

2nd Commonwealth Chemistry Congress

Partnerships for the Goals



Commonwealth
Chemistry
Congress

St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
23 – 25 May 2023



The Second Commonwealth Chemistry Congress (CCC) will bring chemists from academia, industry, and government from across the Commonwealth to Trinidad and Tobago in 2023. The Congress will be followed by the 3rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Commonwealth Chemistry on Thursday 25 May.

The first physical meeting of [Commonwealth Chemistry](#), the Federation of Commonwealth Chemical Societies, the Congress will create partnerships for the goals, strengthen scientific capacity, inspire and elevate the role of the chemical sciences, and celebrate achievements in our discipline.

This document provides information about the Congress programme and outlines the selection criteria for delegates. The event website will be updated regularly with additional details as they become available: commonwealthchemistry.org/event/2-ccc.

1. What is the Commonwealth Chemistry Congress?

A key aspect that differentiates the Commonwealth Chemistry Congress from other scientific meetings is the underlying principle of **equal representation for all Commonwealth countries** and a unique focus on creating an **enabling environment for Early Career Chemists**.

To ensure equal representation, inclusivity, and participation among all Commonwealth nations, we are asking each country (either through a Society Member or national representative of Commonwealth Chemistry) to nominate Early Career Chemists and AGM representatives to attend.

The Congress will have a strong focus on Early Career Chemists across the Commonwealth, with the aim of furthering their career development, enabling joint research and education activities, and providing networking opportunities to share research outputs. This will include a bespoke development session for Early Career Chemists tackling issues identified in our [Sustainable Chemistry Workforce report](#).

2. Why Partnerships for the Goals?

While the economic, social, and environmental challenges we face vary between Commonwealth countries, they affect us all. The [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) represent global challenges that unite us – the Commonwealth Chemistry community – to find solutions. As such the scientific programme will feature eminent researchers in the following themes:

- **Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3)**
Topics include biodiversity, natural products, food chemistry and security, agriculture, medicinal chemistry, drug discovery, and good health and well-being
- **Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12)**
Topics include sustainable energy solutions, new materials, biofuels, green chemistry, and catalysis
- **Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), Climate Action (SDG 13)**
Topics include water treatment and supply, tackling pollution and contamination, and environmental chemistry

The programme will also bring together high-profile researchers, policymakers, and industrialists who can demonstrate the value and role of Commonwealth chemists in three discussion sessions:

- Chemistry, The Commonwealth, and the SDGs
- Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10)
- Quality and Effective Education (SDG 4)



3. Who can attend the Commonwealth Chemistry Congress?

To ensure equal representation, each Commonwealth country will be represented by a **maximum of six delegates**.

These would include **up to four** delegates partially or fully funded by Commonwealth Chemistry:

- **Up to three Early Career Chemists** who will each present a poster and might also be invited to give a flash presentation on their research, related to one of the three scientific themes.
- **One delegate to attend the Congress and participate in the Commonwealth Chemistry AGM** on 25 May 2023. This can be the President or another office holder of a Commonwealth Chemical Society or, where a Chemical Society does not exist, a senior representative from a designated university or organisation.

As it is anticipated that 40 Commonwealth nations will join this distinctive event, we ask that, wherever possible, the travel and accommodation for the three Early Career Chemists and AGM delegate will be funded by their Society or university/organisation. Where it is not possible to secure some or all of the funding to cover these costs, Commonwealth Chemistry will provide funding to ensure their participation.

For wider participation, an **additional two delegates per country** may attend; however, these will not be funded by Commonwealth Chemistry. These additional delegates can be either Early Career Chemists or AGM delegates. Additional Early Career Chemists will be full participants of the Congress and invited to present a poster.

4. Selection Criteria

An Early Career Chemist should be:

- a chemical scientist in the early stages of their career (i.e., up to 10 years after completion of PhD, or equivalent experience, excluding any career breaks)
- a member of their national Chemical Society, where one exists
- working in academia, industry, or a science institution
- living and working or studying in a Commonwealth country

In selecting the successful candidates, the panel must consider diversity and inclusion – in particular the target for the Congress of 40% female participants – and ensure that at least one of their delegates is a woman. We also ask that you consider diversity across the scientific themes to ensure a balanced programme.

5. Application Procedure

Each Commonwealth country is responsible for managing the application and evaluation process leading to the selection of their Early Career Chemist delegates, either through a Chemical Society or designated university/organisation where a Chemical Society does not exist.

We recommend that each Chemical Society or university/organisation assemble a diverse panel of reviewers to assess the applications, with consideration for the benefits to the candidate's individual career development and the impact of their research and its relevance to the respective scientific theme.

Once the Early Career Chemists have been chosen, each Chemical Society or university/organisation should submit the following documentation to the Secretariat on behalf of each Early Career Chemist delegate to support the Scientific Organising Committee in choosing which Early Career Chemists will present flash presentations during the Congress:

- A short CV



- An abstract (<500 words) outlining the research that will form the basis for the poster presentation and relevant theme in the programme
- A one-minute video in English (can be taken on a mobile phone or other device) where you describe the work you will present during the Congress

We have drafted a [template application form](#) that you might wish to use to evaluate your Early Career Chemists. Within this form we have suggested each applicant provide a letter supporting their attendance and the information and documents needed by the Scientific Organising Committee.

The names and supporting documentation of all delegates must be shared with the Commonwealth Chemistry Secretariat at secretariat@commonwealthchemistry.org by **Tuesday 1 November 2022**.

