

# THE INTERNATIONAL YOUNGER CHEMISTS NETWORK NEWSLETTER

**April 2020, Issue 11**



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## Upcoming Events and Activities in 2020

Due to the current COVID-19 situation many of our activities at conferences are cancelled. We are working on alternative projects to promote the IYCN. Please, check our social media channels regularly to be informed about our upcoming activities. We hope we are able to inform you in the next newsletter again about our physical presence of IYCN members at conferences or congresses.

Please stay safe and healthy

## New Articles About the IYCN

“The Inaugural IYCN General Assembly”, Bailey Maurant, Lori Ferrins, Sophie Carencio, Natalie LaFranzo and Catherine M. Rawlins, *Chemistry International* **2020**, 42, 16-21. DOI: [10.1515/ci-2020-0105](https://doi.org/10.1515/ci-2020-0105)

“EYCN and IYCN: Connecting and Empowering Young Chemists Globally”, Dimitra T. Pournara, Gabriela Desirée Tormet-González, Sebastian Weber, João Borges, Maximilian Menche and Jovana V. Milić, *ChemViews* **2020**, DOI: [10.1002/chemv.202000020](https://doi.org/10.1002/chemv.202000020)



### Support Wanted

Do you or your organization want to support IYCN and its progress?

Please contact us via the following e-mail address: [iycn@iupac.org](mailto:iycn@iupac.org).

We are searching for financial support for travel awards and poster/oral-presentation awards.

Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day with  
CCEW 2020



Join chemists across the world in celebrating [Chemists Celebrate Earth Week \(CCEW\)](#) from April 19-25, 2020! CCEW encourages chemists and chemistry enthusiasts to build awareness of green chemistry in their communities. The CCEW 2020 theme is "Protecting Our Planet through Chemistry," and is hosted in partnership with the Earth Day Network to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the world's largest environmental movement. For members of ACS International Chapters and International Student Chapters, many digital resources are available online. You can support the goals of the campaign by participating in the [Great Global Cleanup](#), sharing the [Celebrating Chemistry](#) publication, and RSVP'ing on [Facebook](#).



## European Young Chemists' Network – Delegate Assembly, Sitges, Spain, 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Attendees: Around 50 from 23 different countries.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Delegate Assembly (DA) of the European Young Chemists' Network (EYCN) in Sitges was a phenomenal opportunity to get in contact with delegates from the chemical societies from all over Europe and discuss how the IYCN can potentially collaborate with them. From interactive sessions over networking and brainstorming, there were a lot of discussion opportunities.

Also, representatives from various societies and companies were present and informed the attendees about their organization including IUPAC, ACS, YEuCat, ChemPubSoc Europe and EuChemS. With a talk on the second day of the assembly, our network was presented by the Treasurer Max Männel. The day before, the vice-president of IUPAC, Prof. Dr. Javier García-Martínez, gave an inspiring talk about how the profession of chemistry will change within the next decade and which challenges chemists will face.

In the evenings, the attendees had dinner together that led to further discussions about collaborations and fostered personal networking opportunities. The two days of the DA were a great success with active exchanges between the IYCN, the delegates and the contributing speakers associated to various societies and companies. We are delighted that the IYCN was invited to participate in the DA and thank the EYCN for this fantastic event, which was very productive and showed that there are a lot of motivated (young) chemists willing to collaborate to face the challenges of the upcoming years!



*Left and right: The talk of the IYCN Treasurer Max Männel at the EYCN Delegates Assembly*

*Max Männel*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> IYCN Outreach Competition – Earth Day 2020



IYCN is pleased to announce its second annual IYCN Outreach Competition: Engaging the Next Generation. The mission of this competition is to encourage public outreach related to chemistry, and is accepting submissions of experiments and demonstrations that can be used to share chemistry. The winning submissions will be translated into multiple languages and posted in the IYCN's Experiment Database so that chemists all around the world can access these public outreach resources. Prizes will also be awarded to the winning submissions.

The theme of the outreach competition is Earth Chemistry, in honor of Earth Day. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, which was established in response to the growing concern about the environment and human impact on the earth. Earth Day has traditionally mobilized millions of people to take action for the environment. The competition opened on January 28th, the anniversary of a massive oil spill off the coast of California that led to the first Earth Day, and closes on May 6th. All submissions must tie in one or more topics related to Earth Chemistry (e.g., soil chemistry, the chemistry of plastic degradation, air pollution, plant chemistry).

Last year's competition saw contributions from around the world. We welcome submissions from all those who share a love of chemistry and a desire to share chemistry with others. To find out more details and enter the competition, please visit: <https://iycnglobal.wixsite.com/competition>

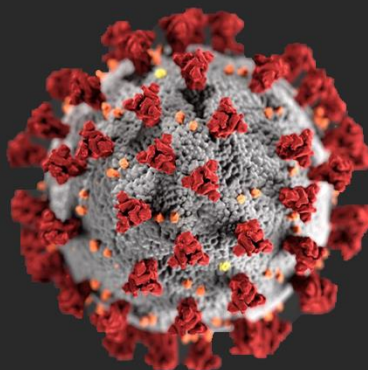




## Chemists Fighting COVID-19 – A Global Conversation

# Chemists Fighting COVID-19

## A Global Conversation



### Session 1: The Status Quo

April 2, 2020, 16:00 - 17:30 CEST

### Session 2: Tools to Thrive Remotely

April 3, 2020, 15:00 - 16:30 CEST



**joinwebinar.com**  
**April 2<sup>nd</sup>: 995-713-491**  
**April 3<sup>rd</sup>: 992-094-355**

with support from:



On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> April, the IYCN, in cooperation with the EYCN, organized a webinar series on the theme of coronavirus and its related disease COVID-19. A task force of seven people took on the challenge to organize this event within two weeks. From the IYCN side, Lori Ferrins, Bailey Maurant, João Borges and Sebastian Weber, while from the EYCN side, Antonio M. Rodríguez García, Maximillian Menche and Maxime Rossato were involved in the organization. The webinar was split into two sessions: Session 1 focusing on the current scientific status of COVID-19 and Session 2 dealing with strategies and tools on how to smove forward as a young chemist during these days.

In Session 1, Prof. Javier García-Martínez, the President-Elect of IUPAC, gave an introductory talk about the important role of chemistry for our general wellbeing, as well as key role on the understanding and fighting the coronavirus. The talk was followed by Dr. Angela Zhou from Chemical Abstracts Services (CAS), a division of ACS, providing an insight into development strategies for drugs and vaccines and how CAS supports the

research by offering database access to researchers. The third talk was given by Dr. Emmanuel Balogun from Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria, who specifically showed the role of chemistry in prevention and control measures, e.g. the correct way of washing hands and the chemistry behind it. Afterwards, Dr. Jadel Kratz from the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, Brazil, presented how important it is to be aware of other diseases and how international scientific exchange is the only way to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and potential future ones. He especially highlighted the advantages of Open Source research in this regard. The first session was completed by a talk from Julia Klüpfel from the Pandemic Important Research Allocation Tool ([PIRAT](#)), Germany, which was developed in a government hackathon call. The tool enables exchange and is a source of information about available scientific material in laboratories, but also students can offer themselves as staff to analytic laboratories. The recording of the Session 1 can be found online via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzpX7qeB8Vg&t=2s>.

Session 2 was opened by Dr. João Borges and Dr. Antonio Rodríguez García, who briefly introduced the IYCN and the EYCN, respectively. This was followed by a presentation from Mr. Fun Man Fung, National University of Singapore and IYCN Secretary, about digital tools and strategies for creating and engaging virtual classroom. He directly engaged with the attendees by using some of the tools that he employs while teaching. Afterwards, Dr. Emma Pewsey from Chemistry World, a magazine of the Royal Society of Chemistry, spotlighted tips and tricks on how to maintain a healthy work-life balance while working from home. She gave insights on how she is dealing with the situation and how important structure is during the day. Her talk was followed by Dr. Fernando Gomollón Bel, the science communicator of the Graphene Flagship at the University of Cambridge, UK. He talked about the importance of science communication during the crisis and the role of chemists and scientists to present our research in a creative manner and make it understandable by the public. Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of standing up for correct science and fighting fake news in the public. Session 2 was complemented by a panel discussion, involving the previous three guest speakers, as well as Prof. Alisa Lincoln, Northeastern University, USA and Prof. Jen Heemstra, Emory University, USA. The panelists highlighted the importance of being human and staying healthy during this period and shared some advice about how they are doing it during this time. The audience was able to ask questions to the speakers and seek advice on topics such as, what to do to prepare for an online PhD defense. You can find the recording for Session 2 via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9W7Z6a3eXU&t=1s>

The webinar series was a great success. Over 1500 people registered to attend the two sessions, which were followed live by roughly 1000 participants. For the future, the EYCN and the IYCN intend to plan more jointly organized webinars. We would like to thank all of our speakers, attendees and organizers for making this such a successful event!

*Sebastian Weber*

## IYCN at PITTCON

Ms. Fatima Mustafa and Dr. Sadhna Mathura represented IYCN at the Pittcon conference in Chicago, 1-5 March 2020. Pittcon is the world's largest annual conference and exhibition which covers a wide spectrum of analytical and laboratory sciences. The conference attracts thousands of participants from industry, academia and government worldwide.



*Left: Dr. Sadhna Mathura and Ms. Fatima Mustafa at the Pittcon conference, Right: Advertisement material distributed by both at the conference.*

*Fatima Mustafa*



### Do you want to join the IYCN?

If you want to become a member or an active volunteer of our network, you can sign up via our online form:

<https://www.iycnglobal.com/membership>

or contact us via the following e-mail address if you have any special questions: [iycn@iupac.org](mailto:iycn@iupac.org).

IYCN



## Active Members in IYCN

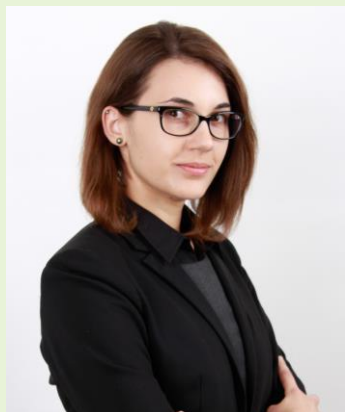


**Fanny Coumes** earned her B.Sc. in Chemistry in 2009 from Paul Sabatier University in Toulouse (France). Then, she earned her M.Sc. in Chemistry in 2011 between Sheffield University (England) and Montpellier University (France). In 2014, she completed her PhD at the Faculty of Pharmacy (UM1) in Montpellier within the Artificial Biopolymer team of the Max Mousseron Institute of Biomolecules (IBMM). Then, she joined Pr Woisel's Engineering of Polymer System's team (ISP) within the Material and Transformation Unit (UMET) in Lille. In 2016, she joined the Laboratory of Photochemistry and Macromolecular Engineering (LPIM) in Mulhouse, in partnership with SATT Conectus and Ophthalmic Company.

Since 2018, she is associate professor within the polymer chemistry team (ECP) of the Parisian Institute of Molecular Chemistry (IPCM), in Sorbonne University working on the synthesis of new polymers and materials in a sustainable and eco-friendly approach.

She is an active member of the French Chemical Society (SCF) and the French Polymer Group (GFP).

Sub-committee/Position: Social Media



**Dr. Jovana V. Milić** is a scientist at the Laboratory of Photonics and Interfaces at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne working with Prof. Michael Grätzel since 2017, when she obtained her PhD in the Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences with Prof. François Diederich at ETH Zurich in Switzerland. Her research interests focus on using the concepts of supramolecular chemistry to engineer hybrid organic-inorganic materials for energy conversion, with particular emphasis on photovoltaics. In addition to research and coordinating international collaborations, she is also invested in education and supporting young scientists, particularly through her involvement as a team leader of the Networks Team at the European Young Chemists' Network, dedicated to connecting and empowering young chemists. She has been recognized as one of the Elements (Db) on the Periodic Table of Younger Chemists on the occasion of the centenary of IUPAC and the CAS Future Leader in 2019.

Sub-committee/Position: Governance



**Silvia E. Zieger** graduated and received her PhD in Chemistry from Graz University of Technology (Austria) in 2019. She started then as a postdoctoral fellow in Graz and moved to Aarhus University (Denmark) in November 2019. Currently, she is employed by the WATEC Aarhus University Centre for Water Technology working on optical sensors for multiparametric sensing in marine science. Her educational and professional background lies in the area of optical sensor development, combining mathematics and analytical chemistry. Her field of experience includes the development of stand-alone sensors, their calibration and optimization for various applications in marine science.

**Selected Awards:**

- 2019 Best Talk at the 15. ASAC JunganalytikerInnen Forum
- 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Price in the Student Project Competition organized in the frame of the 10<sup>th</sup> ASCOS summer school on biochemical sensors in medicine held in Trest (Czech Republic)
- 2011 Merit-based scholarship of the University Graz for excellent academic performance

Sub-committee/Position: Conference Presence



**Max Männel** received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry 2013 and his Master of Science in Polymer Science from the University of Bayreuth, Germany in 2016. From 2014 to 2015 he worked as a research fellow at Lafayette College, PA, USA to the chair of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. In 2016 he started as a Ph.D. candidate in the research group Polymer Micro-(Bio)reactors of Dr. Julian Thiele at Leibniz-Institute of Polymer Research Dresden. His work is focused on the fabrication of microreactors for cell-free biotechnology via additive manufacturing and photolithography. Max is the PhD representative of his institute within the Leibniz PhD Network.

**Selected Awards:**

- 2014-2015 Scholarship for an 8-month stay at Lafayette College from Max Kade Foundation
- Awarded with the Best Paper Award by SPIE Photonics West

Sub-committee/Position: Treasurer

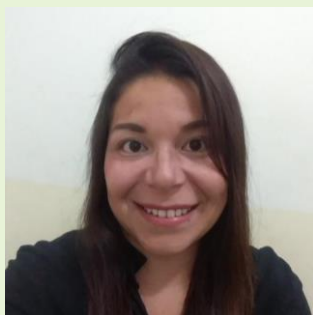


**Natalie LaFranzo** received her BS in Chemistry from Bradley University in 2007, and a PhD in Chemistry from Washington University in St. Louis in 2013. As the Vice President of Market Development at Cofactor Genomics, she is passionate about improving diagnostic assays and enabling precision medicine. Natalie also serves as the chair of the Diversity, Inclusion and Respect Advisory Board of the American Chemical Society.

**Selected Awards:**

- 2019 IUPAC Young Observer, World Chemistry Congress
- 2019 Periodic Table of Younger Chemists, Recognition as “Cs”, 2019

Sub-committee/Position: International Society Liaison, Co-chair



**Gabriela Desireé Tormet-González** received her B.Sc. in Chemistry from Universidad Central de Venezuela and her M.Sc. in Organic Chemistry from Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil. She has recently finished a Specialization in Digital Marketing as a tool for promoting scientific and educational projects through Social Media Campaigns. She is currently a Ph.D. student at Universidade Estadual de Campinas in Chemistry and is founder of the social entrepreneurship “Becas para Latinoamericanos”.

**Selected Awards:**

- 2017 SciFinder Future Leader in Chemistry
- 2008 Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Awarded

Sub-committee/Position: Webmaster, Social Media



**Daria Prosuntsova** received her M.Sc. in Chemistry in 2018 from Moscow State University, Russia. She is currently a Ph.D. student in Analytical Chemistry at Moscow State University, Russia.

Sub-committee/Position: International Society Liaison

## IYCN Executive Board



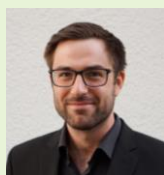
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Lori Ferrins



Chair-Elect  
Bailey Maurant



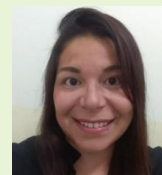
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Fun Man Fung



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Max Männel



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Catherine Rawlins



Webmaster  
Gabriela Tormet



Conference Presence  
João Borges



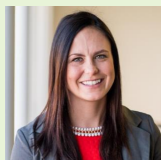
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Willis Muganda



Public Outreach  
Courtney Ngai



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Liaison  
Torsten John



International Society  
Liaison  
Natalie LaFranzo



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Sebastian Weber



Governance  
Stephen Aderinto

## Contact Information



[iycn@iupac.org](mailto:iycn@iupac.org)



[iycnglobal.com](http://iycnglobal.com)



[linkedin.com/company/iycn/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/iycn/)



[socialmedia.iycn@gmail.com](mailto:socialmedia.iycn@gmail.com)



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Editor-in-chief: Sebastian Weber, [socialmedia.iycn@gmail.com](mailto:socialmedia.iycn@gmail.com)

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