



NYA Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA)

Special Edition, July 2024

NYA NEWS

EDITORIAL

As the NYA prepares to hold its 14th International Conference and General Assembly between 26th – 29th August 2024, the academy is excited to welcome members, fellows, presenters, attendees, and contributors to join the academy in Yobe State University, Damaturu, Yobe State. For the duration of the event, the conference themed “Revitalizing Nigeria's Economy through Innovative Research” will feature the inauguration of new members while also offering a forum for knowledge exchange and discussions in a variety of academic, governmental, and industrial sectors.

This special issue of the Newsletter highlights NYA news, members' and fellows' news, activities of the Nigeria Academy of Science, as well as other important NYA events, which are emphasised in the issue.

On behalf of the Publicity Committee of the NYA, I sincerely hope you find this special edition of the NYA newsletter inspiring and educative.

Dr. Nuraddeen Nasiru Garba

Publicity Secretary

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FACES OF THE NEW NYA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Behold the faces and abridged academic profiles of the current executive council members of the Nigerian Young Academy, following their successful election at the 13th International Conference and General Assembly held at Edo State University, Uzairue in 2023.



President - Dr. Peter Chukwunonso Okoli

Dr. Peter Chukwunonso Okoli is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Chemistry, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu Alike, Nigeria. He holds a PhD in Analytical/Environmental Chemistry and M.Sc in Environmental Chemistry and Pollution Control from University of Ibadan, Nigeria. His research focus is on the development of low-cost analytical methods for micro-organic pollutants/pollutants of emerging concern, deployment of isotope fingerprinting as environmental forensic methods for efficient implementation of Polluter-pays-principle, as well as assessment of fate/safety of chemical pollutants and nanomaterials. He is the current Director of the Centre for Internationalisation, Linkages, Advancement and Global Ranking (CILAGR), Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu Alike, Nigeria.



Vice-President - Dr. Abubakar Abubakar Khaleed

Dr. Abubakar Abubakar Khaleed is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Physics, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. He specializes in radiation shielding calculation, synthesis and characterization of nanomaterials for electrochemical capacitor and gas sensing applications; and nanofluid as insulating oils for oil-filled power equipment. Dr. Khaleed has several publications in both national and international journals. Currently, he has Google Scholar H-index of 20. He is a recipient of many awards, grants and fellowships. He is a regular reviewer to many high impact journals and member to many professional bodies.



Assistant General Secretary - Dr. Michael Ugwueze

Dr. Michael Ugwueze teaches in the Department of Political Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN). He specializes in International Relations and his research interests span the frontiers of security, conflict, peace and development studies. He has published extensively in these areas in renowned peer-reviewed journals. His publications have appeared in journals that include *Security, Society, Review of African Political Economy, Journal of Church and State, Transportation Security, Civil Wars, and Journal of Asian and African Studies*, among others. His current research as a Visiting Scholar at the Taiwan Center for Security Studies, National Chengchi University revolves around China's Vision 2035 and its implication for continued Taiwan sovereign statehood.



General Secretary - Dr. Abdul-Azeez Anjorin

Dr. Abdul-Azeez Anjorin is the Head of Department, Microbiology and the Team Leader for IORTV research, Lagos State University. He is a member Governing Board for ME'NA-ISN, and he is on the editorial boards of PLOS ONE, PAMJ, and JRRS, as well as the World Society for Virology training & Career Development Committee. He is a GVN alumni member. He received Virology training at the Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland School of Medicine; Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; and NIH. He was also trained at the BV-BRC, UniChicago Argonne National Laboratory, ISIRV/CMC Respiratory Virus School Vellore and LIH, Luxembourg. Dr Anjorin has attended over 50 conferences and workshops in America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.



Publicity Secretary - Dr. Nuraddeen Nasiru Garba

Dr. Nuraddeen Nasiru Garba is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Physics, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He obtained his B.Sc. degree in Physics from Bayero University Kano, M.Sc. Radiation Biophysics from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria and Ph.D. Physics (Radiological Health and Safety) from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. He has won many grants, attended many conferences/workshops both within and outside the country, and he has published many articles in peer-reviewed journals. He is a Fellow of the World Nuclear University, a member of the Nigerian Institute of Physics, and Health Physics Society. His research focuses on Environmental Radiation Monitoring and Protection.



Financial Secretary - Prof. Cynthia Nkolika Ibeto

Cynthia Nkolika Ibeto is a Professor at the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) and a member of the United Kingdom Research and Innovation Peer Review College. She was a Schlumberger Faculty member for the Future Fellow (2016-2019) and an Academic Research Fellow, National Centre for Energy Research and Development, UNN (2008-2016). She has co-authored over seventy research publications and supervised several postgraduate students on environmental and health impact assessment of emerging pollutants, optimization of biofuels production, and bioremediation of pollutants. Her research focus is on adding value to waste and environmental pollution control.



Treasurer - Dr. Temitope Onuminya

Dr. Temitope Olabisi Onuminya is an Associate Professor of Plant Systematics and Conservation at the University of Lagos. Her research focus is on providing evidence-based solutions for a sustainable environment through research and development. Her research interests include: Conservation biology, DNA Barcoding, Forensic Science, Climate change and Ethnobotany. She is well published in these areas and has successfully supervised over 20 postgraduate students. She has won many grants in biodiversity research, leadership and management and responsible science. She is a Darwin-Scholar, Fellow of IREX, LEAD-AWA, the Linnaean Society of London and Institute of Security, Nigeria.



Technical & Logistics Secretary - Dr. Ben Jesuorsemwon Enarbonma

Dr Ben Jesuorsemwon Enagbonma is a researcher affiliated with the Department of Environmental Management and Toxicology, University of Benin, Nigeria and a postdoctoral researcher at the Food Security and Safety Focus Area, North-West University, South Africa. His research focuses on the microbiomes of soil and plant-soil interaction, exploring their diversity, functions, and evolutionary dynamics. He employs metagenomic and bioinformatic approaches to understand the ecological roles of microbiomes and their interactions with host organisms. His scholarly articles have been published in reputable journals.



Ex-Officio I – Dr. Mohammed Auwal Ibrahim

Dr. Mohammed Auwal Ibrahim is an Associate Professor of Biochemistry and a Deputy Director (Research Management) of the Directorate of Research and Innovation, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. He obtained his PhD (Biochemistry) from University of KwaZulu-Natal and a postdoctoral fellowship at the Biotherapeutics Research Group, University of Pretoria in South Africa. His research focuses on the molecular biology, biotherapeutics, drug design and discovery targeting trypanosomiasis, malaria and type 2 diabetes. In 2023, Dr. Ibrahim was ranked among the topmost 2% scientists in the world as analysed by Elsevier and Stanford University, USA. He is the immediate past President of the Nigerian Young Academy, and a regular reviewer to many high impact scientific journals.



Ex-Officio II - Prof. Charles Adetunji

Professor Charles Oluwaseun Adetunji is the Director of Research and Innovation at Edo State University, Uzairue, Nigeria. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, United Kingdom and an affiliate member of the African Academy of Science. He was also recently listed in Stanford University's World Top 2% Scientists Rankings for 2023 and ranked first among the top 500 prolific authors in Nigeria between 2020 and 2024 by SciVal/SCOPUS. He was also ranked number 1 in two different fields from Biological Sciences and Agricultural Science. He is presently a series editor with Wiley and Sons, Elsevier, Springer, Taylor and Francis, USA and many more.

UPDATE

After the recent successful 13th NYA International Conference and General Assembly held at Edo State University Uzairue, in line with the recently approved revised Constitution of the Academy, the call for 2024 membership and associate membership applications and the National Young Researcher's prizes were fully advertized. Many applications were received and reviewed by the respective working groups in which recommendations were forwarded to the EC for further necessary actions.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Distinguished Colleagues,
Permit me to sincerely appreciate each and every member of the Nigerian Young Academy for standing tall and soldiering on, in the midst of the current economic crisis in our dear country, Nigeria. You will agree with me that it has not been easy in any of the sectors of our economy, especially the education

sector. As majority of NYA members are career researchers and academics, the impact of the economic meltdown has expectedly and obviously influenced the activities, commitment and performance of NYA members in several ways. However, despite all these challenges, NYA is doing relatively well.

In the face of the daunting economic challenges, especially for the academics, the urge to migrate to developed world has become irresistible. Considering the rare skills and expertise of all NYA members and fellows who have exhibited sheer hard work and excellence in their chosen profession, I am sure that more than 99.99% of our members and fellows can get themselves fixed abroad with a snap of the finger. Yet, we did not lose more than 10% of members to the popular *japa* syndrome. I salute your decision to remain and work for the development of our country. In the words of one of my Chinese mentors, he usually says “Peter, no one will develop your country for you. The Chinese are where they are today out of sheer hard work and commitment”. When we build a nation, then we need a strong financial investment and only research can make this investment succeed. The only thing that is constant in this life is the word “change”. As we live in a dynamic society, the basic needs of our people are bound to also change with time. So, we need a lot of applications of science and technology. Hence, it obvious that without research, we will have no development in our nation. So, the role of young researchers in the development of our dear nation cannot be over-emphasized.

The current Newsletter brings us the updates, highlights and reports on the activities of the academy and opportunities that abound for us as members and fellows of the academy in the first two quarters of the 2024 administrative year. Members and fellows are encouraged to explore the opportunities and give feedback to the relevant units of the academy where there is need to do so.

I congratulate the members for their individual and collective achievements within the time under review and I encourage each and every one of us to show more commitment to the affairs of NYA. A Nigerian adage says that an optimist will only see the doughnut and shoot at it, while a pessimist will also see the hole at the centre of the doughnut and miss the doughnut by shooting at the hole. In essence, I am a strong believer that there is still a future to pursue in Nigeria. There is always a light at the end of every tunnel.

Peter Chukwunonso Okoli (PhD, MNYA)
President

REPORT OF NYA WORKING GROUPS (WG) ACTIVITIES

I. BIOLOGY AND HEALTH SCIENCE (BHS)

The BHS-WG as part of their cardinal objectives conducted an election for the new executives on the 1st of September, 2023. The meeting marked the election of new executive officers. Nominations were made and winners were announced (Dr Olaniyan Olugbemi and Dr Oluwafemi Ojo emerged as Chairman and Secretary, respectively).

Furthermore, the BHS have conducted three webinars between November, 2023 to May 2024. The details are as follows:

- The first webinar organized by the new executive officers was held on 25th November, 2023. The title of the webinar was '*Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer: Prospect, Challenges, and its Role in Solving Global Economic Challenges*'. The webinar had two distinguished Professors, Charles O. Adetunji, Edo State University, Uzairue and Sharam Kuner Shetty, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Texila American University, Lusaka-Zambia as speakers and Dr. Modupe Adesiyun as the moderator.
- The second webinar of the year took place on 25th January, 2024. The title of the webinar was '**Women in Science: Challenges, Opportunities, and Expectations in the 21st Century**'. The webinar had distinguished Speakers, Dr. Temitope Fadipe and Dr. Oluwaseun Bunmi Awosolu, as moderators.
- The third was the training of new members on '**Membership and Prize Assessment for New Members**'. The webinar had distinguished Speaker, Prof. Idowu Kazeem, as its facilitator on the 1st of May, 2024.

Additionally, the WG was able to secure sponsorship for her webinars. Sponsors such as Dr. Chioma Ohanenye CEO of the Divine Care, Clinic, GRA Aba, Abia State donated N50, 000 (fifty thousand naira) and High Chief Engr Timothy Duru CEO, Timofine Global Enterprise Aba, Abia State, Nigeria also promised to sponsor the next webinar of the WG.

II. SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES (SSH)

The SSH-WG as part of their cardinal objectives have conducted series of activities as summarized below:

- The WG held a Webinar titled "Science Communication and Stakeholders' Engagement" presented by Marjorie Alain, Director of Engagement, Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation at Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), Canada on 7th Decemeber, 2023, with over 40 persons in attendance.
- The WG is currently editing a book on the sustainable development goals (SGDs).

SciVal TOP 500 AUTHORS IN NIGERIA

The following NYA members and fellows have been featured in SciVal top 500 authors in Nigeria based on their scholarly output in Nigeria between 2020-2024. Prof. Adetunji Charles Olatunji, Dr. Animashaun Isaac Lare, Dr. Mohammed Auwal Ibrahim, Dr. Obada David Olubiyi, Dr. Edeki Sunday Onos, Dr. Ukhurebor Kingsley Eghonghon, Dr. Adediran Adeolu Adesoji, Dr. Salawu, Sulyman Olakunle, Dr. Aliyu Muhammad, Dr. Adeleke Adekunle Akanni, Dr. Ikubanni Peter Pelumi, Dr. Olaniyan Olugbemi Tope, and Dr. Atolani Olubunmi.

MEMBERS AND FELLOWS NEWS

Members

Dr. Peter Chukwunonso Okoli has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Analytical and Environmental Chemistry, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu Alike. Dr. Okoli is the incumbent President NYA.

Dr. Muhammad Auwal Ibrahim has been appointed Deputy Director, Directorate of Research and Innovations, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He was the Immediate Past President of the NYA.

Dr. Esther Emem Nwanna has been chosen as a recipient of the esteemed America Association of University Women (AAUW) International Post-doctorate Fellowship Award.

Dr. O.A. Ojo has been appointed Head, Department of Biochemistry, Bowen University, Iwo, Nigeria effective September, 2023.

Dr. Dauda Wadzani has become a Fellow (FSPR) of the Society for Plant Research (India) in 4th September, 2023.

Dr. Adefegha has received a grant from ISN-Neuroscience group and was hosted successfully at FUTA.

Dr AbdulAzeez Anjorin was invited to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for a talk. Dr Anjorin is the current General Secretary of NYA.

Dr. Ismail Odetokun in collaboration with the Instituto de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentarias (IART), Barcelona, Spain and Royal Holloway University of London (RHUL), UK, has secured a funding for a project titled “Bacteriocin-rich extract from engineered lactic acid bacteria as an antibiotic alternative for therapeutic and prophylactic use in ruminants and aquaculture (BAC4RumA)” by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of the Government of Canada for Innovative Veterinary Solutions for Antimicrobial Resistance (InnoVet-AMR) 2 in Food-Producing animals, Ruminants and Aquaculture. BAC4RumA will explore and assess the effectiveness and cost-benefit of bacteriocin-rich extract (BRE) as an alternative to antibiotics.

Dr. Modupe Adesiyun, University of Medical Sciences, Ondo with her team (comprising Prof. Charles Adetunji, of Edo State University Uzairue and Dr. Adefegha, of the Federal University Akure) has won the Tetfund NRF grant for the Biology and Health Science Working Group, NYA.

Dr. Ibrahim Malami has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacognosy and Ethnopharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto. Dr. Malami was the Immediate Past Publicity Secretary and the Current COC Chair of the NYA.

Dr. Anthony Moses Ugbenyen has been promoted to the rank of a Professor of Environmental Biochemistry and Public Health.

Dr. Abidoje Luqman Kolawole has received a grant from the Nigeria Artificial intelligence Centre to study UAVs and deep learning for real-time pest detection and automated pesticide spraying in crop fields.

Dr. Gilbert Adie, has been promoted to the rank of a Professor of Analytical/Environmental Chemistry.

Dr. Abosede Olufunso has been promoted to the position of a Reader.

Prof. Cosmas Ogbuka has been promoted to the rank of a Professor.

Prof. Cynthia Ibeto has been promoted to the position of a Professor. She also got a Royal Society International Exchange Award for two months at University of Surrey, UK from September to November, 2023.

Eng. Dr. Kaisan Usman, has been promoted to the position of a Reader in the field of Energy Systems and Automotive Engineering. Dr Kaisan is the immediate past Financial Secretary of the NYA.

Dr Isaac Lare Animasaun completed an 18-month Post-doctoral training in Computational Fluid Dynamics at the Department of Mathematical Sciences, Mechanical Engineering Department, and National Water and Energy Center, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain 15551, Abu Dhabi, UAE on 27th December, 2023. Dr. Animasaun is the current Chair of the **PSciETech WG**.

Dr Zaharaddeen N. Garba has been promoted to the rank of a Reader, and was also awarded C2F Postdoctorate Fellowship at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

Dr Nuraddeen Nasiru Garba has received the 2023 TETFUND NRF Research Grant for a Research titled "Fabrication of Radiation Shielding Barrier using Local Building Materials for Protection against Radiation Exposure in Radiological and Nuclear Centres". He was also awarded along with his PhD student the 2024 GREMP fellowship grant funded by American Association of Physics in Medicine. Dr. Garba is the current Publicity Secretary of the NYA.

Dr Kingsley Eghonghon Ukhurebor has been appointed Director of Sports, Edo State University, Uzairue.

Dr. Olaide O. Wahab has been promoted Senior Lecturer in his university. He was also awarded a postdoctoral research fellowship by the University of Johannesburg, South Africa from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Dr. Adekunle Akanni Adeleke has received an award of N1 million as the 2024 top researcher in Nile University of Nigeria for the second time in a row. He also had a registered patent on Domestic Bean Processing Machine, F/PT/2023/9637, and Patent of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Dr. Ikubanni Peter Pelumi has been appointed Coordinator, Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office, Landmark University. He also had his third patent registered.

Dr Oluwasola Omoju's two research proposals titled Regional heterogeneity and the politics of climate change mitigation and adaptation in Nigeria were selected for Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP), University of California Berkeley, Climate Change Governance Grant. Evidence from a natural experiment based on Nigeria's National Youth Service Corps for the Le Centre d'Action et de Recherche Pour la Paix (CERAP) and Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) West Africa Regional Hub Small Grants Fund.

Dr Clara Ifeanyi-Obi was sponsored by the African Women in Agriculture Research and Development (AWARD) to attend the 28th Conference of Parties (COP 28) held at EXPO City Dubai between 30th Nov to 12th December 2023. She also secured funding from the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) for Climate Smart Training for Rural Women and Youth Leaders in Rivers State in November, 2023. Additionally, she has participated in the Enhancing Negotiations Skills for Women Course, organized by the African Women in Agricultural Research (AWARD) held at the Pride Inn Resort and Hotel, Mombasa between 25-29th September, 2023.

Dr Olumuyiwa Adegun has won a grant for a research project Slum Dwellers' Utilization of Heat Early Warning Resources in Nigeria, from Global Disaster Preparedness Centre, American Red Cross. He also had a proposal approved for Science Communication grant from Future Earth titled "Documentary film on vertical greening for sustainability within slums in African cities."

Dr Toyin Olowogbon was invited as a lead paper presenter (AI Systems for Climate Change Predictions and Resilience: Lessons from the SOFADRICLIMATE app in Nigeria) at the Conference on Artificial Intelligence for Women in Agriculture, organised by the Artificial Intelligence for Women in Agriculture (AI4WIA) Project team, held at the Kwara State University (KWASU) Conference Centre, Ilorin in October, 2023. He was also selected as one of the 12 finalists for the Allianz Climate Risk Global Award 2023 by Allianz Group, Munich, Germany. Also in December 2023, he won Ad-on Funding from the Centre for Global Action (CEGA) under the Digital Credit Observatory, University of California, Berkeley, USA.

Dr. Oluwabunmi Adejumo has completed a two-week scholarly visit at the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), University of California, Berkeley, USA, and presented a funded pre-pilot and proposed RCT project titled "School-Based Empowerment Scheme in Nigeria: Impacts on Human Capital Formation and Development". She further secured a fellowship with the African Population Health Research Consortium (APHRC) to lead a country-level study on "Improving Women's Social Status through Health Service Provision: Evidence from the Subsidy Reinvestment Programme in Nigeria". Finally, she received a proposal development grant from the Digital Agricultural Innovations and Services Initiative (DAISI) to work on "digital agricultural advisory service, market access and smallholder farmers performance in Nigeria".

Dr. Omotayo Olalere has won an Institutional Based Research (IBR) grant funded by TETFUND on a project titled "A Critical Analysis of Gender Representation in the Proverbs of Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart in English, German and Yoruba" in December, 2023.

Dr Chikodiri Nwangwu was awarded the University of Johannesburg's Global Excellence and Stature (GES) Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in October 2023, and the InteRussia Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programme at MGIMO University, Moscow.

Dr. Benjamin Okorie Ajah has secured the Lexington Books funding to publish his co-authored book titled "Criminology In Nigeria: Origin, Evolution and Trends". The awardee has the additional benefit of being offered a contract after the production processes.

Dr Michael Ikechukwu Ugwueze was promoted to the rank of a Reader in the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He has also won the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) Taiwan Fellowship at the Taiwan Centre for Security Studies, National Chengchi University, Taiwan which will take place between March and December, 2024. Dr. Ugwueze is the current Assistant General Secretary of the NYA.

Dr Foluke Unuabonah, was promoted to the rank of a Professor of Corpus Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis (English Linguistics) in the Department of English, Redeemer's University, Ede, Nigeria.

FELLOWS

Prof. Charles Oluwaseun Adetunji has been elected National Vice President, Biotechnology Society of Nigeria at the University of Maiduguri in April, 2024.

Dr. Mutiu Idowu Kazeem has been promoted to the rank of a Professor of Biochemistry. Prof. Kazeem who is the current EIC of Annals of Science & Technology was a former Publicity Secretary and Ex-Officio of the NYA.

Prof. Ibrahim Adeyanju was re-appointed Managing Director/CEO of Galaxy Backbone Limited, a company under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in February, 2024.

Prof. Temitope Gbolahan Jaiyeola has been appointed as the 3rd Occupier of the Pastor Enoch A. Adeboye Professorial Chair of Mathematics at the Faculty of Science, University of Lagos for a period of two years (2024-2026).

INAUGURAL LECTURES

1. Prof. Charles Oluwaseun Adetunji



Professor Charles Oluwaseun Adetunji is a faculty member, Microbiology Department, Faculty of Science, Edo State University, Uzairue, Edo State, Nigeria. He previously held roles as the Acting Director of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer, Head, Department of Microbiology, Sub-Dean, Faculty of Science, and immediate past Dean, Faculty of Science. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the Grant Committee as well as the Director of Research and Innovation at Edo State University, Uzairue. Professor Charles Oluwaseun Adetunji was the first professor in the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, Edo State University, Uzairue, to deliver the 11th Inaugural Lecture, titled "**Microbial Biosphere: The Global Impact and Underexplored Currency**" delivered on 6th September, 2023.

Lecture Highlights

Prof Adetunji stated during his inaugural lecture that in searching for ample solutions to the diverse challenges facing humanity, sustainable opportunities involving the application of microbes are becoming common phenomena in the development of novel products and solutions to food insecurity, environmental degradation, disease threats, and the effects of climate change. Hence, there is a need for effective communication of novel innovations to guide policy formulations. Policymakers and stakeholders from industries will play crucial roles in the attainment of a circular economy and in fostering a sustainable bioeconomic prospect.

Consequently, the lecture discussed some major issues like cost hurdles, poor policies, information and technology limitations, market demands, and cultural reservations for microbial products. According to the professor, political, and philanthropic efforts should focus more on creating incentives for innovations to encourage inclusivity, collaborations, and multidisciplinary approaches towards building an effective circular economy where microbial inputs, waste products, and recombinant and metabolite engineering are valued. The lecture is expected to serve as a solid foundation for the implementation of biotechnology framework and criteria for assessing new microbes for product generation or assessing microbial derivatives in bioprocesses.

The lecture also rekindled hope for the scientific community to deepen the connection between societal well-being and the impacts of these scientific innovations. The under-exploitation of biotechnology and microbial resources in many African nations calls for an intentional investment of federal and state resources, and the involvement of trade associations, scientific societies, non-governmental organizations, and foreign aids to increase biotechnology gains. More so, establishing fruitful relationships via effective dialogs among industry professionals, funding agencies, and scientists helps to build crucial connections between market needs and bench science.

It is for these reasons that the professor avers that the right ambiance must be created by institutions for biotechnology-based proposals of industrial scale value to attract national funding agencies from developing countries, industry grants, technology exchange, and transborder partnerships. He further observes that exposure of scientists to biotechnology training in international laboratories and research institutions through fellowships, scholarships, and exchange programs could escalate knowledge and collaborations that afford many a clearer direction on priority research needs, product safety regulations, and market requirements of available microbial products. He concludes that there is a need to increase diversity and the free exchange of knowledge, and ideas among scientists and communities in finding sustainable solutions to their shared challenges. This will go a long way to synergise mutual understanding between business and scientific processes in overcoming the highlighted challenges.

2. Prof. Ayinde Opeyemi Eytayo



Prof. Ayinde Opeyemi Eytayo is of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ilorin. **The Inaugural Lecture was number 251st in the university and is titled:** “The Risk of not taking Risk in Agricultural Innovation and Gender Inclusivity” was delivered on 11th January, 2024.

Lecture Highlights

The 251st inaugural lecture of the University of Ilorin highlights the importance of taking calculated risks when navigating the ever-changing agricultural world. Reiterating the importance of agriculture for both human and economic development. The lecture stresses the need for proactive risk management techniques to lessen the variety of difficulties small-scale farmers face, ranging from production and market fluctuations to financial instability and institutional risks.

The lecture also emphasized the need to promote an all-encompassing strategy that incorporates gender equity, diversity, and innovation into agricultural practices and regulations. She indicated that women play a critical role in agricultural production and, therefore, advocates gender-inclusive policies that target structural obstacles to opportunity and access to resources. Furthermore, she notes how important it is to support financial innovation designed to the unique requirements of small-scale farmers and how important it is to foster a culture of risk awareness and resilience. In sum, the lecture presents a vision of a future where agriculture thrives, communities prosper, and equitable wealth is reached via coordinated efforts to embrace risk as a catalyst for innovation and growth.

3. Prof. Temitope Elizabeth Odetoje



Prof. Temitope Elizabeth Odetoje, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, University of Ilorin, Kwara State delivered her inaugural lecture on 4th April, 2024. It is numbered **253rd Inaugural Lecture in the university and is titled:** Symphony of Biomass, Bioenergy and Bioproducts for Sustainability. Prof. Odetoje stated that, it is important to highlight the significance of biomass to bioenergy and the conversion methods, biomass thermochemical characterization methods, the importance of pyrolysis as a biomass conversion process, products of biomass pyrolysis, my modest contributions on biomass waste characterization, biomass waste pyrolysis, bioenergy and some bioproducts production towards symphonic sustainability.

Lecture Highlights

There is the need to be intentional about harnessing the abundant biomass endowment in Nigeria and other sub-Saharan African countries by developing home-grown technologies for the conversion of such biomass to bioenergy. Waste biomass pyrolysis should be considered as a potential alternative biofuel production technology that can be a complementary effort to other existing biomass conversion technologies in Nigeria. It is a potentially beneficial route to biofuel with attending benefits for waste reduction, wealth creation and greenhouse gases (GHGs) minimization and being non-competing with food sources. It is a promising means of meeting the global energy challenge that should be explored and funded in Nigeria. The lecture concludes that in a larger context, Nigeria being the giant of Africa, should take the leading step in adopting biomass waste-to-energy technologies for producing carbon-neutral fuels and bioproducts as part of an overall effort to reduce GHG emissions that contribute to climate change.

FELLOWSHIPS

TWAS-NCP Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme

Applications are invited from young scientists from developing countries (other than Pakistan) who wish to pursue postdoctoral research in physical sciences in departments and laboratories of the National Centre for Physics (NCP) in Islamabad. Details could be obtained via <https://twas.org/opportunity/twas-ncp-postdoctoral-fellowship-programme>. The extended deadline for submission of applications and all supplementary documents is **31st July, 2024**.

TWAS-ICCBS Postgraduate Fellowship Programme

The International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) — comprising the H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and the Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular and Drug Research in Karachi, Pakistan — and TWAS offer fellowships to young scientists from developing countries (other than Pakistan) who wish to pursue research towards a PhD in chemical and biological sciences. Details could be obtained at <https://twas.org/opportunity/twas-iccbs-postgraduate-fellowship-programme>. The deadline for submission of applications and all supplementary documents is **15th August, 2024**.

TWAS-SN Bose Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme

The S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Science in Kolkata, India, and TWAS have established a fellowship programme for foreign scholars from developing countries who wish to pursue postdoctoral research in physical sciences. Details could be obtained at <https://twas.org/opportunity/twas-sn-bose-postdoctoral-fellowship-programme>. The deadline for submission of applications and all supplementary documents is **20th September, 2024**.

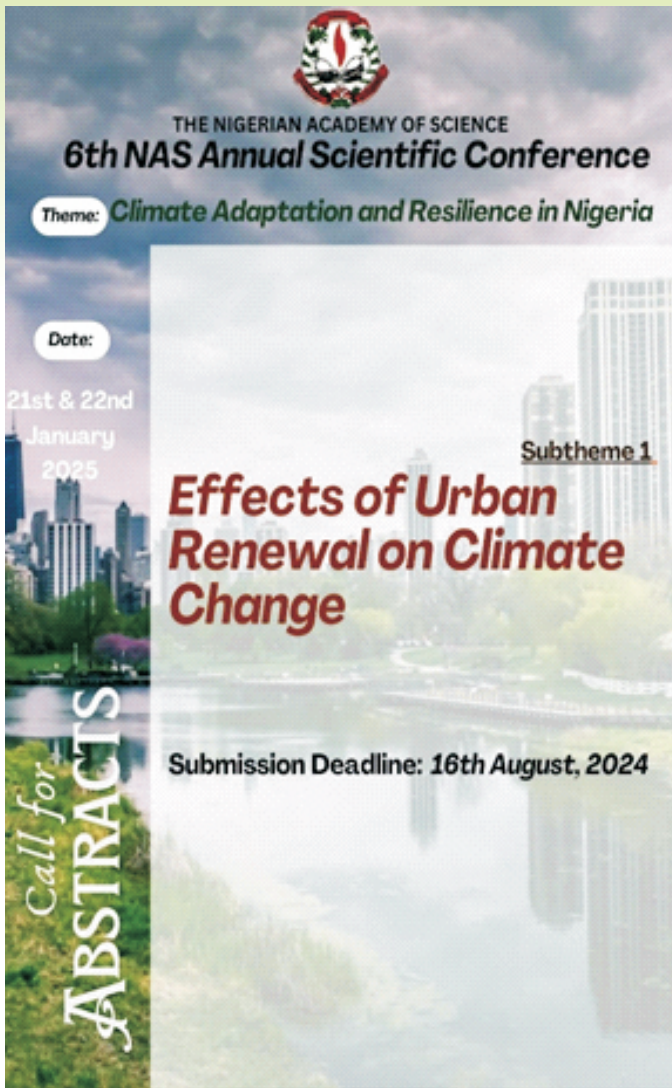
GRANTS

The call for this year's NRF concept note submission is out, therefore, members are highly encouraged to explore the opportunity to submit as many applications as possible. The process of application is entirely online via the link <https://nrf.tetfund.gov.ng/Home/Register>. The deadline for submission of Concept Notes is **23rd August 2024**.

NAS CORNER

Call for Papers for the 6th Annual Scientific Conference

The Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) is the apex independent scientific body in Nigeria. The Academy's mission is to promote the growth, acquisition, and dissemination of scientific knowledge, and to facilitate its use in solving problems of national interest. The Academy will hold its 6th Annual Scientific Conference on Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd January, 2025. This edition of the conference, themed Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Nigeria, is slated to hold in Abuja. Scientists, students and other stakeholders are invited to submit abstracts of original research on one of the subthemes. For more information, visit <http://nas.org.ng/conference/>. Submission deadline is 16/08/24 [#conference](#) [#NAS](#) [#research](#) [#science](#)



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 via the link:

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