

Outreach activities of the American and German Society of Mass Spectrometry (ASMS & DGMS)

Hendrik Kersten^{1,2}, Sanna Benter^{1,2}, Michael O. Glocker^{1,2}, Mathias Schäfer^{1,2}, Giles Edwards²



Special Interest Groups
MS-Outreach



"Africa can and should be a continent of opportunity for us."
Wadepful, German Foreign Minister, July 2026

Poster # POB_1118

Introduction

When defined in terms of the Human Development Index, the term Developing World refers to a composite of life expectancy, education, and per capita income. It is reasonably questionable if coining ourselves as developed is not by far overbearing. Irrespective of the terming, in the history of humankind this world has seen many different socioeconomic developments and groups of human beings, being more or less privileged. At present, we from the Western World happen to be part of a small, more privileged group in a rather rigid, global socioeconomic structure, which is mainly ruled by laws of the market, science, know-how and technology.

Along with the growing conviction that any upcoming problem can be solved scientifically, these structuring elements have been boosting each other in a self-catalytic manner for around 300 years - a rather short period compared with the roughly 70 000 years since homo sapiens expanded out of Africa - and have tremendously shaped the world to today's accomplishments.

For sure, there is no clear answer to the whether this development should be considered positive or negative, nor is it possible to reliably predict how it will evolve. From our current point of view, we can simply state the facts that **(1)** for a society to survive globally in the 21st century, **science**, **knowledge** and **technology** are key factors and that **(2)** these **key factors** are in **disequilibrium** between the currently developed and developing world. **Humanity**, however, is the **fourth and most important key factor** for all of us to survive globally.

ASMS and DGMS - special interest groups

Special Interest Groups „**MS Outreach**“ founded in 2020 and 2025.

Outreach activities create opportunities to establish long-term international collaborations and develop new research directions across ecological, economic, and sociological contexts. Their central goal is to generate scientific value for all partners through **collaboration** on **equal footing**.

The ASMS and DGMS SIG Outreach support these efforts through **networking**, **coordination**, and **information sharing**.

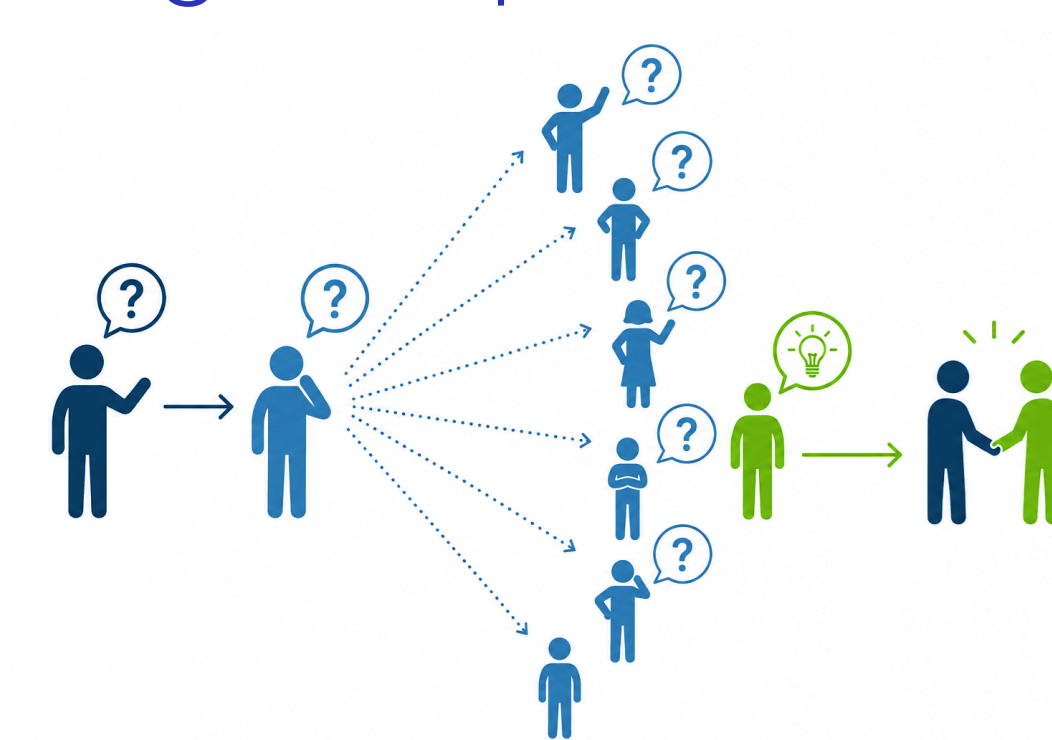
DGMS offers **travel grants** to membered PhD students to attend outreach-related mass spectrometry conferences.

We encourage other national mass spectrometry societies to also found outreach interest groups to build a broad network.

How to contribute

Be part of the network! Subscribe to mailing list! Connect researchers needing support with those willing to help.

- interpreting data
- troubleshooting lab equipment
- finding researchers with specific expertise
- talk about your work or give lectures in our MS-Online Seminars
- ...

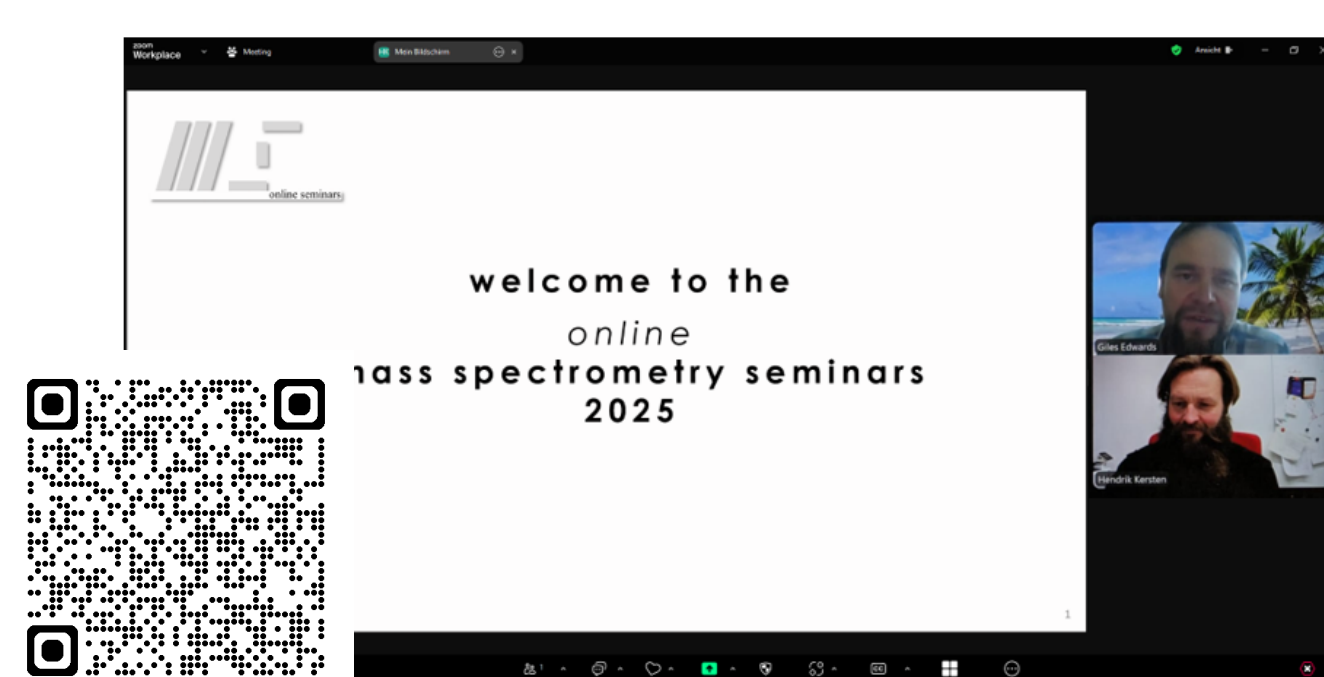


Easy & without commitment. Simply receive requests and respond whenever you have something to contribute - or contact the coordinators if you are looking for advice yourself.



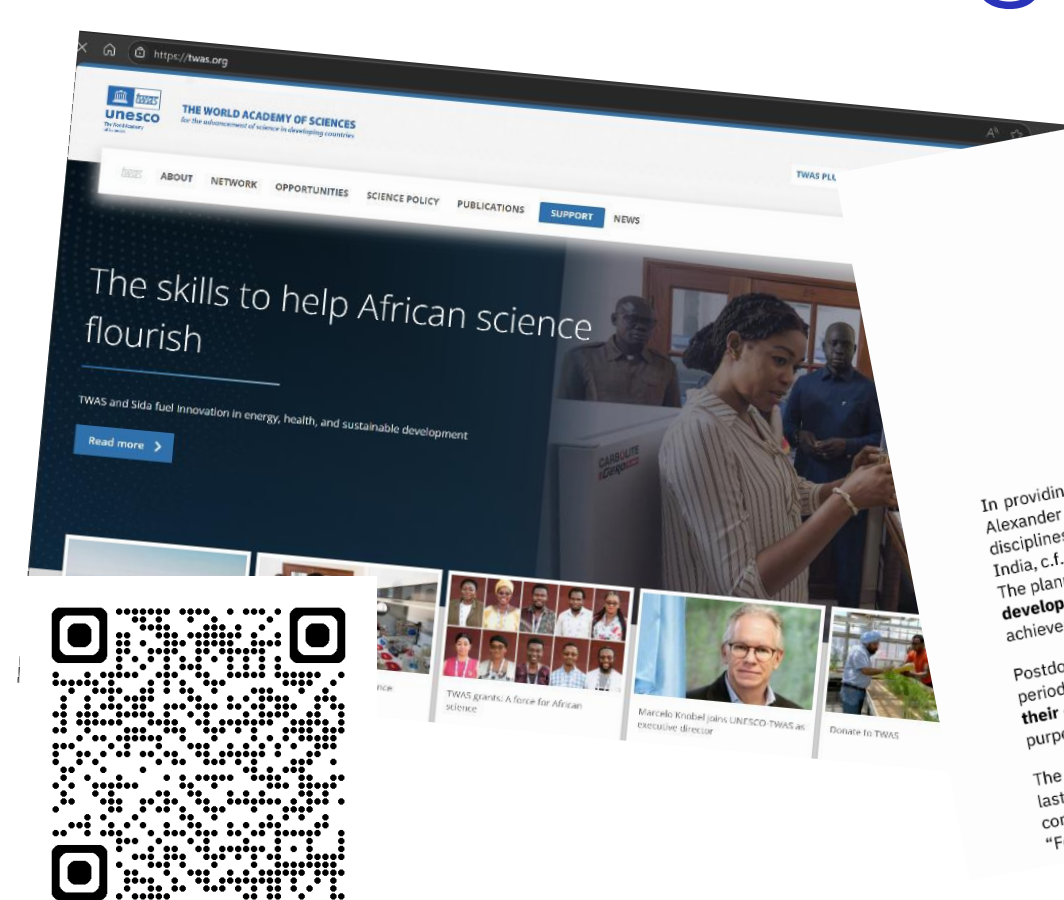
Current and Future Activities – Some Examples

MS-Online Seminars



Frequent online seminars with currently 160 subscribed attendees from all over the world. A broad spectrum of MS related topics and we are looking for you as a presenter ☺.

Become Hosting Institution for Research Programs



Visiting Countries & Get in Touch with Institutions, Researchers, Students ...

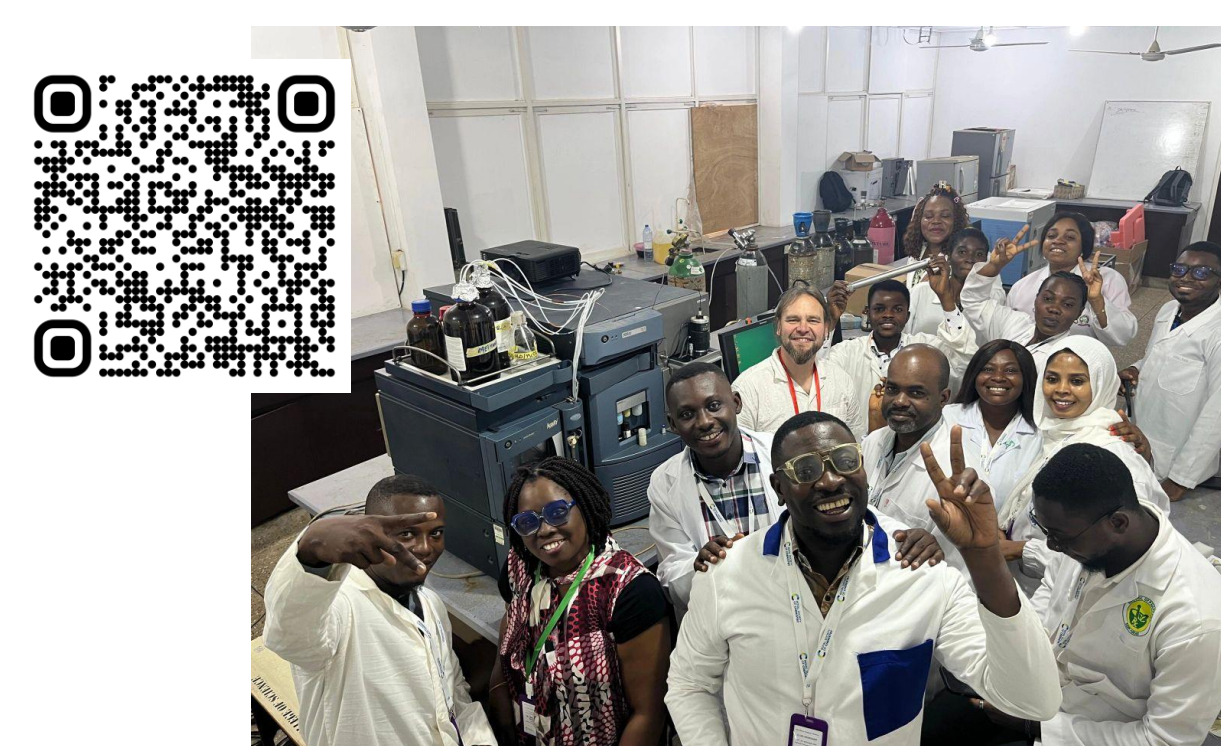


Newly installed computer lab at Polytechnic University of San-Pédro, Côte d'Ivoire.



Hendrik Kersten visiting a research underground biogas plant at INPHB, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire.

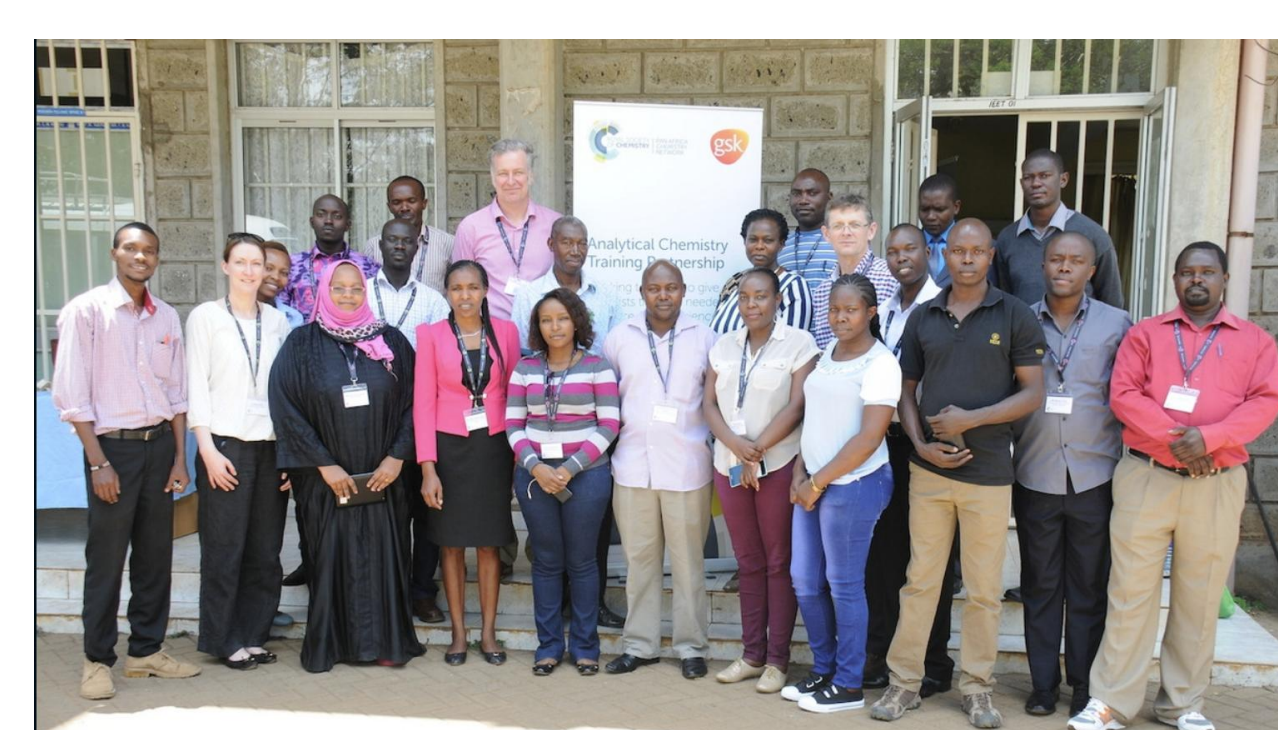
Instrument Donation & Training



Giles Edwards installing refurbished, donated instruments and giving LC-MS/MS trainings. Pictured here at a hands on training session in Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana.



In-person lectures & Workshops

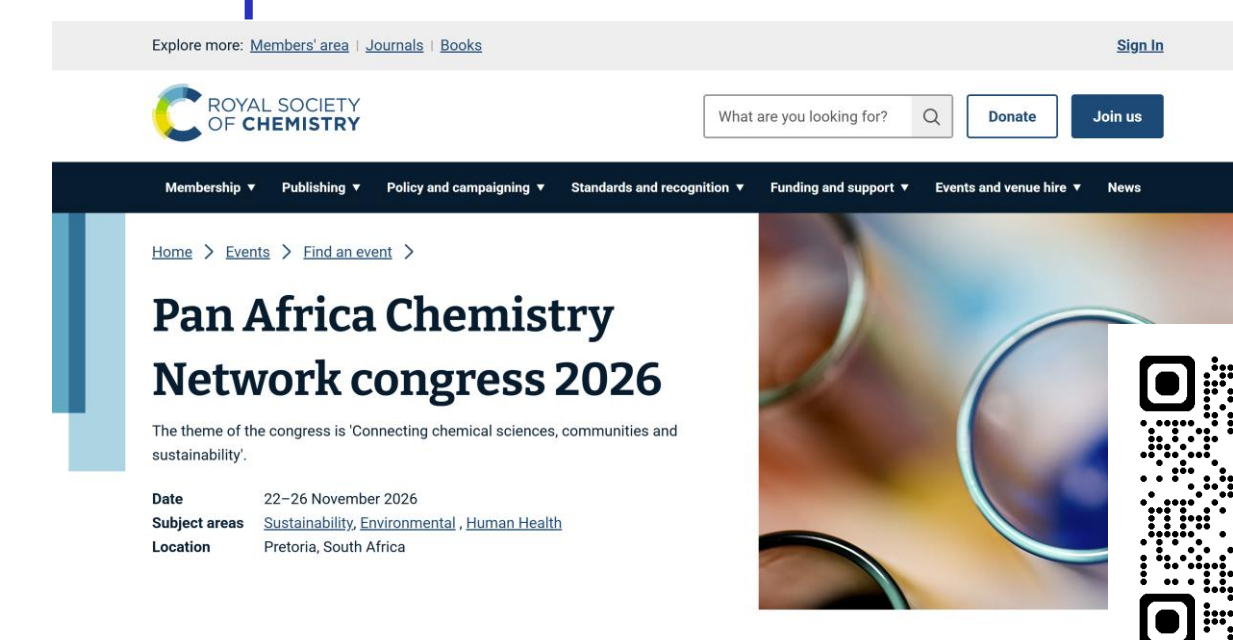


Top: Mathias Schäfer giving a GC-MS workshop at the JKUAT in Nairobi, Kenya, organized by the Pan Africa Chemistry Network (PACN).

Right: Michael Glocker giving a MS Proteomics Workshop in Rosario, Argentina, organized by the United Nations University Biotechnology Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNU-Biolac).



Visit Conferences in Respective Countries

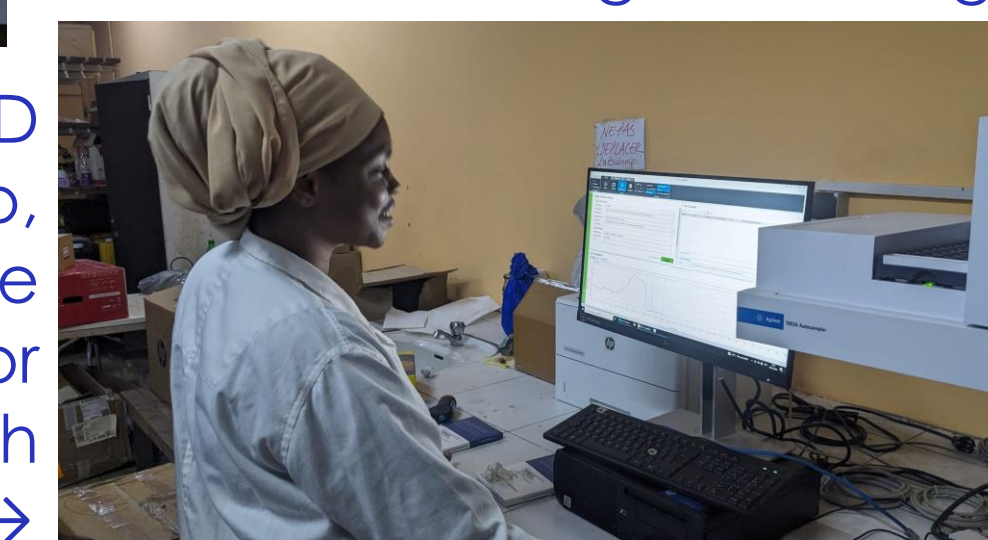


Help Keeping Instruments Running



Asma Abderrahmane Ba, PhD student at INPHB, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, happy to be able to finish her work on bacteria for anaerobic gas production with the running GC-MS.

New GC-MS- Headspace system was turned off for two years, immediately after installation. Problem: Dirty FID, poorly trained staff, strict hierarchy, afraid of breaking something



Help Analysing Samples



TiO_x composites for water treatment. Work from Franck Muofo, PhD Student at INPHB, Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire. XRD analysis at the University of Wuppertal, further collaboration ongoing.