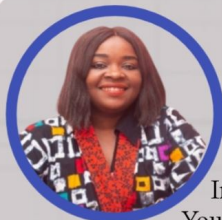




Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) NEWSLETTER

A quarterly publication of the Nigerian Young Academy

EDITORIAL



As the world grapples with uncertainty and insecurity marked by inflation, it is paramount that we keep hope alive through science diplomacy and impactful research.

In line with our mandate, the Nigerian Young Academy continues to strengthen the voice of young scientists across Nigeria and beyond.

This first edition of our 2026 newsletter highlights key developments, activities, and opportunities within the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA). We are pleased to announce an open call for new members, inviting outstanding early-career researchers to join our vibrant and impactful community. In addition, applications are open for NYA prizes, which recognize excellence and innovation across disciplines.

This presents an excellent opportunity for highly motivated researchers and scholars with a passion for societal impact to join this dynamic group of young scientists making meaningful differences.

In this edition, we also announce the 2026 NYA International Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM), scheduled for August. Members and the wider scientific community are encouraged to submit abstracts and participate in what promises to be a dynamic exchange of ideas and collaborations.

Over the past months, NYA has organized a range of workshops and seminars aimed at capacity building, research development, and policy engagement. Our working groups continue to make meaningful contributions through specialized and interdisciplinary activities. Read more about the various working group programs and activities in the dedicated section.

We also celebrate the remarkable achievements of our members and fellows—from the inaugural lecture of one of our distinguished fellows at Redeemer’s University to the appointment of another as Provost of the College of Medical Sciences at Alex Ekwueme Federal University, alongside several other promotions and awards.

Indeed, the Academy has made significant progress and recorded notable strides despite challenging times. It is therefore my pleasure to present this edition of our newsletter for your delight.

I bring you warm wishes for a strong start in the year 2026 and invite the global academic community to lend their voices in advocating for world peace.

Together, we advance science for national and global development. I hope you enjoy this edition.

Dr. Emelda E. Chukwu MNYA
NYA Publicity Secretary

Reach us on our social media handles:

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nyacademy1@gmail.com

Visit our website:

www.nigerianyoungacademy.org

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A Message from the President



It is my pleasure to present the first edition of the Nigerian Young Academy Newsletter for 2026. As an Academy, we remain committed to advancing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and amplifying the voices of young scientists in Nigeria and

beyond. This edition showcases the resilience, creativity, and impact of our members, whose work continues to address critical national and global challenges.

From groundbreaking research and notable professional achievements to strategic engagements in policy and capacity development, the Nigerian Young Academy continues to serve as a vibrant platform for interdisciplinary excellence and innovative thinking. I am especially pleased to highlight our recent recognition as an Associate Member of the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), a significant milestone that enhances access, collaboration, and visibility for our members.

Within the period under review, the Academy also strengthened its partnership with the Biomedical Research and Training Center (BioRTC) as it launched its permanent site in Yobe State. Our working groups have further demonstrated the strength of collaboration through impactful programmes spanning the biological and health sciences, social sciences and humanities, and physical sciences, engineering, and technology. These efforts reflect our strategic focus on translating research into practical solutions that improve lives and inform policy.

As we celebrate the achievements of our members and fellows, we are reminded that the strength of the Academy lies in its people; dedicated scholars committed to excellence, integrity, and service. I encourage all members to remain actively engaged and to continue pushing the frontiers of knowledge for the benefit of society.

We also look forward to empowering young scholars through our leadership training and mentoring programmes while welcoming outstanding early-career researchers, through our ongoing membership and prize calls, to join and contribute to this dynamic community. In addition, we eagerly anticipate the 16th International Conference and Annual General Meeting scheduled for August 2026, which promises to convene thought leaders, innovators, and policymakers at the intersection of research, innovation, and societal impact.

On behalf of the Nigerian Young Academy, I extend sincere appreciation to our partners, stakeholders, and the broader academic community for their continued support. Together, let us sustain this momentum, inspire the next generation of scientists and advance science for national development and global good.

Thank you for your continued commitment, and I hope you find this edition both informative and inspiring.

Prof. Temitope O. Onuminya (Ph.D., FLS, FLEAD, fism, MNYA)
President, Nigerian Young Academy

NYA NEWS

The Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) is pleased to remind the scholarly community that applications for its 2026 opportunities are still open—Deadline has been extended!

Available Opportunities

- NYA Membership 2026 – for researchers based in Nigeria
- NYA Associate Membership 2026 – for diaspora-based researchers
- National Young Researchers' Prizes 2026 – spanning

These opportunities are designed for passionate researchers with strong academic track records and a commitment to driving impact. Successful applicants will gain recognition, expand their professional networks, and contribute meaningfully to national development.

Key Deadlines

- Membership & Associate Membership: Deadline extended to 10th May 2026
- NYA Prizes: 8 May 2026

Prospective applicants are encouraged to act promptly—complete their applications, confirm their referees, and ensure timely submission.

NYA Membership application- <https://forms.gle/cJ2YDLUPx2txCXXK9>

NYA Associate membership- <https://forms.gle/TrSDTTgLBuM8xf8v6>

National Young Researchers' Prizes- <https://forms.gle/PSLo9NF4bEtXN3At9>

Announcing the 16th International Conference & General Assembly of the Nigerian Young Academy

The Nigerian Young Academy NYA, in collaboration with Lagos State University, proudly presents the 16th International Conference & General Assembly!

Date: August 16–20, 2026

Venue: Lagos, Nigeria

Theme: Convergent Research for Global Impact: Integrating Knowledge, Innovation and Policy

Join leading academics, researchers, policymakers, and innovators from around the world for:

- Keynote & plenary sessions
- Research presentations & awards
- Networking & collaboration opportunities

Whether you're in academia, industry, or policy, this is your chance to be part of conversations shaping global impact. Submit your abstract, register early, and secure your spot!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfW_Llde7XiiHUTI9F8HW1gvyYw7ISEgDu-f8LOIsGM2KJEw/viewform

THE NIGERIAN YOUNG ACADEMY
LAGOS STATE UNIVERSITY, NIGERIA.

16th - 20th August, 2026.

CONFERENCE THEMES
CONVERGENT RESEARCH FOR GLOBAL IMPACT: Integrating Knowledge, Innovation and Policy.

CONFERENCE GOALS
The Nigerian Young Academy seeks to nurture outstanding and aspiring young academics and professional researchers by providing a platform for them to showcase their research, to integrate and advance in research, and fostering research collaborations among young researchers nationally and internationally. The 16th International Conference and General Assembly aims to bring together academics, researchers, industry, policymakers and the civil society with a view to exchanging knowledge, experiences and policy for public impact.

CONFERENCE THEMES
Convergent Creativity, Art & Management for Sustainable Impact
Public Health Systems, Disease Prevention and Emergency Preparedness
Urban Resilience, Smart Cities, Energy Systems and Environmental Policy
Human-centered Technology Design, Scalability and Social Acceptance
Rural Development, Food Security and Agrifood Systems
Ethical Considerations in Convergent Science
Machine Learning, AI forecasting, Risk Assessment and Predictive tools for governance planning

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
Interested participants should submit an abstract of no more than 200 words, including a maximum of 5 keywords. The abstract should contain the title, objectives, methodology, major findings, conclusion, and key recommendations.
The abstract should be structured as follows: Title, Author's name and affiliation, the paper with main point and the corresponding author's email and phone number should be included, target audience, body of the abstract, and keywords.
#NYA2026

COMMISSIONING TIMELINE
Abstract: March 1st - June 14th, 2026
Submission of Full Paper: May 20th - July 5th, 2026
Decision on Abstract: May 20th - June 30th, 2026
Accepted authors may be asked to prepare a full paper of their presented abstract for publication in the conference journal. Approval of abstracts is final.
— Award will be given for the best oral and poster presentations.

Early Bird
Non-Members - N30,000
Postgraduate Students - N20,000
Undergraduate Students - N5,000

ADVERSE
Full Page - N200,000
Half Page - N100,000
Quarter Page - N50,000

Readers
Non-Members - N40,000
Postgraduate Students - N30,000
Undergraduate Students - N10,000
Institutions/Corporate Bodies - N50,000
Ph.D. & Participants
International Participant - \$100

PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE TO
Account Number: **2018440155**
Bank Name: **FIRST BANK, Nigeria**
Account Name: **NIGERIAN YOUNG ACADEMY**
Reference: NYA Conf. 2026

Visit the link below to register:
<https://forms.gle/ZNLmMvM9kCYMLH7>
Remember to attach your proof of payment.
Deadline for early bird registration is 1st July, 2026.
Registration covers: Conference material, Tea break and Lunch.

HOSTEL	Rate per Night	Contact Details
LAFB Academic Resource and Conference Centre	Standard - N10,000 Single - N6,000 (To be discounted for NYA participants)	Abdullahi +2347058488880
LAFB Academic Resource and Conference Centre	Standard - N10,000 Single - N6,000 (To be discounted for NYA participants)	Abdullahi +2349126090669
CHAPEL OF LIGHT Chapel House	Standard - N10,000 (To be discounted for NYA participants)	Rajadeji +2349033766930

For Further Enquiries:
Dr. AbdulMalki Salimani (CDC, Chairperson 07029632120)
Dr. Godwin Usomba (CDC, Secretary 0819762424)
Dr. Abdurazeeq Ayinrin (CDC, Chairman 08129888209)
Dr. Emwika Chukwura (CDC, Secretary 08037447294)

Signed:
Prof. Tawfiqote Ogunyemi (President, NYA)
Dr. Moses O. Adediji (General Secretary, NYA)

NIGERIAN YOUNG ACADEMY

NYA Launches Leadership and Mentoring Training Programme

The Nigerian Young Academy Leadership and Mentoring Program is a high-impact initiative designed to cultivate excellence, leadership, and a clear aspiration to become globally competitive in their chosen fields. This programme is delivered fully online, making it accessible to early-career researchers and students across all Nigerian universities, regardless of location. Click here for more details:

<https://landmntnya.wixsite.com/insight-leadership/home>

Leadership and Mentoring Program: Call for Application

Application for Cohort 1st - 28th February 2026

ONLINE EDUCATION

NYA Participates in the Symposium and Launching of the New Site for BIORTC to Strengthen Partnerships

The Biomedical Science Research and Training Centre (BioRTC) permanently launched its state-of-the-art facility at Yobe State University, Damaturu, Nigeria, in February 2026. Led by Prof. Mahmoud Bukar Maina, the center focuses on training, neuroscience, and molecular biology to advance medical research in Africa, supported by the Yobe State government. Following the opening, the BioRTC Launch Symposium 2026 was held on January 30, 2026, featuring global experts on topics like translational research and scientific capacity building in Africa.

NYA Becomes Associate Member of NASAC.

The Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) has been approved as an Associate Member of the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC). This affiliation marks a significant milestone for the NYA, providing several key benefits including access to a broad continental and global network of scientists; increased opportunities for international collaboration and greater visibility for the Academy's work in shaping science, policy, and innovation in Africa.



Training workshop of the Nigerian Young Academy

The Webinar and Workshop Committee of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) organized a virtual training workshop in March 2026 themed “Translating Research into Policy and Practice.” Held on 25 March via Zoom, the session focused on bridging the gap between academic research and real-world policy impact. Speakers, including Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun and Dr. Temitope O. Sogbanmu, shared insights on effective research communication and framing evidence for policymakers. Moderated by Dr. Bartholomew S. Adeleke and hosted by Prof. Temitope Onuminya, the workshop equipped participants with practical skills to enhance research uptake and societal impact.



REPORT OF NYA WORKING GROUPS ACTIVITIES

This report consolidates the activities, strategic planning, and member achievements of the three key Working Groups (WGs) of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) spanning from January 2026 to March 2026. The WGs covered in this consolidated review are the Physical Sciences Engineering and Technology (PSET) WG, the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) WG, and the Biological and Health Sciences (BHS) WG.

I. BIOLOGY AND HEALTH SCIENCE (BHS)

This report presents the activities, engagements, and achievements of the Biological and Health Sciences (BHS) Working Group (WG) of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) for the first quarter of 2026. A major highlight of the quarter was the successful execution of a hybrid programme integrating practical public health intervention with high-level policy dialogue on the environment–health nexus.

Major Programme Activity: WASH Demonstration and High-Level Panel Discussion

On Thursday, 12 February 2026, the BHS Working Group convened a two-part programme aimed at strengthening public understanding of the critical link between environmental conditions and health outcomes in Nigeria. The initiative combined practical demonstration with policy dialogue under the overarching theme, “From Knowledge to Resilience: Educating Nigeria on the Environment–Health Nexus.”

It sought to translate scientific knowledge into actionable public health practices while fostering multi-sectoral engagement.

The day commenced with a physical WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) demonstration titled “Evidence of Success” at the Polytechnic Health Centre of Ekiti State Polytechnic, Isan-Ekiti.

Led by the Head of the Health Centre, Miss Ikeoluwa Omotayo, the session featured hands-on training in WHO-recommended handwashing techniques, safe water handling, and sanitation practices. Conducted in small batches to ensure active participation, the demonstration emphasized hygiene maintenance in schools, healthcare settings, and communities, particularly in the context of disease prevention and emergency response. To reinforce sustainability, the Working Group donated WASH kits—including soaps, disinfectants, and cleaning materials—to support ongoing hygiene practices within the institution.

The second segment, a virtual high-level panel discussion held via Zoom, brought together policymakers, educators, healthcare professionals, and civil society actors. Moderated by Dr. Emelda Chukwu, the session opened with remarks from Prof. Temitope Onuminya, President of NYA, who underscored the urgency of addressing environmental health challenges through research-driven collaboration. Dr. Akeem Sikiru, Chairman of the BHS Working Group, reiterated the commitment to bridging gaps between science, policy, and practice.

Panelists, including Dr. Adekunle Fakunle, Mrs. Eniola Morufat Azeez, and Dr. Otugboye Joseph, highlighted pressing environmental health risks such as household and urban air pollution, open waste burning, and the impacts of climate change and rapid urbanization. Discussions underscored the role of environmental epidemiology in understanding disease patterns, the importance of regulating environmental toxicants, and the need for improved urban planning.

Emphasis was also placed on integrating environmental health education into school curricula and promoting behavioral change alongside policy interventions.

The programme concluded with key recommendations, including curriculum integration, enhanced multi-sectoral collaboration, increased investment in preventive measures, and strengthened community engagement. Overall, the event reinforced the importance of combining practical interventions with strategic dialogue to build a more resilient and health-conscious society.



Members' News and Professional Updates

Honours and Recognitions

• Dr. Emelda Chukwu served as an Invited Guest Speaker at the 4th International Conference on Recent Advances in Biotechnology and Nanobiotechnology (Int-BioNano-2026) held at Amity University, Madhya Pradesh, India on 13 March 2026. Topic: Transforming the Fight Against Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance through Innovative Biotechnological and Nanotechnological Strategies.

II. SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES (SSH)

In February 2026, the Social Sciences and Humanities Working Group of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) hosted a webinar titled “The Relevance of AI for Research in Social Sciences and Humanities” on 27th February. The session featured Prof. M.A. Tijani as the guest speaker, who provided valuable insights into the growing role of artificial intelligence in transforming research practices within these fields.

The webinar explored how AI tools can enhance data collection, analysis, and interpretation, enabling researchers to handle large datasets and uncover patterns more efficiently. Prof. Tijani highlighted both the opportunities and challenges associated with AI adoption, including ethical considerations, data privacy, and the need to maintain critical human perspectives in research.

Participants, comprising academics, researchers, and students, engaged in discussions on integrating AI into interdisciplinary research while preserving the core values of the humanities and social inquiry. The session emphasized the importance of digital literacy and adaptability in advancing research quality and relevance.

NIGERIAN YOUNG ACADEMY (NYA)
Social Sciences and Humanities Working Group

WEBINAR
Topic: The Relevance of AI for Research in Social Sciences and Humanities

SPEAKER
PROF. M.A. TIJANI
University of Abuja

HOST
PROF. TEMITOPE ONUMINYA
University of Lagos
President, NYA

CO-HOST
DR. OMOTAYO OLALERE
Olabajana Awolowo University
NYA SSH WG Chairperson

DATE: FRIDAY FEB. 27, 2026
TIME: 10 AM (WAT)

REGISTRATION QR CODE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT +234 810 766 9743 OR +234 806 795 3069

Members' Achievements: Reported Appointments, Promotions, Awards, Fellowships, Scholarships, Publications, Patents.

S/N	Names	Members' Achievement	Date
1	Dr. Omotayo Olalere	Won a scholarship to participate in the International Workshop on Language(s) of Academia to be held in Germany in September 2026	January 2026
2	Dr Afolabi E. Olabamiji	Published an article titled Tripartite Analysis of Multidimensional Poverty Intensity in Nigerian Cities. SN Social Sciences, Springer Nature, Switzerland 6(57), 1-28. https://doi.org/10.1007/s43545-026-01338-3 Won the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Conference Grant.	January 2026
3	Dr Adedayo O. Adewole	Invitation to participate in the National Stakeholders' Workshop on the Development of Adaptation Plans for Hadejia-Jama'are and Ogun - Oshun River Basins held on Monday 19th January, 2026. Lagos, Nigeria.	January 2026

III. PHYSICAL SCIENCES, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (PSciETech)

The Nigerian Young Academy (NYA), through its Physical Sciences, Engineering, and Technology Working Group, hosted a webinar on February 7th, 2025, focused on navigating research funding in a global and local context. The session explored opportunities available to researchers in technology, engineering, and physical sciences, while also addressing challenges specific to local environments.

The keynote speaker, Prof. Peter Chukwunonso Okoli of Alex Ekwueme Federal University, shared insights on accessing international funding, building competitive research proposals, and aligning projects with global priorities. He also highlighted the importance of collaboration, innovation, and strategic networking.

The event was hosted by Prof. Temitope Onuminya, President of NYA, with Dr. Thomas O. Daniel serving as co-host. Together, they facilitated discussions on strengthening research capacity in Nigeria and bridging gaps between global funding systems and local realities, ultimately encouraging young researchers to pursue impactful and sustainable scientific work.

NIGERIAN YOUNG ACADEMY (NYA)
Physical Sciences, Engineering, and Technology Working Group

WEBINAR On:
Navigating the frontiers of research funding: Global opportunities and local realities in technology, engineering and physical sciences

SPEAKER
PROF. PETER CHUKWUNONSO OKOLI, FNVA
Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State.
Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Physical Sciences

Date: Saturday, February 7th, 2025
Time: 9:00 PM (WAT)

HOST
PROF. TEMITOPE ONUMINYA
University of Lagos
President, NYA

CO-HOST
DR. THOMAS O. DANIEL
Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State.
Chairman, Physical Science, Engineering and Technology Working Group, NYA

REGISTRATION QR CODE

For contact: +2348065732254 and +2348036976326

Members' Achievements: Reported Appointments, Promotions, Awards, Fellowships, Scholarships, Grants, Publications, Patents.

S/N	Name	Achievements/ promotions/ patents etc	Date
1.	Dr Oluwakayode Micheal ONI	Promoted to Senior Lecturer at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria He also started his postdoctoral fellowship at North West University, South Africa.	October, 2025 January, 2026
2.	Dr. Halleluyah Oluwatobi AWORINDE	Won 2026-2027 IEEE SPARX Grant. The award is a \$10,000 worth grant by the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS). The fund is intended for collaborative research activities, visits to Prof. Mary He's research lab at the University of Salford, United Kingdom, and other project-related expenses. The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) introduced the Support Program to foster Academic Relationships and eXchange (SPARX). This initiative focuses on nurturing academic excellence and research collaboration in Computing, Robotics, and Automation by connecting faculty members from developing countries and countries at risk with distinguished RAS mentors to elevate their research and publishing efforts at RAS conferences and journals.	February, 2026
3.	Dr Owolabi Mutolib BANKOLE	Won a grant of 22,580 euros from International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna, Austria to conduct a project at Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Nigeria Also started a research fellowship with Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (ULAM NAWA Fellowship) at the Department of Chemistry, University of Warsaw, Poland	February, 2026 March, 2026

MEMBERS AND FELLOWS' NEWS

Appointments, Promotions and Inaugural Lectures



Prof. Foluke Unuabonah's Inaugural Lecture

Professor Foluke Unuabonah, a Professor of (multimodal) discourse analysis and (corpus) pragmatics, presented her Inaugural Lecture titled, 'From Text to Context: Advancing

Corpus Pragmatics in the Nigerian English Environment' on Wednesday, 18th March 2026 at Redeemer's University, Ede, Osun State. In her lecture, she discussed the role of corpus linguistics in advancing the understanding of the pragmatics of Nigerian English. While corpus linguistics involves the compilation and analysis of naturally occurring data, which have been stored in extensive computer corpora, pragmatics deals with the study of meaning in interactions, involving concepts such as pragmatic markers and speech acts.

Both fields form a synergy in analysing Nigerian English, which is one of the fastest growing varieties of English in the world today. Foluke Unuabonah also called on governments at all levels to extend research support to private universities in Nigeria, since private universities and their staff pay taxes and contribute meaningfully to national development. She also called for the inclusion of corpus linguistics as a course at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels in departments of English and Linguistics, since corpus linguistics offers immense opportunities for scholars, and provides a systematic approach to the study of language.



Heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Kingsley Ukwaja on his well-deserved appointment as Provost, College of Medical Sciences, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ikwo, Nigeria.

His appointment is a fitting recognition of his exemplary service, visionary

leadership, and unwavering commitment to academic excellence. With his previous administrative experiences as the Pioneer Director of Academic Planning, Director of Research and Innovation, Head of Department of Medicine, and Dean of Clinical Sciences at DUFUHS, he has played a foundational role in shaping the academic and clinical landscape of a new-generation, high-flying university.

His dedication, integrity, and strategic foresight have left enduring legacies that continue to strengthen teaching, research, and service delivery. Having consistently ranked among the top 2% of scientists in the World for the past six years, we believe there is no one more deserving of this position than him. We are confident that his wealth of experience, proven administrative capacity, and passion for excellence and research will translate into purposeful leadership and remarkable progress for the College of Medical Sciences, AEFUNAI. Please accept NYA warmest congratulations and best wishes for a successful, impactful, and fulfilling tenure as Provost.



The NYA is glad to inform the Academic community that Prof Festus Okoye, FNYA a professor in Pharmaceutical and Medical Chemistry Department, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Nnamdi Azikiwe University has been elected as a

Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS). We celebrate with him on this great feat!



Congratulations to Prof. Charles Oluwaseun Adetunji on the successful selection of his research project titled "Life on Metal Surfaces – Microbial Implant Bio-Adhesion (LIMB)" for funding by the Norwegian Research Council. The project ranked among only 20 successful proposals out of 144 global

submissions, underscoring its strong scientific merit, competitiveness, and international relevance. The total approved budget is approximately NOK 5,000,000, with NOK 1,045,000 (about NGN 150 million) allocated to Edo State University Iyamho to support its role in the project, including hosting the final consortium meeting in Nigeria. Congratulations once again to Prof. Adetunji on this outstanding accomplishment and for his continued commitment to research excellence, global collaboration, and academic leadership.



FNYA, a Professor of Mathematics at the Obafemi Awolowo University and 3rd Occupier of the Pastor Enoch A. Adeboye Professorial Chair of Mathematics at the Faculty of Science delivered a Public

Lecture of Pastor Enoch Adejare Professorial Chair in Mathematics scheduled for on Thursday, February 19, 2026. The lecture was titled, Algebraic Structures and their Applications to Cryptography and Complex Systems. <https://unilag.edu.ng/event/pastor-enoch-adejare-professorial-chair-in-mathematics-public-lecture-february-19/>



Congratulations to Prof. Ismail Ayoade Odetokun on his elevation to the rank of a full Professor of Veterinary Medicine. The Nigerian Young Academy heartily rejoice and celebrate with our own Professor Ismail Ayoade Odetokun (FNYA) on his

promotion to the position of a full Professor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Ilorin, effective from 1st October, 2025. This well-deserved milestone is a great testament to his intellectual sagacity and global impacts to the field of medicine. We pray and wish you many more wonderful achievements.



The NYA is glad to announce the meritorious elevation of Prof. Olunmi Atolani to the distinguished rank of Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Ilorin - an incontrovertible testament to years of assiduous scholarship, pedagogical dexterity, and an unwavering commitment to the advancement of chemical sciences. Congratulations Prof. Atolani, may this new designation further amplify your capacity for impactful research and inspire successive generations of chemists.



We are thrilled to announce that our Immediate Past President, Dr. Peter Chukwunonso Okoli, has been elevated to the esteemed rank of full Professor of Analytical and Environmental Chemistry/Forensics by the Senate of Alex Ekwueme Federal University, effective

October 1, 2025. On behalf of the Executive Council, we extend our warmest congratulations to Prof. Peter Chukwunonso Okoli on this remarkable achievement! We celebrate his dedication, expertise, and contributions to the field, and look forward to continued success.

Publications by NYA members

- **Dr. Ifeoma E. Idigbe** (Collaborative Publications)
 - Integration of a task strengthening strategy for hypertension management into HIV care in Nigeria: Baseline characteristics of participants in a cluster randomized controlled trial. *Am Heart J.* 2026 Feb 17:107383. doi: 10.1016/j.ahj.2026.107383. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41713761.
 - A triple-blinded randomized control trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of fractional doses of COVID-19 vaccines (ChAd0x1, AD26.COV2. S, and BNT162B2) among Nigeria adults: the SIFCoVAN trial. *Trials.* 2025 Dec 16;27(1):56. doi: 10.1186/s13063-025-09317-4. PMID: 41402886; PMCID: PMC12822126.
 - Epidemiology of human papillomavirus strains in Southern Nigeria: A cross-sectional analysis. *Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis.* 2026 Mar;114(3):117240. doi: 10.1016/j.diagmicrobio.2025.117240. Epub 2025 Dec 24. PMID: 41475073.
- **Dr. Temitayo A. Adeyemo** (Collaborative Publications)
 - Impact of Adoption of Biofortified Cassava on Farming Households' Livelihood Outcomes in Nigeria: A Mixed-Method Approach. IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria 2025.
 - Biofortified cassava: beyond a feeling of fullness and energy. Ibadan, Nigeria: IITA, 2025 (37 p.).
- **Dr. Michael I. Ugwueze** (Collaborative Publications)
 - "It's a fight to finish; it's either us or them": shifting trust from Civilian Joint Task Force and embracing self-defence in counter-terrorism in northeast, Nigeria. *Critical Studies on Terrorism.* 2026 19(1), 179–202. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17539153.2025.2607222>
 - Skit-Making, Society, and Law: Dimensions of Social Media-Induced Rights Violations in Nigeria. *Society* 62, 931–947. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12115-025-01161-1>
- **Dr. Chinwoke C. Ifeanyi-Obi** (Collaborative Publications)
 - Drivers of gender disparity in access to and utilisation of extension services on climate change adaptation among arable crop farmers in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. *African Journal of Agriculture, Technology and Environment.* 2025 14(1 & 2): 58-66.
 - Influence of Smallholder Farmers' Empowerment on Adoption of Sustainable Agricultural Practices in South-South, Nigeria: Evidence from the Empowerment in Agriculture Index. *Indian Research Journal of Extension Education.* 26 (1), 13-21. doi:10.54986/irjee/2026/jan_mar/13-21
 - Utilisation of Extension Services for Climate Change Adaptation by Male and Female Arable Crop Farmers in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. *Journal of Agricultural Extension.* 2025 29(3) 118-133. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/jae.v29i3.12>
- **Dr. Kehinde A. Adeboye** (Collaborative Publication)
 - Germplasm exploration and digital phenotyping reveal indigenous diversity and farmer preferences in pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan* (L.) Millsp.) for climate-smart breeding. *Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10722-026-02728-5>
- **Dr. Emelda E. Chukwu** (Collaborative Publications)
 - Recovery of *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella enterica* from long frozen rectal swabs using enrichment methods in a low-resource settings. *Journal of Microbiological Methods* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mimet.2025.10738>
 - Assessment of heavy metal and trace element contamination in sachet water and regulatory gaps in Lagos Nigeria. *Scientific Reports* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-026-39240-w>
 - "Why We Cannot Separate Evidence from Values in Public Policy." *Politics & Policy* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1111/polp.70109>
- **Dr. Ayansina S. Ayangbenro** (Collaborative Publication)
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 - Strategies for Overcoming the Obstacles to Reuse and Recycling of Construction Waste Materials for Economic and Environmental Sustainability in Nigeria. *Journal of Rehabilitation in Civil Engineering.* 2026 14(1). <https://doi.org/10.22075/jrce.2025.36321.2235>

One year Memorial of Late Prof. Emmanuel Unuabonah.

The Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) joined the Unuabonah family to celebrate the 1st year remembrance of the NYA pioneer President - Prof. Emmanuel Unuabonah on Thursday the 26th of March 2026.



NAS CORNER

The Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) proudly participated in the Nigerian Academy of Science 7th Annual Scientific Conference, which held from 27–28 January 2026 in Abuja, Nigeria.

The conference which is themed “From Research to Market: The Making of Knowledge-Based Economies”, spotlights the critical pathway from scientific discovery to societal and economic impact.



Representing the NYA at this prestigious gathering were the NYA President Prof Temitope Onuminya, NYA Vice President Dr Bello Abdulkakeem , and NYA Treasurer Dr. Ifeyinwa Obiany and NYA North Central Coordinator Dr Esther Anosike-Francis.

They engaged with policymakers and prominent researchers including Prof Oluwatoyin Ogundipe (FAS, Pro-chancellor Redeemer's University), Emeritus Prof. Babajide Alo (FAS), Prof. Ganiyu Oboh (FAS) and Dr. Doyin Odubanjo (NAS Executive Secretary) with the goal to amplify young scientists' voices and strengthen the research–innovation ecosystem in Nigeria.

Also participating were some NYA Fellows including Prof. Olumuyiwa Ashaolu (FNYA), Dr Stephen Adefegha (FNYA), Dr Chinwe Chukwudi (FNYA) among others. It was indeed an avenue for meaningful conversations, collaborations, and insights that advance science-driven development.



NAS Leadership Training for Leadership of the Academy

The Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) Executive Council held a Leadership Training Webinar on 27 March 2026 as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and governance. The session, facilitated by Dr. Oladoyin Odubanjo, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS), provided an important orientation for newly inducted members while reinforcing best practices for effective academy operations. The webinar offered a broad overview of the evolution of the NYA, the mandate of national academies, and the operational frameworks that support sustainability and impact. Drawing from NAS experience, the facilitator shared practical insights relevant to NYA's current stage of institutional development.

Key lessons highlighted the unique role of academies as independent bodies that interpret scientific evidence and provide objective, policy-relevant advice. Emphasis was placed on maintaining credibility through merit-based membership, selective fellowship, and active service by members. Strong governance structures, democratic processes, and institutional independence, particularly in funding relationships, were identified as essential pillars of success.

Effective communication and policy engagement were highlighted as core responsibilities, with a general call for academies to translate scientific outputs into accessible language for decision-makers. Additionally, while partnerships with the private sector are important, they must be carefully managed to safeguard institutional integrity. NAS expressed willingness to support NYA through advisory, technical assistance, and facilitation of engagements with relevant agencies. The webinar provided valuable guidance to support NYA's continued growth, institutional strengthening, and long-term impact.

Call for Applications: The NAS Research Leaders Mentorship Programme

The Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) is implementing a six-month mentorship programme, designed to connect Nigerian early-career researchers with established scientists. The aim of the programme is to strengthen Nigeria's science and research ecosystem by equipping the next generation of Nigerian scientists with research and professional skills to foster scientific excellence in Nigeria.

NAS therefore invites applications from interested mentors and mentees. Selected candidates should be able to commit up to two hours per week to the mentorship program. They should also plan to attend an orientation workshop to be held virtually in early August.

Eligibility

Mentees: Early career researchers (ECRs) in higher academic institutions or research institutes, who are actively pursuing a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. To be eligible for this programme, prospective mentees must:

- be Nigerians, and resident in Nigeria
- have a doctoral degree received not more than 7 years ago, or currently be a PhD student between the ages of 25 and 35
- currently engaged in research in any of the STEM fields. Research topics must demonstrate policy-relevant implications.

Mentors: Established scientists who can provide mentorship on mentees' research, and career goals. Mentors should:

- be Nigerians
- have a doctoral degree/equivalent of not less than 10 years
- have significant research experience/profile

The call for applications will be open from April 15, 2026, to May 29, 2026. The application forms are available online via the links below:

Mentors: bit.ly/NASReLM-Mentor

Mentees: bit.ly/NASReLM-Mentee

Shortlisted candidates for the programme will be contacted in July. The mentorship period will run from August 2026 to January 2027.

Deadline for applications: 5pm on May 29, 2026.

Opportunities and Other news

Call for Proposals: MMD Grant Facility - The Support Programme to the Africa-EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue

The MMD Grant Facility Second Call for Proposals offers to support initiatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and non-state actors operating on a non-profit basis, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), social enterprises, universities, research centres, diaspora organisations, etc., through grants ranging from 100,000 to 150,000 EUR. <https://www.icmpd.org/news/call-for-proposals-mmd-grant-facility-the-support-programme-to-the-africa-eu-migration-and-mobility-dialogue>

Call for Nominations/Applications for the 2026 TWAS Young Affiliates

The World Academy of Sciences Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Partner (TWAS-SAREP) invites nominations of suitable candidates for the 2026 TWAS Young Affiliateship.

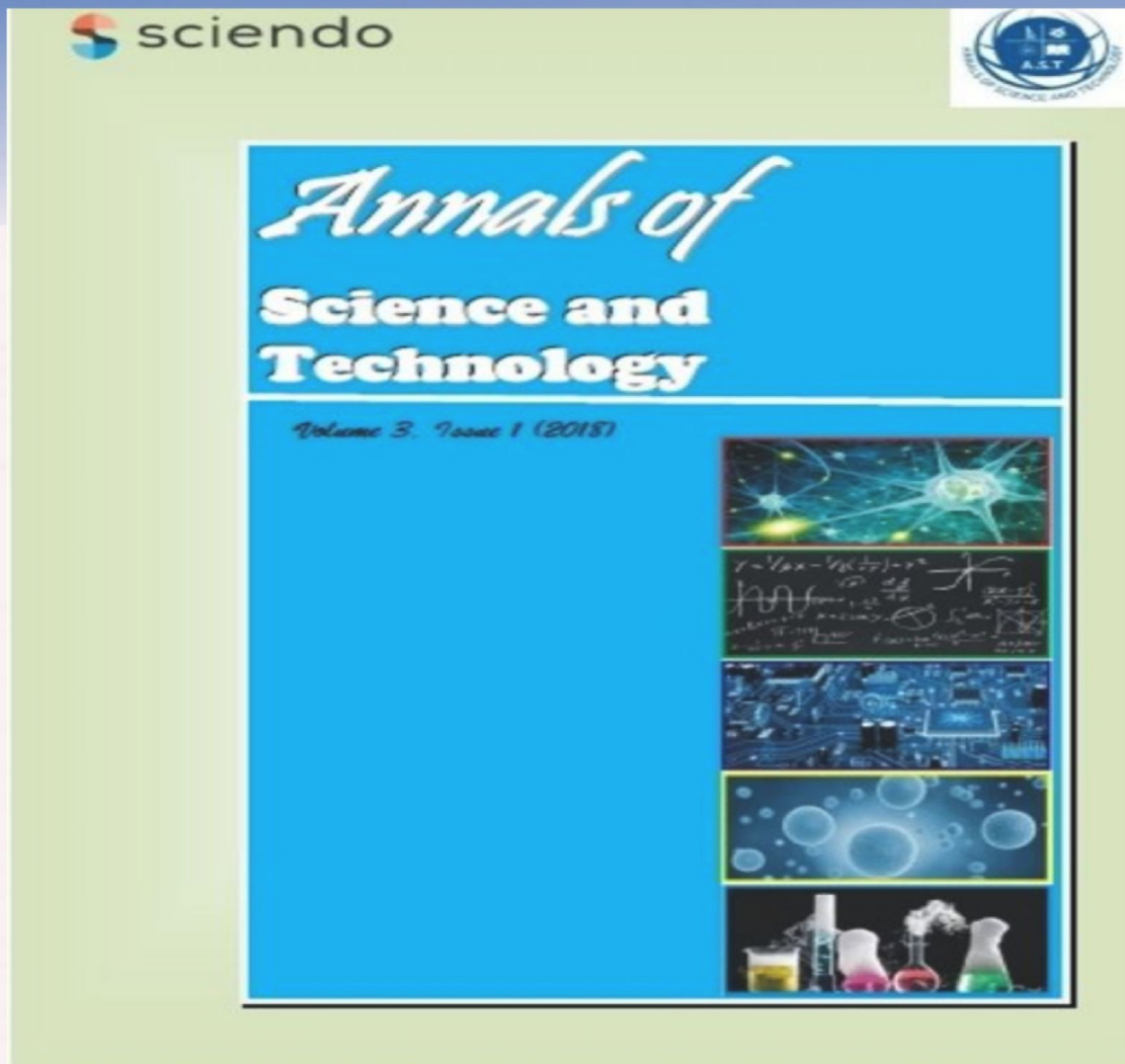
Background information:

Every year the five TWAS Regional Partners each select up to five scientists to be Young Affiliates for a period of six years. During their tenure, Affiliates are invited to participate in TWAS general meetings and conferences as well as provide feedback to TWAS on how the Academy can respond to the needs of young scientists in developing countries. They are encouraged to provide information about TWAS programmes to their students and colleagues; are encouraged to seek out and nominate excellent scientists from developing countries, especially science-and technology-lagging countries, for TWAS awards and seek out excellent scientists from science-and technology-lagging countries and recommend their nomination for TWAS membership (via a full member of the Academy). The idea of the Young Affiliateship is to give opportunities to young scientists who currently do not have them because they are based in Africa or elsewhere in the developing world.

Updated Eligibility criteria for TWAS Young Affiliates

<https://twas.org/article/eligibility-criteria-twas-young-affiliates-updated>). Selection of the candidates will be based on the recommendations of a Selection Committee comprising TWAS fellows in sub-Saharan Africa.

Apply here: [TWAS Young Affiliates Nomination Form](#). (you will be required to login to your Gmail account to be able to open the form and upload all the supporting documents). **This electronic application form is only limited to candidates from sub-Saharan Africa region and the closing date is June 30, 2026.**



Call for Submission of Manuscripts

The Annals of Science and Technology (AST), a journal of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA), hereby calls for submission of manuscripts for publication in its next issue. The journal is indexed and abstracted by many reputable outlets including Google Scholar, EBSCO Discovery Service, J-Gate, ReadCube, Baidu Scholar, CNKI Scholar (China National Knowledge Infrastructure), Naviga (Softweco), KESLI-NDSL (Korean National Discovery for Science Leaders), Naviga (Softweco), Promi Central (ExLibris), Summon (Serial Solutions/ProQuest), TDNet and WorldCat (OCLC).

AST publishes high-quality theoretical and experimental articles twice a year. It publishes research articles, state of the art reviews and short communications in the field of biological, health, chemical, mathematical and physical sciences, as well as engineering and technology. More information on the journal such as guidelines on submission of articles can be found in the link below: <https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/ast/ast-overview.xml>