

Organisation: [REDACTED] Applicant: [REDACTED]
Funding Sought: £1,981.07
Funding Awarded: £1,981.07

OR18/1229

The buzz about GM insects (TBC)

With the support of the British Ecological Society, we would like to create a new adult event to premier at the 2019 festival, exploring the current controversy and debate around genetically modified (GM) insects. With the recent work into preventing the spread of dengue fever by controlling mosquito reproduction, GM insects are changing the way we look at public health and how it could play a role in other large-scale changes to our world. Whilst in Scotland public discussion around GM has come to a head for crops, conversation around the impact of GS insects has been largely muted, despite the implications of this research on a wide variety of ecological issues. We therefore want to create a panel discussion event that explores different views on the topic and highlights the current research being carried out by experts in the field.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name

Surname

Tel (Work)

Email (Work)

[REDACTED]

Section 1 - Eligibility

Please answer the questions below to determine if you are eligible for this scheme

Please note we do not accept resubmissions of the same project. Applications will be rejected without being sent out for review if they are re-submissions of a proposal rejected in a previous round, or if they represent only a minor revision of such a proposal (for example, with a modified experimental design). As a guide, in order to be significantly different, at least 80% of objectives & activities should be different to the original proposal.

Using the above statement, is this project a resubmission?

No

Section 2 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name [REDACTED]
Surname [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	[REDACTED]
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

If you do not have a current organisation (i.e. you are an independent researcher/retired), please provide your preferred contact address above and select the checkbox to the right.

Unchecked

BES Membership Number

You do not need to be a member to apply, however if you are, please provide your number below

No Response

Section 3 - CV

If you are applying on behalf of an organisation, please provide a brief background:

Edinburgh International Science Festival is one of Scotland's largest science education charities, delivering a dynamic range of programmes across the country that captivate and connect people of all ages with the wonders of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Our vision is a Scotland that is engaged with scientific ideas, where individuals think about the role that science plays in their own lives and where young people are inspired to move into these emerging fields and take on the challenges of tomorrow.

In 2019, in honour of the 50th anniversary of the moon landings, we will celebrate the frontiers of knowledge and the spirit of adventure and enquiry that drives science and technology. We will take some small steps into favoured familiar territories and some giant leaps in new and exciting directions. With new venues and partners and a programme packed full of events and ideas, it will explore the breaking of boundaries and celebrate the inspiring individuals dedicated to expanding the frontiers of our collective knowledge.

Please complete the below details for the lead applicant involved in the project.

Please provide details of previous experience organising events aimed at engaging the public with science:

Edinburgh International Science Festival has been creating immersive science experiences for the past 30 years. Spearheaded by the Festival itself, each iteration reaches 175,000 people, delivering more than 250 events in 30 venues in and around Edinburgh - many of which are free or with heavily subsidised ticket prices. Working with a range of delivery partners such as theatres, artists and other cultural organisations, the festival seeks to inform and entertain by exploring contemporary issues and challenges through a variety of mediums. We have taken a pioneering approach whereby art and science are fused to create a new style of science communication, ranging from performances and shows to installations and exhibitions. We have been successful in engaging individuals from all backgrounds in the potential and challenges of science through artistic expression and interactive, hands-on engagement.

This flagship event is complemented each year by our two educational projects; Generation Science, our interactive touring schools programme; and Careers Hive, an immersive career event that connects secondary school pupils with future careers in science and technology.

Education History

Please note if you do not know the exact day, select the 1st day of the month e.g. March 2005: 01/03/2005

Start Date	End Date	Qualification	Organisation	Additional Info
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

Employment History

Please note if you do not know the exact day, select the 1st day of the month e.g. March 2005: 01/03/2005

Start Date	End Date	Position	Organisation	Additional Info
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

Awards/Achievements/Skills

No Response

No Response

No Response

Summary of Publication Record (If relevant)

No Response

Additional Information

No Response

Section 5 - Project Details and Keywords

NB: The Total Project Cost and Amount Requested will be added automatically from the figures you provide on the budget page. Once you have completed your budget, you will be required to come back into this page, ensure the figures are correct, and save the page.

Summary Project Details

Total project cost: £

1,981.07

Amount requested from BES: £

1,981.07

Please read our [REDACTED] for guidelines on writing an effective lay summary.

Project title:

The buzz about GM insects (TBC)

Project lay summary:

With the support of the British Ecological Society, we would like to create a new adult event to premier at the 2019 festival, exploring the current controversy and debate around genetically modified (GM) insects. With the recent work into preventing the spread of dengue fever by controlling mosquito reproduction, GM insects are changing the way we look at public health and how it could play a role in other large-scale changes to our world. Whilst in Scotland public discussion around GM has come to a head for crops, conversation around the impact of GS insects has been largely muted, despite the implications of this research on a wide variety of ecological issues. We therefore want to create a panel discussion event that explores different views on the topic and highlights the current research being carried out by experts in the field.

Project start date:

04/04/2019

Project end date:

21/04/2019

Project country:

United Kingdom

We have chosen a selection of keywords, which cover the breadth of the ecological research we fund. These keywords link the ecological content of an application to the most appropriate member of the BES Review College.

As your selections will determine which reviewers are asked to assess your application, please select carefully.

Please choose three words from the following:

- Ecological Genetics
- Parasite and Pathogen Ecology
- Species distributions

Section 6 - Grant Specific Questions

Please provide a description of the project (including details on any materials being produced and who is responsible for preparing these), the key aims and how it will meet the objectives of the Outreach Grant:

The aim of this event would be to connect a lay audience of around 100 individuals (14+) with the research currently being done on GM Insects and its potential impacts in the realms of ecological systems, public health, agriculture and populations. Held at the Pleasance, this popular festival hub will be home to our adult programme of events, a range of pop up bars and eateries and an outdoor exhibit of Museum on the Moon – a touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram. This combination of science, art and general entertainment will allow us to reach a broad audience, many of whom will not traditionally engage with scientific research of this kind.

For the event, as we would like to discuss a range of topics, a panel-style feels most appropriate. This would allow for around three speakers and a host to lead the event and run a discussion session for the audience, offering the public a chance to share their thoughts rather than just ask questions. The panel would last 90 minutes to give each speaker a good amount of time and make sure the discussion is given a focus.

Recommended speakers (TBC):

- Representative of Oxitec to discuss the work they have carried out with Friendly Mosquitoes and crop protection.
- Professor Sarah Reece, from the Reece Group, to discuss the work exploring what makes a successful parasite and what GM can target to reduce viability and other diseases this may work with.
- A representative from the James Hutton Institute to discuss genetic modification work in Scotland and current policy.

We will invite Adam Rutherford, a popular Science Festival contributor with a background in genetics, to host the event. Whilst these speakers are not yet confirmed, we have strong relationships with both industry and academia and are confident that we will get experts in these fields. We successfully secure quality speakers year on year, all of whom are thoroughly vetted and have been selected for both their research and public engagement qualities.

Key learning outcomes:

- What are GM insects?
- Why are GM insects created?
- What is the past and current research on using GM insects for public health?
- What other uses do we have for GM insects?
- What is the UK government standpoint on releasing GM insects?
- What impacts could GM insects have on wider ecosystems and populations?

Please provide information on the target audience and how you will advertise/promote the event to them:

This event will be targeted at an adult audience (14+) and we have a multi-faceted marketing strategy in place to ensure that the event is well promoted. This combines a mixture of print (programme launch and distribution, wider collateral) and digital (social media, newsletters, paid online advertising), as well as an outdoor advertising campaign that promotes the Science Festival more generally. We have a popular #Scifive scheme which provides discounted tickets to students and teachers and we also promote events through our venue partners including National Museum of Scotland, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Please provide information on the expected audience size:

Est. 100 (based on venue capacity and average audience size of past Science Festival events)

Please outline the expected results and how the project will be evaluated:

The goal of this project will be to engage audiences with the cutting edge of research being conducted within this field with particular reference to its framing within an ecological context. The audience will be presented with different views of GM insects and encouraged to consider a variety of evidence to reach an informed opinion.

We will measure this by collecting feedback from participants as well as from our speakers at the event. This will take the form of a brief written evaluation for the audience which they can hand in as they leave and a more in-depth verbal interaction with the presenters after the event. Audiences will be also given the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the discussion which we hope will reflect an engagement with the issues raised. All feedback collected will be processed by the Science Festival and shared with the British Ecological Society after the event.

What are the risks to the health and safety of those involved in the project and how are these risks to be minimised?

1. Desired speakers might be unavailable – we have strong links to universities, research councils and industry and are confident we will get an expert in the field to present the topic.
2. The speaker on the day might be ill – we will have a contingency plan in place whereby we can adapt the structure of the event to fill the gap. Alternatively, we might try and source a backup speaker locally who could stand in in an emergency.
3. We could struggle to sell tickets – we will conduct a strong marketing campaign to ensure the event is well publicised. The Science Festival has a positive brand reputation and our events are normally popular, however in the event of poor ticket sales we would offer reduced rate tickets and 241 offers to ensure maximum reach.

Is there an admission fee?

Yes

Please indicate how you will assess the impact of the project, and which metrics you will use to assess the project's expected impact and benefits. What are the benefits for non-academic audiences, what data will be collected and what legacy will it leave?

In order to assess the impact of the event we will collect the following feedback from participants:

- Event enjoyment
- How informative was the event – did you learn something?
- Knowledge of the topic before and after the event
- Interest in topic as a result of attending the event

The core legacy of this event will be for the attendees to leave feeling more informed and engaged with this topic, and more confident is discussing the issues surrounding to it. At the end of the event, we will signpost to other sources of information that will give the opportunity for participants to learn more and promote any other events from our partners on the topic.

The audiences reception to the speaker may encourage further interest into their work, and the discussion about Scottish government policy aims to increase interest in following Scotland's stance in GM in the future.

Please indicate how you will promote the BES if your proposal is funded

The British Ecological Society will be credited as a funding partner and its logo will be displayed in the following ways:

- Branding on the holding slides in the lecture theatre before and after the event
- Logo accreditation as a funding partner in the Science Festival programme (circa. 80,000 copies)
- Logo accreditation as a funding partner on the Science Festival website (received 140,000 impressions for the duration of the 2018 Science Festival)
- Logo accreditation as a funding partner on signage displayed at all key festival venues

Have you previously applied for a grant from the BES?

No

If you would like to upload a document in support of your application please attach using the control below. Please make sure you reference these in your text.

NB: A maximum of 1 file can be uploaded. Please only upload files essential to the application. Files with additional text to supplement word limits will not be considered and may make your application ineligible.

No Response

Section 7 - Budget

Please note all budgets must be provided in Great British Pounds (GBP)

Item	Description	Total Cost
Speaker Accomodation	<i>No Response</i>	£300.00
Host accomodation	<i>No Response</i>	£100.00
Speaker Travel	final amount may be less - this is the cover we offer	£450.00
Host Fee	<i>No Response</i>	£150.00
Production Time	Day rate x 1 (set up/take down)	£190.00
Creative Time	Day rate x 2 (event development)	£340.00
Venue Hire	Pro rata as part of whole venue	£250.00
Front of House	Pro rata	£76.07
Marketing	All collateral costs including eval forms	£125.00
Overall Total Costs:		£ 1,981.07

Total project cost:

£
1,981.07

Amount Requested from BES

£1,981.07

If the total cost of the event is greater than the amount sought from the BES, please state how the balance will be met. If you have applied to other organisations for funding, please state which organisations, the amount and the result (if known). If you are not successful in these applications, please state how the shortfall in funding will be met:

No Response

If the BES is only part funding this project the Society funding must be shown to add significant impact. Please indicate the benefits the BES funding specifically will contribute:

No Response

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]