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https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/careers/developing-growing-in-your-career.html

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ACS Scholar Adunoluwa Obisesan

BS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, June 2021 (Chemical-biological Engineering, Computer Science & Molecular Biology)

"The ACS Scholars Program provided me with monetary support as well as a valuable network of peers and mentors who have transformed my life and will help me in my future endeavors. The program enabled me to achieve more than I could have ever dreamed. Thank you so much!"

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Advancing ACS' Core Value of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect

Resources





Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Respect **Adapted from definitions from the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice:

Seeks to ensure fair treatment, equality of opportunity, and fairness in access to information and resources for all. We believe this is only possible in an environment built on respect and dignity. Equity requires the identification and elimination of barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups.

Equity**

Diversity** The representation of varied identities and differences (race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, tribe, caste, socioeconomic status, thinking and communication styles, etc.), collectively and as individuals. ACS seeks to proactively engage, understand, and draw on a variety of perspectives.

Inclusion**

Builds a culture of belonging by actively inviting the contribution and participation of all people. Every person's voice adds value, and ACS strives to create balance in the face of power differences. In addition, no one person can or should be called upon to represent an entire community.

Respect

Ensures that each person is treated with professionalism, integrity, and ethics underpinning all interpersonal interactions.

https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/about/diversity.html





CHEMICAL BIOCHEMICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Dr. Hui Chen (Team Lead) postdoctoral research associate, UMBC, Dr. Blaney's lab. (Completed her Ph.D. in Chemistry at Stonybrook University)



Dr. Utsav Shashvatt postdoctoral research associate, UC Berkeley (Completed his Ph.D. in environmental engineering at UMBC – Dr. Blaney's lab)

Circular Nutrient Economy

Recovering nutrients from waste streams for reuse as fertilizers

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 @ 2-3PM ET

Featuring Panelists: Expert Environmental Engineers from UMBC



Mr. Michael Fleming Ph.D. candidate. UMBC. Dr. Blaney's lab (environmental engineering program)



Ms. Ouriel Ndalamba BS student, UMBC (chemical engineering major)



Ms. Kaylyn Stewart BS student, UMBC (chemistry major)

Key Learning Objectives:

- Importance of circular nutrient economy
- Basics of Donnan dialysis
- · Current progress in Donnan dialysis technologies for nutrient recovery

Who Should Attend:

- · Analysts, technicians, engineers and chemists who are either currently involved in environmental issues
- Wastewater professions and farmers who are interested in employing new strategies to solve nutrient pollution
- Students and researchers working on environmental issues ٠

Register Now! https://morganstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gjp23X-HSey30c99cTPe9w



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Zhenan Bao K.K. Lee Professor of Chemical Engineering & Chair, Dept of Chemical Engineering, Stanford University ctronics.html https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars/library/organic-ele



Amy Lucía Prieto Professor, Department of Chemistry, Colorado State University & Founder, Prieto Battery, Inc. https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars/library/lithium-ion-sustainability.html





Mark Mascal Professor of Chemistry, University of California Davis Ryan Lively Assistant Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars/library/sustainable-chemistry-work.html

ACS Committee on Science (COMSCI)

ComSci is a joint Board-Council Committee. It aims to identify new frontiers of chemistry, examine the scientific basis of and formulate public policies related to the chemical sciences, and recognize outstanding chemical scientists. It is structured to provide a forum for collaboration, coordination, and communication of the scientific activities of diverse units of the SOCIETY and to provide an interface between and among such units.



https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/about/governance/committees/science.html





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ACS

Chemistry for Life®



Chemistry & the SDGs

ERTY 2 ZERO 3 GOODHEALTH 4 EDUCATION 5 ERIOR 6 CLEANNY



https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/sustainability/chemistry-sustainable-development-goals.html



Vision:

Enhance quality of Life by advocating safe, nutritious, and sustainable food and agricultural supplies that meet global challenges.

Mission:

Lead and foster a diverse community to promote and advance agricultural and food chemistry research, education, outreach, and communication.



https://www.agfoodchem.org

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ACS Chemistry for Life®



Free Virtual Event See acs.org/ZeroHungerSummit

- The U.N. Sustainable Development Goal of "Zero Hunger" aims to end hunger and achieve food security by 2030
- There is an intense need for more and better food: over 690 million people are without enough to eat, and world population is growing
- Chemists and engineers have a vital role to play in the fight against world hunger

https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/sustainability/zero-hunger-summit.html





Chemistry Tools to Help Achieve Zero World Hunger

Michael Appell

USDA, Agricultural Research Service National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research Peoria, IL USA

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Agricultural and Food Chemistry

- Vision: Enhance quality of life by advocating safe, nutritious and sustainable food and agricultural supplies that meet global challenges.
- Mission: Lead and foster a diverse community to promote and advance agricultural and food chemistry research, education, outreach and communication
- Membership is insurance for your career
- National Meetings are like family reunions
- Active community in Sustainability, Greentech, and the FEW Nexus
- agfoodchem.org



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Zero Hunger = End World Hunger

• Chemistry plays an important role in agriculture and food

- AGFD was founded in 1908 ass one of the four original technical divisions of ACS (AGRO and BIOT)
- Agricultural problems need solutions:
- Shifts in weeds, pests, diseases due to extreme changes in weather
- Improving long-term crop production
- Reducing food packaging and food waste
- Reducing greenhouse gases in agriculture
- Food, Energy, Water (FEW) Nexus





Sustainable Food Security and Production

- The world needs to produce at least 56% more food by 2050 to feed and meet the needs of a projected 10 billion people
- 11% of the world (925 million people) lack access to a safe and nutritious food supply
- 13% of the world is obese and 39% is overweight
- Approximately 2/3 of adult Americans are overweight or obese (dramatic increase since the mid 1970s)
- Sustainable practices support meeting these needs

http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/foodsecurity https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/feeding-world-sustainably https://ourworldindata.org/obesity#what-share-of-adults-are-obese https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-choices-health/obesity/

Waste Food and Sustainable Agricultural Commodity Recycling

- "In the United States, 31 percent—or 133 billion pounds—of the 430 billion pounds of the available food supply at the retail and consumer levels in 2010 went uneaten. The estimated value of this food loss was \$161.6 billion using retail prices. For the first time, ERS estimated the calories associated with food loss: 141 trillion in 2010, or 1,249 calories per capita per day."
- ~1/3 of the food in the USA is wasted (every third aisle in a grocery store)

















Significant increase in corn yields through technology

- 2021 National Corn Growers highest yield:
- 602 bu/acre
- 1870 to 1940s corn yields about 25 bu/acre
- Recent average yields are around 160+ bu/acre







Inflation-adjusted corn, wheat, and soybean prices, 1912-2018

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.



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Sustainability and Food Safety are Complementary



- Almost 48 million cases of foodborne illness in the USA each year resulting in 128,000 hospitalizations and 3000 deaths
- Foodborne illnesses are a public burden, difficult to detect, and harm humans and other animals
- Food hazards, including microorganisms and chemical contaminants, can enter the food supply at any point from farm to table
- Most of these hazards cannot be visually detected in food when it is purchased or consumed
- Food contamination can be detected by frequent monitoring using analytical instrumentation

https://www.fda.gov/food/consumers/what-you-need-know-about-foodborne-illnesses

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Mycotoxins and Food Safety

- Environmental stresses cause commodities to become susceptible to contamination to harmful microbes
- · Some microorganisms produce toxins; certain fungi produce mycotoxins
- · Mycotoxin contamination reduces food quality and impacts food security
- · Some mycotoxins are very toxic, others have no noticeable effects at low levels
- Some recent analytical methods can detect very low toxin levels that are significantly below the advisory and regulated levels

The Dose Makes the Poison



Analyzing Risks of Mycotoxins





https://www.pigprogress.net/specials/whats-the-truth-behind-the-faos-25/

Eskola M, Kos G, Elliott CT, Hajšlová J, Mayar S, Krska R. Worldwide contamination of food-crops with mycotoxins: Validity of the widely cited 'FAO estimate' of 25. Crit Rev Food Sci Nutr. 2020;60(16):2773-2789.

Mycotoxins

- Chemically diverse compounds
 - Hundreds of known mycotoxins
- Mycotoxins are structurally diverse and number over 800+
- Defined by toxic and fungal origin (not structure)
- FGIS Mycotoxin Handbook provides approved examples of testing
- Why are mycotoxins produced?

https://www.ams.usda.gov/publications/content/fgis-pdf-handbooks



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Mycotoxin Exposure



100,000 turkeys died from aflatoxin exposure in 1962

- Due to Aspergillus flavus contaminated peanuts
- Spurred interest in mycotoxin research

155 of 452 elementary school children in U.S. became ill within 15 minutes of eating school lunch in 1997

- 15 other outbreaks in the U.S. from October 1997 to October 1998
- 1700 students affected overall
- 2 million pounds of burritos recalled
- Vomitoxin contamination (deoxynivalenol) at 0.3 ppm

In 2021, over 70 dogs died from exposure to aflatoxins in pet food, resulting in FDA recall.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness of unknown etiology associated with eating burritos. In: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1999, 48(10):210-3.

https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/news/fda-recalls-dog-food-fatal-aflatoxin-levels-70-dogs-die/

Computational Approaches to End Mammal Testing

U.S. EPA to eliminate all mammal testing by 2035

All-Party Parliamentary Group is urging the UK government to bypass animal tests, due to their high failure rate, in place of human-relevant research

European Parliament votes for EU-wide plan to phase out animal testing

https://www.science.org/content/article/us-epa-eliminate-all-mammal-testing-2035





Audience Survey Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON THE INTERACTIVE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT

What fraction of people in the U.S. become sick due to foodborne illness each year?

- 1 out of 2 people
- 1 out of 6 people
- 1 out of 10 people
- 1 out of 20 people
- 1 out of 50 people

 * If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the questions window!

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ACS Webinars

Sustainable Approaches for Food Safety and Security

Computational Chemistry and Toxicology

- Reduces costs and needs for mammal sacrifice
- High-throughput *in silico* screening
- Solves problems that cannot be addressed experimentally
 - Machine Learning/AI models for toxicity and detection
 - Antifungal development

Materials

- Unique properties and large surface areas
- Enable new approaches to address agricultural problems
- Overcome the limitations of existing methods
 - Biochar
 - Nanosponge materials
 - Biomimetic technology

Design, Create, and Applications

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Quantum chemistry and cheminformatics

Quantum Chemical – energetic preferences, toxicological potential, spectroscopic properties



QSAR - predictive models for toxicity, ADMET, detection, and antifungal activity

| Activity | Eq. | Equation | R ² | Q² | R ² adi | sPRESS | n | s | F | р |
|------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| cytotoxicity NIH3T3 | X1 X2 X3 X4 | $\begin{array}{l} p C_{50}=0.6764~(E_{.UMO})+0.2482(logP)+8.1073\\ p C_{50}=0.7792~(\Delta\varepsilon)+0.1640(logP)+2.5737\\ p C_{50}=1.4711(MTOci3)-1.5989(\chi)+0.1886~\chi(logP)+6.9024\\ p C_{50}=1.5080(MTOci3)-1.7740(\chi)+7.3779 \end{array}$ | 0.517 0.540 0.783 0.773 | 0.273 0.304 0.616 0.663 | 0.443 0.470 0.728 0.738 | 0.815 0.979 0.757 0.681 | 16 16 16 16 | 1.001 0.795 0.569 0.559 | 6.95 7.64 14.39 22.12 | 0.0088 0.0064 0.0003 0.0001 |

Antifungals

• Some potent mycotoxins are regulated, and these toxins are generally associated with *Fusarium, Aspergillus,* and *Penicillium* species

• Essential oil components and alkaloids are of interest as antifungal compounds due to their reported antifungal activity and favorable properties (including anti-oxidant)

• **Goal:** Identify GRAS mixtures of safer phenolic compounds that can be used as better antimicrobials.

Approach: Identify the contributions of electronic structures and topological properties of popular phenolic compounds to antifungal activities to aid the development of improved antifungal compounds against mycotoxin producing fungi.





USDA - Paige Pierson, Kervin Evans, Dave Compton, Eric Johnson, Mark Doehring

Bradley University – Wayne Bosma

National Taiwan University – Yufeng Jane Tseng, Yi-Shu Tu

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FoodData Central is an integrated data system that provides expanded nutrient profile data and FoodData Central takes the analysis, compilation, and presentation of nutrient and food component data to a new level. FoodData Central:

Phenolic compounds as antifungals

MIC₅₀ of six fungi

- Fusarium verticillioides fumonisin, deoxynivalenol
- Fusarium oxysporum, fruit rot
- Aspergillus flavus aflatoxins
- Aspergillus fumigatus gliotoxin
- Penicillium expansum patulin
- Penicillium brevicompactum mycophenolic acid

Principal Component Analysis: • 1st component explained 93.5% of the variance

• 2nd component explained 2.95%

 Phenolic compounds exhibit similar antifungal activities across species; however, the compounds exhibit some species-specific antifungal profiles



| HO = OH | H ₉ C H ₀ C H ₀ C H ₀ C H ₃ C H ₃ C H ₃ C H ₃ C H ₃ C | $ \begin{array}{cccc} & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & $ |
|---|--|---|
| H ₀ C ^N _{HO} O | OH OH O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O | O OH CH ₃ O OH CH ₃ O OH OH OCH ₃ OH |
| Gliotoxin | Patulin | Mycophenolic acid |
| | | |

 Predictive mathematical models are developed on the assumption that molecules with similar structures have similar properties

 Properties of molecules are related to their electronic structure

- Popular descriptors
- Quantum chemical
- Electrostatic
- Electronic
- Lipophilic
- Topological
- Constitutional
- Geometric
- Steric

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The biological activity data used in the structure activity studies were obtained from previously published reports. Structures were built using Spartan'16 and the B3LYP density functional and 6-311+G** basis set. QSAR models were built using BuildQSAR and QSARINS v2.2.4 software

785 Descriptors were considered, including 18 quantum-based descriptors and 777 descriptors using Mold2 bioinformatics programs developed by the FDA for toxicity prediction

Descriptor selection was based on systematic search and multiple genetic algorithm experiments with 1-2 descriptor models, 10000 generations, and 10 models per generation on mean centered and scaled descriptor values



Quantum Chemistry: Electrophilicity Index

- Theorem of Koopman
- Electrophilicity index, ω , is an indicator of the reactivity and stability
- Compounds with a conjugated double bond have higher electrophilicity index values
- Phenolic compounds with greater antifungal activity possessed a lower electrophilicity index values



Plots of predicted vs observed antifungal activities of phenolic compounds



- Thymol, 1, and carvacrol, 2, are antioxidant components of essential oils from several popular plants, including the widely used herb thyme.
- Thymol and carvacrol have historically been used as food preservatives against spoilage and as insecticides.
- It has been proposed that the antifungal properties of thymol are associated with inhibitory effects on hyphae formation of fungi, and the lack of viability of the resulting fungal aggregates.



Biological Methods

 Biotransformations
 micro-organisms – enzymes
 Probiotics
 Non-mycotoxin producing fungi



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- Chemical/Physical processing
 Food/product processing
- Sorbents binders
 Agro-based biomaterials
- New uses of materials
 Feed to organisms not affected by the toxins
 Fertilizers
 Value-added biobased materials

Value proposition?

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Zearalenone and Biochar

- Burning or decomposing biomass releases 99% of the carbon as CO₂
- Biochar is a charcoal made from biomass through pyrolysis that captures 50% of the carbon
- The feedstock influences the properties
- Functionalization is possible
- Switchgrass vs. corn stover for binding estrogenic compounds in water



| Biochar | C(0/) | TT (0() | NT (0/) | O(0/) | A = h (0/) | Total surface | Micropore surface area |
|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|------------|---------------|------------------------|
| sample | C (%) | H (%) | IN (%) | 0 (%) | Asii (%) | area (m²/g) | (m^2/g) |
| CSB | 45.14 | 1.86 | 0.44 | 12.96 | 39.60 | 74 | 14 |
| SB | 43.65 | 3.71 | 0.78 | 24.99 | 26.87 | 46 | 23 |

USDA-ARS: Mike Jackson, Steve Peterson, Steve Vaughn



SEM Switchgrass vs. Corn Stover

FTIR Switchgrass vs. Corn Stover



Biochar Summary



- Corn stover and switchgrass are two very affordable, renewable feedstocks from which to make biochar
- These results suggest that micropore surface area is a key factor in predicting sorptive quality of a given biochar
- The surface area of corn stover biochar was greater than switchgrass biochar; however, switchgrass biochar had greater micropore surface area
- · Switchgrass biochar could bind more estrogenic compounds

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Nanosponge Materials for Patulin & Ochratoxin A



- Cyclodextrin polyurethane polymers have been developed to detect patulin in apple juice and shown suitable to remove ochratoxin A from wine
- Three dimensional scaffolds synthesized around the cyclic cyclodextrin carbohydrate
- Previous applications include toxin sorbents from water, controlled release materials for pharmaceutical/bioactive delivery
- Transition from using TDI to MDI for safer polyurethanes
- · Polymers were designed, synthesized, characterized, and applied to detect mycotoxins
- Researchers at Shinshu University in Japan used these materials to develop a rapid and very sensitive method to detect the mycotoxin patulin in apple juice

USDA-ARS: Mike Jackson, Atanu Biswas, H.N. Cheng, Julie Wang, Dave Compton, Kervin Evans





Patulin

Associated with apple juice and apple rot

• Children are especially susceptible to this toxin – apple juice is used in beverages targeted toward children

- Exposure to the toxin is associated with
 - gastrointestinal diseases
 - potential for carcinogenicity
 - genotoxicity
 - immunotoxicity
 - Neurotoxicity

- Regulated in the US and other countries at 50 $\mu g/L$ for certain apple-based products

• A validated 10 μ g/L method exists that is very labor intensive

Health Benefits of Apples

- Apple juice has health-promoting properties apart from the basic nutritional characteristics and is considered a functional food
- Apples are packed with vitamins, calcium, potassium and magnesium
- · The pectin and fiber of apple juice helps boost energy
- Apple is a rich source of phenolic compounds, that can aid in the fight against fight against common infections
- Benefits include: enhances skin, weight control, heart health, liver health, cures constipation, diabetes, hydrates the body, prevents anemia, vision



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Researchers at Shinshu University in Japan used these materials to develop a rapid and very sensitive method to detect the mycotoxin patulin in apple juice



| Patulin concentration (ng mL-1) | Patulin recovery (%) | RSD (%) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 5 | Cannot be calculated (Tr., Tr., 170) | 69* |
| 10 | 78 | 16 |
| 20 | 71 | 9.4 |
| 50 | 78 | 14 |
| 80 | 71 | 5.0 |
| 100 | 67 | 2.0 |



Method developed using polyurethane nanosponge materials prepared by MDI to detect patulin at 10-100 μ g/kg in apple juice

The nanospongebased method has quantitative range that covers the 50 μ g/kg patulin regulated limits

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Ochratoxin A in Wine and Grape Juice

- The recoveries were between 77.0-89.4% for wine and 69.1-86.5% for grape juice
- The method reported is suitable to detect ochratoxin A in wine and grape juice at levels between 20 ng mL⁻¹ to 0.5 ng mL⁻¹
- The limit of detection (LOD) was 0.2 ng mL⁻¹



- One of the most common mycotoxins
- Occurs in grains, meats, fruits, including grapes and wines
- · Associated with carcinogenicity and neurotoxicity

Health benefits of grapes and wines

Packed full of vitamin C and polyphenols, grape products reduce inflammation, supports heart health, immune function, and digestion



Key Points

• Chemists can address important problems to ensure safe and nutritious food supplies and support the goals of Zero Hunger

• Computational models can reduce costs, the need for animal sacrifice, and can solve problems that cannot be addressed experimentally

• Materials science and nanotechnology offer a means to produce economical biomaterials to address food safety problems

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• Vision: Enhance quality of life by advocating safe, nutritious and sustainable food and agricultural supplies that meet global challenges.

• Join -> agfoodchem.org





Chemistry Tools to Help Achieve Zero World Hunger

Omowunmi "Wunmi" Sadik

Distinguished Professor and Chair Department of Chemistry and Environmental Science





Sustainable Agriculture

 Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

ΝΙΙΤ

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 By 2030, the goal is to end hunger and ensure that everyone (particularly those most vulnerable) has access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food year-round







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Audience Survey Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON THE INTERACTIVE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT

What do we mean by zero hunger and undernutrition? (Select all that apply)

- Access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food
- Access to physical and economic food resources that meets dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life
- Access to an adequate amount of food at all times
- Ending malnutrition of all forms

* If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the questions window!

Pillars of Sustainability



Roland M. Miller, Francis J. Osonga, & Omowunmi A. Sadik, Synthesis and Biological Applications of Greener Nanoparticles, In CRC on "Interfaces between microbes and nanomaterials, Gupta Editor, April 2021, 10.1201/9780429321269-11

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| | |

Sustainable Nanotechnology



Sadik, Demokritou, Karn, Nature Nano



Research | Education | Responsibility

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The BioSMART Center at NJIT



Biosensor Materials for Advanced Research & Technology

To develop low-cost, low power sensing technologies using sustainable and biodegradable materials and processes that leave no environmental footprints



ΝΙΙΤ



Sustainable Nanosynthesis



Francis J. Osonga, *Sanjay Kalra, Roland M. Miller, Daniel Isika and Omowunmi A. Sadik, Synthesis, characterization and antifungal activities of eco-friendly palladium nanoparticles, RSCAdv., 2020,10, 5894-5904.

Sadik et. al., Tetrahedron Letters 58 (2017) 1474-1479).



Greener One-Pot Nanosynthesis using Glycoconjugates



L5AS-S

L5AS-Au

L-3AP-S

700

650

Figure 2. Upptal mages of some of the synthesized June-Loca Using anteent sugar Igano concentrations. From lett (init: (1).13.49; (2).6349 CBin gmin.), (2).1548/MSAS mixture. (3).6349 (6 min.), (5).15.45 (1 min.), (5).15.45 (min.), (7).154, (3 min.), (8).UPSA/MSAS mixture. (3) 3 min.), (3).MSAS (1 min.), (10).MSAS (2 min.), (11). UPDA, (12).LpAB (3).3 min.), (3).MSAS (0.5 min.), (14).154.55 (1 min.), (15).64.64, (0.1 min.), (16).634P (3 min.), and (17).LAFJ. If not specified otherwise, the Au² concentration was 10.1 min.), (14). If 634P (3 min.), and (17).LAFJ. If not specified otherwise, the Au² concentration was 10.1 min.), (14). ACS Agric. Sci. Technol. 2021, 1, 4, 379–389, Publication Date: July 20, 2021 https://doi.org/10.1021/acsagscitech.1c00093





(N,N'-dilactosyl)-4-aminophenyl sulfone



4-(N-lactosyl)-benzoic acid





(N,N'-dilactosyl)-oxydianiline



4-(N-mannosyl)-5-hydroxy benzoic acid Figure 6. Sugar ligands that resulted in the formation of stable AuNP-GCs.

Figure 10. Synchronous fluorescence of selected sugar ligands and corresponding AuNP-GCs. S refers to sugar ligands alone, while Au refers to the gold nanoparticle. $\Delta A_{\rm DFEM}$ was 10 nm.

550

Wavelength, nm

NULT New Jersey Institute of Technology

450

ire 2. Dinital images of some of the synthesized & NP-GCs using diffe

centratio

Fluorescence intensity, au

200

150

100

5

ere 10 mg/mL



NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Flavonoids Acetamides



TEM and XRD Characterization



Figure 5. Formation of L5AS-AuNPs (~20 nm), G5AS-AuNPs (~5 nm), and LAEA-AuNPs (~50 nm) confirmed by XRD.





NJIT

Fusarium

The genus of **Fusarium** is a wide group of fungi that have a broad impact on the food and drug industry, medicine, and agriculture. This disease is lethal to a variety of plants.





iStock/vidka: Brown rot damages the tomato plants and makes the fruit inedible.

https://eyewiki.aao.org/Fungal_Keratitis

- F. oxysporum is also pathogenic to humans and animals causing fungal keratitis, onychomycosis, and hyalohyphomycosis.
- *F. solani* can cause Fusarium crown, foot rot, and dry rot in squash, pumpkin, bananas, and also other plants. Both of these fungi can survive in the soil for long periods of time which negates the effect of crop rotation.



Penicillium italicum Infection



Citrus infection

NJLT

- *P.italicum* is a plant pathogen commonly found in citrus fruits.
- Early symptoms include a soft water-soaked area on the peel, followed by development of a circular colony of white mold.



Brown and Eckert (1988). Brown (1994).

Antifungal Activities of Greener Nanostructured Copper against Penicillium italicum











New Jersey Institute of Technoi

Audience Survey Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON THE INTERACTIVE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT

How can chemical science help to achieve zero hunger? (Select all that apply)

- Extend the shelf life of food through advances in packaging and maintain food quality • and safety
- Develop new products to protect crops from pests and diseases .
- Develop food additives to prolong the shelf life of foods •
- Develop sustainable insecticides and pesticides, plant growth regulators, fertilizers and animal growth supplements

* If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the questions window!

The Role of Chemistry and Healthy Foods



Chemistry plays a role in improving the access to healthy foods through improved post - harvest storage loss. Chemistry is core to food utilization and combinations – by improved biofortification, food processing and essential medicines. Chemistry has contributed much to the food security agenda.



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The Food and Agriculture Organization urges countries to...



- Meet the immediate food needs of their vulnerable populations
- Boost social protection programs
- · Keep global food trade going
- · Keep the domestic supply chain gears moving, and
- · Support smallholder farmers' ability to increase food production

The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that we entered 2022 with 828 million hungry people.



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A paper-based diagnostic tool for smallholder farmers



A smart phone based biosensor / nanoremediation system that helps smallholder farmers address the devastating effects on the production of vegetative crops (sweet yams, oranges, bananas) due to the epidemics of *Colletotrichum gloesporioides*. BILL& MELINDA GATES foundation

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BREAD: Basic Research to Enhance Agricultural Development



The goal of BREAD is to support innovative, basic scientific research designed to address key constraints to

smallholder agriculture in the developing world.

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Paper-based Biosensor Concept





Smart Biosensors





With Professor S. Choi, Binghamton University

Smartphone-based biosensors to detect anthracnose disease caused by fungus, Collectotrichum gloeosporioides





Biobattery Testing

Mohammadifar, K. Zhang, and S. Choi (2017). A saliva-powered paper biobattery for disposable biodevices. IEEE MEMS 2017 Proceedings. pp.121-124.M. Mohammadifar, J. Zhang, I. Yazgan, V. Kariuki, Omowunmi Sadik, and S. Choi (2016). High performance paper-based microbial fuel cells using nanostructured polymers. IEEE Sensors 2016 Proceedings. pp.1727-1729

The electric bacteria were revolutionarily freeze-dried for long-term storage and were readily rehydrated for power generation by using a finger-activated, self-contained media pouch.

This work ensured for the first time the practical efficacy of the explored paper-based battery pack, generating on-demand energy even in resource-limited environments to power a light-emitting diode and an electric calculator.

With Professor S. Choi, Binghamton University



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Problem with Anthracnose

- Sweet Yams are plagued with anthracnose
- Small-holder farms typically grow this yam species
 - Need for cheap, rapid, and reliable sensor and greener fertilizers

• Farmers currently use a fungicide called Topsin and Glider

Methyl thiophanate (active ingredient)

C₁₂H₁₄N₄O₄S

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• Also, use various fertilizers (Miracle Grow) and some herbicides.







Sweet Yams (Dioscorea species)



- Sweet Yams (Dioscorea species) are among the primary agricultural commodities and major staple crop
 - Africa, India, Southeast Asia, South America, and the Caribbean
- Production problems due to anthracnose disease
 - Collectotrichum gloeosporioides



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Impact of Yam Anthracnose in Jamaica

Production estimates for Sweet Yam in Jamaica (MICAF) from 2005 to 2014

| YEAR | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| PRODUCTION (TONNES) | 6313 | 6275 | 5185 | 3765 | 4411 | 3907 | 3291 | 2609 | 1805 | 1768 |

The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) recommends the use of **Topsin** as treatment to counteract the effect of this disease (JIS, 2004).



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Sadik, O., Asemota H. Grant T., Miller R., Osonga F., Eshun G., unpublished results



Field Testing and Biometrics

Sampling Location: Mr. Young Farm, Bilby

| | Sample 1 | Sample 2 | Average |
|------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Weight of tubers | 13.0g | 33.0g | 23.0g |

Sampling Location: Mr. Kirkland Farm, Grove place

| | Sample 1 | Sample 2 | Average |
|------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Weight of tubers | 322.0g | 192.6 | 257.3g |

Sadik, O., Asemota H. Grant T., Miller R., Osonga F., Eshun G., unpublished results



Yam plants post Nanoparticle Treatment



Sadik, O., Asemota H. Grant T., Miller R., Osonga F., Eshun G., unpublished results



Collaboration

- National Science Foundation Project and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- International collaboration SUNY-Binghamton, University of the West Indies Mona Campus (UWI), and the Northern Caribbean University (NCU)
- Southern Trelawny Environmental Agency (STEA)
- Efforts to help sweet yam small holder farmers in Manchester and Trelawny areas of Jamaica

Nano US-Africa Supplement (CBET)

* CREATES is an African Center of Excellence (ACE), which was established at the NM-AIST through the World Bank's African Centers of Excellence (ACE II) initiative.

The NM-AIST is part of a network of African Institutions of Science and Technology (AISTs), established as a brainchild of the late Nelson Mandela and the World Bank.

TROPICAL PESTICIDES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (TPRI)



Central Goal

To isolate the causative agent of the disease plaguing Sweet yam in Jamaica and conduct field trials for fungal disease suppression and crop yield augmentation using nanotechnology.

- 1. Determine if a mode of application of selected nanoparticles has the potential to control the yam anthracnose causing organism
- Determine if a mode of application of selected nanoparticles when mixed with Topsin has greater effectiveness in controlling the yam anthracnose pathogen over an 'unmixed' Topsin treatment
- 3. Examine the response of tissue culture Sweet yam foliage to inactive fungal inoculum in vitro

Sadik, O., Asemota H. Grant T., Miller R., Osonga F., Eshun G., unpublished results



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Isolation of fungi from yam samples showing symptoms of infection

Biotechnology Centre, UWI

- Cut bits of leaf and tuber adjacent to diseased regions
- Surface sterilized the bits with 0.5% sodium hypochlorite solution and 70% ethanol then rinse with sterile distilled water
- · Sub-cultured in an attempt to produce pure cultures

Plant Pathology Laboratory in the Research and Development Division of MICAF Procedure similar to that above

Identification of Isolates: Genetic and Morphological Identifications (MICAF)

Sadik, O., Asemota H. Grant T., Miller R., Osonga F., Eshun G., unpublished results



Study Overview

- · Synthesis of three different nanoparticles:
 - L nano (Lactose PDA nanoparticles)
 - G nano (Galactose PDA nanoparticles)
 - LQ nano (Lactose PDA Quercetin Diphosphate nanoparticles)
- Conduct trial of various nanoparticle treatments along with negative and positive controls
- · Collect and analyze field data and biometrics

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Pathogen Identification

The following fungi were identified genetically:

- -Fusarium oxysporum
- -Fusarium solani
- -Fusarium verticillioides
- -Fusarium spp.
- -Colletotrichum alatae
- -Xenoacremoium falcatus
- -Aspergillus flavus

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-Colletotrichum gloeosporioides



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Morphological Identification

The following isolates were identified morphologically:

- -Curvularia sp.
- -Aspergillus sp.
- -Cephalosporium sp.
- -Penicillium sp.
- -Verticillium sp.
- -Colletotrichum sp.
- -Cladosporium sp.
- -Colletotrichum gloeosporioides



Sadik, O., Asemota H. Grant T., Miller R., Osonga F., Eshun G., unpublished results

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Yield as a Measure of Disease Severity

- At harvest, all the Sweet Yam plants had symptoms of the yam anthracnose disease
- Yield used as a measure of the disease severity since weight of tubers is expected to be inversely proportionate to the level of infection.



Sadik, O., Asemota H. Grant T., Miller R., Osonga F., Eshun G., unpublished results





Mean Tuber Weights for Controls and Batches of Plants Treated with Unmixed Nanoparticles

Sadik, O., Asemota H. Grant T., Miller R., Osonga F., Eshun G., unpublished results

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Mean Tuber Weights for Controls and Batches of Plants Treated with Topsin mixed with Nanoparticles

The Fertilizer Effect of Nanoparticles

Nanoparticles without compound Q: Plant growth is inversely proportional to concentration. Possibly the nanoparticles caused growth to be concentrated in tubers since yield was directly proportionately-attributed to a fertilizer effect.

L-nano Topsin with compound Q: caused great foliage growth but relatively low storage of tubers possibly because the nanoparticles where nullified and did not have a fertilizer effect.

Control: Plants are considerably long, possibly due to hypersensitivity response.

Sadik, O., Asemota H. Grant T., Miller R., Osonga F., Eshun G., unpublished results

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Nanotechnology vs. Topsin Fungicides

• Since all the plants had a significant amount of necrosis at harvest it is presumed that the Sweet yam plants have a mutualistic relationship with *Colletotrichum gloeosporiodes* and the fungus is widespread.



Topsin only treated plants produced a relatively good yield because Topsin kills viruses affecting the plants and when this happens the plants are able to flourish because the viruses are the main hindrance to the plant's development.

Sadik, O., Asemota H. Grant T., Miller R., Osonga F., Eshun G., unpublished results



Nanotechnology - A Fertilizer Effect

 The nanoparticles only treated plants may have grown prolifically because the nanoparticles have a fertilizer effect. When the plants are well nourished they are possibly able to suppress the effect of the virus.

For the plants treated with nanoparticles and Topsin the nanoparticles, the effect of both substances are nullified so the plant suffers from the full impact of the virus. Therefore, the nanoparticles used may be having **a primary fertilizer effect** based on this field analysis.

Sadik, O., Asemota H. Grant T., Miller R., Osonga F., Eshun G., unpublished results

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Overall Finding



 Field studies demonstrate the prospects of sustainable nanotechnology as a tool to address the devastating effect of the Yam Anthracnose Disease on the Sweet Yam crop.

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Summary and Conclusions

- Chemistry is helping to achieve zero hunger through sustainable precision nanosensors and nanofertilizers
- Chemistry tools are helping to achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- Greener nanosynthesis is enabling the development of sustainable insecticides and pesticides, plant growth regulators, fertilizers and animal growth supplements



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- Dr. Manavi Yadav
- Dr. Farah Rezae
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- Biotech C
 RADA

 - Tamara Grant (UWI)



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