

Biochemical Society announces Diversity in Science Grant winners

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The Biochemical Society is committed to fostering diversity and equal opportunity for entry and progression in our discipline. In addition to funding a Daphne Jackson Fellowship, Stay-Connected bursaries and supporting In2Science placements for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, the Society offers a Diversity in Science grants scheme to support our community in their activities to deliver a more inclusive environment for all.

The Diversity in Science Grants scheme was launched in 2014 and provides grants to support and address issues relating to diversity in science. We have been thrilled with the quality and creativity exhibited in the projects proposed in the latest round and are pleased to announce the following winners

- **Joana Moscoso**, Native Scientist, Project: “Native Biochemists”
- **Bashira Chowdhury**, Auburn University, US, Project: “Bee a Biologist: Empowering Alabama’s Aspiring Biologists Through Pollination”
- **Eva Sharpe**, Institute for Cancer Research, UK, Project: “Who we are”
- **Jess Wade**, Imperial College London and King’s College London, UK, Project: “Hidden Women Wikithon”
- **Larissa Paver**, freelance science communicator, Project: “Kitchen Table Science”
- **Matthew Lee**, University of Bristol, UK, Project: “Big Bang Bristol”
- **Thomas Tagoe**, GhScientific, Ghana, Project: “Science careers: knowledge influencers and motivators”

Commenting on the grants, Dr David Pye, Chair of the Biochemical Society’s Policy Advisory Panel said: “Issues

related to the underrepresentation or participation of groups in science are being addressed in the community, within educational establishments and in the workplace like never before. However, much still remains to be done if we are to offer better support individuals from poor socioeconomic backgrounds, women, ethnic minorities, LGBT and others who have an interest, or are employed in scientific activities globally. Over the years the diversity grants offered by the Biochemical Society have supported activities that reach out to people and highlight issues related to Diversity in Science. It was a real pleasure to be able to offer the diversity grants again this year, and to have received such an interesting and exciting range of proposals. I am sure that this year’s awards will enable the recipients to send out the message that science is for everyone and that discrimination in science is set to become a thing of the past in the not too distant future.”

The next round of Diversity in Science grants will open on 1 September 2017. For more examples of previously funded projects, please visit our website.

Research Excellence Framework consultation

Building upon Lord Stern’s Independent Review of the Research Excellence Framework (REF), the four UK higher education funding bodies are carrying out a consultation to propose an overall approach for the assessment in 2021. The inquiry looks into many areas of concern, including a potential administrative burden, portability of outputs, the definition of impact and the use of metrics. We have been gathering the views of our Committees and wider membership and will be contributing to the Royal Society of Biology’s consultation response. Higher education institutions and any other groups and organizations with an interest in the conduct, quality, funding or use of research, as well as, individuals are invited to respond to this consultation via the link below. The deadline for responses is Friday 17 March 2017. You can find more information on the HEFCE website: www.hefce.ac.uk/rsrch/refconsultation ■



Dundee Women in Science Festival 2015