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From seed to a plant by Marcello Malpighi ca. 1675. RS.9504 ©The Royal Society.

The Royal Society is a Fellowship of many of the world’s most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence.
1. Guest Article from a Fellow of Canada’s National Academy and former GYA member

Federico Rosei, FRSC has held the Canada Research Chair (Junior) in Nanostructured Organic and Inorganic Materials between 2003 and 2013. He is a Professor and the Director of Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Énergie, Matériaux et Télécommunications, Université du Québec, Varennes (QC) Canada. Since January 2014 he holds the UNESCO Chair in Materials and Technologies for Energy Conversion, Saving and Storage and since May 2016 he also holds the Canada Research Chair (Senior) in Nanostructured Materials. He received MSc and PhD degrees from the University of Rome “La Sapienza” in 1996 and 2001, respectively.

He is a Fellow of numerous prestigious national and international societies and academies, including: the Royal Society of Canada (Canada’s National Academy), the European Academy of Science, the World Academy of Art and Science, the World Academy of Ceramics, the American Physical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Optical Society of America, SPIE, the Canadian Academy of Engineering, ASM International, the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK), the Institute of Physics, the Institution of Engineering and Technology, the Institute of Materials, Metallurgy and Mining, the Engineering Institute of Canada, the Australian Institute of Physics, Honorary Fellow of the Chinese Chemical Society, Foreign Member of the Mexican Academy of Engineering, Senior Member of IEEE, former Member of the Global Young Academy and Member of the Sigma Xi Society.

He has been invited to speak at over 265 international conferences and has given over 200 seminars and colloquia, over 50 professional development lectures and 35 public lectures in 42 countries on all inhabited continents. His publications have been cited over 8800 times and his H index is 51.

What can an Academy, particularly a National Young Academy (NYA), do for you and your professional career?

“The real question is, in fact, quite the opposite. Quoting JF Kennedy, "Do not ask yourself what your country can do for you, but rather what you can do for your country". In this case, how can YOU help your country through your involvement in its National Young Academy?

Senior Academies were established for two purposes. The first is fairly obvious: election is a prestigious distinction, and scholars and scientists typically like to receive a pat on the back as a recognition of their work and accomplishments. Less obvious is the second, which is also the primary purpose: to constitute an arms' length “body” that can advise the government on science policy, by providing evidence based answers to matters of societal relevance and impact.

One of the issues of "senior" (regular) academies is that most scholars are elected as members once they are well past their most productive and enthusiastic years, due to the tough competition for very few spots made available every year (in some cases, every two years).
Enter the National Young Academies: limited to "younger" scientists, these entities can still provide useful advice to governments based on efforts of more junior scholars and academics, who are not as accomplished as their senior counterparts yet may already have shown great promise and simultaneously have a lot more time and energy to devote to such efforts.

This is the primary purpose of being involved in such an academy: to serve one’s country. The added benefit of an NYA is that the younger generation can define its challenges and needs, hoping to improve the working conditions and opportunities for future generations. Finally, there is a major added benefit in terms of networking opportunities, and even though the distinction is not as prestigious as being elected into a senior academy.

So, if you want to serve the scientific community in your country, this may be something you should consider pursuing. Usually membership is limited to a finite number of years, so in the end the commitment is fairly small in terms of time during your scientific career, but the rewards in terms of satisfaction can be huge.”

**Federico Rosei**

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**2. VYA Activities**

**2.1. Membership renewal (mandatory)**

ALL current VYA members need to apply for renewal. The application form is available on VYA website ([http://vietnemyoungacademy.org/membership.html](http://vietnemyoungacademy.org/membership.html)). Complete application forms should be emailed as a single PDF document to info@vietnemyoungacademy.org. The deadline is 30th October 2017. VYA is a non-paying fee membership organization, therefore, members are expected to contribute to its activities. Renewal is required for all members after the first year of their initial membership. All members admitted from 2014-2016, please apply for renewal.

**2.2. Call for new members**

VYA is seeking high quality application from candidates to join VYA. The candidates must meet the requirement for three categories:

1. Excellence record in scientific contribution.
2. Contribution to the community (e.g., voluntary work)
3. Strong potential to contribute to VYA activities.

Each criterion has equal weight in the overall score. The application form is available on VYA website ([http://vietnemyoungacademy.org/membership.html](http://vietnemyoungacademy.org/membership.html)). The deadline is 30th October 2017.

**2.3. Personal opinion from an OC member about VYA activities**

“It has been about ten months since the first Operations Committee (OC) established in December 2016. Since then, the OC meetings have been organised frequently on monthly basis. Time and effort of all members from the OC and the Advisory Board in directing VYA activities are highly commendable. So many opportunities have been brought forward to the
VYA community (data analysis by Dr Hanh Lam, summarised below by Prof. Nguyen TK Thanh), aiming to provide a platform to maintain active links with Vietnamese scientists and international science organisations to address topics of national and global importance. Through these activities we are shaping the development of VYA as an organisation with an ultimate aim of promoting science and technology, education, and improving science policy, and research environment in Vietnam. We look forward to more activities being developed, and more members will join us to aid in the positive development of VYA.” Dr Cuong Cao, OC member and member of VYA editorial team, Queen’s University of Belfast.

2.4. Vietnamese scholars overseas and Friends of VYA – supporting VYA's mission

“People who do not really know how VYA was founded, may find the concepts of Friends of VYA and why VYA include Vietnamese scholars overseas unusual. Right from the beginning, when I founded VYA, I saw it immediately that there was a need to have Vietnamese overseas researchers who would help Vietnamese in Vietnam to reach out internationally. After creating a very beautiful and meaningful logo, the next step would be to have a website for VYA. Dr Tran Quang Huy enthusiastically took on the task, but unfortunately, it was not easy to establish a website in Vietnam. Therefore, a domain name was then registered in UK and then the 6th of May 2015, the VYA website was launched with the great help from our enthusiastic initial member Vuong Phan Tuan, in UK. The website was hosted at University of Greenwich, UK. However, this was not possible after a while, then a new server space has been bought in August 2016 and VP Tuan again has rebooted the website for it to be active again after many months inaccessible. TQ Huy in Vietnam has spent significant amount of time in updating the website. However, with his increasing commitments elsewhere, the website updating cannot be done regularly to provide community fast flow of information available. Hence, a volunteer is greatly needed.

In the early day, the friends of VYA were very important for its activities, the newsletter editing was helped by Ms Ngo Huong Ly in UK and Ms Ho Nguyen Nhu Y in Taiwan. Facebook and Twitter were also maintained by Ngo Luong Ly in UK. We were then fortunate to have Dr Hanh Lam in USA, who joined VYA as a member, to take care of the newsletter and redesign the Facebook Page and Twitter and regularly update the news that VYA community, and in fact more than 11,300 views from VYA website show the impact of our work.

VYA editorial team (Dr Hanh Lam, USA; Dr Cuong Cao, UK; Dr Le Minh Hoa, UK; Dr Truong Phuoc Nghia, Australia and myself from UK) is outside of Vietnam, despite, many calls for volunteer in our VYA Bulletins and even personally email invitation from Hanh, no one from Vietnam came forward.

We are fortunate to have Dr TQ Huy, a very active member of VYA, he is one of 5 members of VYA Operations Committee. But, the work of VYA requires lots of volunteering time. Why are overseas people more willing to spend time to help than the Vietnamese in Vietnam? Overseas scientists are certainly busy, and they have high competition with native and internationally outstanding researchers in their work place. I believe the reason is that they care about Vietnam and they want to help. In total of nearly 120 news and announcement sent out to VYA community (from info@vietnamyoungacademy.com ), Dr Hanh Lam sent out 103 and others did the rest of 11. There were 54 research, funding, career opportunities distributed,
of which Hanh Lam contributed 5 and myself contributed 49. Right from beginning, I wanted to have a channel to send all the funding news to Vietnam, but it almost went to black hole. How many emails one can send to each individuals, not many, so to have VYA network, the news can be disseminated far and wide. But I have to personally send it to Hanh and Huy to send by emails and for update of the website in the early day.

So, now, you see, VYA is today the work of many people, but still more can be done if more are willing to help. We will have maximum 120 members (not 120 member per year), but we will select none or as many candidates this year if they meet the criteria.

We have a huge spike 40 Friends of VYA in 2017. It is this time of year, when, we select the new members, if you read the VYA bulletin and are interested in joining, do ask yourself, is VYA right for you? and also are you right for VYA?

On final note, being a GYA member, I had met Prof Federico Rosei in GYA General Assembly (GA) meeting in Halle, Germany. I just remember vividly, he said “you should go to Chile for next year for GA meeting”. I did go and met many scientists there, and subsequently I visited Chile again to discuss about collaboration with a colleague in Chile I met during GYA GA. I had a long list of similar stories. With time VYA will grow as a Fellowship of many Vietnamese most eminent young scientists around the world, and I am sure that I will edit many columns in the VYA Bulletin to feature your inspiring stories.” Prof Nguyen T. K. Thanh, University College London, UK.

2.5. Invitation to join a Wiki Vietnamese team. Wiki Vietnamese is a part of Knowledge Identifier activity being developed by VYA. We are looking for VYA members to help with this activity. Please contact Dr. Tran Quang Huy (huytq.nihe@gmail.com) and Prof. Nguyen T.K. Thanh (ntk.thanh@gmail.com) if you are able to contribute in this initiative.

2.6. Call for Global Youth Academy (GYA) membership is being announced. Applications are sought from young, independent scholars who combine the highest level of research excellence with a demonstrated passion for delivering impact. Information about eligibility, online application process, important dates and relevant forms and guidance is available at: https://globalyoungacademy.net/call-for-new-members/

2.7. New VYA friends. A warm welcome to all new VYA friends, we are looking forward to having many of you to become a member of the VYA (see the Highlight Section).

- Mr Pham Quoc Hung, First Secretary, The Vietnam Embassy in London, UK
- Mr Anh-Minh Nguyen, PhD student at University Pierre and Marie Curie, France
- Assoc. Prof Tran Xuan Bach, Hanoi Medical University, Vietnam
3. Activities of VYA community

- Dr. Tran Quang Huy has introduced VYA at the ASEAN Science Leadership Program in Malaysia from 7-12th September 2017.

- In August 2017, Prof Nguyen T. K. Thanh gave an invited talk at IUMRS-ICAM 2017, the 15th International Conference on Advanced Materials (http://www.iumrs-icam2017.org/) in Kyoto, Japan and carried out her duty as a Visiting Professorship at Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology.

- In September 2017, Prof Nguyen T. K. Thanh gave a training course and a plenary talk at the 7th International Meeting of the Institute of Metals in Biology Grenoble: “Metallic nanoparticles: health, environment, applications and safer-by-design” in Villard-de-Lans France (https://imbg2017.sciencesconf.org/data/pages/final_program_7th_IMBG_Meeting_Nanos_060917.pdf)

4. Funding opportunities

- The Women of the Future South East Asia has been launched. This is the first of its kind in South East Asia and will showcase the incredible range of talented women working in arts and culture, science and technology, the media and communications, in the community or through public service, science/technology/digital and in business and entrepreneurship. There is also a property, construction and infrastructure strand. Successful candidates will join a global, collaborative network of gifted women at the forefront of South East Asia’s economic, social, cultural and political development. Candidates must be under 35. Applications to be considered for nomination are open until the 20th October and then in November a panel will interview shortlisted candidates via Skype. Successful candidates will then attend a gala dinner in Singapore in March 2018 and join the global future leaders network. If you know any Vietnamese female scientist who is under 35 (as of 31st March 2018) and has outstanding academic track records, please send your nomination to Huong Phan (phan.huong@fco.gov.uk), Research and Innovation Programme Manager, British Embassy Hanoi. More information can be found at http://awards.womenofthefuture.co.uk/seasia/.

- Prof Nguyen T. K. Thanh is happy to receive applications for a very prestigious UCL Dean's Scholarship in the area of nanotechnology for healthcare. The Dean's Prize provides scholarships of up to the value of UCL student fees for PhD students, primarily geared towards excellent overseas students. Please contact Prof Thanh (Email: ntk.thanh@ucl.ac.uk), if you have excellent Master degree in Chemistry/Biochemistry/Material Science. Due to large number of the applicants, only shortlisted candidate will be contacted.

- Please contact Prof Nguyen TK Thanh (ntk.thanh@ucl.ac.uk) if you are interested in an International and Interdisciplinary Research Hub for Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Infectious Diseases in Developing Countries using Nanotechnology. She very much wishes that GYA and VYA can be active partners for the Hub. More information: http://www.rcuk.ac.uk
Members and friends are encouraged to send updates for publication in VYA monthly newsletter by the 20th of each month.

Vietnam Young Academy, http://vietnamyoungacademy.org, Email: info@vietnamyoungacademy.org

VYA Bulletin prepared by Prof. Nguyen Thi Kim Thanh, Dr Cao Cuong and Dr Hanh Lam

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**Issue #11, September 2017**

**VIETNAM YOUNG ACADEMY (VYA) BULLETIN**

- **Singapore International Pre-Graduate Award (SiPGA)** is now open. The SiPGA programme provides a 2 - 6 months attachment experience in an A*STAR research institute for third or fourth year undergraduates or Masters students. The student works with a supervisor, usually as part of a larger project, in an A*STAR research institute. As A*STAR is a research organisation rather than a university, it does not operate to academic semesters, and the students can arrange to do the attachments at any time of the year, subject to the concurrence of the Institute supervisor. Admission to this programme is on a competitive basis Interested students may contact the A*STAR RI coordinators for SiPGA placement opportunities. More info can be found at: [www.a-star.edu.sg/sipga](http://www.a-star.edu.sg/sipga). Please do not hesitate to contact Joanna Ng ([Joanna_Ng@hq.a-star.edu.sg](mailto:Joanna_Ng@hq.a-star.edu.sg)) or Juvy Pang at ([juvy_pang@hq.a-star.edu.sg](mailto:juvy_pang@hq.a-star.edu.sg)) should you have further queries.

- **Singapore International Graduate Award (SINGA)** is now open. The SINGA programme is a partnership between A*STAR and three local universities, namely Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National University of Singapore (NUS) and Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). It offers a full PhD scholarship to international students who wish to pursue a PhD education in Singapore. The work leading to the PhD may be conducted in an A*STAR Institute or at any of the three universities. Upon successful completion, students will be conferred a PhD degree by any one of the three local universities. There are two application cycles for SINGA, with application end dates on 1 Jan and 1 Jun annually. Interested students can visit the SINGA website for more information on the application procedure: [https://www.a-star.edu.sg/singa-award/How-to-Apply.aspx](https://www.a-star.edu.sg/singa-award/How-to-Apply.aspx). Please do not hesitate to contact Joanna Ng ([Joanna_Ng@hq.a-star.edu.sg](mailto:Joanna_Ng@hq.a-star.edu.sg)) or Juvy Pang at ([juvy_pang@hq.a-star.edu.sg](mailto:juvy_pang@hq.a-star.edu.sg)) should you have further queries.

- **The 2018 INGSA Research Associate Grant Programme.** INGSA is proud to announce that in 2018 it will be offering six professional development and research grants to support early-to-mid career researchers or policy practitioners in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). Each grant recipient will manage and conduct a project of their choice on the priority research theme of the role of scientific evidence and advice in support of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Grant recipients will become INGSA Research Associates, and receive up to €15,000 each to complete their project. Additional support will be made available for applicants to travel to the INGSA conference in Japan in September 2018. For information on eligibility and to apply, visit the website: [http://www.ingsa.org/grant-programme/](http://www.ingsa.org/grant-programme/)

5. **Conferences and workshops**

A full list of conferences in Vietnam or elsewhere is available in VYA website

- **256th ACS National Meeting & Exposition Symposium** on "Detection of infectious diseases and toxin in food using nanoparticles", the 19th-23rd August 2018, Boston, USA, will be chaired by Prof. Nguyen T. K Thanh and Dr. Cao Cuong.

- **The NAFOSTED Conference on Information and Computer Science (NICS)** is a series
of scientific activities supported by the National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED) to build a durable, innovative and conducive environment for research activities at universities and institutes, improve the research ability of young scientists and establish research groups that meet international standards. The aim of the conference is to bring together researchers from Vietnam and overseas in an academic forum to present and discuss recent advancements and future directions in the field of information and computer science. NICS 2017 will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam during 24th-25th November 2017, sponsored by IEEE, and hosted by University of Engineering and Technology, Vietnam National University, Hanoi.

- **The 8th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Food Analysis (RAFA 2017)** will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, 7th-10th November 2017. RAFA 2017 will provide an overview of contemporary trends in Analytical & Bioanalytical Strategies in Food Quality and Safety Control and discuss Challenges for Novel Approaches. More information can be found at [http://www.rafa2017.eu/](http://www.rafa2017.eu/).

6. **Career and promotion opportunities**

- **Academic opportunities at the Queen's University of Belfast.** A number of academic positions ranging from lectureship to professorship levels are available at Queen’s: Lecturer (Education) in Spanish, Lecturer in Accounting, Lecturer in Construction Project Management, Lecturer in Finance, Lecturer in Management, Lecturer in Physical Organic Chemistry, Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Chemical Engineering, Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Economics, Professor in Management, Professor of Nursing and Director of International Development, Professor/s of Maternal and Child Health. More information including online application forms for each post can be found at [http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/QUBJobVacancies/AcademicOpportunities/](http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/QUBJobVacancies/AcademicOpportunities/).

- **Research opportunities at the Queen's University of Belfast.** A number of research positions are available at Queen’s. More information including online application forms for each post can be found at [http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/QUBJobVacancies/ResearchJobs/](http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/QUBJobVacancies/ResearchJobs/).

- **Multiple tenure-track Assistant/Associate/Professor positions in Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics in Salt Lake City, Utah.** The new Cluster in Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics at the University of Utah ([http://www.ucegg.org](http://www.ucegg.org)) invites applications for multiple open positions in Evolutionary Genetics. Academic appointments may be in Biology (College of Science) or Human Genetics (School of Medicine) and successful applicants will join a vibrant intellectual community across the University of Utah working at the interface of genomics, computational, and molecular biology. The Cluster will build on substantial, ongoing investments in genome science and experimental basic science at the University of Utah, a unique and inclusive community at the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains with nearby world-class cultural and recreational opportunities. All applicants should submit: (1) a cover letter with contact information, (2) a CV, (3) description of current and proposed research, (4) a statement of teaching experience and interests, and (5) up to three reprints and/or preprints. Applicants at the Assistant Professor level should also arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent on their behalf before the deadline.