

Society Grants 2015

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Sponsored Events Grants

Since 2012, the Society has offered funding opportunities of up to £500 for single lectures or small events at institutions of higher education. The Sponsored Events Grants have grown in popularity year on year, and in 2015 the Society has issued 22 grants totalling £8765. With an average grant value of £400, events up and down the UK and Ireland for undergraduates and postgraduates were supported. One event that received sponsorship was the 'UTAR Intersarsity Scientific Symposium 2015 (UISS 2015)' in Malaysia, at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman pictured below. We hope to receive more international applications in the year to come and have offered sponsorship of series of events for the first time this year in response to an increase in demand.

General Travel Grants

Travel grants of up to £750 are awarded to Postgraduate, Early Career, Full and Emeritus Members. The grants are available to members with at least 12 months continuous membership to help fund attendance at a scientific meeting anywhere in the world. These grants can also be used for a laboratory visit or to attend a workshop. Throughout the last financial year, the society has awarded £101 000



'UTAR Intersarsity Scientific Symposium 2015 (UISS 2015)' in Malaysia, at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman received a Sponsored Event Grant

to 220 recipients. One such recipient was Urtė Neniškytė (European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Monterotondo, Italy), who was able to attend the 65th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Germany thanks to a travel grant from the Biochemical Society. Urtė said, "together with 650 fellow young scientists, I was able to meet 65 Nobel Laureates in person and discuss their and our research, life paths and career choices." Below is a picture of Urtė Neniškytė discussing the origins of life with Jack W. Szostak (2009 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine).

Student Society Grants

Another grant that has seen a surge in popularity in 2015 is the Student Society Grant. Events organized by student societies relating to the molecular biosciences are supported by small grants of £100 from the Society. Provided that there is at least one member in the Society, both undergraduate and postgraduate student societies may apply. So far, five university societies have taken advantage of the funding opportunity and we encourage more to apply. We are pleased to be able to say that we have supported welcome events held by the Biomolecular NMR group of the University of Sheffield and the BioSoc of Kent University. The Life Sciences Society of Keele University used their grant to hold a



General Travel Grant recipient Urtė Neniškytė and Jack W. Szostak (2009 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine)

debate, 'The National and Global Impact of Dementia', and the Student@Harwell Society used theirs to hold a poster competition. The Bioinformatics Society of the University of Westminster will use their grant for a Pre-Christmas Social.

Undergraduate Recognition Awards

Biochemical Society Local Ambassadors nominated 18 of their best and brightest undergraduate students to receive this award in 2015. Winners receive a certificate, one year's free membership of the Biochemical Society and a £50 prize (with the exception of UCL who had two deserving candidates that received £25 each). Right is Hannah Screeton receiving her award at her graduation from the University of York's Professor Ian A. Graham, Head of Department and Weston Chair of Biochemical Genetics.



Undergraduate Recognition Award winner Hannah Screeton and Professor Ian A. Graham

Student Bursaries

Postgraduate and Undergraduate Members can apply for grants of up to £300 to attend Biochemical Society conferences or Society-sponsored Independent meetings. In 2015, the Society awarded 59 student bursaries with an average value of £200 each. Penelope La-Borde, who attended the conference 'GPCRs: Beyond Structure Towards Therapy' at Monash University in Tuscany earlier this year, had this to say: "thank you to the Biochemical Society for running a great conference and for the student bursary that made my attendance possible!"

Early Career and Full Bursaries

New to 2015 are the Early Career and Full Member Bursaries which enable Early Career and Full Members to receive grants of up to £300 to attend Biochemical Society Focused Meetings. Although members can only apply for General Travel Grants every two years, these new bursaries may be applied for every 12 months, providing that another travel grant has not been awarded in that calendar year, and so can provide funding in between General Travel Grant applications. Although the Early Career bursary has only been available since April 2015 and the Full Career Bursary since June 2015, the Society has already issued £2200 to eight recipients and given them the opportunity to attend events that they may otherwise not have been able to attend.

Eric Reid Fund for Methodology

The Fund was endowed by a Trust (Guildford Academic Associates) and co-founded by Dr Eric Reid, an Emeritus Member. The fund provides modest

support for benchwork with a focus on methodology, particularly cellular or bioanalytical work. In the last financial year, the Society awarded nine recipients a total of £12 450. The fund is available to Early Career, Full or Emeritus Members, and awards up to £1250 or, if requesting vacation help, £2000 to each project.

International Sponsored Places

In July 2015, the Biochemical Society fully sponsored two Postgraduate Members to attend the Young Scientist Forum and 40th FEBS Congress in Berlin, Germany. August 2015 also saw four outstanding Postgraduate Members attend the Joint Brazilian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SBBq) / IUBMB meeting in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, with sponsorship from the Biochemical Society.

Stay Connected Bursary

For members who are on a career break and wish to keep up-to-date with the latest scientific developments by attending a Society conference or event, Stay Connected Bursaries cover the cost of registration, travel and accommodation to Society conferences, workshops or training days. In 2015, the Society enabled three Associate Members to remain engaged with the scientific community by supporting their attendance at conferences. Dr Natalia Fili attended the Biochemical Society Focused Meeting Signalling 2015: Cellular Functions of Phosphoinositides and Inositol Phosphates and Dr Pallavi Tripathi was able to attend the Carbohydrate Active Enzymes in Medicine and Biotechnology Focused Meeting.