

# Diversity in Science Grant winners announced

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Now in its second year, the Society's Diversity in Science grants scheme continues to grow in popularity. Reflecting the high quality of proposals this year, we increased the number of grants awarded from three to eight. For the first time, we will be funding a project raising awareness of the issues LGBT scientists face, as well as a research project into the diversity within forestry science.

With the grants scheme expanding, we also added two new external reviewers to our panel; Dr Andrea Banham from the Royal Society of Chemistry and Dr Alison Woollard from Oxford University.' Dr Andrea Banham from the Royal Society of Chemistry and Dr Alison Woollard from Oxford University. Continuing reviewers for the scheme were Policy Committee members Professor Graeme Reid from the University of Edinburgh and Dr Sandra Kirk from Nottingham Trent University, who both kindly volunteered their time and expertise to review the applications.

Commenting on the scheme, Professor Reid said “It was great to see the excellent ideas for work

with different groups who have so much to offer in science. A lot of projects focused on gender issues which continue to be relevant throughout careers in science but it was particularly good to see proposals tackling other groups who are under-represented in the lab,” said Professor Reid.

Dr Kirk added: "Reading the range of exciting applications reminded me what fascinates me about science in general and biochemistry in particular, and about the range of individuals involved and influenced by our disciplines. The ability to support dissemination of information and inclusion across gender and socioeconomic lines, and to foster creation of supportive communities, has been a pleasure, and I look forward to reading the blogs produced as a result of the awards we have been able to make this year."

You can find out more about Diversity in Science Grants on our website: [www.biochemistry.org/Grants/DiversityinScienceGrants](http://www.biochemistry.org/Grants/DiversityinScienceGrants)

If you have any questions regarding the grants, please email [gabriele.butkute@biochemistry.org](mailto:gabriele.butkute@biochemistry.org) ■



## 2015 Diversity in Science Grants winners:

## Project

Lorna Dougan, University of Leeds.

Protein Weaving.

The workshop will introduce the general public to the structure of proteins through the medium of weaving. The activity will use arts to make science more approachable and will focus on encouraging girls to consider science as a potential career path.

Samantha Fox, John Innes Centre.

Women of the Future Conference 2016.

The overall aim is to broaden the horizons of girls about careers involving STEMM (science, technology, engineering, medicine and mathematics) and increase the diversity of those who do choose to continue to study STEMM subjects after 16 years of age.

Elizabeth Hellen, University of Sheffield.

LGBT STEMinar.

This will be the first such event in the UK and it will promote networking and collaboration between different institutions and raise awareness of the issues LGBT scientists are facing.

Shane McCracken, Gallomanor Communications.

I'm a Scientist, Get Me Out of Here!

Schools based in remote rural and coastal areas are not well served by current STEM outreach programmes. This project is an online activity where school students get to meet and interact with scientists.

Vicky Schneider, the Genome Analysis Centre.

Women in Bioinformatics.

The scope of the project is to launch 'Women in Bioinformatics Day', where The Genome Analysis Centre will open its doors to female high-school students to nurture their passion for computing and reveal career opportunities in the bioinformatics field.

Mhairi Stewart, University of St Andrews.

Chrysalis.

The project will encourage young women researchers to enter into conversation with senior women researchers regarding the challenges of the past and present and the triumphs they can expect. These hosted conversations will be the inspiration for a series of artworks.

Johnathan Urch, University of Dundee.

Women in Science Festival 2016.

The festival aims to encourage more girls into science studies and careers, and support women currently in science careers across the Tayside region.

Edward Wilson, Royal Forestry Society.

Future Foresters – Embracing Diversity in the Science and Practice of Forestry.

A part of the project is to deliver a qualitative research project. It will include interviews, case studies and a focus group discussion to help tackle the challenges and barriers associated with embracing diversity in forestry science.