



# NYA

# NEWSLETTER

A quarterly publication of the Nigerian Young Academy

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## EDITORIAL



As the NYA prepares to hold its 13th International Conference and General Assembly on the 15th – 18th of August 2023, the academy is excited to welcome members, fellows, presenters, attendees, and contributors to join the academy in Edo State University, Uzairue, Edo.

For the duration of the event, the conference themed “Interdisciplinary Research as a Critical Tool for Innovation and Sustainable Development” 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 issue of the Newsletter highlights NYA news, members and fellow news, activities of the Nigeria Academy of Science, as well as other important NYA events, which are emphasised in this issue.

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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### Publicity Committee

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## Dr. Temitope Olawunmi Sogbanmu published a comment in Nature

Dr. Temitope Olawunmi Sogbanmu published a comment in Nature titled “Indigenous Youth must be at the Forefront of Climate Diplomacy”. Dr Sogbanmu, an Ecotoxicologist at the University of Lagos, comments on the roles of



Dr. Temitope O. Sogbanmu

indigenous youth at the forefront of climate change. Dr. Sogbanmu writes: “This comment published in Nature is an output of almost a year of intense network and engagements with Indigenous youth leaders (we are inclusive in the use of the words “Indigenous” and “youth”) across various regions of the world from Asia to the Americas. Our aim is a call to action for amplification of the voices of young people, especially from Indigenous communities who represent one of the most vulnerable and marginalized demographic and communities with respect to climate change. In this article, we provide a brief about indigenous knowledge or Traditional knowledge which are century old practices when information used to be passed on informally whereby the livability of peoples in closeness to nature has been enabled. As opposed to Western knowledge, indigenous knowledge is rooted in the culture and traditions of indigenous peoples which has enabled them to live in harmony with nature. However, climate change, the average variability in temperature and weather conditions over a long period of time (but now characterised by fairly short periods when compared to former times) is mostly driven by human activities since industrial times (Anthropogenic climate change). Unfortunately, indigenous peoples are some of the most vulnerable to climate change impacts such as sea level rise, droughts, food insecurity due to reduction or complete loss of biodiversity, among others. Nevertheless, indigenous youths, whom I refer to as the “Now” generation are at the forefront of climate change adaptation and

building climate resilient practices grounded on Indigenous knowledge passed on from generation to generation. They need their voices, actions and vulnerabilities to be amplified and to be included in high level climate change discourses especially in decision making." Dr Sogbanmu further emphasised "This is the purpose of this comment on Nature. We hope to mobilize partnerships among and across indigenous youth (we are inclusive) around the world." Dr Sogbanmu is of the Department of Zoology at the University of Lagos, Akoka, and she is the current serving vice president of the NYA. Details of the comment can be found here: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-02480-1>

## Dr. Chinwe Chukwudi discussed the Burden of Neglected Tropical Diseases in Nigeria



Dr. Chinwe Chukwudi

In a recent media engagement published on the 27th of April 2023, a member of the NYA Dr. Chinwe Chukwudi discussed the burden of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Nigeria and how the country can manage its NTD problems.

In this interaction, Dr. Chukwudi highlighted the highlighted the need to achieve the goals of prevention, control, elimination and eradication of NTDs and also calls on various stakeholders in global health to give more attention to these NTDs. She pointed out that neglecting the importance of molecular research for these diseases will be a roadblock to the progress of achieving the appropriate tools for disease diagnosis, treatment and vaccination for appropriate and adequate surveillance, control, elimination and eradication. In order to achieve the implementation of Nigeria's NTD Masterplan 2023 – 2027, she emphasised that the Nigerian government should engage all stakeholders and match up the document with the necessary action towards achieving the control and eradication of some NTDs in the next four years.

Dr. Chukwudi is a fellow of the African Postdoctoral Training Institute at NIH, USA and a Senior Lecturer in Molecular Pathology and Microbial Genetics at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State. Details of the media engagement can be found here:

<https://dailytrust.com/can-nigeria-deal-with-its-burden-of-neglected-tropical-diseases/>

## NYA Member Developed B-Health Mobile App for Early Detection of Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer deaths among women worldwide. In 2020 alone, approximately 2.3 million new breast cancer cases were diagnosed and over 685,000 deaths were recorded. Unfortunately, this trend would not decline until the proper steps are taken.

Dr. Aliyu Muhammad, a NYA member served as the Chief Scientific Office I in the Team Health and Wellbeing (R4i) during the 12 days TETFund Research for Impact Workshop at Innov8 Hub. The team developed an interactive mobile application for early detection of breast cancer called B-Health. This app, available to Android users, has the potential to provide easy and early assessments of the risks of developing breast cancer, which can result in the reduction of breast cancer globally. This innovation is in line with the United Nation's SDG 3-Health and Wellbeing.

Through the interactive feature, B-Health assesses possible signs and symptoms of breast cancer and also offers the possibility to forward data collected to the physician, with the consent of the end-user. This makes our innovation unique.

The Research for Impact initiative has provided a paradigm shift in the team's approach to research and research for solution and commercialization. It has provided opportunities for translational research.



Dr. Aliyu Muhammad

The Team Health and Wellbeing project was funded by the TETFund in collaboration with Innov8 Hub. Dr. Aliyu Muhammad is of the Department of Department of Biochemistry at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.

## MEMBERS AND FELLOWS NEWS

### MEMBERS NEWS

Prof. Charles Adetunji has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology (FRSB) by the UK Council. He has also been appointed as the Vice President and Nigerian Country Director of the Genetics Society of West Africa, and a series Editor under the Microbiome in Health and Diseases at Elsevier. Prof. Adetunji is of the Department of Microbiology, Edo State University, Iyamho.

Dr. Kosmas Ogbuka has been appointed Head of the Department of Mechatronic Engineering, University of Nigeria. Dr Ogbuka is an Associate Professor of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

**Dr. AbdulAzeez Anjorin** has been awarded the Global Virology Ntok (GVN) 2023 training for a short course in Basic and Translational Biology at the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health Baltimore, USA. Also, he has been selected to be among the Bacterial and Viral Bioinformatics Resource Center (BV-BRC) 2023 trainees at the Agonn National Laboratory, UChicago, Lmont Illinois, USA. Dr Anjorin is the Ag. Head, Department of Microbiology, Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos State.

**Engr. Dr. Kaisan M. Usman** has been appointed Managing Director of the Heavy Equipment and Machinery Development Institute, HEMED, Bauchi. Dr. Kaisan is an Associate Professor of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

**Dr. S. A. Adefegha** has been awarded a grant to host an ISN Neurosciences School by the International Society of Neurochemistry (ISN). Dr. Adefegha is of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Technology, Akure.

**Dr. Collins Ibeji** has been appointed as a visiting researcher at the University of Warsaw, Poland. Dr. Ibeji is of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu.

## FELLOWS NEWS

**Prof. Adejoke Olukemi Akinyele** has been appointed the first female Dean, Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources at the University of Ibadan. Prof. Akinyele is a Professor in the Department of Forest Production and Products, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Her area of specialization is Silviculture and Tree Improvement.

**Prof. Theresa Nkechi Obiekezie** has been appointed Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of Tansian University, Umunya, Anambra State. Prof. Obiekezie is a professor in the Physics and Industrial Physics Department, Faculty of Physical Sciences at Nnamdi Azikiwe University.

**Prof. Ezra Gayawanhas** been selected to lead a cross-cutting research group focusing on the geospatial aspect in the Vaccine Impact Modelling Consortium (VIMC) as a core-funded group based at the Imperial College London. He has been appointed as an Honorary Research Associate by the Telethon Kids Institute, Perth, Australia. Prof. Gayawan is of the Department of Statistics, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria.

**Prof. Emmanuel Iyayi Unuabonah** has been formally inducted as a fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science. Prof. Unuabonah, a Professor of Chemistry who served as the pioneer president of the NYA. He is of the Department of Chemical Sciences, Redeemer's University, Ede.

**Prof. Levi Ikechukwu Nwankwo** has been elected and awarded a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (FRAA) by the UK Council. Prof. Nwankwo is a Professor of Earth and Environmental Physics at the Federal University Kashere, Nigeria.

**Prof. Ibrahim Adepoju Adeyanju** has been appointed as the Executive Director of Digital Exploration and Technical Services Galaxy Backbone Limited. Prof. Adeyanju is a Professor at Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State.

**Dr. Adejoke Akinyele** has been promoted to the rank of Full Professor at the University of Ibadan. Dr. Akinyele specialises in Tree Improvement and Silviculture at the Department of Forest Resources Management, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ibadan

## NYA Members and Fellows Featured in SciVal top 500 Authors in Nigeria

The members and fellows have made the list of SciVal top 500 authors by scholarly output in Nigeria over the period of 2020 – 2023:

SciVal	Name	Status	Affiliation
1	Adetunji, Charles O	Member	Edo State University, Uzairue
14	Adediran, Adeolu Adesoji	Member	Landmark University
18	Olaniyan, Olugbemi Tope	Member	Edo State University, Uzairue, Edo State
48	Ukhurebor, Kingsley Eghonghon	Member	Edo State University, Uzairue, Edo State
79	Adeyemi, Oluyomi Stephen	Fellow	Landmark University
153	Obada, David Olubiyi	Member	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
188	Ibeji, Collins U	Member	University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State
216	Muhammad, Aliyu	Member	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
217	Adewuyi, Adewale	Fellow	Redeemer's University
268	Ibrahim, Mohammed Auwal	Member	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
310	Atolani, Olubunmi	Fellow	University of Ilorin, Kwara
311	Gayawan, Ezra	Fellow	Federal University of Technology, Akure
368	Orji, Anthony I.	Fellow	University of Nigeria, Nsukka
415	Osemwegie, Omorefosa O.	Fellow	Landmark University
416	Okoye, Festus Basden Chiedu	Fellow	Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka
420	Omorogie, Martins O.	Fellow	Redeemer's University

# FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

## FELLOWSHIPS

### The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)-institutes of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme

Applications are invited from young scientists from developing countries (other than India) who wish to pursue postdoctoral research in emerging areas of science and technology for which facilities are available in laboratories and institutes of the CSIR of India. Applications must be completed online at <https://onlineforms.twas.org/apply/224>.

The deadline to submit an application and all supplementary documents is 15th Sept 2023.

### The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)-Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) Cooperation Visits Programme

TWAS-DFG Cooperation invites qualified candidates from sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa to apply for TWAS-DFG Cooperation Visits Programme. Postdoctoral researchers can go on a 'Cooperation Visit' lasting three months to an institute in Germany. Applications must be completed online at <https://onlineforms.twas.org/apply/225>. The deadline to submit an application and all supplementary documents is 6th Sep 2023.

### Junior and Senior Fellowship Programme 2024

The University of Bayreuth Centre of International Excellence invites qualified candidates to apply for the Junior and Senior Fellowship Programme. Successful applicants will become Fellows at the Centre and profit from the lively research environment of the university and its seven faculties. Applications must be completed via the online portal at <https://forms.uni-bayreuth.de/formcycle/form/provide/1060/1/>.

The deadline to submit an application and all supplementary documents is 4th Nov 2023.

### Commonwealth Professional Fellowships 2023/2024

Commonwealth Professional Fellowships are for mid-career professionals from low and middle-income countries to spend a period of time at a UK host organisation working in their sector for a programme of professional development. Applications must be submitted by completing the online application form. For more information please visit:

<https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/scholarships/commonwealth-professional-fellowships-information-for-candidates/>. Fellowship applications will close at 16:00 BST on 16th Aug 2023.

## GRANTS

### Wellcome Early-Career Awards

This scheme offers to fund early-career researchers from any discipline who are ready to develop their research identity and deliver shifts in understanding

could be improved through human life, health and well-being. The application closes on 5th Oct 2023. Visit <https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/schemes/early-career-awards> for more information on how to apply.

### The Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF) Fellowship 2023/24

The AREF is pleased to launch the call for the AREF Research Development Fellowship Programme for 2023/24. The fellowship aimed to support researchers in Africa who are emerging leaders and working on important challenges for human health, to develop their skills as a researcher. A three to nine-month placement at a leading research institution in the UK, Europe or Africa, with additional support at your home institution before and after the placement will be granted. Up to £47,000 is available for funding. The application deadline is 14th Sept 2023. Visit

<https://www.africaresearchexcellencefund.org.uk/news/open-funding-up-to-47000-research-development-fellowships-2023-24> for more information.

## NAS CORNER

### Call for Papers for the Themed Edition of the Proceedings of the Nigerian Academy of Science (PNgAS) on Decarbonization of Transport



The Proceedings of the Nigerian Academy of Science (PNgAS) invites high-quality multi-, inter- and trans-disciplinary original research articles, systematic/scoping reviews, and meta-analyses on Decarbonization of Transport. This themed edition of the PNgAS will be launched in December 2023. All submissions should be

made to the journal no later than September 30, 2023. Further information about this edition and submissions can be obtained on the flier.

## AST PLATFORM

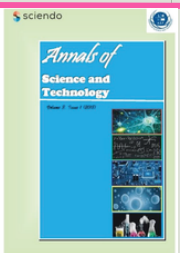
### Call for submission of manuscripts

The Annals of Science and Technology (AST), a journal of the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA), hereby calls for the 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 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 submission guidelines can be found in the link below: <https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/ast/ast-overview.xml>



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