

# International Scientific Cooperation – An Immediate Imperative

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President-Elect,  
Commonwealth Chemistry

## COMMONWEALTH CHEMISTRY

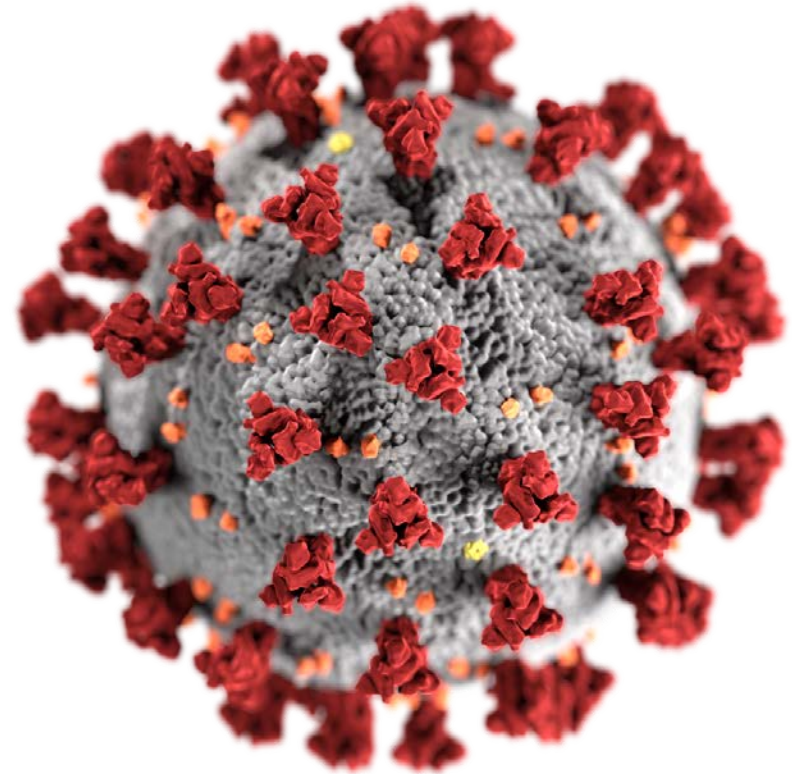


# Acknowledgement of COVID impact

As at 11 August 2020 (globally)

- Over 20 million cases
- Over 736 thousand deaths

**Our deepest sympathies to those  
who have lost loved ones**



SARS-CoV-2 spike proteins  
CDC/Alissa Exkert, MS; Sam Higgins, MAM

# Race to achieve the impossible

**Jan 9** – WHO announces Coronavirus-related pneumonia in Wuhan

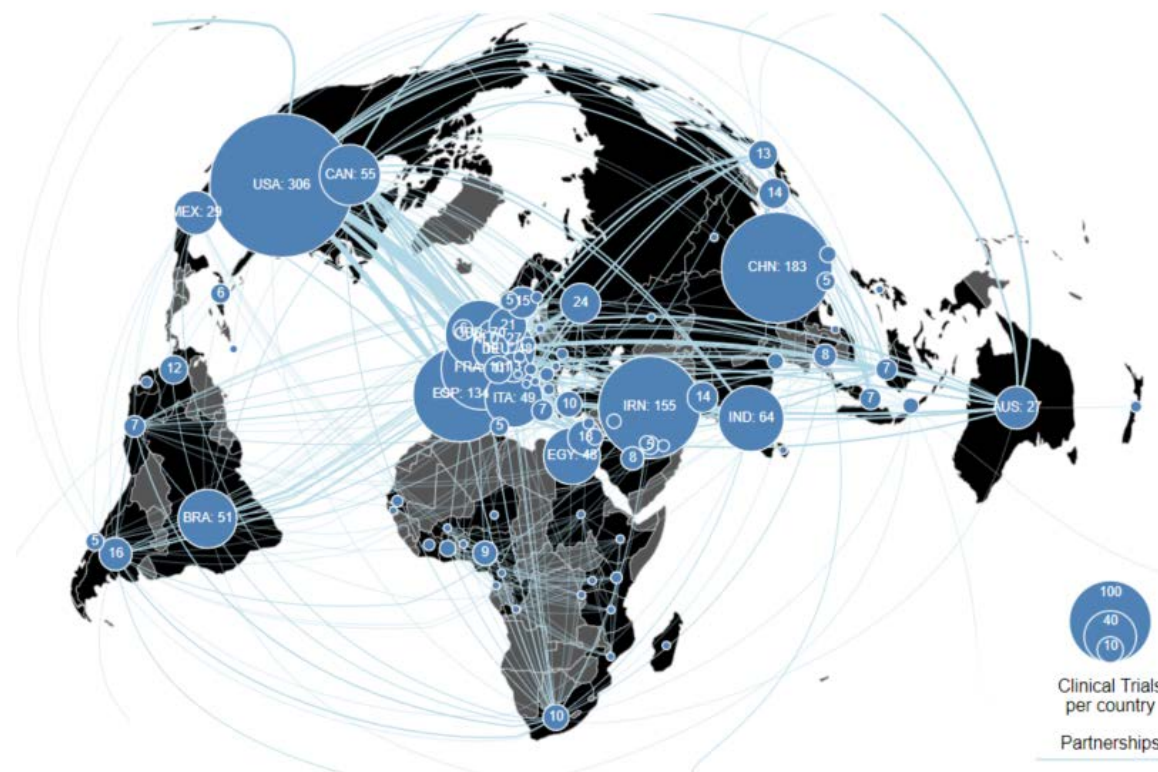
**Jan 12** - China shared SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequence

**Mar 16** – First Phase 1 CT starts for Moderna's mRNA-1273 vaccine

**Mar 30** – Structure of SARS-CoV-2 published in Nature

**Apr 23** – AZ/Oxford University ChAdOx1 Phase1/11 Study begins with 1090 participants

**As at August 13, there were 222 Prevention and 1320 treatment registered clinical trials**



WHO, <https://www.covid-nma.com/dataviz/>, Accessed 12/8/2020

# UN Sustainable Development Goals

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health & Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water & Sanitation
7. Affordable & Clean Energy
8. Decent Work & Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities & Communities
12. Responsible Consumption & Production
13. Climate Change
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships

# Commonwealth Chemistry—June 2018



# Commonwealth Chemistry

## *setting up a new inclusive Federation*

- **VISION:** One community, one voice, catalysing equality for all
- **MISSION:** Inspire, celebrate and elevate the role and practice of chemical sciences for the benefit of the Commonwealth nations and their people
- *Promote and uphold the core values of the Commonwealth*
- **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
  - Equal and inclusive representation from all Commonwealth nations
  - Recognition that those with greater resources will contribute more in order to assist those with fewer resources

# Commonwealth Chemistry

## *setting up a new inclusive Federation*

### Impact for our Discipline, for Chemists and for Commonwealth societies

- positive impact on individual chemists across Commonwealth nations
- potential to benefit society at large—progress towards the SDGs
- growth of existing and creation of new chemical societies
- **unique opportunity to diversify our discipline**
- provides a framework to build up current initiatives e.g. PACN

# What will Commonwealth Chemistry do?

- Understand the challenges, needs and opportunities
- Support the development of research infrastructure
- Connect chemists in the Commonwealth
- Champion chemistry and its value to society
- Develop common standards of chemistry teaching across the Commonwealth
- Increase the recognition of Commonwealth chemists
- Promote diversity and equal opportunities
- Increase mobility among Commonwealth chemists
- Develop shared resources



# Commonwealth Chemistry – Executive Board

## President

Vicki Gardiner, Australia- President Elect

## Board Members

James Darkwa, Botswana

Peter Mallon, South Africa

Michael Forde, Trinidad & Tobago

Ishmael Masesane, Botswana

Sourav Pal, India

Deborah Nicoll-Griffith, Canada

Sarah Masters, New Zealand

Roger Stapleford, Australia

Tan Choon Hong, Singapore

Priyani Paranagama, Sri Lanka

Robert Parker, UK

# Partnership for the Goals

First Commonwealth Chemistry Congress



18 – 21 May 2020 | University of West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

postponed

- equal representation
- strengthen scientific capacity
- elevate role of chemistry to society & policy makers
- celebrate achievements in our discipline
- create effective partnerships for the UN SDGs
- focus on early career chemists
- much more than a scientific congress...

## Additional sessions

- career conversations
- chemistry to market
- inclusion and diversity



# Commonwealth Chemistry Posters – Building the Partnership

*Bridging Chemistry Across the Commonwealth to Tackle the SDGs*

**25-27 August 2020**



- Poster event for early career chemists due to attend the postponed Congress
- Enable networking and research sharing before the rescheduled Congress takes place in 2021 – ‘Building the Partnership’
- Themes link to chemistry and its role in tackling the SDGs
- Poster prizes awarded for presentation, scientific understanding and relation to the UN-SDGs and Commonwealth



## Access to Chemistry World

A special scheme for members of chemical sciences societies that are part of Commonwealth Chemistry

In partnership with Commonwealth Chemistry, the Royal Society of Chemistry is delighted to announce a new scheme to allow members of chemical sciences societies that are part of Commonwealth Chemistry to claim free access to the Chemistry World website.

The Covid-19 pandemic presents significant challenges. Now, more than ever, the members of global chemical science community need to find ways to support each other. Access to good quality information is one way that we can help.



# Commonwealth Chemistry – Survey

Survey of the Commonwealth chemical sciences community

- opportunity for **early career chemists** to share their views
- focus on needs, challenges and opportunities that early career chemists are currently encountering: training and funding, working environment, career progression, networks and collaborations
- outcomes from the survey have the potential to influence the strategy and direction of Commonwealth Chemistry
- **Will go live in September 2020**

**Please get involved!**



# Thank you

