

PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS

NYOKONG WINS AU SCIENCE AWARD

Tebello Nyokong, a South African scientist elected to TWAS in 2009, was awarded the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award in January 2016.

Nyokong is a distinguished professor of chemistry at Rhodes University, South Africa, and director of South Africa's Nanotechnology and Innovation Centre.

The Kwame Nkrumah award is given annually to African researchers for outstanding results in science, technology and innovation.

Born in Lesotho, Nyokong obtained her PhD from the University of Western Ontario in Canada before returning to South Africa. She received the 2013 TWAS Medal for her research on using light in the development of drugs for cancer treatment. She also won the 2009 L'Oréal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science for her studies on cancer therapy and for environmental clean-up.

She has been named by IT News Africa as one of the continent's ten most influential women in science and technology.



KARACHI UNIVERSITY HONOURS VOELTER

For the first time in its history, Karachi University (KU) in Pakistan has named one of its buildings after a Western scientist – **Wolfgang Voelter** of Germany – for his contributions to Pakistani science.

Voelter, elected to TWAS in 1995, is a medical doctor and a chemist. He paid his first visit to KU in 1974, looking

for collaboration. That visit impressed him so deeply that he decided to move to Pakistan, and then worked with the German government and the German Technical Cooperation Agency to obtain grants that were used to buy sophisticated equipment.

The Wolfgang Voelter Laboratories Complex is a three-story building fully operational on applied chemical science, textile chemistry, nanochemistry and other important disciplines.

A ceremony was held on 11 February at KU, attended by the German ambassador. Atta-ur-Rahman, a 1985 TWAS Fellow, gave an inspiring speech to remember Voelter's commitment and contributions. Among Voelter's numerous honours, there are two Pakistani civil awards: Hilal-i-Pakistan and Sitara-i-Pakistan.



SHUKLA JOINS CLIMATE PANEL

Jagadish Shukla, elected to TWAS in 1995, has been appointed to the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change (PMCCC) for India.

Shukla is an Indian meteorologist and distinguished professor at George Mason University in the United States.

In his new post, effective September 2015, he will advise his country on scientific issues that lay behind climate change. He was among the distinguished attendees in the United Nation's Conference on Climate Change in Paris last fall.

Shukla received his PhD in geophysics



from Banaras Hindu University in 1971, and his ScD in meteorology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology [USA] in 1976. He has investigated climate dynamics, atmosphere-ocean interactions and long-range weather forecasting.

He is the founder of Gandhi College for the education of rural women in his native village, Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, India.

BARRERA RAMÍREZ RECEIVES COLOMBIAN AWARD

John F. Barrera Ramírez, a 2014-18 TWAS Young Affiliate, has received the 2015 National Award of Scientific Merit from the Colombian Association for the Advancement of Science, in the category "Excellence in Research".

Ramírez is an associate professor in the physics institute, University of Antioquia, Medellín [Colombia], and the coordinator of



the optics and photonics group. He is among 30 leading scientists in South America conducting research on optics. His work has led to novel and simple applications for protecting information with optical processors.

He is the recipient of fellowships from TWAS, The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics [ICTP] and of the 2014 Gallieno Denardo Award bestowed by ICTP and the International Commission for Optics.

TWAS AFFILIATES SELECTED FOR AFRICAN PROGRAMME

Adewale Adewuyi from Redeemers University in Nigeria and **Fawzi**



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Mahomoodally from the University of Mauritius, both TWAS Young Affiliates, are among 22 outstanding scientists selected as new fellows in the Africa Science Leadership Programme (ASLP).

Adewuyi is a TWAS Young Affiliate (2014-18) from the Regional Office for Sub-Saharan Africa,

and the recipient of the 2014 African Union-TWAS Young Scientist National Award in basic sciences, technology

and innovation. He earned his PhD in industrial chemistry (2011) from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, then received fellowships to work in Padova, Italy, and Dresden, Germany. His research is focused on industrial applications of underutilized seeds and seed oils in Nigeria.

Mahomoodally, a TWAS Young Affiliate (2012-16), is a full-time senior academic at the University of Mauritius since 2009 and currently the head of the department of Health Sciences.

As a biochemist, he has worked on new methods to document and assess the pharmacological and nutritional properties of Mauritian medicinal herbs and food plants. He has authored 122 full publications and 40 abstracts in international and national conferences. Today he is the principal investigator and co-principal investigator of four regional and international research grants and consortia. He is also active on public-social themes, and gives public lectures on phytotherapy,



herb-drug interaction and risk factors and prevention of diabetes. ASLP, funded by the Robert Bosch Foundation, is jointly run by the University of Pretoria and the Global Young Academy. Its goal is to help young African researchers establish collaborations and partnerships at the international level, developing projects that address regional problems. Membership in the Global Young Academy is comprised of early-career researchers who have done distinguished work. It has members from 58 countries on six continents.

OBITUARY: ABBAS SHAFIEE

Abbas Shafiee, an Iranian physicist and 1995 TWAS Fellow, passed away 15 June 2016 in Tehran. Shafiee was an active member of TWAS, and the head of the Pharmacology Research Center at Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

He was a permanent member of the Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences (1990) and of the Iranian Academy of Science (1991). He earned his master's degree from Columbia University's College of Pharmaceutical Sciences [US] in 1965, and his PhD in pharmaceutical chemistry from the same institution in 1968. His scientific interests covered studies on calcium channel blockers as well as anti-inflammatory and anticancer drugs.

OBITUARY: GIUSEPPE FURLAN

Giuseppe Furlan, an Italian professor of theoretical physics elected to TWAS in 2000, passed away on 18 July 2016. Furlan's research contributions were

in the field of theoretical elementary particle physics and quantum field theory. With colleague Sergio Fubini, he developed a famous approach to the algebra of currents and symmetry breaking, which is now known as the Fubini-Furlan method.



He began his collaboration with the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) as a supervisor in the field of elementary particle physics. Then he became the coordinator of ICTP's activities in environmental physics and in 1983 founded the programme TRIL - Training Research in Italian Laboratories, aimed at promoting the participation of scientists from developing countries to experimental research.

From 1968, Furlan served as theoretical professor at Trieste University.

He built a vast network of international collaborations, working at CERN in Geneva and serving as a visiting professor at Stony Brook, Princeton, Stanford and MIT in the United States. He has authored two books and more than 90 scientific papers.

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