeem Babatunde.....	39
14.	Edeki, Sunday O.....	40
15.	Egbetokun, Abiodun.....	41
16.	Ibor, Oju R.....	42
17.	Ibrahim, Mohammed Auwal.....	43
18.	Ibrahim, Mutiat Bolanle.....	44
19.	Idika, Idika Kalu.....	45
20.	Ifeanyi-Obi, Chinwoke Clara.....	46
21.	Isah, Murtala Bindawa.....	47
22.	Kadiri, Oseni.....	48
23.	Kaisan, Muhammad Usman.....	49
24.	Kazeem, Mutiu Idowu.....	50
25.	Khaleed, Abubakar Abubakar	51
26.	Mada, Sanusi Bello.....	52
27.	Malami, Ibrahim.....	53
28.	Mohammed, Aminu.....	54
29.	Molehin, Olorunfemi Raphael.....	55
30.	Morakinyo, Oyewale Mayowa.....	56
31.	Muhammad, Aliyu.....	57
32.	Nwanna, Esther Emem.....	58
33.	Obada, David Olubiyi.....	59
34.	Odetokun, Ismail Ayoade.....	60
35.	Odetoye, Temitope Elizabeth.....	61
36.	Ogbuka, Cosmas Uchenna.....	62
37.	Ogundajo, Akintayo Lanre.....	63
38.	Okoli, Peter Chukwunonso.....	64
39.	Okuonghae, Daniel.....	65
40.	Olasunkanmi, Lukman O.....	66

41.	Omoju, Oluwasola.....	67
42.	Omoruyi, Iyekhoetin Matthew.....	68
43.	Omotoso, Ezekiel	69
44.	Orji, Anthony.....	70
45.	Oyali, Uchenna	71
46.	Oyebode, Oluwabunmi Opeyemi.....	72
47.	Oyeyemi, Ifeoluwa.....	73
48.	Sanusi, Kayode.....	74
49.	Sogbanmu, Temitope O.....	75
50.	Ugbenyen, Anthony Moses.....	76
51.	Ukwaja, Kingsley Nnanna.....	77
52.	Unuabonah, Foluke Olayinka.....	78
53.	Uyi, Osariyekemwen.....	79
54.	Yakubu, Omolara F.....	80

Fellows

1. Abdul-Hammed, Misbaudeen.....	81
2. Adebayo, Abiodun Humphrey.....	82
3. Adebayo, Elijah Adegoke.....	83
4. Adeneye, Adejuwon Adewale.....	84
5. Adewale Adewuyi.....	85
6. Adeyemi, Oluyomi Stephen.....	86
7. Agbalajobi, Damilola Taiye.....	87
8. Agunbiade, Foluso Oyedotun.....	88
9. Akindele, Abidemi James.....	89
10. Akinyele, Adejoke O.....	90
11. Akpa, Onoja Matthew.....	91
12. Asaolu, Olumuyiwa Sunday.....	92
13. Atolani, Olubunmi	93
14. Ayinde, Opeyemi Eyitayo.....	94
15. Babatunde, Raphael Olanrewaju.....	95
16. Ebuh, Godday Uwawunkonye.....	96
17. Gayawan, Ezra.....	97
18. Igbinosa, Isoken Henrietta.....	98
19. Jaiyeola, Temitope Gbolahan.....	99
20. Kolawole, Olatunji Matthew.....	100
21. Majolagbe, Olusola.....	101
22. Nwankwo, Levi.....	102
23. Nwinyi Obinna C.	103
24. Okoye, Festus Basden Chiedu.....	104
25. Olajuyigbe, Samuel Olalekan.....	105
26. Olomola, Temitope O.....	106
27. Oluwatope, Ayodeji Oludola.....	107
28. Omonkhua, Akhere A.....	108
29. Omorogie, Martins Osaigbovo.....	109
30. Osemwegie, Osarenkhoe Omorefosa.....	110
31. Oyekunle, Anthony Adebukola.....	111
32. Oyeyemi, Oyetunde T.....	112
33. Rotimi, Oluwatosin John.....	113
34. Unuabonah, Emmanuel Iyayi	114
35. Usikalu, Mojisola Rachael.....	115
36. Uzochukwu, Ikemefuna Chijioke.....	116

MEMBERS PROFILE

Name/Academic Rank:

Abubakar, Ibrahim Babangida



Current Affiliation: Kebbi State University of Science and Technology, Aliero

NYA Induction Year: 2020

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member NYA Biology & Health, Infectious Diseases Committees

Discipline: Biochemistry (Cancer Biotherapeutics)

Academic Trajectory: The passion to become an academic was ignited during my Youth Corps year, when I had the privilege to teach Chemistry and Biochemistry modules to diploma students at the College of Agriculture, Jalingo. Biochemistry has always been my first choice with particular interest in Cancer Biotherapeutics because of the flare I had for both Biology and Chemistry as my favourite subjects during my secondary school days. My research focus (Cancer Biotherapeutics) was driven by my desire to help in developing drugs for diseases like cancer and other congenital conditions. I hope to be more committed to serving the academic community through collaborating with national and international researchers and helping to produce future researchers who would help provide solutions to some of the therapeutic problems experienced by health practitioners in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: It is my desire to help develop the Nigerian herbal medicine sector and make it profitable like the experience with traditional Chinese medicine and Ayurveda herbal treatments. Although Nigerian researchers are plagued with challenges such as inadequate funds, lack of sophisticated laboratory equipment and consumables for research, I hope to inspire solutions through securing grants both locally and internationally to carry out cutting edge research and achieve the desired goal. I also hope to engage government at both state and federal levels, as well as the private sector, on the need to support research.

Name/Academic Rank:

Adedokun, Oluwaseun (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Pure and Applied Physics, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho.

NYA induction year: 2016

Discipline: Solid State Physics

Academic Trajectory: I have a dream of becoming a medical doctor but I was given admission to study Pure and Applied Physics in my first degree. I obtained B.Tech (First Class Honours) in Applied Physics in 2008. I joined the University as a Graduate Assistant in November, 2009. I later obtained M.Tech (Distinction) in Energy and Solid State Physics in 2012. I was a CSIR-TWAS postgraduate Fellow at CSIR-CGCRI, Kolkata, India from June 2014 to May 2015. I took my Doctor of Philosophy degree in Solid State Physics in 2016. My research focus is in the area of Nanomaterial synthesis and characterization, Thin Films Technology, Renewable Energy and Dye-sensitized Solar Cells. I was awarded Research Training Fellowship for Developing Countries Scientist (RTF-DCS) twice in 2016 and 2019 to visit research laboratories in India. I am a member of the Nigerian Institute of Physics (MNIP). I am also a member of LAUTECH Nanotechnology Research group (Nano+). I have published many scientific papers in reputable journals.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I would like to become one of the well-known Solid-State Physicist in Nigeria by teaching and mentoring young scholars in my discipline; and having good impact in researching and publishing both locally and internationally.

Name/Academic Rank:

Adefegha, Stephen Adeniyi (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria

NYA Induction Year: 2020

NYA Roles (Offices held / Committee served including the Year): Member of the Biological and Health Sciences Working Group (2020–2021)

Discipline: Applied Biochemistry (Nutritional Biochemistry, Biochemical Toxicology and Molecular Nutrition).

Academic Trajectory: My foray into academia was divinely initiated. I was also motivated by my Chemistry teacher in the Secondary School who incidentally later became a Professor of Applied Biochemistry and my PhD supervisor (Prof. Ganiyu Oboh). I diligently followed Prof. Oboh's giant strides and decided to pursue a career in Biochemistry. I have enjoyed significant mentorship under Prof. Oboh's tutelage which has culminated into international linkages for predoctoral and postdoctoral supervisions by erudite professors across the globe through local and international fellowships such as TETFund, ICTP-IAEA, TWAS-CNPQ, and CAPES. I have also won several laurels along the way including Nigeria-Sao tome Principe Award, ICTP-STEP Award, and Affiliate Award of the African Academy of Sciences. I have chosen a research path based on my interests in Functional Foods, Nutraceuticals, Phytomedicine and Nutrigenomics. These interests remain focused on investigating the critical roles food and food derived bioactives play in health promotion and disease prevention.

Ambition in the Next 10 years: In the next decade, my aspiration is to build research capacity through training, teaching and mentoring young scientists in novel frontiers of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in relation to Nutrition. I also desire to enhance my international network and collaboration, attract local and international grants and establish cell culture laboratory for normal, neuronal and cancer cell lines.

Name/Academic Rank:

Adegun, Olumuyiwa (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Federal University of Technology, Akure.

NYA induction year: 2020

Discipline: Architecture, Human Settlement Studies

Academic Trajectory: I started out with interest in Architecture and was thankfully admitted to study it in the University. Along the line in my undergraduate programme, I developed interest in research and impact in environmental sustainability and housing provision for the low-income people that populate our cities. Although I have been involved in the design and construction of buildings, my research activities have grown significantly within the last decade. I have contributed to knowledge regarding informal settlement intervention, housing delivery and green infrastructure in the context of cities in sub-Saharan Africa. My work is guided by questions finding the paths to livable and environmentally sustainable settlements.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: My career aspirations in the coming years is to better co-produce scalable solutions to low-income housing challenges, considering environmental sustainability and climate adaptation within Africa's rapidly growing cities. I aspire to become a respected scholar and public intellectual who leads a vibrant team engaged in transformative local and international research projects.

Name/Academic Rank:

Ademosun Ayokunle (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Biochemistry Department, Federal University of Technology Akure

NYA induction year: 2018

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year):

Discipline: Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals

Academic Trajectory: My field of Science is Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals. I am a Senior Lecturer and Associate Director, Centre for Research and Development (CERAD) at Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria. My research interests include medicinal properties of fruits and vegetables and the effects of the bioactive compounds from fruits and vegetables on enzymes relevant to the management of type-2 diabetes, hypertension, neurodegeneration, erectile dysfunction and colon cancer in various models (rats, *Drosophila melanogaster* and cancer cells). The grants and awards I have enjoyed include Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) Research Grant (2019); Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) Research Grant (2017); African-German Network of Excellence in Science Award for Junior Researcher (2015); Tertiary Education Trust Fund (ETFUND) Research Grant (2013); Training and Research in Italian Laboratory (TRIL) Fellowship (2011). I have published widely in reputable national and international journals.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: My key long term professional goal is to promote nutritional and functional foods research and the development of nutraceuticals from bioactive compounds abundant in Africa. I strongly desire to set up a Functional Foods, Nutrition and Nutraceuticals Centre in Nigeria where the nutritional and medicinal properties of the fruits and vegetables abundant in our environment can be harnessed to promote healthy living. The Centre will also develop cheap food products with low glycemic indices enriched with bioactive compounds to serve as intervention against hunger, protein-energy malnutrition and metabolic syndromes.

Name/Academic Rank:
Adetunji, Charles Oluwaseun
(Associate Professor)



Current Affiliation: Department of Microbiology, Edo State University, Uzairue

NYA induction year: 2018

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Chairman, Biological and Health Sciences Research Working Group (2018-2020); Sub-Group Chairman, Applied and Environmental Sub-group of the Biological Working Group of the NYA (2019-2021); Chairman, Year Book Committee (2020-2021)

Discipline: Microbiology, Nanotechnology and Biotechnology

Academic Trajectory: My desire to be an academic was kindled by the teaching style of my Biology, Physics and Chemistry teacher when I was in the senior secondary school. While growing up, my interest was to become a medical doctor but I was admitted to study Microbiology. My academic performance in the Master's class coupled with the year-long experience as a TWAS-CSIR fellow at Institute of Microbial technology, Chandigarh, India, 2013 exposed me to current trends in Microbiology and Biotechnology. For almost 10 years before I joined Landmark University, Omu Aran as a Lecturer, I was a scientist at the Nigerian Stored Product Research Institute where I rose to the rank of Principal Scientist. I am currently the Ag. Director intellectual property and technology transfer and Head of the Department of Microbiology, Edo State University, Uzairue, Edo State, Nigeria where I utilised the application of biological techniques and microbial bioprocesses for the actualisation of sustainable development goals. I have won several scientific awards and grants from renowned academic bodies like Department of Biotechnology (DBT) India, The World Academy of Science (TWAS) Italy, Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NPF) Netherlands, The Agency for International Development Cooperation; Israel, Royal Academy of Engineering, UK among many others. I have published many scientific journal articles and conference proceedings in refereed national and international journals. I was ranked among the top 500 prolific authors in Nigeria between 2019 till date by SciVal/SCOPUS. My research interests include Microbiology, Biotechnology, Post-harvest management, and Nanotechnology. Over the last fifteen years, I have built strong working collaborations with reputable research groups in leading universities across the globe. I was recently appointed as the President and Chairman Governing Council of the Nigerian Bioinformatics and Genomics Network Society. I am presently a series editor with Taylor and Francis, USA editing several textbooks on Agricultural Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Pharmafoods, and Environmental Sciences.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope to leverage on my collaboration with colleagues worldwide and continue to mentor up and coming scientists towards transnational research.

Name/Academic Rank:

Akinwumi Isaac Ibukun (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Civil Engineering, Covenant University, Ota

NYA induction year: 2018

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Financial Secretary (2019-2021); Member, Central Organising Committee (COC) for the 2019 NYA Conference and General Assembly

Discipline: Civil Engineering

Academic Trajectory: During my undergraduate programme, some of my lecturers (such as Late Prof. Martin Olusola Ogedengbe and Prof. Samuel A. Ola) inspired me to become an academic. They encouraged me by telling me I have the qualities and potential to be an excellent academic. My becoming a Civil Engineer is by divine arrangement. I applied to study Electrical and Electronics Engineering at the Federal University of Technology Akure but was offered admission to study Civil Engineering. I accepted the offer based on advice that I could change to my desired course after my second year. However, after an outstanding academic performance that I thought would facilitate my change of course, the Civil Engineering Department eventually decided not to release me to the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department. This turned out to be a blessing. My postgraduate studies in Geotechnical Engineering were under the supervision of Prof. J.B. Adeyeri and Prof. O.O. Ojuri. My research focuses on using agricultural and industrial wastes to improve the properties of soils and other construction materials for construction purposes and on water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). I hope to develop into a research leader, leading externally-funded research grant projects to solve local and global challenges to have a more sustainable world. I currently contribute to teaching and research mentorship at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. I also engage in administrative assignments. I serve as the Coordinator, Research at the Covenant University Centre for Research, Innovation and Discovery (CUCRID).

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I plan to build more capacity for academic leadership. I hope to foster more collaborations and industrial partnerships and engage in more networking activities. However, I do not want to only concentrate on career aspirations without other aspects of life. I hope to share my local and international networks with younger academics and students to facilitate their access to better research facilities and possible funding.

Name/Academic Rank:

Akuru, Udochukwu B. (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Nigeria, Nsukka/Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa

NYA induction year: 2020

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year):

Physical Sciences, Engineering and Technology Working Group (2020 – present)

Discipline: Electrical Engineering

Academic Trajectory: I have always believed that through learning and research in Engineering Science, the enormous manpower and youth within the country, and by extension, the continent can be appropriately harnessed and developed. I aspire to drive this revolution by continuously harnessing local content for renewable energy technology development and commercialisation. In addition, by stimulating the imagination of students and mentees under my tutelage towards problem-based pedagogy and disruptive entrepreneurship, I expect to impart long-term independence based on the creative and disruptive science-based research. In terms of my research outputs, I have a proven track record in advocating, through highly cited peer-review research, the diversification of the energy cum electricity sector in Nigeria into renewable energy. It is no news that energy is an essential tool for socio-economic development and an index of prosperity in any nation. I am currently working on the technology localisation of electrical machines for renewable energy and energy efficiency applications. I hope to focus my research activities on the design and performance improvement of locally-designed electrical machines for high torque density industrial-scale applications. In pursuit of these targets, I will exploit the far-reaching impact of ethical science communication to expand my research visibility while building more robust institutional/industrial collaboration networks.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: My career vision in the next ten years is to channel my research outputs as the driver of community and national development unlike the current mainstay which is largely driven by expatriate labour and imported goods and services. Thus, I anticipate that in the next ten years, my career will focus more on blended learning delivery modes in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as continuous research proclivity in Engineering Science, leading to research development, technology localisation, optimum performance and attainment of the sustainability goals.

Name/Academic Rank:

Alabi, Okunola Adenrele (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria

NYA induction year: 2016

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Chairman, Disciplinary Committee (2018); Secretary, Constitution Review Committee (2019); Member, Conference Local Organising Committee (2019); Secretary, Health and Environmental Subgroup (2018-2020); Managing Editor, Annals of Science and Technology (2019-2021)

Discipline: Zoology/Toxicology

Academic Trajectory: To be an academic has always been my childhood dream. My undergraduate supervisor refused to be my referee for MSc until I changed my initial area of specialisation to the current one. My research focus is environmental and molecular mutagens using different micro, plant and animal models. I also work on the molecular mechanism of induction of mutagenicity and carcinogenicity. I aspire to help safeguard Nigerian environment from different potential mutagens and carcinogens and to raise researchers for future challenges. I have risen from the position of a graduate assistant to senior lecturer and awaiting pronouncement as a Reader very soon. The Nigerian academic climate does not measure up to global standards. I charge educated Nigerians, including scientists, to participate actively in the election process by seeking political offices and voting leaders who value quality education into positions of power in the country.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope to carry out more impactful research on the Nigerian environment both individually and in collaboration with other colleagues. I also hope to work with more postgraduate students to raise more researchers in my field and collaborate more with international colleagues to solve Africa's resources problem.

Name/Academic Rank:

Bawa-Allah, Kafilat (Lecturer I)



Current Affiliation: Department of Zoology, University of Lagos, Nigeria

NYA induction year: 2020

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): NYA Exiting Committee (2021)

Academic trajectory: I graduated with a first-class, BSc (Hons) Zoology, in 2008, from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. I also obtained MSc (Distinction) and PhD degrees in Environmental Toxicology and Pollution Management from the same University in 2010 and 2015, respectively. I have over nine years research experience and seven years teaching experience in academics. My research area of specialisation is Aquatic Toxicology with special interests in metal pollution and mechanisms of toxicity to aquatic organisms. My flair for research and my academic achievements during my undergraduate days inspired my decision to pursue a career in academics and research. Over the years, I have carried out several other studies where I assessed the risks associated with metal pollution in aquatic ecosystems and toxic effects on aquatic organisms. I have also supervised several undergraduate and postgraduate research projects which assessed organic and inorganic pollutants and implications in aquatic ecosystems. I was awarded a post-doctoral research fellowship by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, United Kingdom which I carried out at King's College London. During my post-doctoral research, I developed a fish gill cell system that can be used for marine ecosystem toxicological studies. I have published my research works in reputable peer-review journals, and I am a member of several scientific organisations.

Ambition in the next 10 years: My career goal for the foreseeable future is to complement and build on my experiences over the years, especially those garnered during my fellowship, to become an established researcher in my field. I plan to be more involved in interdisciplinary research and collaborations with researchers within and outside my organisation, especially researchers from organisations within sub-Saharan Africa. Through teaching, research, and mentorship, I aim to contribute to improved quality of teaching and learning experience for African scholars especially girls and women in STEM.

Name/Academic Rank:

Busari, Ayobami Adebola (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Federal University, Oye Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

NYA induction year: 2020

Discipline: Civil Engineering

Academic Trajectory: I developed a passion for civil engineering based on the need to partake in the design and construction of infrastructures. This passion was borne out of my desire to extend my love for Mathematics to the world of Engineering, which has always been my childhood dream. My quest for knowledge and passion for a solution to pertinent engineering problems made me pursue a Masters degree in Civil Engineering from the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria. This was shortly after my bachelor's degree from Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho, Nigeria. I worked in civil engineering construction and consulting firms as a site engineer/supervisor and design engineer for six years before embarking on my PhD in Civil Engineering at Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. With my professional experience in civil engineering construction and consultancy, I have been able to understand the effect of material engineering in the design and construction of durable infrastructure. In 2019, I received the Chancellors Exceptional Researcher's Award for my contribution to scholarly research output in the year 2019. Additionally, I was one of the recipients of the CED outstanding professional women in the built environment in recognition of my contribution to the built environment. I also won the Tshwane University of Technology Postdoc grant to work on self-healing pavement in the Department of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering and the Built Environment.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: In the near future, I hope to engage in cutting-edge research to advance Engineering and Engineering Education in Nigeria. I hope to rise above cultural and societal challenges and make an indelible contribution to knowledge in my chosen field. I hope to utilise my skills and abilities in areas that will boost professional growth and propel national development. I want my impact to be felt in sustainable transportation and infrastructure through a number of groundbreaking research. As a STEM child advocate, I want to mentor girls in STEM and Engineering in a bid to balance the gender gap in Engineering and Engineering Education now and in the foreseeable future.

Name/Academic Rank:

Chukwudi, Chinwe Uzoma (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology, University of Nigeria Nsukka.

NYA Induction Year: 2018

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Publicity Secretary (2019-2021), Chairperson, Publicity Committee (2019-2021), Member, Nudge Committee (2020), Member, 2020 General Assembly and 10th Anniversary Central Organizing Committee (2020), Member, TETFund Position Paper Committee (2019); Chair, Drug Discovery and Metabolism subgroup of the Biological and Health Sciences Working Group (2018 – 2020).

Discipline: Molecular Pathology and Microbial Pathogenesis

Academic Trajectory: While growing up in a suburban area in Anambra state, South Eastern Nigeria, my academic and teaching potentials blossomed. It was so apparent that my mother insisted I should study Education in the university. However, divine providence took me to the University of Nigeria Nsukka to study Veterinary Medicine. My outstanding performance in my undergraduate studies (distinctions in 10 out of 12 Veterinary Medical subjects offered) earned me appointment as an Assistant Lecturer in Veterinary Pathology. Within a few months of starting the job, I was offered a Commonwealth Scholarship for my PhD studies in Molecular Biology and Microbial Genetics at the Royal Veterinary College, University of London. Today, I am an experienced Veterinarian, Molecular Biologist and Clinical Pathologist; a former Commonwealth Scholar, Erasmus Mundus Scholar, Commonwealth academic Fellow, and currently, an NIH Visiting Fellow. My research interests and skills are in the areas of combating infectious diseases, especially via studies in microbial pathogenesis and genetics, molecular pathology and diagnostics, antimicrobial mechanisms of action and resistance, drug interactions, enhanced therapeutics and drug delivery. My research focuses on the use of molecular tools and biotechnology to enhance diagnostics and therapeutics.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope to uplift the research profile of diseases peculiar to Africa, many of which have huge prospects for the development of novel intervention strategies but often ignored by western researchers. I wish to build a strong team of researchers that would spearhead molecular research in tropical diseases using modern biotechnology.

Name/Academic Rank:

Dauda, Akeem Babatunde (Lecturer I)



Current Affiliation: Federal University Dutsin-Ma, Dutsin-Ma, Katsina State

NYA Induction Year: 2020

Discipline: Aquaculture Production Systems and Water Resources Management

Academic Trajectory: I started my academic career as a Graduate Assistant in 2013 and became an Assistant lecturer in the same year after the completion of my MSc in Fisheries Management from the University of Ibadan. Although it had always been my desire to be an engineer after I obtained a National Diploma in Marine Engineering, the limited number of universities offering the course in Nigeria prevented me from pursuing the goal at that time. However, providence brought me into Fisheries through the guidance of a dear uncle and mentor who at that time enlightened me on the possibilities of specialising in engineering-related field in fisheries and aquaculture. Thankfully, I never regretted taking the step I took. In 2015, I was awarded a TETFund scholarship for PhD in Aquaculture at Universiti Putra Malaysia which I completed in 2018. My doctoral programme gave me ample opportunities to overcome the challenges of engaging in research and carrying out experiments with limited and sometimes non-existent facilities. My research expertise in aquaculture production systems and water resources management, with specialisation in optimizing water usage, and water reuse systems to achieving increased fish production with limited impact on the natural ecosystems especially the aquatic ecosystem has been deepened since this academic exploration.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I aspire to get postdoctoral fellowship opportunity in strong research-based institutions to sharpen my skills and become a trailblazer in aquaculture production systems design and management. This will afford me the opportunity to contribute greatly to aquaculture production without compromising the integrity of the aquatic ecosystem, especially for the benefits of future generations. Academics and researchers in Nigeria are consistently faced with limited and often non-existent facilities to support their research, and the poor remuneration is also discouraging. I hope to overcome this by continually seeking grants and collaborations that can facilitate increased skills and development of systems that are fit for the local industry. This opportunity will not only develop myself but also equip me to provide mentorship for young academics.

Name/Academic Rank:

Edeki, Sunday O. (Lecturer I)



Current Affiliation: Covenant University, Ota

NYA induction year: 2020

Discipline: Mathematics

Academic Trajectory: The desire to proffer solutions to scientific issues triggered my interest to become a scientist. I chose to be a mathematician due to my love for figures, calculation, and critical and logical reasoning. My research interest includes Stochastic Analysis and its applications to finance (Financial Mathematics), Fractional Calculus, Numerical Solutions of (Stochastic) Differential Equations, and Dynamical Systems. Based on my specialty, I have made series of contributions to the mathematical community and financial mathematics, in particular. Most of my academic papers and results are published in reputable international journal outlets and are indexed and abstracted in Scopus, ISI (Web of Science), and Google Scholar. I graduated from Delta State University, Abraka, with a BSc Education Mathematics in 2006, MSc Mathematics from the University of Ibadan in the 2011, and PhD in Industrial Mathematics from Covenant University, Ota in 2017. I am a Lecturer and Researcher at the Department of Mathematics, Covenant University, Ota and a member of several academic bodies and societies. These include the American Mathematical Society (AMS), Nigerian Mathematical Society (NMS), Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), and Nigerian Young Academy (NYA). I serve as an active reviewer to a good number of international peer-reviewed journals.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: My academic plans and aspirations for the next ten years will be geared towards becoming a global and distinguished Professor of Mathematics in my field. However, challenges regarding research funding are anticipated. These are some of the significant problems that scientists (especially young researchers) face in Nigeria. I also hope to mentor young researchers and help equip them with grant-winning skills to enable them overcome their challenges with funding for their research.

Name/Academic Rank:
Egbetokun, Abiodun
(Assistant Director, Research)



Current Affiliation: National Centre for Technology Management (NACETEM), Ile-Ife

NYA induction year: 2017

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): President (2019-2021); Technical/Logistics Secretary (2017-2019); Steering Committee, NYA-IAP Workshop for Early-Career Women Scientists in West Africa (2018); Member, Central Organising Committee, 8th NYA Conference and General Assembly (2018); Chair, Central Organising Committee, 9th NYA Conference and General Assembly (2019)

Discipline: Evolutionary Economics

Academic Trajectory: I started out with an ambition to become a computer scientist/engineer but at the point of university admission, I ended up in Mechanical Engineering which I loved anyway. My academic journey began on a note that redefined my trajectory completely. From being a schoolteacher, I joined the National Centre for Technology Management (NACETEM) in 2005 as an entry-level full-time researcher. I was exposed to the discipline of Technology Management which I came to understand within a few months on the job as a creative combination of all things engineering and technology with all things economics and management. Under the tutelage of Professor Willie Siyanbola, the then Director-General of NACETEM, I became fascinated by the stark differences in the developmental paths of Nigeria compared with other African countries like Ghana and South Africa on one hand, and with the newly industrialised countries of South East Asia. Thus began my rich interdisciplinary journey. Over a Master degree in Mechanical Engineering, I opted for one in Technology Management. An economics PhD, no less in the evolutionary tradition, then became a natural choice. For this, I found a home in the Graduate College “Economics of Innovative Change” led by Professor Uwe Cantner, who also mentored me, at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena. Over the years, I have sought to understand the microeconomic factors that shape the emergence, evolution and economic impact of entrepreneurship and innovation which are strong predictors of national prosperity. My research programme has received support and yielded some contributions to knowledge that I am always happy to recollect.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: Nations develop when they make good policies and smart investment decisions especially in science, technology and innovation. In the coming years, I hope to be on some rooftop shouting that message at the top of my voice and through the instrumentality of mentorship.

Name/Academic Rank:

Ibor, Oju R. (Lecturer I)



Current Affiliation: Department of Zoology and Environmental Biology,
University of Calabar

NYA induction year: 2019

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2024

Discipline: Environmental Toxicology

Academic Trajectory: My passion for teaching and research evolved from my BSc project which increased my interest in research. My quest and desire to provide a healthy and safer world informed my venturing into my field of Environmental Toxicology. My research focus is on Cellular and Molecular Ecotoxicology, the functional and regulatory aspects of differentially expressed genes, proteins and enzymes, and the general stressors of contaminants, including endocrine modulators in vertebrate reproductive, developmental and metabolic physiology. I aspire to become renowned in the field of Environmental Toxicology.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope to engage in more research and publishing of my research output in impact making journals in my research area. I also hope to inspire research funding, equipment and state-of-the-art facilities to perform experiments with current methodologies in my field. I hope to collaborate more with scientists in developed countries and donate research equipment to local scientists with a view to enabling them to overcome the challenges confronting them.

Name/Academic Rank:

Ibrahim, Mohammed Auwal (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

NYA Induction Year: 2018

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Assistant Secretary General (2019 – 2021); Chairman, 2021 NYA Conference and General Assembly Committee (2021); Chairman, NYA Webinar Committee (2020 – 2021); Chairman, NYA Ethics Committee (2019 – 2020); Member, TetFund Position Paper Committee (2019); Chairman, Infectious and non-infectious diseases of the Biological and Health Sciences Working Group (2018 – 2020)

Discipline: Biochemistry (Drug Discovery)

Academic Trajectory: My motivation to be a scientist was ignited during my elementary school days, which culminated in my developing an interest in solving human problems. Arguably, my imaginations of the “world of the invisible creatures” motivated me to be a life scientist. This propelled me to study Biochemistry at the University with research focus on drug discovery. Over the years, I developed interest in uncovering novel chemotherapeutic agents and targets against Type 2 Diabetes, Trypanosomiasis and Malaria where I made extensive contributions which culminated in the publication of many peer-reviewed articles in high impact scientific journals. My recent research activities have earned me different awards such as: Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS); Research Fellowship at the Structure-Based Drug Discovery Group, National Institute for Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Tsukuba, Japan (2019-2021); the American Society for Cell Biology in collaboration with Carnegie Corporation of New York; and Keith R. Porter Endowment for ASCB/ISCB meeting in Philadelphia, USA. All these have equipped me with the requisite research skills to become an independent researcher on the African continent.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: My academic goal is to maintain robust, collaborative and persistent research activities to obtain patents, high impact publications and other academic accolades. I also hope to train highly competent and productive graduate students that will make great impact globally. Subsequently, I will re-direct my research to product development where I hope to develop commercially viable therapeutic products. This should make me financially buoyant enough to enable me develop a scientific foundation for the benefit of the new generation of scientists.

Name/Academic Rank:

Ibrahim, Mutiat Bolanle (Lecturer I)



Current Affiliation: University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos State

NYA induction year: 2019

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year):

Member, Webinar Coordination Committee, 2021

Discipline: Pharmacognosy, Cancer drug discovery and development

Academic Trajectory: My first academic success as an undergraduate student was first recorded in my exceptional performance in a Pharmacognosy course during my undergraduate days. I was highly motivated by the personal recognition given to me by the Head of the Department. Since then, my interest for the field of study continued to rise. Towards the end of my undergraduate degree program, I was inspired to study further as I made significant progress in my academic performance. After working in the pharmaceutical industry for about seven years after my graduation, I decided to enrol for a Masters' degree program and my academic performance availed me the opportunity to step further to bag a Ph.D. degree. In the course of my PhD programme, I was convinced that I would be able to impact knowledge through the way I managed members of research team. Thus, I developed the passion for an academic/research career.

Ambition in the next ten years: I aspire to build a research team or become an active member of a research team/group that will be involved in the discovery and development of potent and selective anticancer drug molecule(s).

Name/Academic Rank:

Idika, Idika Kalu (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Department of Veterinary Parasitology and Entomology,
University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State

NYA induction year: 2019

Discipline: Parasitology

Academic Trajectory: Growing up, I had a special curiosity and interest to understand how this works, or what played roles in determining an outcome. Nevertheless, my studying Veterinary Medicine was more of divine leading. I thereafter developed a general interest in Parasitology which began as a result of the cordial relationship between me and my academic adviser, Prof. S. N. Chiejina who later became my MSc supervisor. He introduced me to the area of 'host-parasite interactions' through my project work. This research made to understand the nature and processes involved in the different interactions between hosts and their pathogens, and as a result, my main and current research interest was born, which is the Molecular basis of the host's resistance to Anthelmintics. I was driven by the passion to control and if possible, eliminate the huge burden of gastrointestinal parasitosis in animals through therapeutic remedies. This has further led me into investigating our indigenous plants for the identification of compounds with the right medicinal chemistry for the development of new and potent anthelmintics free from resistance. The quest to make significant contributions to my field of study led me into the field of *Caenorhabditis elegans* cell biology and its application in molecular parasitology, including anthelmintic drug development. This was made possible by my active collaboration and linkage with the Bioscience laboratory of the Guangxi Academy of Sciences, Nanning, China, led by Prof Bin Wang.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: The arsenals available to combat the menace of gastrointestinal nematode infections in man and animals are not only limited but threatened by the continuous emergence of parasite strains able to resist the actions of the available anthelmintics. Therefore, as a Professor of Veterinary Parasitology with a special interest in diagnostic parasitology, my aspiration within the next decade, is to discover at least one lead anthelmintic compound/molecule with a novel mode of action, free from resistance, which I hope to develop into a new anthelmintic drug. I also hope to develop more interdisciplinary collaborations and linkages with both local and international researchers in different countries to achieve groundbreaking discoveries.

Name/Academic Rank:

Ifeanyi-Obi, Chinwoke Clara (Lecturer 1)



Current Affiliation: University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Rivers State

NYA Induction Year: 2020

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): 2021 NYA Conference
Central Organising Committee

Discipline: Agricultural Extension (Rural and Community Development)

Academic Trajectory: Providence brought me to my present specialisation of Agricultural Extension with special focus on Rural and Community Development Option. My passion to contribute to enhancing the livelihood of mostly poor rural farmers is the drive behind my specialising in Agricultural Extension. This has significantly impacted my research growth evidenced by my publications, the research grants and awards that I have won. I was a Post Doc research fellow of the United Kingdom Department for International Development under the Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE) Programme; a global Fellow of the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Studies, Brown University, USA and a Fellow of the West African Science Leadership Programme. Currently, I am a Research Fellow of the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences Next Einstein Initiative (AIMS-NEI) under the fellowship programme for women in climate change science. Conducting cutting-edge research is very demanding especially in a country like Nigeria where both institutional and financial support is very limited. Notwithstanding, I hope to scale this hurdle by building more linkages and networks with other researchers outside my domain in order to increase opportunities to access funds for quality research and public engagements.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: In the near future, I hope to mainstream gender and ICT into Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) issues and engage more in furthering partnerships among key players in agriculture and climate change. This I hope will facilitate the uptake of CSA among rural dwellers in Nigeria; hence improve agricultural productivity, farmers' resilience to climate change effects, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also, I hope to engage more in science communication by helping to provide credible evidence for informed policy decision. My ultimate dream is to be a leading researcher in environmentally sustainable management discourse in agriculture; a model and mentor for younger researchers particularly females in my area of specialization.

Name/Academic Rank:

Isah, Murtala Bindawa (Lecturer II)



Current Affiliation: Umaru Musa Yar'adua University

NYA Induction Year: 2020

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Webinar Coordination
Committee

Discipline: Chemotherapeutics of Parasitic Infection & Metabolic Diseases

Academic Trajectory: Research feels like an endless puzzle that keeps on providing exciting challenges. Since I enjoy searching things out and understanding the world around me, I chose my current discipline based on this desire and as a result of a recommendation by a mentor. Since then, I have taken interest in Chemotherapeutics of parasitic infection and metabolic diseases as my research focus in order to make a significant contribution to discoveries about parasites and parasitic infections in general.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: My ultimate desire is to become a renowned researcher by seeking grants and funding to do qualitative research, connecting with other researchers and publishing widely. Although lack of funding and appropriate infrastructure in Nigerian universities is a major challenge, I hope to collaborate with colleagues both within and outside the country to overcome these challenges. I also hope to show more commitment to capacity building by mentoring up and coming scholars in my field.

Name/Academic Rank:
Kadiri, Oseni (Lecturer II)



Current Affiliation: Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences,
Edo State University, Uzairue

NYA induction year: 2020

Discipline: Nutritional Biochemistry

Academic Trajectory: I grew up as a child eager to explore my environment and discover new things. This helped to develop my interest in becoming a scientist. Nutritional and Food Biochemistry is one area of study that gives me the opportunity of exploring nature to the fullest. I decided after my first degree to specialise in the Biochemistry of Food. My project topic on the effect of cyanide on the intestinal ATPase of *Clarias gariepinus* (Cat Fish) was a study which boosted my interest in Nutritional Biochemistry. I obtained my BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Benin in 2007 and my MSc and PhD degrees, with specialisation in Nutritional Biochemistry, from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife in 2015 and 2019, respectively. I joined the academic staff of Edo State University, Iyamho in 2019 where I teach Protein and Enzyme Biochemistry, among others, to medical and non-medical students. I am a member of several committees and sub-committees of the institution and also belong to the Nanostarch Research Group of the institution. I am a certified Publons Academy peer reviewer and I currently review for Scopus based journals in the field of Biochemistry and Food Science. I am a member of the Nutrition Society of Nigeria, Nigeria Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Nigeria Institute of Food Science and Technology. I am also a Yali Alumnus and certified cyber-IBM security specialist. I have attended several conferences and made presentations of my findings with the most recent being the IST annual scientific conference of the Nigeria Academy of Science held at the University of Lagos in 2021. My current research activities are on the application of modified starches in bio-functional food and nanostarch application in food processes.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: My ambition in the next ten years is to establish five patents for the safe and economical production of noodles from non-conventional sources in the country using local plants. I hope to scale the hurdle of difficulty in getting funding for research and expand the horizon of my research activities. If given the opportunity, I hope to help put in place policies that will make funding for research more accessible to outstanding scientists.

Name/Academic Rank:

Kaisan, Muhammad Usman
(Senior Lecturer/Deputy Director)



Current Affiliation: Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

NYA Induction Year: 2020

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member, 2021 Conference Organizing Committee.

Discipline: Mechanical Engineering (Alternative Fuels, Engines and Emission)

Academic Trajectory: My academic career began in March, 2010 when I was employed as a Scientific Officer in Energy Commission of Nigeria, Abuja. My duties involved research in the areas of energy management, energy modelling and simulations etc. I was deployed to the National Center for Energy Efficiency and Conservation, University of Lagos between 2014 and 2015 where I continued with research in the areas of energy management before joining the services of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria as Lecturer I in 2016. The overall goal of my research program is to provide automotive engineers with information and tools that will enable them to become better overseers of dependable and sustainable energy systems especially as applied to internal combustion engines. Solutions to aforementioned problems typically require an understanding of mechanical engineering and energy systems. Thus, my research strives to combine studies of basic mechanical engineering conceivable with applied research. Though my research sequencer ranges the continuum from basic to applied mechanical questions, it centers typically on the conservation of specific fuel consumption and providing a strong scientific basis for engine performance and emissions. Thus, my overall research agenda is driven largely by the energy and environmental concerns of industrial, mechanical, automobile and aerospace systems.

Additionally, I have been championing research and innovations through designs and development of plants and machineries, these have recorded me 4 patents alongside my team member in 2021. We are right now at the commercialization state of our novel products.

My research focus has been the diligence in automobile engines fuel consumption by operating automobiles more efficiently and the increase of environmental sanity by reducing the exhaust gases emissions from engines and ensuring better combustion of fossil fuels by use of alternative fuels. My current researches include alternative fuels, vehicle engines simulation, advanced engines performance, diesel fuel emissions reduction.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: My plans for the future include building specialty in each of the pivotal areas of my research sequencer, as delineated overhead. Precisely, I plan to model on the preliminary principal findings made in each of these research areas by using the findings as stimulus to fascinate supplementary external funding. In addition, as these initial projects mature over the next few years, I plan to focus on publishing results with reputable high impact journals. I wish to see my products been commercialized into useful and viable plants and machineries used in Nigerian industries and beyond.

Name/Academic Rank:

Kazeem, Mutiu Idowu (Associate Professor)



Current Affiliation: Department of Biochemistry, Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos

NYA Induction Year: 2017

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): General Secretary (2019 - 2021); Publicity Secretary (2017 – 2019); Chairman, Publicity Committee (2017 – 2019); Secretary, Antiplagiarism Committee (2018)

Discipline: Biochemistry (Diabetes & Metabolism)

Academic Trajectory: The impactful tutelage I enjoyed from my undergraduate supervisor while writing my final project ignited my passion to be an accomplished academic in life. This is evident in the progress made in the world of academia via the qualitative research activities I have participated in as a scientist and different fellowships and awards I have received. They include the TWAS-ICCBS Postgraduate fellowship award at the International Center for Chemical & Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan and the National Research Foundation (NRF) Freestanding Postdoctoral Fellowship, at the University of the Free State, South Africa. These fellowships have added in no small measure, to the exposure, expertise and experience in my field of study. My research focus was inspired by a mind-boggling discovery I stumbled upon during my MSc programme that diabetes mellitus is a lifetime chronic disease that has no cure but can only be managed. This spurred my interest in the area of drug discovery for the management of diabetes mellitus and other metabolic disorders. As such, my research both at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels focused on the antidiabetic properties of medicinal plants and foods, which resulted in the publication of more than fifty articles in reputable and high impact factor journals.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: My aspiration is to be a world-class scientist that will contribute to the development of nutraceuticals and phytochemicals for the management of diabetes and other metabolic disorders. My ultimate aim is to translate my research findings to useful products for the management of chronic diseases. Though paucity of funding may militate against this goal, I intend to continue to develop proposals and secure grants to accomplish it. I hope to mentor young researchers through collaborative cutting-edge research that will transform our world. I also intend to collaborate with relevant industries in a bid to translate my research findings to useful therapeutic products.

Name/Academic Rank:

Khaleed, Abubakar Abubakar (Lecturer I)



Current Affiliation: Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

Induction Year: 2020

Discipline: Physics

NYA Committee: Member 2021 NYA Electoral Committee

Academic Trajectory: My desire to be a physicist was borne out of the quest to satisfy my curiosity to better understand the world we live in, develop critical thinking skills, and have problem-solving skills that physicists excel in. Consequently, this informed my choice to study Physics with research focus on synthesis and characterization of nanomaterials for electrochemical capacitor and gas sensing applications, and nanofluid as insulating oils for oil-filled power equipment. Working in these areas have earned me many awards, grants and fellowships, such as: MacArthur Thesis Completion Grant 2012 for MSc Thesis; TETFUND fellowship for the PhD programme in Physics at the University of Pretoria in 2015; UP Postgraduate Research Support in 2016; two competitive doctoral research grants from NRF and CSIR South Africa; PhD Best Poster Presentation Award in Condensed Matter/Materials Science Category at the Annual SAIP Conference, Stellenbosch University in 2017; 2nd Place, Solid State Category of ZO1 Student Poster Session Award at the 232nd ECS Meeting, National Harbor, MD, USA in 2017; Award of Academic Honorary Colours by the Students Representative Council (VSR/SRC) of the University of Pretoria in 2017; and TETFUND/NRF 2019 Research Grant.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: In the next ten years, I expect my research group to be one of the biggest Materials Science Research groups in the country with state-of-the-art Materials Science Research Laboratory where various facilities for Materials Science applications can be accessed. My specific goal is to equip the laboratory with the electrochemical work station for various electrochemical energy storage research, exemplified by supercapacitor and battery researches, as well as train as many master's and PhD students in my area of specialization.

Name/Academic Rank:

Mada, Sanusi Bello (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Biochemistry Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

NYA induction year: 2019

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member NYA COC 2021

Discipline: Medical Biochemistry

Academic Trajectory: Right from my undergraduate days at the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, I have nursed the enthusiasm and passion for Biochemistry. This undoubtedly contributed immensely to becoming an academic and researcher. I started my academic career at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria as an Assistant Lecturer in 2010 and steadily progressed to the position of Senior Lecturer in 2019. My core area of interest is Medical Biochemistry. I had the privilege of conducting my PhD research work on the isolation of milk-derived bioactive peptides, screened and characterized their potential effects against postmenopausal bone loss in-vitro and in ovariectomized rat models. In view of my findings in subsequent research activities, I hope to further isolate and help develop bioactive compound with excellent therapeutic activity against osteoporotic bone fracture which can be patented in Nigeria and beyond.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope to win research grants to enable me establish a standard laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment needed to continue with our quest for finding bioactive compounds with therapeutic effects against postmenopausal bone loss. I hope to prevail on my university administration to give equal opportunities to all academic staff without gender bias and reactivate mentoring through the creation of research groups and interdisciplinary collaborations among academics.

Name/Academic Rank:

Malami, Ibrahim (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto

NYA induction year: 2019

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member, Publicity Committee; Member, Equipment Compendium Committee

Discipline: Cancer Biotherapeutics

Academic Trajectory: The desire to make my country stand out and make a difference in the world of scientific discovery and innovations propelled me into academics. I wished to contribute towards the effective treatment and wellbeing of patients living with cancer. My research focus is on small molecules of natural origin that modulate human cancer. I aspire to provide safe and effective treatment to patients living with cancer in the world. I continue to acquire the professional skills needed to take on more responsibilities with determination for greater independence and ground breaking results in my academic career.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: My ambition in the next ten years is to help propel my country towards making its mark in the world through the development of a disciplined and innovative research community. I hope to access more research grants to facilitate the provision of standard working conditions comparable to what is obtainable in advanced countries of the world. I also hope to actively engage in capacity building by training and mentoring young academics to attain greater independence and achieve better results in their career.

Name/Academic Rank:
Mohammed, Aminu (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria

NYA induction year: 2018

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member, Central Organising Committee, 9th and 10th NYA Conferences and General Assemblies (2019 & 2020)

Discipline: Natural Products Drug Discovery

Academic Trajectory: After my graduation in 2005 (BSc. Biochemistry), I was fascinated with the teaching profession. I started as lecturer in Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, Zaria, and then moved to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 2010. Since, then I was involved in teaching and research particularly in the areas of Medical Biochemistry and Natural Products Drug Discovery with particular interest in Diabetes and Trypanosomiasis. In order to advance my research skills, I attended several training and conferences in many places such MIT in Boston, IUBMB in Seoul to mention a few.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I am passionate about the advancement and development of science particularly in my dear nation and have realised that science will rapidly advance if quality leadership and training is given to the emerging researchers. In the coming years, I hope to be actively involved in mentorships and training of younger colleagues toward cutting-edge research of global relevance.

Name/Academic Rank:

Molehin, Olorunfemi Raphael (Lecturer I)



Current Affiliation: Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria

NYA Induction Year: 2020

Discipline: Drug Metabolism and Toxicology

Academic Trajectory: I have always loved to know more about drugs and its mode of actions from my childhood days. To achieve my dreams, I wanted to study Pharmacy but was not given admission twice, so I opted for to study Biochemistry. I later obtained my Masters degree in Biochemistry (Drug Metabolism & Toxicology) under the supervision of Prof. Ebenezer O. Farombi who further boosted my research interests in Drug Metabolism and Toxicology. Thereafter, I obtained my PhD in Biochemistry and since then I have been conducting research in my chosen fields. I started my career as an assistant lecturer in 2012 at Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti. I am a recipient of TETFUND pre-doctoral scholarship in 2017 to Aberystwyth University, Wales, United Kingdom. I am a recipient of several travel awards and fellowships from notable bodies like ASBMB, RSC, and Biochemical society, UK. I have published widely in reputable national and international journals and serve also as associate editors and reviewers for them. Some of the challenges confronting Nigerian academics include lack of funding for research and lack of trust in science in Nigeria. I have been involved in mentoring younger ones and creating interest in research with a view to helping to proffer permanent solutions to scientific problems in my country.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope to engage in research that has impact on the society, build capacity and extend my research collaborations internationally. My ultimate desire is to use scientific research to solve problems in the society, influence young scholars through mentorship programmes and have my own research laboratory. With this background, I hope to make more impact in my field.

Name/Academic Rank:
Morakinyo, Oyewale Mayowa (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: University of Ibadan, Ibadan.
NYA Induction Year: 2020
Discipline: Environmental Health

Academic Trajectory: My love for scientific investigation was discovered by my lecturers during my Master's degree programme at the University of Ibadan. This prompted them to give me the support and encouragement I needed to pursue a career in academics. Interestingly, the pains my younger sister went through as an asthmatic patient coupled with the traumatic stress my parents experienced in ensuring her wellness made me choose to study Public Health at the University. This choice was to enable me have an understanding of the role of environmental factors in disease causation. Arguably, my research focus has been driven by this quest and this is evident in the research activities I have engaged in since I joined the services of the University of Ibadan as a Lecturer II in 2012.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I desire to be at the forefront of global research by focusing on the reduction of the burden of childhood and maternal deaths linked to environmental factors. In view of this, I plan to carry out cutting-edge interdisciplinary, community-oriented and evidence based environmental research that will lead to the formulation of informed policies. Also, I plan to lead the drive for effective and efficient environmental health management, initiate public consciousness and provide environmental education on sustainable environmental management. I hope to participate in learned conferences and short courses, join global organisations, and build networks across different professional bodies to give me the requisite exposure to carry out quality research. Lastly, I hope to institute appropriate mentorship programmes for capacity building among young scholars and other professionals in Africa to enable them serve as agents of change in their respective domains.

Name/Academic Rank:
Muhammad, Aliyu (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Biochemistry, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

NYA induction year: 2017

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Publicity committee member (2017–2019), Vice President (2019–2021)

Discipline: Cancer Research, Biotherapeutics and Toxicology

Academic Trajectory: I became an academic mainly to produce result-driven research and community services. I attained my current field of study through mentorship and guidance. My research focus is Cancer research, Biotherapeutics, Cellular and Molecular Toxicology. I hope to become an expert in cancer research. I entered academics as an Assistant Lecturer in 2010 and I became a Senior Lecturer in 2019.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope to engage in local and international research collaboration in cancer research by attracting funding for my research from international funding agencies. I also hope to mentor younger colleagues to engage in cutting-edge research that would benefit the world.

Name/Academic Rank:

Nwanna, Esther Emem (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Federal University of Technology Akure, (FUTA), Nigeria.

NYA Induction Year: 2020

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): member NYA Biological and Health Sciences (BHS) Working Group Committee 2020 – till date.

Discipline: Applied Biochemistry

Academic Trajectory: My father is someone close to nature he believes in the power of medicinal plants so I grew up asking questions on how do these plants and their products work? Thus, the desire of becoming a scientist started. I opted for the study of Pharmacy to help provide answers and alternative solutions to some life-threatening questions in the area of food and health security in Africa, particularly Nigeria, which is blessed with medicinal plants that could proffer cheaper, less toxic and novel solutions to several diseased conditions in animals and humans. I wanted to study Pharmacy at the University of Ibadan, but I didn't make it so I opted for my second option which was Biochemistry at the Federal University of Technology Akure. I had my Bachelor, Masters, and PhD in same Department where I was gainfully employed as Assistant Lecturer and rose to the rank of Senior Lecturer. My research focuses on the pharmacological potentials and the mechanism of action of plant-based products against metabolic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, neurodegeneration and CVDs related conditions. I have published my research findings across different reputable journals. I am a recipient of TETFund research and conference grants as well as won NRF-Tet fund research grant 2020. I am a beneficiary of the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Molecular Biology (ICGEB), Italy award. I am also a beneficiary of the Royal Academy of Engineering, UK grant. I am a member of Organization for Women in Science in developing world Italy/Nigeria, Nigerian Women in STEM, Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NSBMB), American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Academic Society of Functional Foods and Bioactive Compounds (ASFFBC) USA, Society for Medicinal Plant, and Economic Development South Africa (SOMPED), Functional Food and Nutraceutical Association, Nigeria. I am the founder of a Triple B Initiative Hub focused on the empowerment of the female child in STEM also I am involved in outreach and mentorship programs for youths and women at various levels.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I aspire to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria with my research and continue my work on human capital development and gender equality/equity especially in STEM through collaborations and partnerships with stakeholders across Africa, including government, the private sector and other organizations.

Name/Academic Rank:

Obada, David Olubiyi (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

NYA Induction Year: 2019

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member, Physical Sciences and Engineering Research Group, 2020- till date

Discipline: Mechanical Engineering

Academic Trajectory: I started my academic career as a Studio Demonstrator before I was appointed as Lecturer I at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. My interest for research was ignited when I was awarded the Small Grant for Graduate Internship by the Association of African Universities in 2014. This motivated me to embark on graduate studies where I focused on research in vehicular emissions with associated scenarios like fuel economy and engine performance. Emphasis was made on the development of new emission abatement materials based on a group of materials called perovskites, and their applications in real-time. On completion of my PhD, I was trained at the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States of America. These experiences have enhanced my development in my area of scientific interests. Currently, I have developed interest in biomaterials for tissue engineering and I am developing mechanically competent and biocompatible hydroxyapatite scaffolds for bone regeneration. This area of research is motivated by the funding from the NRF-TETFund, Nigeria, 2020.

Ambition in the next 10 years: I plan to advance my efforts to contribute to the research and scholarship on the industrial and clinical application of perovskite and hydroxyapatite materials, respectively. In particular, I plan to expand the work of my PhD thesis in three related ways: establish the efficiency of diesel oxidation catalysts during real time engine measurements; examine the mechanism of adsorption and desorption of gas species on the active surfaces of structured support during operation; and consider the use of perovskites for solar cell applications.

Name/Academic Rank:

Odetokun, Ismail Ayoade (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Dept of Veterinary Public Health & Preventive Medicine, University of Ilorin, Ilorin.

NYA induction year: 2019

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member, Biological and Health Sciences Working Group (2019 till date).

Discipline: Veterinary Public Health

Academic Trajectory: I have since my undergraduate days determined to impact human health positively with my knowledge of veterinary medicine. Thereafter, I had my undergraduate project in veterinary public health focusing on food safety. Furthermore, I completed my master's and Ph.D. degrees in the same field under the same supervisor since my undergraduate research. My passion for academics, research, and community development grew more as I joined the lab of my supervisor as a Research Assistant after my master's programme. This position exposed me to serious academic and research rigors which I pursued with deep interest. My passion for research, knowledge acquisition and dissemination saw me present some of our research findings in major international conferences on public health, food protection, and One Health in the US, Europe, and Australia. Furthermore, I have had stints of training and research stays around the world on food safety, zoonoses, epidemiology, and One Health leading to the completion of my Ph.D. research and other projects. These conferences/training/research stays redirected my idea about academics and research. I understood better that it is only through purposeful research that every sector of a country can develop. Research drives development! I continued to focus on this path after joining the services of the University of Ilorin in 2014. My academic and research sojourn so far has received supports from meaningful mentors and individuals, reputable professional societies, and a research institute.

Ambition in the next 10 years: I hope to become a scholar with a highly competitive scientific capability, producing accomplished undergraduate and postgraduate students while conducting evidence-based scientific research that would lead to disease control and establishment of food safety policies to improve public health. Specifically, I hope to continue to combat the problem of antimicrobial resistance in the food chain and carry out genomic epidemiology of foodborne diseases from animal sources. I see myself getting involved in the modelling of infectious diseases using novel methodologies under the One Health concept.

Name/Academic Rank:

Odetoje, Temitope Elizabeth (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Ilorin, Ilorin

NYA induction year: 2016

NYA exit year: 2021

Discipline: Chemical Engineering

Academic Trajectory: My research interests have been in sustainable process and product development with focus on production of biofuels, biomass wastes utilisation for energy, biocomposites, industrial utilisation of seed oils, coatings technology (alkyd resins), reuse of polymer wastes among others. I have been awarded the Fellowship of L'Oreal-UNESCO for Women in Science, Sub-Saharan Africa in 2014, Visiting Scholar to Aston University under the auspices of European Bioenergy Research Institute (EBRI), Birmingham, UK in 2012. I was an alternate awardee of the Association of American University Women Fellowship. I hold a Bachelor of Technology degree in Chemical Engineering, Masters degree in Industrial Chemistry and two Ph.D. degrees (Ph.D. Chemistry and Ph.D. Chemical Engineering). I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Ilorin, Ilorin.

Ambition in the next 10 years: I intend to invest more resources into mentoring of upcoming engineering researchers, and engage in more vibrant grant supported research activities. I desire to see my research outputs being utilised at commercial scale and being patented with royalties.

Name/Academic Rank:

Ogbuka, Cosmas Uchenna (Associate Professor)



Contact Address: Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Nigeria, Nsukka
Enugu State

Discipline: Electrical Engineering

NYA induction year: 2020

Academic Trajectory: I hold the following degrees from the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Nigeria Nsukka: B.Eng. (First Class Honours), M.Eng. (Distinction) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) obtained in 2004, 2009 and 2014, respectively. My doctoral research was in the specialist area of Electric Power Devices in which I have many publications in peer-reviewed journals and presented papers in learned conferences. I also obtained the Certificate of Completion of the Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program from the MIT Teaching and Learning Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge Massachusetts, USA in May 2017. My areas of research focus are Electric Drives: Development of new and energy-efficient control methods for electric machines in domestic and industrial drives including applications in Electric and Hybrid Electric Vehicles; Power Electronic Converters (Inverters and DC to DC Converters): Development and control of power electronic converters for renewable energy applications; and Power Electronics Applications and Control of Electric Power Systems: Development of power electronic applications and advanced control methods for conventional and emerging electric power systems. I am an International Faculty Fellow of the MIT Science and Technology Initiative (MISTI), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. I undertook a postdoctoral research visit to the Chair of Electrical Drives and Actuators (EAA), University of Federal Defense, Munich, Germany. I have the following academic and administrative experiences to my credit: Academic Programmes Coordinator/Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Power and Energy Development (ACE-SPED), University of Nigeria, Nsukka (2018-Date); Director, Computer Communications Centre, University of Nigeria, Nsukka August 2018 to Date; Acting Head, Department of Electronic Engineering, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (2017-2018).

Name/Academic Rank:

Ogundajo, Akintayo Lanre (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Chemistry, Lagos State University, Ojo Lagos

NYA Induction year: 2018

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Secretary, Central Organising Committee, 10th Anniversary and General Assembly (2020); Member, Assessment policy committee (2019)

Disciplines: Organic and Natural Products Chemistry

Academic Trajectory: I developed the passion to become a scientist right from my secondary school days because of my interest in developing products and inventions through science and technology. I chose Industrial Chemistry as my course of study for my undergraduate and Master's programme because of my interest in developing new and quality products, through ground breaking research. However, because of several challenges in the health sector which include numerous diseases that had become global threat and no potent drug or vaccine has been discovered to combat their activities. For this reason, I decided to choose the field of Natural Products and Organic Chemistry for my PhD research which eventually became my core discipline. My research career was also enhanced by couple of international fellowship awards I was privileged to enjoy. I was a visiting research fellow between 2011 and 2012 at Marine Natural Product Laboratory Department of Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Botany, Prince of Songkla University Hatyai, Thailand. Moreover, I was also a Postdoctoral fellow at Phytomedicine and Phytopharmacology Research Laboratory, Department of Plant Science, University of The Free State, South Africa from 2006 to 2007. My research over the years has focused on areas within the concept of Natural Products Chemistry, Medicinal Plant Analysis and Life Sciences. Several of my research findings have been published in reputable journals.

Ambitions in the Next Ten Years: To reach the peak of my career with the development of a laboratory that has state-of-the-art equipment. I also hope to develop and patent drug candidates from natural sources that can combat challenges posed by tuberculosis, Alzheimer and COVID-19. I hope to collaborate locally and internationally in conducting cutting-edge research and mentoring doctoral candidates.

Name/Academic Rank:

Okoli, Peter Chukwunonso (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Chemistry; Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu Alike, Ikwo

NYA induction year: 2020

Discipline: Analytical/Environmental Chemistry

Academic Trajectory: My choice of being a chemist was not by design, as I initially had interest in studying Pharmacy. However, by dint of providence, I ended up in Industrial Chemistry. After my first degree, I joined the private sector as an in-line production chemist, where I got exposed to some real-life industrial processes that reshaped my understanding and appreciation of Chemistry as a profession till date. Despite the bright prospects, I did not feel the inner drive to pursue a career in the industry. As a person, I discovered that I have a burning passion for teaching/mentoring, and penchant for addressing issues of general public concern. In a bid to equip myself for the task ahead, I obtained a PhD in Analytical/Environmental Chemistry in 2014, which equipped me to contribute in finding solutions to the global chemical pollution crisis. My research focus is on development of low-cost analytical methods for micro-organic pollutants/pollutants of emerging concern, deployment of environmental forensic methods for efficient implementation of Polluter-pays-principle in Nigeria, development of low-cost materials for adsorption remediation of anthropogenic water pollution, as well as assessment of fate/safety of environmental nanomaterials. My research endeavour has received tremendous support from both local and international funding bodies. At different times, I have attracted several research grants to various institutions where I have worked. These include 2014 TWAS UNESCO group grant, 2017 NSFC/NRF China-South Africa collaborative grant, 2019 IsDB-TWAS grant, and the recently concluded 2020 TETFund NRF grant. Besides academic publications, my research effort has attracted recognitions and awards, amongst which is the 2018 NYA's Prof. K.O. Adebowale Prize for National Young Scientist in Chemical Sciences.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope to develop the critical mass of forensic expertise required for efficient implementation of PPP in Nigeria, and establish a globally-ranked environmental consulting firm to offer services and advice on pollution management. Overall, I hope to be making discernible impact in my society through my research and mentoring.

Name/Academic Rank:
Okuonghae, Daniel (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Department of Mathematics, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria

NYA induction year: 2017

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Chairman, Plagiarism Survey Committee, 2018

Discipline: Mathematical Modelling and Mathematical Biology

Academic Trajectory: I have always loved to investigate why things are what they are, yearned to better understand my environment and help proffer solutions to its challenging problems. Some of my lecturers during my undergraduate and postgraduate days were so good in their craft that I knew I could be like them, coupled with my strong love for knowledge and the search for further knowledge, understanding and truth. Hence, finding myself in academia as a researcher is not an accident; it was what I wanted. I love anything numerate, anything involving calculations and logic. After taking a mathematical modelling course during my undergraduate days at the University of Benin, I discovered I could use my mathematical skills and abilities to proffer solutions to the challenges plaguing humanity, especially in developing countries. Little wonder I am an applied mathematician, with very strong modelling skills; most of my research works have been in modelling problems from the Bio-medical fields. My research focus is Mathematical Modelling and Mathematical Biology. I started my academic career in 2005 in the Department of Mathematics, University of Benin, Benin City, as an Assistant Lecturer and rose through the ranks to the position of Professor of Mathematics in 2018.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I aspire to be recognised as one of the world's leading mathematical modellers. I, also, hope to help develop young scientists through my research group (Mathematical, Computational and Statistical Biology (MCSB) Group), and open up new frontiers for research in my area of specialisation. I expect this to help check the problem of lack of proper mentorship and, inadequate motivation to engage in deep research.

Name/Academic Rank:

Olasunkanmi O. Lukman (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

NYA Induction Year: 2018

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member, NYA Plagiarism Survey Committee (2019); Treasurer and Executive Committee Member (2019 - 2021)

Discipline: Physical Chemistry

Academic Trajectory: I chose an academic and research path because of my insatiable quest for knowledge and strong passion for imparting same. I particularly enjoy the dynamics of scientific research and the opportunity to introduce new concepts to students as knowledge evolves over time. With my interest in Physical Sciences right from the high school, I got admitted to study Chemistry in the university. I decided to specialise in Chemistry where I would continue to utilise Mathematics and Physics as tools for solving chemical problems. This informed my decision to specialise in Physical Chemistry whereby my research focus, especially in the last five years has centred on Electrochemistry, Kinetics and Thermodynamics of Metal Corrosion and Mitigation. Aside experimental measurements, my research, also often involves computational studies of equilibrium geometry, stability, reactivity, molecular interactions and orbital analysis towards providing theoretical explanations for specific chemical behaviour. Although I had a humble start as a young academic, I ranked among the top 500 prolific authors in Nigeria between 2013 and 2018 (by SciVal) and I will say my academic trajectory has been quite smooth so far as I have been able to maintain a consistent scholarly output over the years.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I aspire to become an internationally renowned researcher whose scientific contributions would reshape the world and make it a better and safer place for all. I also plan to maintain my growing scholarly profile without complacency by extending research collaborations to all continents. Notwithstanding the challenges of inadequate research facilities in Nigerian universities and research institutions, and inappropriate government policies, I will not waver in my efforts to secure international grants and collaborations in order to achieve my goals. I also hope to remain committed to mentoring young scholars in my field in order to prepare them to meet up with international standards in doing qualitative research and winning competitive grants and fellowships.

Name/Academic Rank:

Omoju, Oluwasola (Research Fellow)



Current Affiliation: National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, Abuja

NYA induction year: 2019

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): NYA Professional Ethics Committee (Member), 2021 Central Organising Committee (Member)

Discipline: Energy Economics and Climate Policy

Academic Trajectory: I became a researcher to study and analyse economic development and societal problems, and proffer solutions to them. This began as an undergraduate student in the Department of Economics of the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. I graduated in 2006. I commenced my career as an Executive Trainee in one of Nigeria's new generation banks, but the desire for research propelled me to apply for a MSc degree in Economics at the University of Lagos, where I graduated in 2010 as the second-best student in the class. My research career took off when I joined the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, the think tank and research institute of the Nigerian National Assembly in 2012. This position acquainted me with the importance of scientific research in public policy making. I later obtained the Chinese Government Scholarship in 2013 to study for a PhD in Energy Economics from Xiamen University, and I graduated in 2017 as the second-best international PhD student in the university. My current research focuses on the link between energy, economy, development and the environment. My research has been presented in local and international conferences and published in top peer-reviewed journals in my field. In the course of my scientific career, I have received research fellowships in France, China and Austria. I am also a recipient of notable research grants such as the OeAD Ernst Mach Grants, Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP)-PAGE II Grant (twice), the GDN-EIB grant/fellowship, INGSA grants, to mention a few.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: In the next ten years, I hope to be a renowned researcher in my field, where I can use my scientific knowledge and skills to support policy making in Nigeria. Although the trajectory of my scientific career is expected to evolve over time, I hope to use my experience as a policy researcher to support collaboration between young researchers and policy makers in the long term.

Name/Academic Rank:

Dr. Omoruyi, Iyekhoetin Matthew (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Benson Idahosa University, Benin City

NYA Induction Year: 2016

NYA Exit Year: 2021

NYA Roles (Offices Held/Committee Served, Including Year): Member, Disciplinary Committee, 2017; Member, COC for 2017 NYA Conference and General Assembly; NYA General Secretary, 2017-2019; Environmental and Public Health Sub-Group Research Chair, 2018-2020; Chairman, NYA Membership Number Committee, 2019; Chairman, 2021 NYA Electoral Committee.

Discipline: Public Health Microbiology and Toxicology

Academic Trajectory: Lecturing and research has always been a passion for me, and thank God for my mentors, for discovering me early enough. I began my expedition into academics in December 2008, as a Graduate Assistant, and went through the ranks to become a Senior Lecturer in 2020. The voyage has been an interesting one, with quite a number of interesting scientific outputs, academic collaborations as well as research grants and fellowship. My research focuses on the microbiological and toxicological safety of ready-to-eat food, as well as the molecular epidemiology of infectious and non-infectious diseases.

Ambition in The Next 10 Years: To become a Professor of international repute, with vast research collaborations. To attract more research grants and mentor scientist for future generations.

Name/Academic Rank:
Omotoso, Ezekiel (Lecturer 1)



Current Affiliation: Obafemi Awolowo University
NYA Induction Year: 2020
Discipline: Solid State Physics

Academic Trajectory: I started my teaching and research career when I left The Federal Polytechnic, Ede to join Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife in April 2010 as a graduate assistant. I obtained my B.Sc. in Engineering Physics and Master of Science in Electronics and Electrical Engineering at Obafemi Awolowo University. I bagged my PhD in Physics at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, where I was groomed to become an independent researcher. I got some awards during my PhD programme. I was also on fellowships after completing my PhD. This experience has helped me to contribute my quota to the world of defects in semiconductor devices.

Ambition in the next 10 years: I wish to have secured research grants that will enable me to build and equip my own electronic research group with state-of-the-art facilities that will allow me to train students and researchers without depending too much on other neighbouring African universities' facilities for fabrication and characterization of devices.

Name/Academic Rank:

Orji, Anthony (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

NYA induction year: 2018

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Secretary, Social Science and Humanities Research Group (2020-2022); Member, Publicity Committee; Member, NYA Annual Conference Planning Committee (2020)

Discipline: Development Economics

Academic Trajectory: I hold a PhD in Economics and I am a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Economics, University of Nigeria Nsukka. I obtained my degrees from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and a Post Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Local Economic Development (SLED) from Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands. My teaching and research focus is on Development Economics (with special interests in Finance and Resource Mobilization, Gender, Health, Energy, Agriculture, Growth and Poverty Reduction, Public Sector, Natural Resource, Environmental Economics) and I have published in these areas. I won two Vice Chancellor's PhD awards as the Best PhD Graduate in the Faculty of the Social Sciences and among the three best candidates at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka for the 2014/2015 academic session. I also won a University award in 2016 as one of the top ten most friendly lecturers in University of Nigeria, Nsukka. I was a Visiting Scholar to the University of Laval, Quebec, Canada and an Alumnus/Fellow of the African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics (APORDE), Johannesburg, South Africa and International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP) Programme, New Delhi, India, respectively. I am a member of Nigeria Young Academy and a fellow of the African Science Leadership Program, University of Pretoria, South Africa. I have published widely and attended several professional learned conferences. I am a network member of many research organisations across the globe and have participated in several research projects funded by global organizations.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: As a Development Economist, I desire to contribute significantly in providing solutions to the problems of unemployment, inequality and general poverty ravaging the citizens of Nigeria and the African continent at large. This I hope to achieve through continuous involvement in ground-breaking scientific research outputs and through policy making and implementation.

Name/Academic Rank:

Oyali, Uchenna (Lecturer I)



Current Affiliation: Department of English, University of Abuja, Nigeria

NYA induction year: 2019

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member, Publicity Committee (2019-2021); Member, Central Organizing Committee, 11th NYA Conference and General Assembly (2021).

Discipline: English Linguistics, Translation Studies

Academic Trajectory: My interest in the academia was ignited during my undergraduate days by my uncle and lecturer, Mr Pius Enebeli Opene. At the time, the University of Abuja had the policy to employ her best graduating students as Graduate Assistants. My uncle challenged me to go for it and I accepted the challenge, emerged the Best Graduating Student in my class and started my career as an academic. My initial research interest was Literary Linguistics, but after my MA degree in English Language (2009) at the University of Abuja, I stumbled on an advertisement for a Commonwealth Shared Scholarship to do an MA programme in Translation Studies at Aston University, UK, which I applied for and was successful. I got fascinated by the new research area, especially as not much research had been done in Translation Studies in Nigeria. Consequently, after earning the MA degree in Translation Studies (2011), I researched into Bible translation for my doctoral degree at the University of Bayreuth, Germany, which I completed in 2018. My current researches focus on the politics and ideologies of Bible translation. My doctoral thesis investigated how Bible translation enriched the Igbo lexicon and conceptual repertoire. Recently, I got awarded the African Humanities Programme Postdoctoral Fellowship (2021-2022) to explore how the different Bible translations in Igbo are used as a site for language modernization and religio-ethnic identity (re)construction. I am part of the research team working on the project “Colonial Letters and the Contact of Knowledges”, sponsored by the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, University of Bayreuth, Germany. I am also a recipient of the 2018 AGNES Grant for Junior Researchers, jointly awarded by the African-German Network of Excellence in Science, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I aspire to be a leading voice not only in Bible translation in Nigeria but also in Translation Studies in Africa. In addition to my own researches, I am the Secretary of the Association for Translation Studies in Nigeria and the Editor of the Journal for Translation Studies in Nigeria. Serving in these capacities enables me to contribute towards steering the trajectory of translation research in Nigeria and Africa. I also plan to mentor younger colleagues who have interest in translation research.

Name/Academic Rank:
Oyebode, Oluwabunmi Opeyemi
(Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

NYA Induction Year: 2017

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Chair, SSH Research Group, 2021 – till date; Member, Publicity Committee 2019 – till date; Member, NYA Yearbook Committee 2020 – till date.

Discipline: Multimodal Discourse Analysis, New Media Studies, and Applied Linguistics

Academic Trajectory: My desire to be an academic was ignited by the teaching style of my English teacher when I was in the Senior Secondary School. His unusual quotations from the works of Shakespeare such as Hamlet, Julius Caesar and Measure for Measure, as illustrations to support the objective of his lessons spurred me to choose English as my course of study in the University. Although my chosen course ran contrary to my father's wish that I should study Law, my interest in English Studies and the ultimate decision to pursue it to PhD level was enhanced by my encounter with dedicated lecturers during my MA. My academic performance in the Master's class coupled with the year-long experience as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant in the United States eventually set me on the path of academic enterprise. Hence in May 2011, I was employed as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of English where I teach Discourse Analysis, Grammar and Applied English Linguistics. I became more interested in other communicative ensembles through my interaction with Prof. Moji Olateju who introduced me to Multimodal Discourse Analysis. The way and manner political actors draw on social and cultural artefacts to convey their campaign messages as well as how outdoor advertisements occupy the public domain attracted me to political discourse as a viable research area where the tools of Multimodality can be appropriated. The research thus led to co-authoring two books in the area to contextualize Multimodality in Nigerian political discourse. It also informed my travelling to the University of Southern Denmark, Odense to be mentored by Professor Theo van Leeuwen in order to acquaint myself with latest developments in the field. In addition, I am a recipient of the prestigious African Humanities Program Postdoctoral Fellowship of the American Council of Learned Societies (2021/2022).

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I see myself becoming one of the trailblazers in Multimodal Discourse Studies in Nigeria by teaching, researching, publishing, networking (locally and globally) and mentoring young scholars in the area.

Name/Academic Rank:

Oyeyemi, Ifeoluwa (Lecturer I)



Current Affiliation: Department of Biological Sciences, University of Medical Sciences, Ondo, Nigeria

NYA induction year: 2018

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Sub Group Chairman (Biological and Health Science Research Group), Secretary (Electoral Committee 2021)

Discipline: Zoology (Cell Biology and Genetics)

Academic Trajectory: I wanted to study Medicine but I was unable to do so. Consequently, I decided from my undergraduate days that I would pursue higher degrees in my field on completing my first degree. As I proceeded with my postgraduate studies, my interest in research continued to wax stronger. I sought advice and found the field of Cell Biology and Genetics interesting. My current research is investigating the modulatory effect of natural products/medicinal plants on the genetic, molecular and signalling pathways involved in chronic diseases. In addition, I am also investigating the safety of these plants. I hope to become an established scientist who will contribute to solving contemporary problems locally and globally and become a role model for females who wish to pursue careers in the Sciences or Technology.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: Aside from striving to become an independent researcher, I hope to build a research team, acquire more skills, build international and national collaboration and win grants. I hope to overcome the challenge of getting committed team members, in spite of limited infrastructure and epileptic power supply. I hope to sustain a healthy relationship with committed members and seek grants to purchase the necessary equipment. I will also invest energy and resources into mentoring young academics and engage in capacity building. My ultimate ambition is to contribute to finding suitable diagnostic markers and lead compounds for some of the prevalent chronic diseases in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Name/Academic Rank:
Sanusi, Kayode (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Chemistry, Obafemi Awolowo University

NYA induction year: 2016

Discipline: Physical/Theoretical Chemistry

Academic Trajectory: God is perfect and so are His ways. He is the destiny writer and the only perfect planner. Fate made me to study chemistry as a course, and also made me a lecturer in the subject. A memorable event that occurred in one of our Year III Quantum Chemistry classes opened the door to an academic career to me. As an undergraduate, teaching and mentoring of younger colleagues was my passion. In fact, I earned most of my upkeep money from this side-struggle. So, when I became a lecturer, it was like I had already been trained to be one, and fitting well into the university system as a staff was never a problem. I have received several academic and scholarship awards, some of which include the Award for the Best Graduating BSc. Chemistry student (2005), African Laser Centre Graduate Scholarship Award (2012, 2013 and 2014), Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) Scholarship Award (2014), Award of Excellence by the Precious Corner-Stone University, Ibadan (2019) and so on. Graciously, I also had the opportunity to be trained for my PhD in South Africa, by one of the world's most famous scientists, Prof. Tebello Nyokong of Rhodes University, South Africa. The experience and knowledge I gained while under her tutelage have helped me to carve a niche for myself in the areas of Photo-physics and Photochemistry. I was one of the twenty-five finalists at the 2019 edition of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), a.k.a. Azrieli Global Scholars' Programme, in Canada. It was fulfilling for me to be among the top twenty-five people at such an international programme, which hosted a number of Nobel Laureates.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope and pray for God's continued mercy upon my life, so as to be able to break more grounds, and make greater exploits in the field of science.

Name/Academic Rank:

Sogbanmu, Temitope O. (Lecturer I)



Current Affiliation: Ecotoxicology and Conservation Unit, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos

NYA induction year: 2019

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Secretary, NYA Conference Organising Committee (2021); Member, NYA 10th Anniversary Conference Organising Committee (2020); Secretary, NYA Biological and Health Sciences Working Group (2020 till date); Member, NYA Webinar Committee (2020 till date); Member, NYA Ethics Committee (2019 till date)

Discipline: Environmental Toxicology

Academic Trajectory: I developed interest in the field of Environmental Toxicology and Pollution Management during my undergraduate studies and due to my brief stint in the oil and gas industry. I sought to apply my academic knowledge and skills that I gained to crude oil pollution assessment and management. Further, I was encouraged by my undergraduate project supervisor, who also supervised my MSc and PhD research. He noticed my interest and spurred me into postgraduate research which eventually led me into academics. This was after the publication of my undergraduate thesis in an international peer-reviewed journal. My research focus is on risk assessment and management of organic pollutants in various environmental media using classic and emerging ecotoxicology tools. This is with a view to developing and providing targeted environmental management advice to regulators, policymakers and practitioners. I have supervised many BSc and MSc theses and published widely in reputable international journals. I have received research grants, fellowships, and awards as well as being a visiting scholar to universities in the United Kingdom, Canada and Germany. I currently lead a multidisciplinary research group whose objectives align with my aspirations for innovation in waste management and wastewater treatment. Already, I have a product being applied for patenting on industrial wastewater treatment and I am consolidating on engagements with researchers, practitioners and policymakers for evidence-informed decision making in the field.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I aspire to be a renowned environmental risk assessor and manager contributing to pollution management through the development and application of innovative products and technologies for wastewater treatment and waste management. To overcome the challenges of funding and maintaining a productive laboratory/research group, I aim to maximise the resources and opportunities available in the various networks I am in, up skill, attract and manage large research grants.

Name/Academic Rank:

Ugbenyen, Anthony Moses (Associate Professor)



Current Affiliation: Edo State University, Uzairue

NYA induction year: 2017

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Technical and Logistic Secretary of the NYA (2019-2021); Secretary, COC 2019 General Assembly and Annual Conference; Member, COC 2018 General Assembly and Annual Conference; Sub-group Chair, Applied and Environmental Sub-group of the Biological Working Group of the NYA (2020-2022); Member, Year Book Committee (2020-2021)

Discipline: Biochemistry

Academic Trajectory: I had thought earlier in my secondary school days that I was going to read Medicine and become a medical doctor, little did I know that my calling was in academics. Instead of Medicine, I was offered Biochemistry as an undergraduate discipline. As I settled down to study Biochemistry, I started to develop interest in the course and began to feel that I could impact my world with the course. I graduated as the best student in my department in the 1999/2000 academic session. After my NYSC in 2002, I enrolled for MSc in Biochemistry at the University of Ibadan which led to my being offered assistant lectureship in 2006. I later proceeded to the University of Fort Hare in South Africa where I took my PhD. I returned to Ambrose Alli University after my PhD in 2014, and later joined Edo State University, Iyamho as a Senior Lecturer and Ag. Head, Department of Biochemistry. I specialise in using microorganisms that produce extracellular biomolecules to clean polluted water for reuse. I engaged in the extraction of bio-flocculants, which were found to be more eco-friendly and easily degradable when compared with synthetic flocculants that are poisonous. I am also engaged in research in nutrition and health as well as the use of Nanotechnology for solving water problems.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope to reach the peak of my career and become a renowned researcher in the area of water and waste-water management. I also hope to impact my world with good and credible scientific innovations by mentoring more young scholars at the highest level of academic learning. I hope to pursue grants locally and internationally to support my research endeavours.

Name/Academic Rank:

Ukwaja, Kingsley Nnanna
(Clinical Lecturer I/Research Physician)



Current affiliations: College of Health Sciences, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State/Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.

NYA Induction year: 2019

NYA roles (offices held, committees served, including the year): Member, Professional Ethics Position Paper Committee, 2019.

Discipline: Medical Sciences

Academic Trajectory: Growing up, I had this attraction for some of our family friends who were accountants and I wanted to be one. However, three experiences changed this for me: First, I was always fascinated by how insects emerged through their stages of development...I felt it will be interesting to understand the process. Second, we had a neighbour who was always coughing irrespective of the medication he took...this left me wondering the type of illnesses that could be associated with persistent cough. Finally, in my last year in primary school, a cholera outbreak ravaged my community and killed several members of my family. These events led to my decision to pursue academic study of medicine and surgery. While in my second year in medical school, I was always attracted to reading medical journals and trying to understand the contributions made. This gave birth to my interest in medical research and I started building my capacity in the field via attending relevant courses while studying my passion which was medicine and surgery. I currently have an interdisciplinary research interest that lies at the nexus of tropical medicine, global and respiratory health, and combines approaches ranging from clinical, economic, and epidemiological modelling through laboratory investigations to implementation science research. Most of my work focuses on operational research on tuberculosis (TB) and Buruli ulcer; and other studies that tries to quantify the burden of diseases as well as identify factors that could help make better decision in scaling up evidence-based health interventions. Thus, my research tries to bridge the gap in the translational pathway by providing policymakers with pragmatic and context specific assessments of the burden of diseases and the impact of interventions in routine care.

Ambition in the next 10 years: I hope to be a leader in disease control, providing evidence-based strategies for effective health service delivery; also, I intend to build more collaborations and sustain existing inter- and transdisciplinary collaborations globally. In addition, I hope to build the capacity to manage large research grants and mentor upcoming researchers. In all, I want to be of service to God and mankind.

Name/Academic Rank:

Unuabonah, Foluke Olayinka (Reader)



Current Affiliation: Redeemer's University, Ede

NYA Induction Year: 2016

NYA Roles: (Offices held/committees served, including the year): Secretary, SSH Research Group (2017-2020); Member, Publicity Committee (2018-2020); Member, Committees on the possible roles of NYA fellows and the branding of NYA.

Discipline: English Linguistics ([Multimodal], Discourse Analysis and [Corpus] Pragmatics)

Academic Trajectory: My academic interests focus on discourse-pragmatic features which generally explore language use in human interactions. These interests began during my undergraduate project at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, where I examined discourse acts in antenatal classes, which was published in *Linguistik Online*. This interest spurred me to pursue an MA in English at University of Ibadan, where I explored speech acts and contextual features in doctor-pregnant women interactions in antenatal clinics. My continued interests in examining naturally occurring discourses stimulated me to immediately pursue a PhD in English at University of Ibadan, where I investigated the discourse structure and pragmatic features of Nigerian investigative public hearings. Notwithstanding my new focus on legal and political discourses, I have also continued to pursue my interests in medical discourse, where I examined HIV/AIDS discourse. These gave me the platform to win the Alexander von Humboldt postdoctoral fellowship, tenable at Universität Münster, Germany, where I investigated metapragmatic features in Nigerian investigative public hearings. Recently, I have been examining discourse-pragmatic features in Nigerian English, using corpus-based methods. The results of these studies contribute to the area of second language research which is important in Nigeria, where English is used as a second language. My sustained interests in health-related studies also made me investigate COVID-19 discourses. My research efforts have earned me in publications in impact making international journals. Together with colleagues, I have recently compiled a one-million-word historical corpus of English in Nigeria (1960-1999), sponsored by Redeemer's University, Ede. Presently, I am investigating discourse-pragmatic features in selected African Englishes, based on my Visiting Scholarship at Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study, South Africa.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: My desire is to be one of the foremost corpus linguists in Nigeria. I also hope to further engage in teaching, research, publishing, and mentoring of young scholars.

Name/Academic Rank:

Uyi, Osariyekemwen Uyi (Lecturer I)



Current Affiliation: Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, University of Benin

NYA induction year: 2016

NYA Roles: Secretary, Conference Organising Committee, 2017.

Discipline: Zoology

Academic Trajectory: My field of science is Entomology. Dr. Osariyekemwen Uyi was born and raised in Benin City, Nigeria, spending many childhood days in the forests and farms around the ancient city. The natural environs sparked my interest in nature and insects, as did the caterpillars I found in my environment and my parents' farms, some of which I reared up till my adulthood. I earned my B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Zoology from the Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Nigeria, and my M.Phil. degree in Entomology from the University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana with funding from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). With scholarship support from DAAD and a research fellowship from the Agricultural Research Council, South Africa, I took my PhD in Entomology from Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, in 2015 under the tutelage of Prof. Martin Hill and Dr. Costas Zachariades. I am interested in understanding the ecology of insect-plant interactions, thermal biology, the ecology and biological control of invasive species, ethnobiology, and the impact of pesticides on beneficial organisms. I did my postdoctoral research at the Agricultural Research Council, University of Fort Hare (where I was awarded The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Postdoctoral Fellowship), and the Pennsylvania State University, University Park, United States of America. I was offered a lecturing position at the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria, in 2015. I am currently the Leader, Centre for Ecology and Ethnobiology, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, University of Benin. Prior to moving to the University of Benin, I was a visiting Lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. My scholarship has resulted in many published peer-reviewed research articles and reviews. I have successfully supervised and mentored many BSc. Hons and postgraduate students.

Ambition in 10 years' time: I hope to engage in collaborative research with scientists from many countries (e.g. South Africa, Kenya, Togo, Australia, Swaziland, United States of America, Nigeria, and Ghana).

Name/Academic Rank:

Yakubu, Omolara F. (Lecturer I)



Current Affiliation: Covenant University, Ota

NYA induction year: 2020

Discipline: Biochemistry

Academic Trajectory: I started my career as an Assistant lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry, Covenant University in 2013 with the intention of leaving when I get my dream job in the industry; however, my desire to be an academic was ignited after interacting with the students during my first lecture. It was then I made up my mind to impact knowledge to the younger generation in the four walls of the University. Thereafter, I embarked on personal development in the area of teaching. I enrolled for my PhD in Biochemistry and was privileged to be mentored by Prof Abiodun H. Adebayo who explained how to rise in the academic cadre and taught me the rudiments of quality research and article writing. Ever since then I have engaged in research in the area of Toxicology and Phytochemistry with grace to have publications in many peer-reviewed reputable local and international journals. I aspire to become an independent researcher attracting research grants to embark on research projects that will impact on my immediate environment and the world at large.

Ambition in the next 10 years: It is my ambition to help restore the dignity of research among Africans by focusing on capacity building of upcoming scientists. I plan to collaborate more with developed researchers to create avenues for students and younger scientists to have access to standard research facilities and funding

FELLOWS PROFILE

Name/Academic Rank:
Abdul-Hammed, Misbaudeen
(Associate Professor)



Current Affiliation: Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, LAUTECH, Ogbomoso

NYA induction year: 2012

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2017

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member, e-Newsletter Committee (2012), Member, Local Organizing Committee, 4th NYA National Conference/ General Assembly held at Unilorin (2014).

Discipline: Biophysical Chemistry

Academic Trajectory: I had a long-term ambition of becoming a medical doctor which I misunderstood earlier that it was the only way to develop my interest in medical/chemical research field. I ended up studying Pure and Applied Chemistry. I later became a Lecturer in Biophysical Chemistry at Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso after bagging my B.Tech in Pure and Applied Chemistry which I cherished a lot thereafter. I then studied M.Sc. (Physical Chemistry) and PhD (Biophysical Chemistry) which greatly redefined my academic trajectory in a fantastic way. From studying the kinetics of tomato ripening via lycopene and beta-carotene biosynthesis to studying hemoglobin and roles of membrane lipids together with intracellular compositions on the biological activities of some proteins and enzymes, my research passions kept on growing at an alarming rate. My research focus was redefined by my interactions with researchers at University of Bonn, Germany (2007-2016) and International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Italy (2012-2018), where I learnt the roles of phytochemicals and other intracellular micro- and macronutrients in proffering solutions to the emergence of various diseases and how to incorporate the knowledge of Computational Chemistry into Biophysical Chemistry field.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I see myself being at the forefront of the struggle to redefine the teaching of Chemistry in our higher institutions to make the subject more fascinating rather than making it abstract which is pushing more Chemistry students to lose interests in Chemistry. Within the next decade, I believe incorporating the knowledge of Computational Chemistry into our University syllabus could increase their understanding of Chemistry which could enable them contribute their quotas to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) sooner.

Name/Academic Rank:

Adebayo, Abiodun Humphrey (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Department of Biochemistry, Covenant University, Ota

NYA induction year: 2013

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2018

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Sectional Editor for Biological Science, Annals of Science and Technology (2019 till date); Chair, Antiplagiarism Workshop Committee (2018); Treasurer (2016-2018); Facilitator, Grant Writing Workshop, National Mathematical Center, Abuja (2017)

Discipline: Plant Biochemistry, Biochemical Toxicology, Ethnopharmacology

Academic Trajectory: My journey into the academia was divinely orchestrated rather than an ambition. In those days at the undergraduate level, none of us would want to return to study Biochemistry because of the difficulty in understanding it. Then, I was inspired by one of my lecturers who would come to class and give his lectures off hand without any lecture materials. In my final year, I heard God say to me I would be returning to the classroom as a lecturer. This vision made me to undertake a master's degree programme in Biochemistry at the University of Jos where my journey into the study of medicinal plants began. I commenced my PhD degree which was a condition for my employment as an academic in Covenant University in 2005/2006. I equally secured a TWAS-CAS Fellowship which enabled me travel to China where I worked with great scientists and used world class research facilities. Upon completion of my PhD in 2009, under the same fellowship scheme, I was in China again for my postdoctoral study at the Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing. The PhD and Postdoctoral trainings opened channels of opportunities for me in my academic journey till date. To the glory of God, I was appointed a full Professor of Biochemistry on the 1st of January 2018 and Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University on November 10, 2020. I was recently elected to the governing board of the Association of African Universities (AAU) to serve for 2021-2025.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: It was Bill Bradley that said, “ambition is the path to success and persistence is the vehicle you arrive in”. Within the next 10 years, I see myself producing a minimum of 10 PhD graduates. Moreover, some of my research contributions will be useful compendia for policymakers, governmental and non-governmental agencies. Hopefully, as an academic administrator, I see myself at the mainstream of changing the ugly narratives of African Higher Educational Institutions by repositioning these institutions for global relevance.

Name/Academic Rank:

Adebayo, Elijah Adegoke
(Associate Professor)



Current Affiliation: Department of Pure and Applied Biology, Ladoké Akintola University of Technology Ogbomoso

NYA induction year: 2016

Discipline: Industrial Microbiology & Biotechnology/Nanotechnology

Academic Trajectory: My field in the Sciences is Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology/Nanotechnology. I am a lecturer in the Department of Pure and Applied Biology, Ladoké Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, Nigeria. I have B. Tech in Microbiology, M. Tech in Biotechnology and PhD in Microbiology from the same University. I am an Industrial Microbiologist/Biotechnologist with expertise in Mushroom biotechnology and biomedical uses, and molecular biology. I won the Tugbiley Prize and the Mr and Mrs Tunji Ige Adedoyin Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Biology; CSIR-TWAS (2009) Postgraduate Fellowship Award; LAUTECH Senate grant (2013); TETFund International conference grant (2013); and CONACYT-TWAS (2013) Postdoctoral Fellowship in Mexico. I recently won the TETFund Institution-based Research grant for pursuit of studies on mushroom technology. I am currently working on commercial cultivation of mushroom using agrowaste, purification of waste water using bioflocculant, biosynthesis of nanoparticles from mushroom (*Pleurotus* spp.), bacteria bioflocculant, plant extract and their biomedical importance. The reputable professional bodies, associations and research groups I belong to include: Nigerian Young Academy (fellow); Nigerian Society for Microbiology (NSM); Biotechnology Society of Nigeria (BSN); National Mushroom Grower, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria; American Society of Microbiologists (ASM); and the LAUTECH Nanotechnology Research Group (NANO⁺, www.lautechnanotech.com). I have published many articles in reputable national and international journals and books.

Ambition in the next 10 years: I hope to invest more energy and resources into mentoring of upcoming scholars in my field. I also hope to win more grants to enable me carry out cutting edge research in my field.

Name/Academic Rank:

Adeneye, Adejuwon Adewale (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Department of Pharmacology, Therapeutics & Toxicology, Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences, Lagos State University College of Medicine, Ikeja, Lagos State

NYA induction year: 2013

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year):

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2018

Discipline: Medical Pharmacologist

Academic Trajectory: I became an academic as a consequence of a long-time desire to become one. As a medical undergraduate, I have always loved the subject of Pharmacology but the decision to be a Medical Pharmacologist was encouraged by a Senior Clinical Pharmacologist who picked interest in me and mentored me along that line. Unfortunately, he passed on before the completion of my MSc programme, but this sad event did not deter me as I kept on his legacy. My research focus is on drug discovery and development of potential antihyperglycemic agent from Nigerian medicinal plants. I was employed as a Lecturer Grade II in June 2005 and rose through the ranks to become a full Professor in October 2016. I am currently working with a multidisciplinary research team to develop the potential antihyperglycemic drug candidate, “erinidine” which was previously discovered from the seed of a Nigerian medicinal plant, *Hunteria umbellata*. There are many challenges confronting Nigerian academics, ranging from poor research funding to commercialization of innovations/patents. I hope to collaborate with other colleagues to scale these hurdles.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: Aside from continuing to engage in intensive research activities, I hope to be involved in drawing up training workshops on writing grant-winning proposals and facilitating a bridge between academia and the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment.

Name/Academic Rank:

Adewale Adewuyi (Associate Professor)



Current Affiliation: Redeemer's University, Ede

NYA induction year: 2011

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2016

Discipline: Industrial Chemistry

Academic Trajectory: Working in the field of Chemistry has brought me career fulfilment. I have enjoyed several research grants and fellowships and my contributions to knowledge in my field are in many peer reviewed national and international journals.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope to contribute positively to the development of science and technology in Africa and the world at large.

Name/Academic Rank:

Adeyemi Oluyomi Stephen (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Department of Biochemistry, Landmark University, Omu-Aran

NYA induction year: 2011

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2016

Discipline: Biochemical Toxicology and Phytomedicine

Academic Trajectory: My field of science is Biochemical toxicology and phytomedicine. I am a Professor and Director, Academic Planning at Landmark University, Omu-Aran, Kwara State, Nigeria. My research interests include Medicinal biochemistry, toxicology, nanomedicine and infectious diseases. I have many journal articles, books, and book chapters to my credit. The following are some of the grants and awards that I have received: International Foundation for Science (IFS) Research Grant (F/5672-2), 2018 – 2020; International Foundation for Science (IFS) Research Grant (F/5672-1), 2015 – 2017; Grant-in-Aid Research Grant for JSPS Fellows, 2015 – 2017; 8th Japan Veterinary Science Prize Award (JVS) 2017 – 2018; Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) Visiting Fellowship, Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Japan, 2015; TWAS/CNPq Fellowship, Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Federal University of Uberlandia, Brazil, 2015; KANEHI Grant-in-Aid Research Grant for JSPS Fellows, 2015 – 2017; Rhodes University Postdoctoral Fellowship, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Biotechnology, Rhodes University, South Africa, 2013; NRF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Biotechnology, Rhodes University, South Africa, 2012.

Name/Academic Rank:

Agbalajobi, Damilola Taiye (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Obafemi Awolowo University

NYA Induction Year: 2011

NYA Exit Year (for fellows only): 2015

Discipline: Political Science/Gender Studies

Academic Trajectory: Although I found myself in academics by accident, my career has since become the passion that drives my entire being. Being a political scientist was not planned but since 2006 when I did my Masters programme and got introduced to gender studies, my career trajectory took a new turn. Exposure to gender studies (women participation in governance) gave me the opportunity to observe that there is a notable and rapid increase of interest in gender issues by different groups of practitioners in the academia and policy management space. This notwithstanding, most of the works concerning Nigerian women and political participation are usually in journals and edited volumes. There is as such, an almost unacceptably alarming chasm in facts, figures and findings on the subject of gender equality in the political field of play. During my doctoral studies, I discovered a dearth of single go-to volumes that dealt with women underrepresentation in governance and participation in politics, despite the fact that libraries were awash with a plethora of journal articles and contributions. My on-going book project generated motivation from that gap in the literature and the need I experienced during my studies. Besides, the book project allows presenting gender equality and political participation of women in Nigeria through a single volume based on empirical research.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: Presently, I hope to mentor younger colleagues together with whom we can build a pool of female researchers and policy makers that will ensure that women's voice is heard in policy making, politics and at the ivory tower.

Name/Academic Rank:

Agunbiade, Foluso Oyedotun
(Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Chemistry, University of Lagos, Akoka

NYA induction year: 2011

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Chairman, Science and Technology Working Group (2011 - 2014); LOC member for various GA/International Conference (2011 -2014); Section Editor (Chemical Sciences), Annals of Science and Technology (2014- 2019)

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2016

Discipline: Industrial Chemistry

Academic Trajectory: My field of study is Industrial Chemistry. I am a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos State. My research interests include: material and industrial chemical process: indigenous raw material development; water treatment with novel materials; development of drugs from medicine plants. My research focus in Sustainable Chemistry include: clean water and sanitation; modelling of fate and mobility of pollutants in environmental media using expert knowledge and other machine learning techniques. The grants and awards I have received include: UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) - GCRF Digital Innovation for Development in Africa (2020-2021); Environment fingerprinting via digital technology grant; African Centre of Excellence for Drug Research, Herbal Medicine Development and Regulatory Science award, TWAS group research grant 2014. I have published in international peer reviewed articles in reputable journals.

Ambition in the next 10 years: I hope to continue to make impact through collaborative research and mentorship to solve human problems; aid industrial growth; and promote sustainable development. I wish to sit on the board of National and Multinational Industries as a non-executive director and influence policy direction of Industries.

Name/Academic Rank:

Akindele, Abidemi James
(Associate Professor)



Current Affiliation: University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

NYA induction year: 2011

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2016

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Vice-President (2011-2013); President (2013 - 2015); Ex-Officio (2015 - 2016); Steering Committee, NYA-IAP Workshop for Early-Career Women Scientists in West Africa (2018).

Discipline: Pharmacology

Academic Trajectory: I am the incumbent Deputy Director for Research in the Research & Innovation Office of the University of Lagos. My research focus is in Natural Products Pharmacology & Toxicology/Drug Repurposing. I hold BSc. (First Class Honours) and PhD Pharmacology degrees from the University of Lagos and Diploma in Research Ethics (Center for Bioethics and Research, Ibadan). I have published widely in reputable national and international Journals. I am a recipient of the Fulbright Junior Staff Development Award (Visiting Researcher at the University of Florida, Gainesville, USA); CV Raman International Postdoctoral Fellowship Award (Indian Institute for Integrative Medicine, CSIR, Jammu, India); CNPq-TWAS Postdoctoral Fellowship Award (Universidade de Sao Paulo, Ribeirao Preto, Brazil); Fellowship of the Africa Science Leadership Program (ASLP); U.S. Department of State Grant for a capacity building workshop for young (early-career) women scientists in Nigeria; InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) Science Advice for Policy (SAP) Fellowship at NASAC, Nairobi, Kenya etc. I am a fellow of the African Scientific Institute (ASI) and core team member of the Global Young Academy (GYA), GloSYS Africa project with funding from BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany). I am an Alumnus of the GYA and a recipient of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research (GA); International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR); TETFund travel, training and research grants; and Lagos State Science Research & Innovation Council Grant (as Co-Researcher). I was a leading member of the core team that successfully obtained the World Bank Grant for the establishment of the African Centre of Excellence for Drug Research, Herbal Medicine Development and Regulatory Science (ACEDHARS) at the University of Lagos.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope to have made landmark achievements of global relevance in the area of drug discovery and development, drug repurposing, and training of excellent and globally competitive Pharmacologists.

Name/Academic Rank:

Akinyele, Adejoke O. (Associate Professor)



Current Affiliation: University of Ibadan, Ibadan

NYA Induction Year: 2014

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year):

Member, NYA Committee on Plagiarism Survey

NYA Exit Year (for fellows only): 2019

Discipline: Forest Production and Products (Tree Improvement and Silviculture)

Academic Trajectory: I started my academic career as an Assistant lecturer at Bowen University, Iwo, before crossing to my alma mater, University of Ibadan as Lecturer II. My interest for academic research in Forestry was ignited during my undergraduate days through my interaction with my Professors. The expertise with which they delivered their lectures stimulated my curiosity about the versatility of the forest. This spurred me to proceed to graduate studies where I chose domestication of indigenous tree species in Nigeria as my area of specialization having discovered that there was paucity of research in the area. Most of the indigenous/non-timber species during that time had not been processed beyond the identification and observation stages. However, my current research focus is on genetic diversity of indigenous tree species using phenotype and molecular techniques.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I aspire to become a formidable voice in my field of expertise both locally and internationally where I can help inform government policies on forestry conservation and research within and outside Africa. This will be done by visiting advanced laboratories with state-of-the-art facilities for academic research outside Nigeria. This will afford me the opportunity to acquire the necessary mentoring and leadership skills needed to build capacity and advance the frontiers of knowledge in Forest Production and Products. Thus, I see myself providing quality mentorship to my students, collaborating with different organizations across the globe to carry out research on genetic studies of indigenous tree species, disseminating quality research findings in reputable journals, creating awareness about forest conservation strategies and collaborating with relevant governmental agencies to develop important policies on forestry conservation. This will encourage gown-town collaboration whereby challenges faced by the private sectors could be brought to the University for scientific investigations and funding opportunities.

Name/Academic Rank:

Akpa, Onoja Matthew (Associate Professor)



Current Affiliation: Department of Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan

NYA induction year: 2011

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2016

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Founding General Secretary, Steering Committee (2010 - 2011); Editor, NYA's 1st newsletter, September 2012 (2012); Chair, Local Organising Committee, 1st Conference and General Assembly (2011); Chair, Local Organising Committee, 3rd Conference and General Assembly (2013).

Discipline: Biostatistics, Statistical genetics, Genetic Epidemiology, Cardiovascular Diseases

Academic Trajectory: I hold a Ph. D. degree in Statistics from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria in 2009. I started my academic career in 2005 as a lecturer with the Redeemer's University and I am currently an Associate Professor with the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. In addition, I have vast experience in handling large datasets arising from complex population-based surveys, observational studies and multi-site clinical studies in Africa and the USA. I held numerous international academic/research positions including visiting scholar, North-western University, Chicago, USA; Fogarty fellow, Centre for Biostatistics in AIDS Research (CBAR), Harvard University, Boston, USA; Postdoctoral fellow (Biostatistician), CHAIR group, H3Africa. I have led very important studies for the AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG), USA. The ACTG is one of the largest and oldest consortiums of HIV/AIDS studies in the USA. During my Postdoctoral fellowship with the CHAIR group of the H3Africa, I harmonised data for >50,000 participants across six NIH funded studies, recruiting participants in 13 African countries. I also developed and led the largest cross-study research in H3Africa using the harmonized dataset. I have received funding for research and consultancies from organizations such as the National Institute of Health (NIH), UNICEF, African development bank, Federal ministry of Health, Association for Family and Reproductive health (AFRH) etc. I have supervised more than 30 postgraduate students and I am currently supervising more than 10 postgraduate students at both master's and PhD levels.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: In the coming years, I hope to be at the peak of my academic career, mentoring younger faculty members and leading independent funded research studies with several postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows in my group.

Name/Academic Rank:

Asaolu, Olumuyiwa Sunday (Associate Professor)



Current Affiliation: University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos

NYA induction year: 2011

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member of NYA Inaugural Steering Committee (2010), Foundation Webmaster (2010-2011), Mentor in Schlumberger SEEDS project (2013-2015), Member of ICT Committee (2017), Sectional Editor, Computer Science, Engineering & Technology for AST Journal of the NYA (2016–2019)

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2016

Discipline: Systems Engineering

Academic Trajectory: I have always wanted to be an academic since my secondary school days. My doctorate is in Engineering Analysis and my research interests span Artificial Intelligence, ICT, Operational Research, Mathematical Modelling and Software Engineering. I am a recipient of numerous awards including Best Software Developer (Researcher Category) at Nigeria Computer Society (then COAN) Exhibition 2001; Best Faculty Researcher UNILAG Research Conference and Fair (1st 2007, 3rd 2011, 2nd 2017); Inter-Academy Panel & World Academy of Sciences Young Scientist Award 2009. I was a shortlisted nominee for the NLNG Nigerian Science Prize 2008: and the Nigerian Universities Commission Best PhD Thesis Competition (Engineering) 2003/2004. I have published widely in reputable national and international journals. Some of my works have received national and global acclaim e.g. software for word-processing/translating Nigerian languages (2001). I belong to several professional bodies. I and (then) Dr. E. I. Unuabonah were nominated by NAS to the World Economic Forum Young Scientists session in 2009; our involvement in establishing GYA and our report back home led to the formation of the NYA in 2010. I am also a foundation member of the Institute for Operational Research and Management Science of Nigeria (IORMS) where I served as pioneer Vice President. I equally serve on some Advisory Boards and was an invited expert who worked with the NEPAD Panel that drafted a report towards producing a position-document on Artificial Intelligence for the African Union.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: God-sparing my life, I hope to continue to conduct impactful research and serve on the board of successful spin-off companies, mentor younger academics, influence national and global policies in technology and research management and possibly put myself forward in university management.

Name/Academic Rank:
Atolani, Olubunmi (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Chemistry, University of Ilorin, Ilorin

NYA induction year: 2011

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Publicity Secretary (2013-2015); LOC Chair, Bioinformatic Workshop, NYA-FUTMINNA (2015); Managing Editor, NYA Journal (AST), (2016-2018); LOC member, NYA Conference, Ilorin (2014)

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2015

Discipline: Natural Products Chemistry; Medicinal Chemistry; Pharmaceutical Chemistry; Chemoinformatics Drug Design and Discovery

Academic Trajectory: There is a sense in which the discipline I find myself in can be described as divinely ordained and sustained by my profound passion for discoveries. As a growing young man, I had an insatiable curiosity for science and scientific breakthroughs; hence I was always questioning and investigating the technology behind inventions and innovations. Also, I had a strong conviction that I would excel as a research scientist. This culminated into my venturing into Chemistry with specific focus in Natural Products Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Chemoinformatics Drug Design and Discovery. Aside national collaborations and exploring my growth potential locally, I maintain active and dynamic interdisciplinary collaborations and linkages with counterparts in Europe, Asia and other parts of Africa. This is driven by my passion to help find a cure for cancer and diabetes, among others deadly diseases? As a scientist, I believe explorations in avenues such as novel folklores of tropical origin and the adoption of modern tools for therapeutic remedy must be intensified with the hope of making a significant contribution to my field of study very soon. This I have pursued with single-minded passion despite the paucity of funding for ground breaking research in the Nigerian academic environment.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: As a Medicinal Chemist, my aspiration is to discover potent antidote or cytotoxic of natural products origin for the exclusive inhibition of tumour/cancer cells and diabetes that has ravaged many lives in all climes and generations across the globe. I hope to achieve this through winning more research grants that will boost my research skills. I also hope to engage in active collaborative trans-national research and regular academic rubbing of minds with colleagues in other climes to achieve ground breaking results in my areas of specialization.

Name/Academic Rank:

Ayinde, Opeyemi Eyitayo (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management,
University of Ilorin, Ilorin

NYA induction year: 2013

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2018

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Secretary, Local
Organising Committee, 2014 Conference and General Assembly,
University of Ilorin; Chair, Social Sciences & Humanities Working Group; member,
Disciplinary committee

Discipline: Production Economics, Risk Management, Innovation and behavioral Economics

Academic Trajectory: I got my PhD in Agricultural Economics, University In Ilorin, had postdoctoral training in Innovation Economics at SARChI Chair on Innovation Studies, Tshwane University of Technology Pretoria, South Africa, and was Fulbright Visiting Senior researcher to The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. I became an academic mainly to produce result-driven research and impact the new generation of scholars. I attained my current field of study through mentorship and guidance. My key research Interest presently has been in the economics of innovation in agricultural productivity, exploring themes such as the agricultural producers' behaviour to risk, especially climate risk as well to innovation; determinants of diffusion of new technology (especially in drought tolerant maize), Agricultural Management strategies, Effect of Climate change on Agricultural production and gender issues.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: In the coming years, I hope to impact globally the young generations researchers and produce more innovative and ground breaking research outputs internationally.

Name/Academic Rank:

Babatunde, Raphael Olanrewaju (Professor)



Current Affiliation: University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria

NYA induction year: 2015

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Chairman of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Group (2018-2020); Panellist in two NYA Congress and Annual Meetings

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2020

Discipline: Development and Welfare Economics

Academic Trajectory: I was motivated to study Agriculture at the university after an excursion to the University of Ibadan during my secondary school days. After graduating as the best student in my Department and Faculty, I was encouraged by my lecturers who saw my potential to venture into academics. My research focus is Development and Welfare Economics. I have the aspiration to work as CEO of a multilateral policy and development organisation like the African Development Bank (AfDB), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), or the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I have reached the peak of my academic career and I hope to reach my target ambition in the next 10 years. I hope to do sabbatical or consultancy programmes with organisations such as the ones mentioned above. I see the quota system and under-representation of Nigerians in these organizations as a major challenge. I hope to contribute to mentoring the young researchers.

Name/Academic Rank:

Ebuh, Godday

Uwawunkonye Ph. D, FNSA, FASI, FNVA



Current Affiliation : Central Bank of Nigeria

NYA Induction Year: 2011

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member, Social Science Research Group (2011-2014) and Chair, Social Science Research Group (2015-2016)

NYA Exit Year (for fellows only): 2016

Discipline: Statistics

Academic Trajectory: Although very good in mathematics, I had never dreamt of becoming a Statistician prior to being one. All I wanted was to be an Accountant. However, I am in the hollow of God's hand, who seest the end from the beginning. Thus, God has been my anchor and has never failed me. I am glad and fulfilled as a Statistician, that my first (BSc), second (MSc) and third (Ph.D) degrees were all in Statistics. Upon my graduation, I was posted to Anambra State and ended-up serving in Nnamdi Azikiwe at the Academic Planning, where I computerised the University's System Annual Review and was offered employment prior to concluding my NYSC programme in 2001. I was the first in my set to earn a Ph.D in Statistics. I later joined the Department of Statistics as an Assistant Lecturer in 2005 and rose to the rank of a Senior Lecturer in 2012 before joining the services of the Central Bank of Nigeria in 2014.

Ambition in the Next 10 Years: I hope to play a major rôle in the frontier of the statistical system transformation as a catalyst for effective and efficient policy drive, that could re-engineer the planning and budgeting conundrum for effective decision making and economic rebirth.

Name/Academic Rank:

Gayawan, Ezra (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: The Federal University of Technology, Akure

NYA Induction Year: 2011

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Financial Secretary (2013-2015); Ex-Officio II (2015-2017); Member, Social Science Research Group (2011-2015)

NYA Exit Year (for fellows only): 2016

Discipline: Statistics (Spatial Statistics and Biostatistics)

Academic Trajectory: Though I was not a core science student in my secondary school days, I loved Mathematics and the interest heightened when I went to the College of Education where I studied Mathematics and Economics. Since I could not be admitted with that combination to study Mathematics in the University, I opted for Statistics, a course I now appreciate more than any other discipline with the specific interest in Spatial and Biostatistics. It has indeed been smooth sailing since then. This is evident in the way I bagged my PhD degree at age 30, a feat I didn't think was possible. I have been progressing consistently in my research and in climbing the academic ladder at my place of work. I have observed the need to improve research activities in my field and help raise the benchmark for publishing articles in impact making international journals. My research capability has been circumscribed by the near zero funding opportunities available for Nigerian scholars in my field. Notwithstanding, I hope to intensify research activities that will further broaden the horizon of Spatial Statistics and Biostatistics, not only in Nigeria but in the global academic space.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I desire, in few years to come, to be a reference point for Spatial Statistics and their application in epidemiology and demographic issues in Africa. Therefore, I will continue to update myself with advances in this area so I can be in a position to keep making relevant contributions to knowledge in the field. This will be achieved by reading books and journal articles for updates and by regular attendance at workshops, seminars, and conferences to keep abreast of happenings in computational sciences. I will continue to watch out for sponsorship from international donors as I have previously enjoyed on a few occasions.

Name/Academic Rank:

Igbinosa, Isoken Henrietta (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria

NYA Induction Year: 2016

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Vice-President (2017-2019). Chairman, Exiting members' committee (2019). Member of the COC of the 7th Nigerian Young Academy Conference and General Assembly (2017). Member of the Steering Committee on the IAP-CARNEGIE Grants Project (2017).

NYA Exit Year (for fellows only): 2020

Discipline: Microbiology (Public health and Water science), Environmental Toxicology and Forensics

Academic Trajectory

During my senior secondary school education, I discovered that I had affinity for biological sciences hence my admission to study Microbiology at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. I bagged MSc and PhD Microbiology from the University of Fort Hare, with specialisation in Environmental Microbiology. Furthermore, I proceeded to University of Pretoria for postdoctoral training focusing on “one health approach” at the Department of Medical Microbiology. In 2014, I joined the services of University of Benin at the Department of Environmental Management and Toxicology. My quest for knowledge is ever increasing and interest in multidisciplinary research is amazing. This led me to study Forensic Science and DNA analysis at the postgraduate level in which my specialty is Forensic Toxicology. During the course of my forensic programme I was privileged to visit Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, for a forensic DNA training in a certified Canadian Forensic DNA Laboratory in 2019. I have authored and co-authored many research articles in reputable international high impact peer-reviewed journals. I am a Fellow of the Africa Science Leadership Programme (ASLP), Fellow Africa Academy of Science Affiliates, and other learned societies. I am a recipient of several academic scholarships, fellowship awards, travel grants and research grants which include International foundation of Science (IFS, Sweden). I am involved in leadership and community engagement and mentorship activities.

Ambition in the next 10 Years:

I look forward having a vibrant research team, win more research grants and make scientific impact at both national and international levels. I look forward to applying my forensic knowledge in the society as a tool to combat crime and food fraud. I hope to get a suitable medium to influence the populace on behavioural change that will further enhance their health positively thereby eliminating suicide cases in African communities.

Name/Academic Rank:

Jaiyeola, Temitope Gbolahan
(Associate Professor)



Current Affiliation: Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

NYA induction year: 2014

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2019

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Publicity Secretary (2015-2017); Member of Organizing Committee, Workshop for Young Researchers (2015); Member, Central Organizing Committee of the TWAS ROSSA Young Scientists' Conference and 6th General Assembly of the NYA (2016); Ex-Officio II (2017-2019); Member, Central Organizing Committee of the 7th Conference and General Assembly of the NYA, 2017; Head of Physical Sciences, Engineering and Technology Working Group (2017-2019); Member, Publicity Committee (2018-2019); Member, Mentoring Planning (2018-2019); Chairman, TETFund Position Paper Drafting Committee (2018-2020); Member of Editorial Board, Annals of Science and Technology (Published by NYA and Sciendo) (2015 till date).

Discipline: Mathematics (Algebra)

Academic Trajectory: My keen interest in science started during my secondary school days when I began to ponder on the question of 'What state of matter does fire belong to?' I could not get a satisfactory answer from my secondary school teachers until my post-secondary school when a pre-university lecturer made me to realise that fire was a process and not a matter. Alongside my deep interest in physical sciences, I began to develop a flare for Formal Science and Philosophy, especially Logic and Mathematics. I studied Mathematical Sciences which comprised of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science. Though, my option of bias was Mathematics, I enjoyed Statistics and computer science courses at the departmental level while the faculty courses still gave me the opportunity to build up on my knowledge in Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Towards my last two years in the first-degree programme, Pure Mathematics became my favourite aspect of Mathematics (especially, Algebra and Analysis) even though I was not too exposed to Applied Mathematics because of non-availability of enough lecturers in that field in the Department. Immediately after my first degree, I realised that my potential and research interest was in Algebra. This led me into embarking on a MSc and PhD degrees in Mathematics with theses in Algebra. I now carry out research in the area of Algebra (Groups and their Generalizations).

Ambition in the Next 10 Years: I plan to explore more into the study of algebraic structures which have found relevance to Computer Science, Physical and Biological Sciences. I also plan to use Algebra to unravel the knowledge and understanding (Algebra semantics) of languages (e.g. Yoruba language and probably some other Nigerian languages) for better appreciation by the new generation of Nigerians and to promote and preserve Nigeria's learning and culture.

Name/Academic Rank:

Kolawole, Olatunji Matthew (Professor)



Current Affiliation: University of Ilorin, Ilorin

NYA induction year: 2013

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Editor in Chief, Annals of Science and Technology (2019 till date); Vice President (2015-2017); Chairman, LOC Ilorin, GA (2014)

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2018

Discipline: Medical and Environmental Microbiology

Academic Trajectory: I regard my academic career as a calling with a passion to be a distinguished academic since my university undergraduate days. I have always nursed the desire to impact and contribute meaningfully to the continuous growth and transmission of knowledge while undertaking cutting-edge research through advanced tools and techniques to bridge research gaps in Science. Although I desired from my childhood to be a medical doctor that will help proffer solutions to health-related challenges, I ended up studying Microbiology which offered me an even better platform to help solve public health related problems. My research focus is Virology, Infectious Diseases and Environmental Health. My interest in infectious disease research explores the human-pathogen interaction as well as the environmental factors that aid microbial survival and disease transmission, which has a unique and vital importance to human existence and survival. I aspire to remain resolute and relevant in global infectious diseases, virology and environmental health research, exploring the application of advanced tools in host-pathogen-environmental interaction for ground-breaking discoveries. I also hope to help nurture young vibrant scientists and build impactful research capacity in the next generation. My laboratory has extended its tentacles, spreading in consortia across various institutions nationally and internationally. I rose through the ranks to the position of a Professor, winning different accolades and bagging appointments at national and international levels

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope to continue training and developing my team in recent knowledge and expertise in virology, infectious diseases and environmental health research so as to measure up favourably with the global advancements in research methodologies. I also hope to build consortia strength by forging a synergy of young scientists mentored and trained by me to form a sound research team that can compete at the global level. I intend to pioneer innovative public health research and come up with globally relevant and applicable findings. I hope to continue providing support to my mentees in their research areas and engage in continuous advocacy to appropriate national bodies on the need to fund national/home based researchers.

Name/Academic Rank:
Majolagbe, Olusola (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho

NYA induction year: 2014

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Member of biological sciences research project; Reviewer of the Annals of Science and Technology Journal; Member, Fund raising Committee

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2019

Discipline: Environmental Microbiology and Biotechnology

Academic Trajectory:

My field of science is Environmental Microbiology and Biotechnology. I am a Senior Lecturer at the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho, Oyo State with research interest which includes elucidation of bioactive molecules from microbes and their applications, and bioconversion of wastes into useful by-products. The grants and awards I have received include: TETFUND Institution-based Research Grant Award (2015-2016); TWAS-CSIR Post-graduate Award (2011); Travel Grant Award by First Nigeria Bioinformatics and Genomics Network (2019); Distinguished Microbiologist Award by Precious Cornerstone University, Ibadan (2020). I have published widely in reputable national and international journals.

Ambition in the Next 10 Years:

To have impacted the local and global community through innovative research discoveries.

Name/Academic Rank:
Nwankwo, Levi (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Federal University, Kashere

NYA Induction Year: 2011

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year):

1. Financial Secretary 2011 – 2013
2. Vice President 2013 – 2015
3. Member, Science and Technology Working Group

NYA Exit Year: 2016

Discipline: Geophysics, Environmental Physics, and Digital Education

Academic Trajectory: My field of science is Geophysics, Environmental Physics, and Digital Education. My research interests include: Modelling of Earth and Environmental Processes, Geothermics, Geo-hazards, and Science Communication and Diplomacy. I am a Professor and Director of Research and Development, Federal University, Kashere. The following are some of the grants and awards that I have received: MSCA IF Pre-Evaluation Research Support, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey; Senior Fellow, C.V. Raman International Fellowship for African Researchers, India; Commonwealth Fellowship; Regular Associate Award of The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Italy; Erasmus Mundus Fellowship, European Commission; Research Collaboration Visits Grant to Southwest University of Science and Technology, Mianyang, Sichuan Province, China.

Ambition in the next 10 years: Expert in science policy and diplomacy.

Name/Academic Rank:

Nwinyi, Obinna C. (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Department of Biological Sciences, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University, Ota

NYA induction year: 2015

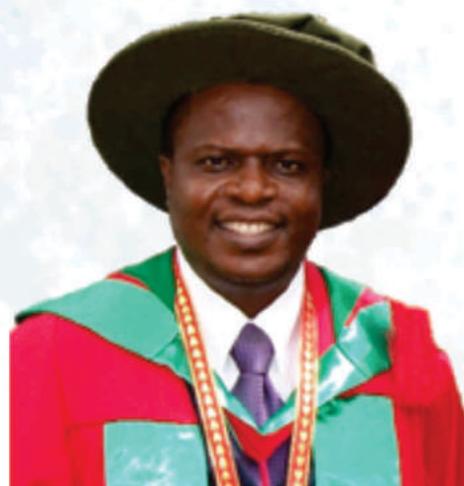
NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Secretary, NYA Review Committee 2017; Chairman, NYA Review Committee 2018; Chairman, Exiting Committee 2020

Discipline: Environmental Microbiology and Public Health

Academic Trajectory: I have always loved to be an academic because I was inspired by my late father who was a researcher. I could not pursue Medicine as a course, so I was advised to take Microbiology and make the most of it. My areas of focus are Environmental Microbiology and Public Health research. I aspire to be a top-notch researcher in my field, raise competent scholars and set up biotech companies in Nigeria. I have spent seventeen years in teaching and supervising undergraduate and postgraduate students of Microbiology.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I plan to forge strong collaborations with outstanding scholars worldwide. I hope to stay focused on my aspirations and think creatively in spite of paucity of research grants, equipment, quality training and poor salary structure. I hope to help proffer possible solutions to solving the problems of quality manpower training, advocating change in the current National Universities Commission (NUC) curriculum and get scientists involved with the making of policies and management of the country. Scientists should get involved in making policies and managing the country.

Name/Academic Rank:
Okoye, Festus Basden Chiedu (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

NYA Induction Year: 2014

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Group Leader, Health Research Group, Nigerian Young Academy (2017 to 2018).

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2019

Discipline: Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry

Academic Trajectory: I had desired to read Mathematics or Chemistry as a single honour's degree in the University, but due to my family's preference for a professional course, I finally opted to study Pharmacy and ended up as a Medicinal Chemist. After my PhD in Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, in 2009, I proceeded to the International Centre for Science and High Technology (ICS-UNIDO), Italy for postdoctoral training in Nanomedicinal Chemistry. Later I held a postdoctoral position at the Heinrich Heine University, Dusseldorf, Germany (2011 – 2012) under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Peter Proksch and with the sponsorship of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. My research has focused on the discovery and development of novel anticancer and antiviral lead molecules from medicinal plants and associated fungi endophytes. I started my academic carrier as Lecturer II in 2005 and was promoted Professor of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry in 2017. I have won several research grants and honours and of interest was that of African Union-The World Academy of Science (AU-TWAS) Young Scientist National Award (Life Science Category) in 2014. I have also consistently been ranked among top 500 prolific authors in Nigeria from 2013 to date (by SciVal). I have served in reputable national and international committees including NUC Action Committee for the Promotion of University Biomedical Research and Development; National Mirror Committee on Standardization of Traditional Medicine (Committee set up by the President of Nigeria at the instance of Standard Organization of Nigeria); a member of expert reviewers for African Research Excellence Fund; a member of the 7th Governing Council of the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: In the next ten years, I intend to move my research group from the current level of generation of novel bioactive secondary metabolites from medicinal plants and associated fungi endophytes to the level of translation into clinically proven antiviral and anticancer drug products marketed in both the national and global drug market.

Name/Academic Rank:

Olajuyigbe, Samuel Olalekan (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Forest Production and Products, University of Ibadan

NYA induction year: 2014

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year):

Chairman, Electoral Committee 2019

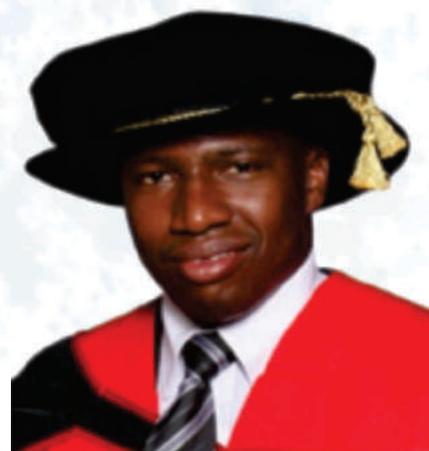
NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2019

Discipline: Forest Ecology/ Forest and Climate Change

Academic Trajectory: My field of Science is Forest Ecology/Forest and Climate Change. My areas of research interest are silviculture, forest restoration, ecosystem processes, agroforestry, forest biology. I am a Senior Lecturer at the University of Ibadan. I received the ESDA/UNU/AFDB Next Generation of Researchers Grant in 2016.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I hope to reach the peak of my career and establish a Forest Biodiversity Research Centre of International Standard in my University. I also hope to contribute immensely to the restoration and rehabilitation of the forest ecosystem in Nigeria. I want to mentor many students and facilitate the growth of forest science as a viable profession in Nigeria and Africa.

Name/Academic Rank:
Olomola, Temitope O. (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

NYA induction year: 2015

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Secretary to the Central Organizing Committee (COC) (2016); Chairman of the Central Organizing Committee (COC) for the annual conference and GA (2017), President of the Academy (2017-2019) and Ex-officio I of the Academy (2019-2021).

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2020

Discipline: Chemistry

Academic Trajectory: I have always loved teaching from an early age in life. After two industrial attachment experiences as an undergraduate student, I came to the clear conclusion that I was not ready to fit into the monotonous work style of industry. This made me decide to be an academic. I did not choose Chemistry as my first choice, but I soon developed interest in the course and I decided to stay on after my first degree. In simple terms my research focus is drug design. I am a holder of the following degrees B.Sc, M.Sc (Ibadan), M.Phil (Ife), and PhD (Rhodes). I apply the basic principles of Synthetic Chemistry in making compounds as drug candidates against some of the diseases that are endemic in Africa. My research thrust involves using basic synthetic Chemistry tools to find solutions to diseases that are endemic to Africa (such as HIV-1, Sickle Cell Anaemia and Malaria). Specifically, my research combines the synthesis and evaluation of heterocyclic compounds with medicinal potential, asymmetric synthesis of drug-like molecules and kinetic-mechanistic studies of organic reaction mechanisms. In 2011, I received the Rhodes University Engaged Student of the Year Award and the Investec Rhodes Top 100 Award, Community Engagement.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I intend to increase my scholarly profile by working harder and training more graduate students. I intend to do more in the area of community engagement. I also plan to increase my collaboration with colleagues in other countries where I do not yet have research reach. I hope to attract international grants to enable me overcome these challenges. I am already actively engaged in peer mentoring and I hope to engage more in mentoring younger colleagues.

Name/Academic Rank:

Oluwatope, Ayodeji Oludola (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Computer Engineering Department, Elizade University, Ilara-Mokin, Ondo State

Permanent Affiliation: Computer Science & Engineering Department, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

NYA induction year: 2012

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2017

Discipline: Computer Science & Engineering

Academic Trajectory: I have been fascinated about science and technology since my primary school days. In fact, some of the television programmes that influenced me and I never missed in those days included “Wild Wild World” and science documentaries on the National Television Authority (NTA). In secondary school, I chose science subjects and got admitted to study Physics at the University of Ibadan. I later transferred to Computer Engineering at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife in 1990. I later earned MSc and PhD degrees in Computer Science. After my graduation in 1995, I observed the compulsory one-year National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme in Lagos. I worked in a number of private companies in Lagos till 1999. I started my academic career as a Graduate Assistant in 1999 and rose to the rank of Professor in 2015. I observe that poor research facilities and infrastructure in our universities and research centres are militating against ground-breaking research findings. I suggest that governments at both state and federal levels as well as the private sector should invest vigorously into research and development over the next decade.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: My ambition in the next ten years includes writing books for undergraduate and graduate students in data communication and networking, modelling and simulation. I also hope to engage in more industry collaborative research. Further, I desire to continue to mentor the next generation researchers. I intend to create time for my book writing projects and increase interactions with the industry.

Name/Academic Rank:
Omonkhua, Akhere A. (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Department of Medical Biochemistry, School of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria

NYA induction year: 2014

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Editor, Biological Sciences, Annals of Science and Technology; 2015 to May, 2017; Chairman, Central Organizing Committee, 8th Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) Conference and General Assembly, 28th – 30th August, 2018; and Chairman, Committee for writing the proposal for mentorship training organised by the Nigerian Young Academy in 2019.

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2020

Discipline: Medical Biochemistry

Academic Trajectory: My love for science started in the Junior Secondary School and it was strengthened by my Chemistry teacher in the Senior Secondary School, Mr. O.T. Jonah. I was fascinated by the way he explained different scientific phenomena. I was admitted to study Biochemistry, even though it was not what I originally applied to study. However, by my second year, I was confident that I wanted to pursue Biochemistry to the postgraduate level. After obtaining a Master's degree in Biochemistry, I started my academic career, as an Assistant Lecturer, in the Department of Biochemistry, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State. In 2012, I transferred my service to the University of Benin as a Senior Lecturer and was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2018. My research at the pre- and postdoctoral levels focused mainly on establishing the efficacy and safety of local medicinal plants used to treat diabetes and malaria. As I progressed to the level of research independence, my research focus moved on to the identification of bioactive compounds and elucidation of the mechanism of action of antidiabetic medicinal plants. I am a recipient of seven grants, and these have enabled me to improve my research output as well as my research capacity development.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I am passionate about mentoring and it would be a dream comes true, if in ten years' time, I am able to mentor ten PhD and postdoctoral students. I also hope that in the near future, I can work with other researchers, to drive multidisciplinary studies that can solve identified developmental problems.

Name/Academic Rank:

Omorogie, Martins Osaigbovo (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Redeemer's University, Ede, Nigeria.

NYA Induction Year: 2014.

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): General Secretary (2015-2017), Member, Physical Sciences and Engineering Research Group (2014-2019).

NYA Exit Year (for fellows only): 2019.

Discipline: Physical Chemistry, Applied Materials Chemistry, Applied Environmental Catalysis, Environmental Chemical Engineering

Academic Trajectory: I have enjoyed many fellowships viz.: The World Academy of Sciences-Chinese Academy of Sciences (TWAS-CAS) Postgraduate Fellowship, tenable at the Laboratory for Nanodevices, National Center for Nanoscience and Technology, Beijing, China; 2011-2012; Postdoctoral Fellowship, tenable at the Adsorption and Catalysis Research Laboratory, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Computer and Applied Sciences, Vaal University of Technology, Vanderbijlpark, Gauteng Province, South Africa; 2015-2016; Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Blue Charter Fellowship tenable at Department of Chemistry, College of Science, Swansea University, Singleton Park, Swansea, Wales, United Kingdom; 2018-2019; TWAS-Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) Visiting Scientist Fellowship, Chair of Urban Water Systems Engineering, Department of Civil, Geo and Environmental Engineering, Technische Universität München (TUM), Garching, München, Germany; 2021; TWAS, Trieste, Italy Research Group Grants. Year: 2014-2016; The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), United Kingdom Research and Innovation. Year: 2020; and TWAS-IsDB) Research Group Grant. Year: 2020-2022, Value of Grant.

Ambition in the next 10 years. To own a state-of-the-art scientific laboratory that is highly research active, involved in developing useful research products and offering mentorship to postgraduate students.

Name/Academic Rank:

Osemwegie, Osarenkhoe Omorefosa
(Professor)



Current Affiliation: Landmark University, Omu-Aran, Kwara State

NYA induction year: 2010

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Pioneer Treasurer (2010-2014)

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2015

Discipline: Botany

Academic Trajectory: I had nursed the ambition to become a researcher since my undergraduate days. I believe I got to my current disciplinary space by divine arrangement. My research focus centres on using fungi as utility tools for products development, hunger and poverty eradication, and ameliorating environmental as well as ecosystem's adversities. My academic journey started at a tender age as an Assistant Lecturer in 1997. I rose through the ranks to the position of Senior Lecturer in 2011 and Professor in 2015. I am the First NYA member and FNYA to become a Professor. My research landscape is militated by poor research funding, obsolete, unmaintained and broken-down labs equipment. Adulterated consumables and substandard materials have also derailed research in Nigeria.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I aspire to be an internationally renowned scientist and researcher that contributes tangibly towards human benefits globally. I also aspire to continue engaging in product-oriented research and community services. Although I anticipate logistics-related challenges like networking, funding, and collaborating, I hope to overcome them through sustainable gallantry. I hope to help proffer possible solutions through advocating for research integrity as well as committed adherence to ethics, funding and equipment.

Name/Academic Rank:

Oyekunle Anthony Adebukola
(Associate Professor)



Current Affiliation: Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences and Bugando Medical Centre, Mwanza, Tanzania.

NYA induction year: 2011

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2016

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year):

Health Research Group (2013 to 2016).

Discipline: Haematology.

Academic Trajectory: My work has focused on haemato-oncology and stem cell transplantation (SCT), and this has contributed to the improvement in the care, quality of life and disease survival of patients with blood cancers. My first major work (Bone Marrow Transplantation) established the usefulness of SCT in patients with refractory acute leukemia, and another (Cytotherapy) focused on the successful outcome of using positively-selected CD34+ haematopoietic stem cells to enhance engraftment after allogeneic SCT. More recently, I have focused on the role of tyrosine kinase inhibitors in the management of chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), acute lymphoblastic leukemia and gastrointestinal stromal tumors. I have contributed to several research projects, including some Novartis-sponsored German studies, examining the role of SCT in CML survival. I have also received several training and fellowship awards. These include a clinical research fellowship to study Bone Marrow Transplantation (mentor: Prof Axel Zander, Hamburg, Germany); an International CML Foundation ERSAP fellowship (mentor: Prof Michele Baccarani, Bologna, Italy); and a Union for International Cancer Control ICRET fellowship to study Molecular Diagnostics (mentor: Prof Funmi Olopade, Chicago, USA). These opportunities contributed to my postgraduate thesis research on molecular HLA typing, a technique which later became established at the OAU Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife, in support of the renal transplantation program. I have served as a trainer, resource person and examiner for undergraduate and postgraduate medical examinations in several universities in Nigeria, Botswana and Tanzania. I have also published in and served as reviewer to several local and international peer-reviewed journals.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I look forward to an early retirement, to engage in sustainable agricultural practices, mentorship and universal health insurance advocacy.

Name/Academic Rank:

Oyeyemi, Oyetunde T. (Senior Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: University of Medical Sciences, Ondo City, Ondo State, Nigeria

NYA induction year: 2015

NYA roles (offices held/committee served, including the year): Chairman, Biological and Health Sciences Research Working Group (2018-2020); Assistant Section Editor, the Annals of Science and Technology (2020 till date); Secretary, Conference Organising Committee in 2018 NYA General Assembly; Secretary, Biological and Health Sciences Research Working Group (2016-2018); Sub-group Chair, Neglected Tropical Diseases Research Working group (2016 – 2017).

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2020

Discipline: Parasitology

Academic Trajectory: I had nursed the interest of becoming a medical doctor right from my primary school days just for the self-satisfaction of being called “doctor”. This interest guided my subjects' choice in my secondary school and A-Level training. I ended up studying Zoology when I could not meet up with the cut-off point for admission to study Medicine. Initially frustrated, I later found purpose in the course in my 300 level at the University of Ilorin and resolved to become a scientist in a branch of Zoology called Parasitology. Even though I was offered admission to Obafemi Awolowo University to study Dentistry in my 300 level (the admission was delayed because of the protracted academic staff strike action). I chose Parasitology because of its relevance to the field of Medicine. I believed I could engage in research that could improve the overall well-being of human beings through in-depth understanding of the discipline. I later took my M.Sc. and PhD degrees in Parasitology at the University of Ibadan after which I ventured into full-blown research. I have completed two postdoctoral research fellowships in India and Brazil and I have been awarded a visiting scientist fellowship at the University of Essex, UK. Over the years, my research has focused on morbidity quantification in parasitic infections, impact of co-infection, drug discovery, and development of immunodiagnostics for tropical parasitic diseases.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: In the next 10 years, I foresee myself being a research leader in Africa who will facilitate drug, vaccine, and diagnostics development against tropical parasitic infections. I hope to engage in collaborative research with scientists of like minds within and outside the country.

Name/Academic Rank:

Rotimi, Oluwatosin John
(Senior Researcher, and Lecturer)



Current Affiliation: Covenant University, Ota

NYA Induction Year: 2015

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year):

COC member 2017; Financial Secretary: 2017 – 2019; Ex-officio II, 2019 – 2021; COC Chairman 2020.

NYA Exit Year (for fellows only): 2020

Discipline: Geophysics

Academic Trajectory: My passion for the environment and nature drew me to develop interest in the science subjects in my secondary school days. Growing up to see flakes of mica on construction sites further endeared me to rocks. This further made me pick interest in seeking the origin of precious minerals, how they are exploited and their point of occurrence for the purpose of discovery and exploration. I was also drawn to know how oil and gas were explored using best practices in Petroleum Geophysics. These passions made me enrol for a degree in Geology, Applied Geophysics and Petroleum Engineering. I have since become a creative and proactive geoscientist and an outstanding explorer, researcher and educationist. My intervention on international projects has resulted in laudable commendations stimulating cost-effective turnaround in many instances. My pedagogical skills are top notch, having engaged in teaching and curriculum development over the years. I have worked on various oil and gas exploration projects using 2D, 3D 4D seismic data, and well logs data. My passion to develop environment-friendly initiatives and implementation of standard industrial practices motivated me to leverage on my experience in advocating an inclusive community-based and environment-friendly practice in mining operations. I am currently studying effects of non-linear statistics mechanics in both invasive and non-invasive exploration geophysical data.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: In the next ten years, I would like to contribute to initiating positive projects that impact on the environment by solving local problems. Challenges are part of life and should be handled with positive expectations. Productive engagement of Nigerian youth with purpose driven leadership is one of the recipes that can build the kind of Nigeria we want to see. As I continue to update myself, I hope to keep learning new things and imparting knowledge to my mentees.

Name/Academic Rank:

Unuabonah, Emmanuel Iyayi (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Redeemer's University, Ede, Nigeria

NYA Induction Year: 2011

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2016

NYA Roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Chair, Steering Committee, (2010 – 2011); President, (2011 – 2013); Ex-Officio, (2013 – 2015), member, NYA Board of Trustees (till date).

Discipline: Environmental & Analytical Chemistry, Applied Chemistry

Academic Trajectory: While growing up, I had the ambition to be a medical doctor but ended up being a Chemist. My desire for research started off in my final year in the University. I had this desire to clean up wastewater and reuse it. I began by using very simple materials around us like clay which I sourced from a city in Delta State, Nigeria to treat bathroom wastewater by removing phosphate and sulphate from the water. My success with this at the undergraduate level propelled me to look into removing heavy metal ions from water. I decided to test this hypothesis with my MSc thesis and it turned out very successful. On the strength of this, I was encouraged to immediately register for my PhD and I decided to develop more efficient low-cost materials for the removal of heavy metal ions from water. After my PhD, my desire to improve on water quality through the development of efficient low-cost materials was rewarded with an Alexander von Humboldt postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute of Chemistry, University of Potsdam, Germany. It was during my postdoctoral fellowship that I developed, for the first time, a hybrid material of clay and carbon sourced from agrowaste material (*Carica papaya* seeds). This hybrid material which I named HYCA gave birth to two other generations of materials which I named HYCA 2 and HYCA 3. The HYCA 1 and 2 were more useful as adsorbents with HYCA 2 being more efficient and contain biocidal metals (Zn and Cu) while the HYCA 3 generational materials are the photocatalytic materials which I am currently working on for the purpose of mineralizing organic contaminants including pathogens in water. The process of mineralization is expected to completely remove these organic contaminants from water and make the water safe for drinking or for other uses. I am happy to be a mentor to several students in the area of developing materials for water treatment

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I look forward to setting up a formidable team of water and environment research experts in a Centre of Excellence that will train the next generation of water quality experts who will help the African continent achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 6.

Name/Academic Rank:
Usikalu, Mojisola Rachael (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Covenant University

NYA Induction Year: 2012

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year):

- (i) Editor, Physics Section Annals of Science and Technology Journal
- (ii) Member, Anti-plagiarism Workshop 2018 Committee

Discipline: Physics (Radiation and Health Physics)

Academic Trajectory: The tutelage I received from my Secondary School female Physics teacher ignited my passion for Physics as a course. These are shown in the feat achieved in the academic as a researcher and success recorded so far. This includes winning awards and fellowship such as Organization for Women in Science in the Developing World (OWSD) 2007, Junior Associate of International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) 2012 -2018, Elsevier Foundation Award for Women in Physics and Mathematics 2015 and several conference travel grants etc. I love environmental forensics since health and the environment are interrelated. My research interest is in the area of environmental impacts assessment and monitoring of the radioactivity in the soil, rock and water for the estimation of the associated radiological risks in various parts of the country. Through these researches, we have been able to identify soils and rocks that are not fit for construction purposes due to the high radiation burden (cancer incidence, premature death) associated with them. From our research efforts, many findings have been brought on board that serve as solutions to existing problems in the FIELD of Radiation and Health Physics. The research outcome equally provides useful information for policymakers on setting guidelines for the populace on the type of soil that could be used for building and construction purposes and the safety distance to build houses from mining sites.

Ambition in the next 10 Years: I desire to be an excellent researcher and mentor par excellence that will be able to provide support for the upcoming young scientists in Physics especially in my field. Be a grant winner with access to funding for setting up of world-class laboratory to provide solutions to the needed infrastructures in my field.

Name/Academic Rank:

Uzochukwu, Ikemefuna Chijioke (Professor)



Current Affiliation: Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

NYA induction year: 2011

NYA roles (offices held/committees served, including the year): Group Leader, Health Research Group, Nigerian Young Academy (July 2013 to August 2016).

NYA exit year (for fellows only): 2018

Discipline: Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Academic Trajectory: I became a scientist and pharmacist/pharmaceutical chemist because I was persuaded in March 1987 to pursue a university career in Pharmacy. I had a spiritual encounter with God on 2nd January 1987 that changed my understanding and approach to life. At that point, it was either I studied Medicine or Electrical & Electronics Engineering. I knew next to nothing about Pharmacy apart from the fact that one of my cousins was an undergraduate Pharmacy student at the time. I found Pharmacy remarkably interesting and suited to my inquisitive mind. I passed through the undergraduate programme without much struggle. From my second year, I began to get excited about computer programming and its application to pharmaceutical sciences. I was motivated by Prof Maurice Iwu, my Pharmacognosy lecturer then and Dr Isaac Iwuagwu, a Lecturer in Electrical Engineering, both of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The two were among the few that had desktop computers in the late 80's. When I joined the University as a Graduate Assistant in June 2001, I began to develop myself in Computer Aided Drug Design (CADD). My first opportunity at a structured training was in 2005 when Covenant University organised a two-week workshop on Pattern Biology. I had the best CGPA among about 2000 first year science students during my undergraduate days at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. I also graduated as the best graduating student of the Faculty of Pharmacy. I started my practice in the private sector; I moved from one company to the other (community pharmacy, manufacturing and importation) between December 1994 and June 2001. I was later appointed Graduate Assistant in June 2001 and I rose through the ranks to become a full Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka in 2015.

Ambition in the next 10 years: My plans and aspirations for the next 10 years are to: establish a robust Computer Aided Drug Design (CADD) laboratory; establish a minigenome inhibition assay (BSL 2) virology laboratory; build human capacity in my areas of research; and make significant impact in drug discovery projects in Lassa fever and COVID-19.

