

EDITORIAL



In this issue of the Newsletter, we highlight the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) recent published Edition of the NYA COVID-19 Policy Brief under the project “Murder COVID-19 in Africa”. The edition, Multifaceted Response Development from Research on COVID-19 in Africa is part of the NYA's

efforts in combatting the effects of COVID-19 pandemic in Africa towards improving the quality of life of Nigerians and the society. This issue further highlights different webinars organised by the NYA to strengthen its activities, which aligns with the NYA's cardinal principles of promoting the application of collective collaboration within academia.





This edition also featured NYA working group activities from Biological and Health Sciences working groups (BHS-WG) comprising BHS-WG CELLS of Lagos and the Northwest zone. Also featured in this Newsletter, includes the launching of the “Talk To Your Professor” programme, members and fellow news, activities of the Nigeria Academy of Science as well as other important activities of the Academy are highlighted in the newsletter.

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

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Publicity Secretary

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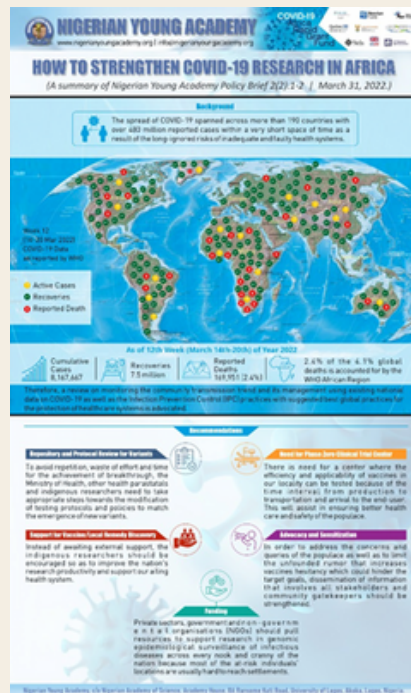
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MURDER COVID-19 IN AFRICA

Multifaceted Response Development from Research on COVID-19 in Africa



As part of the NYA efforts in combatting the effects of COVID-19 pandemic, the project “Murder COVID-19 in Africa” aligns with one of the NYA cardinal principles to strengthen its activities to improve the quality of life of Nigerians and the society. In the March edition of the NYA COVID-19 Policy Brief, the project has identified five major areas that require full consideration in line with global best practices for the protection of healthcare systems.

1. Mass Laboratory Testing/Sequencing and Turnaround Time:

The Policy Brief has identified the need to improve the outcome turnaround time and coordinated in-country sequencing laboratories network in order to facilitate real-time reporting. This will appropriately improve the intervention strategies.

2. Coordinated National Research Hub/Repository and Protocol Reviews for Variants: The project also identifies the need for the Ministry of Health and other health parastatals as well as indigenous researchers to appropriately modify their testing protocols and policies that correspond to the emergence of new variants. To achieve a research breakthrough, improved research collaboration is also encouraged to avoid repetition and waste of resources. The Policy Brief further recommends a centralized and controlled genomic epidemiological surveillance of infectious diseases research repository in order to promote the exchange of ideas among experts.

3. Need for Phase Zero Clinical Trial Center and Support for Vaccine/Local Remedy Discovery: As the FG is advocating for local vaccine development, the NYA policy Brief encourages the local researchers to enhance the nation's research productivity and further recommends support and provision for phase zero clinical trials of discovered local drugs/remedies and indigenous vaccine candidates.

4. Advocacy and Sensitisation: The project also recommends appropriate monitoring of risk communication and ways of disseminating information through stakeholders and community gatekeepers. This will limit all manners of misinformation that will increase vaccine hesitancy.

5. Funding: The Policy Brief has identified the need to provide research support in genomic epidemiological surveillance of infectious diseases across the nation. This can be achieved through funding support from different sectors, including private, government and non-governmental organisations.

NYA Organises its First Edition of Capacity Building Webinars: A Day With VCs



To further strengthen the relationship and networking between the present NYA members and fellows, the Academy has organised a capacity building webinar titled “A Day with Vice-Chancellors”. The webinar, which was held on Thursday 14th April, 2022 is a fulfilment of one of the objectives of the NYA to strengthen its relationship and networking opportunities among its members and fellows.

The Lancet Nigeria Commission Launch

The NYA was invited to the official launching of The Lancet Nigeria Commission, a landmark report studying health inequalities in Nigeria. The Commission is a multidisciplinary group of Nigerian experts and academics aimed at investing in the health and future of the country. Orchestrated by UCL’s Institute of Global Health, the event which was held on the 16th of March, 2022 witnessed the presence of dignitaries among whom were the Executive Secretary of the NYA, Dr. Charles Adetunji and the Financial Secretary of the NYA, Dr. Muhammad Kisan. The Lancet Nigeria Commission has developed recommendations to reposition future policy to achieve universal health coverage and better health for Nigerians.

"Talk To Your Professors" Programme



As part of fulfilling its goal and mission of nurturing aspiring young academics and inspiring a new generation of researchers, the NYA launched the “Talk to Your Professors” programme. The online programme which held on Thursday 3rd March, 2022, was an informal interactive mentorship platform designed to help cascade the research capacity, skills and the wealth of experience of NYA members and fellows to younger

researchers. The maiden edition tagged, “Pathways to Academic and Research Breakthrough”, witnessed participants from various institutions, including undergraduates and postgraduate students. The event was moderated by Dr. Chinwoke Ifeanyi-Obi of the University of Port-Harcourt. It featured Professor Adeneye Adejuwon (Director, Directorate of Research Management and Innovation, Lagos State University, Ojo) and Dr. Abiodun Egbetokun (Assistant Director, Research, National Centre for Technology Management, Nigeria) as panellists. The panellists shared various tips including their personal stories which were indeed enlightening and inspiring. The participants testified that they were greatly impacted by the programme and they anticipate more editions of the event in the future. The video recordings of “Talk to Your Professors” is available on the [NYA YouTube Channel](#).

NYA Pays a Courtesy Call to the Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan



The 13th substantive Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Professor Kayode Adebowale, received a team from the NYA on 31st March 2022. Prof. Adebowale is the initiator of two of the NYA awards, viz.: the National award, viz.: the National Young Scientist

Prize for Women in Chemical Sciences and the National Young Scientist in Chemical Sciences. While addressing the NYA team, he expressed his commitment to the career growth of young academics and applauded the efforts of the NYA. He further encouraged members of the Academy to continue to strengthen the activities of the Academy in the direction of achieving greater heights. The VC expressed his profound appreciation for the courtesy call and the gift presented to him by the Academy.

Working Group Updates

North West BHS-WG CELL Organises One-Day Workshop



As part of the NYA activities, the Biological and Health Sciences Working Group (North-West zone) of the NYA in conjunction with the Directorate of the Academic Planning and Academic Staff Union of Polytechnic (ASUP), Nuhu Bamali Polytechnic, Zaria organized a one-day

workshop on technical paper writing and antiplagiarism, which was held on February 9th, 2022. The workshop witnessed two presentations from the Chairperson of the Biological and Health Sciences Working Group (North-West Zone), Dr Aminu Mohammed and Dr Murtala Bindawa. While Dr Aminu spoke on “Technical Paper Writing: How to write and publish an article in reputable journals”, Dr. Murtala Bindawa Isah spoke on “Plagiarism: What it is and the Techniques of Avoiding Academic Misconduct.” The workshop aimed at sensitising academic staff and researchers of the institution on how to write manuscripts for high impact journals as well as mitigating the ugly trend of plagiarism.

Lagos BHS-WG CELL Organises an Outreach on STEAM

The NYA Lagos Cell Outreach on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). visited the International School Lagos at University of Lagos on 7th March, 2022 and donated some books to the school on behalf of NYA. The books donated at the event included Memoirs of Nigerian Political System and Development 1960-2020 and Engineering Problem-solving Framework for the Present and the Future.

MEMBERS AND FELLOWS NEWS

Promotions



Prof. E. O. Odjadjare

Dr. Emmanuel Odjadjare has been promoted to the rank of a Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Benson Idahosa University, Benin City. Prof. Odjadjare is one of the respected NYA past Presidents who served as Executive Committee member from 2015 – 2017. His area of expertise is Environmental/Public Health Microbiology.



Dr. Olaniyan Olugbemi

Dr. Olaniyan Olugbemi of the Department of Physiology was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor at the Rhema University, Aba. Dr. Olugbemi's current research interest is in Applied Physiology and Biotechnology.

Appointments and Awards



DR. MUTIU I. KAZEEM

Dr. Mutiu Idowu Kazeem has been appointed Assistant Director, Lagos State University Directorate of Research Management and Innovation. Dr. Kazeem is an Associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry, Lagos State University, Ojo.



DR. ALIYU MUHAMMAD

Dr. Aliyu Muhammad of the Department of Biochemistry, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria has been awarded a Fulbright Senior Visiting Fellowship tenable in the USA. Dr. Muhammad is currently working on the epigenetics of quadruple negative breast cancer among the white and black population in the Department of Biology and Center for Cancer Research, Tuskegee University, Alabama, USA.



DR GABRIEL ANYANWU

Dr. Gabriel Anyanwu has been appointed Head, Biochemistry Department, Bingham University, Karu, Nassarawa State.



DR CHARLES ADETUNJI

Dr. Charles Adetunji has been appointed to serve as an editorial board member of Carbon Research and BIOCHAR both of which are with Springer. Dr. Adetunji is currently the Executive Secretary of the NYA and an Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, Edo State University, Iyamho.



DR. T. O. SOGBANMU

Dr. Temitope O. Sogbanmu was elected winner of the African Evidence Leadership Award (AELA), 2022: Evidence Intermediaries. Dr. Sogbanmu is the current Vice President of the NYA and a Lecturer I, Zoology Department, University of Lagos.



DR. I. L. ANIMASAUN

Dr. Isaac L. Animasaun of the Federal University of Technology Akure was awarded second place in the 2021 Mark Reed Young Researcher Award. Dr. Animasaun has also been appointed to serve as an Editorial Board member of the Journal "Nanotechnology".

NYA Members and Fellows in SciVal Top 500 Authors in Nigeria

Many NYA members and fellows have made the list of SciVal top 500 authors by scholarly output in Nigeria over the period of 2018 – 2022:

SciVal	Name	Status	Affiliation
33	Animasaun, Isaac Lanre	Member	Federal University of Technology, Akure
51	Edeki, Sunday Onos	Member	Covenant University
61	Adetunji, Charles O	Member	Edo State University, Uzairue
112	Adefegha, S. Adeniyi	Member	Federal University of Technology, Akure
234	Atolani, Olubunmi	Fellow	University of Ilorin, Kwara
251	Muhammad, Aliyu	Member	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
271	Ibrahim, M. Auwal	Member	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
314	Ukhurebor, Kingsley E.	Member	Edo State University, Uzairue
357	Gayawan, Ezra	Fellow	Federal University of Technology, Akure
439	Orji, Anthony	Member	University of Nigeria, Nsukka
484	Olaniyan, Olugbemi Tope	Member	Rhema University, Aba

Call for Research on Heavy-Metal Pollution in Aquatic Ecosystems



A member of the NYA **Dr. Kafilat Adebola Bawa-Allah** has highlighted the urgent need for research in Africa and other low and middle-income regions of the world to develop appropriate standards, guidelines and regulations for heavy-metal pollution in aquatic systems. This was recommended in her seminar presented on the 1st March, 2022. In her concluding remarks, she emphasised interdisciplinary collaboration in order to bridge the wide gap between science and policy makers. Dr. Bawa-Allah is a STIAS Iso Lomso fellow and she is of the Department of Zoology, University of Lagos.

NYA WEBINAR SERIES



The NYA in collaboration with the Benin Young Academy of Science hosted a webinar series 3.4 under its project "Multifaceted Response Development from Research on COVID-19 in Africa". The webinar which held on the 25th of April 2022 was the first of the webinar series delivered in French and the goal was to extend the impact of the webinar to French-speaking countries in Africa and beyond. The webinar discussed various issues regarding COVID-19, including the

populace's perception of the virus and the vaccines, the measures taken by institutions and government in handling the virus, as well as the potential use of medicinal plants in treating COVID-19 virus. **Dr. Jean Robert Klotoe** moderated the webinar and the speakers were: **Dr. Esther Deguenon** (Researcher, Université d'Abomey-Calavi), **Dr. Geraud Padounou** (Director of Research, Ministry of Health, Republic of Benin) and **Dr. Victorien Dougnon** (President, Benin Young Academy of Science). The video recordings of the NYA webinar series 3.4 is available on the [NYA YouTube Channel](#).

March Edition



The NYA Webinar 3.3, which held on Thursday 31st March, 2022, witnessed different participants from all walks of life. The webinar discussed COVID-19 vaccines and the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination campaign highlighting various issues of concern around the subject. The topics: **"Effectiveness and Merits of Some COVID-19 Vaccines"**; **"Time for Local Vaccine Independence"** and **"Effective Communication and Acceptance of Some COVID-19 Vaccines: Lessons from the Ongoing Vaccination in Nigeria"** were presented by **Dr. Elijah K. Oladipo**, Head, Microbiology Department, Adeleke University, Ede and **Ms. Eunice Damisa**, Director of Advocacy and Communication, National Primary Healthcare Development Agency. Dr. Elijah highlighted various COVID-19 vaccines used across the world and their efficacy. He further discussed the progress and challenges in the development of local vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccine. Ms. Eunice Damisa on the other hand, used relevant data to show the successes and challenges of the COVID-19 vaccination programme across the country. She further highlighted how communication and advocacy can be strengthened through collaborative efforts from various stakeholders. The video recordings of the NYA webinar series 3.3 is available on the [NYA YouTube Channel](#).



The February edition of the NYA webinar series 3.2 under the COVID-19 Rapid Grant Fund, was held on Monday 28th February, 2022. The webinar centred on how COVID-19 induced economic hardship can be effectively addressed with a focus on

agriculture and entrepreneurship in Nigeria. The first speaker, **Professor M. K. Othman** of the Department of Agricultural and Bioresources Engineering at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria, discussed the topic: **“Effective Response Strategies of the Agricultural Sector to COVID-19 Induced Health and Economic Consequences.”** In his session, Prof. Othman discussed pre-COVID-19 challenges in Nigeria’s agricultural sector, how the pandemic negatively affected agricultural production, and the responses of the government to the present challenges. He further shared important recommendations necessary to ensure sustainable food security despite the new challenges that have been brought about by the pandemic. The second speaker, **Mr. Niyi Adekanla** of Aidline Research Consult discussed the topic: **“Strategic Policies for Mitigating COVID-19 Induced Economic Hardship: The Entrepreneurship and SMEs Option.”** Among other things, Mr. Adekanla discussed the vital role of SMEs in the economy, their challenges, the gap in some government policies towards strengthening the economy and key recommendations for building stronger SMEs for a vibrant economy. The video recordings of the NYA webinar series 3.2 is available on the [NYA YouTube Channel](#).

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

Fellowships

Matsumae Research Fellowship Program 2023
Applicants are invited for the 3 to 6 months Matsumae International Foundation fellowship tenable in Japanese Institutions. Application closes by **22nd June, 2022**. More details can be found at: <http://mif-testpage.com/wp/en/fellowship/announcement/#overview>

Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program
Nigerian applicants are invited for The Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program (FVSP) tenable at US Institutions. Two categories of grants are offered under The Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program: Research Grants and Program and Curriculum Development Grants. Applications must be completed online at <https://apply.iie.org/fvsp2022>. The deadline to submit application and all supplementary documents is **1st June 2022**.

TWAS Postdoctoral Fellowships
2022 TWAS fellowships offer a series of unique opportunities to boost scientist research activities and advance their global network through:
[TWAS-NCP fellowship programme tenable in Pakistan](#). Submit application by **31st May 2022**.
[TWAS-SN Bose fellowship programme tenable in India](#). Submit application by **30th June 2022**.
[TWAS-ICCBS fellowship programme tenable in Pakistan](#). Submit application by **4th July 2022**.
[TWAS-BIOTECT fellowship programme tenable in Thailand](#). Submit application by **1 Aug 2022**.

Grants

Merck KGaA Darmstadt Germany Research Grants
The application phase for the 2022 research grants has started for projects on Artificial Intelligence, Drug Discovery, Chemical Synthesis and Sustainability. The deadline for submission of research proposal is 31st August 2022. Applicants can send their research proposals to: <http://researchgrants.merckgroup.com>

Seed Grant for New African Principal Investigators (SG-NAPI)
The SG-NAPI aims to support early-career scientists in Sub-Saharan Africa with particular emphasis on Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The deadline to submit application is 24th May 2022. Apply now at <https://onlineforms.twas.org/apply/192>

Wellcome Early-Career Awards
This scheme offers funding for early-career researchers from any discipline who are ready to develop their research identity and deliver shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health and wellbeing. Application closes on 21st June 2022. Apply now at: <https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/schemes/early-career-awards>.

Wellcome Career Development Awards
This scheme offers funding for mid-career researchers from any discipline who have the potential to be international research leaders. They will develop their research capabilities, drive innovative programmes of work and deliver significant shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health and wellbeing. Application closes on **21st July 2022**. Apply at: <https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/schemes/career-development-awards>

Awards

Merck KGaA Darmstadt Germany Research Challenges
Engage in a series of science competitions and win great prizes. 2022 topics are: Compound Synthesis, Ferroelectric Nematics, Future Game Changers in Science & Technology. Sign-up today at: <http://researchchallenges.merckgroup.com>

Call for Nominations for TWAS-Lenovo Science Award
TWAS is inviting nominations for the 2022 TWAS-Lenovo Science Award from developing countries. For the 2022 edition of the award, TWAS will consider candidates with world-class achievements in Social and Economic Sciences. The deadline to submit online nominations is **22 May 2022**. Nominate now at: <https://twas.org/opportunity/twas-lenovo-science-award>.

NAS CORNER

NAS Organises a Policy Roundtable



The Nigerian Academy of Sciences (NAS) in collaboration with the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) and with support from the Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP) organised a Policy Roundtable themed: **“Combating Predatory Academic Practices in Nigeria.”** The event, which held on the 29th March, 2022, aimed at raising awareness among relevant policymakers on predatory academic practices and its

impact on Nigeria’s scientific advancement. Chaired by the NYA President Dr. Muhammad Auwal Ibrahim, the Roundtable aimed to identify policies and activities that may be implemented by Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) and other stakeholders to curtail predatory academic practices in Nigeria and foster collaboration in efforts towards addressing predatory practices.

NAS Hosts Webinar



ISC Member, the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS), in partnership with the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) and with support from the Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP), organised a webinar themed: **“Predatory Academic Practices in Nigeria: Combating the Scourge.”** The webinar, which held on the 9th March, 2022, aimed at raising awareness on predatory academic practices and their detrimental effects

on Nigerian researchers and the scientific community. Among the speakers was Dr. Temitope O. Sogbam who is also the Vice president of NYA. She discussed the tools and resources for identifying and avoiding predatory journals and conferences.

AST PLATFORM

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 both theoretical and experimental high-quality articles twice a year. It publishes research articles, state of the arts 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 including guidelines on submission can be found in the link below: <https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/ast/ast-overview.xml>



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