

# the black women in science network

It's been a while, and we have lots of new things to share with you. The first half of 2025 has been busy, and we're excited by how much is going on within our community and in the wider Science community. From live events and new team members to podcast releases, research calls, and blog insights, there's so much to tell you. Keep reading!

## From the Network

### Brunch Talks LIVE! takes over Cambridge

In March 2025, we took over the Yusif Hamied building at the University of Cambridge for our Brunch Talks LIVE! event. Attendees, new and returning, immersed themselves in a vibrant atmosphere, surrounded by like-minded peers and Black women in science who shared their journeys, insights, and lived experiences in an open and affirming space. We're so grateful to everyone who joined us and helped make the event such a success. Don't worry if you missed it; you can view our album [here](#), but if you want to make sure you never miss an event again, you can [subscribe to our events calendar](#).



A major thanks to Dr Nick Bamphos and Caroline Reid, who have been instrumental in the continued success of this event.

### The BWiS Network team is growing!



This year, we welcomed some wonderful new team members to the BWiS Committee. We were pleased to have them join us for a team day where we thought out what our next year looks like as an organisation. The new energy is infectious, and we're looking forward to all the new things we will be able to do together. We extend warm thanks to Mission44 for hosting us in their space. You can find out more about our team and their roles [on our website](#).

## Volunteering for the Black Women in Science Network

Want to play a more active role in shaping the Black Women in Science Network? We're always open to new volunteers who are passionate about building community, amplifying voices, and creating space for Black women in the Sciences.



Whether you're interested in planning events, championing our outreach, supporting content creation, or providing behind-the-scenes support, we'd love to have you on the team. To get involved, express your interest via this rolling [volunteer application form](#). You can find out more about what our roles and responsibilities [look like](#).

We'll be reviewing expressions of interest on a rolling basis, and interviews will take place sporadically throughout the year. Please direct any questions to [admin@bwisnetwork.com](mailto:admin@bwisnetwork.com).

## Brunch Talks with BWiS: same, but different

In 2024, you watched as we held 12 Brunch Talks with BWiS. We were there like clockwork at 11 am on the third Saturday of the month, ready to hold space for the Members of our Network, and we enjoyed every month with those who have been able to join and share their highs and lows from the month and discuss some hot topics. We've spoken about everything from hair tips to how to apply for your next career-defining decision. We are happy that, over two years in, this space continues to be a forum for the Black women in our community. In 2025, we're trialling another weekday session to accommodate our varying schedules.

Our next three online sessions will:

- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 11:00 – 12:00
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August, 19:00 – 20:00
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 11:00 – 12:00

Members will receive the links for these meetings in their inboxes. More information on becoming a member (for free) can be [found on our website](#).

You can keep up with all that we do by [subscribing to this calendar](#). Keep an eye out on our social media (and in these newsletters) for further events that we'll announce in the next few months.

## Becoming a member of the Black Women in Science Network

Are you a Black woman in science looking for community, connection, and support? Join the Black Women in Science Network; it's completely free to become a member! If you self-identify as a Black woman working in or studying science (in any field or at any stage), we'd love to welcome you into our space. As a member, you'll gain access to our monthly Brunch Talks, event invites, opportunities, resources, and the chance to connect with a growing network of like-minded peers. Just [fill out this short form](#) to join us.



### Mission44 Partner

We are thrilled to be engaging with Mission44 again this year. Launched by seven-time Formula One World Champion Sir Lewis Hamilton in 2021, Mission 44 is a charity that is working to build a fairer, more inclusive future for young people around the world. The charity invests in solutions that empower young people to overcome social injustice and succeed. It has a particular focus on developing an inclusive education system, creating employment opportunities in STEM and motorsport, and empowering young people to shape the world they live in.

# MISSION44

Their support has been transformative, and we look forward to working under their guidance and support for some time longer.

We are open to working with other organisations that align with our mission to create spaces that enrich black women scientists; use our platforms to amplify their work and their voices; and move the entire industry towards a more progressive and inclusive space. Please contact either [tomi@bwisnetwork.com](mailto:tomi@bwisnetwork.com) or [admin@bwisnetwork.com](mailto:admin@bwisnetwork.com) to start the conversation.



### Coming to an exhibition near you

It was good for those of you who were at Europe's first Minoritised Life Sciences Future Forum in Birmingham, the Royal Society of Chemistry's Broadening Horizon Taster Event in Manchester, and the Black Graduate Careers Conference at Imperial College London. We've been travelling across the UK this year, and meeting so many new and known faces.

Do you want us to exhibit at an event near you? Email [nicole@bwisnetwork.com](mailto:nicole@bwisnetwork.com) or [obor@bwisnetwork.com](mailto:obor@bwisnetwork.com) to start the process.

## Black Women in Science Network podcast

With many wonderful new guests gracing the BWiS Podcast mic already this year, our audience on the Black Women in Science Podcast is growing. Don't miss out on the wealth of information that our specially selected expert guests bring to the platform. There's no need to wait, grab your headphones and have a listen to the episodes we've already released this year.

**Episode 38 – The 2024 Episode Sum Up with Tomi Akingbade.** Founder Tomi Akingbade reflects on highlights from the past year and what's next for the network. [Listen here.](#)

**Episode 39: Capturing Black Autistic Women's Experiences with Dr Shereen Everett.** A conversation with Dr Everett about her powerful doctoral research into the lived experiences of Black autistic women. [Listen here.](#)

**Episode 40: Aerospace Engineering in Motor Sports with Laila Fadli Dokkali.** Laila Fadli Dokkali, a Simulation Engineer at Mercedes F1, shares her journey into motorsport as a Black autistic woman and her work advocating for diversity through the initiative Motives. [Listen here.](#)

**Episode 41: Neuroaesthetics Research with Dwaynica Greaves.** Dwaynica Greaves introduces us to the fascinating world of neuroaesthetics and her work in this emerging field. [Listen here.](#)

**Episode 42: Beauty Justice - The Tea on Toxic Chemicals with Simone (X) Braithwaite.** An eye-opening conversation with Simone (X) Braithwaite on environmental justice, racialised beauty standards, and harmful chemicals. [Listen here.](#)

**Episode 43: Mercury: A Chemical of Concern with Dr Eoshe Irabor.** Dr Eoshe Irabor discusses the environmental and health risks of mercury exposure, especially its disproportionate impact on Black and brown women. [Listen here.](#)



Our podcast is [available on all major streaming platforms](#), and there are many more episodes to come.

## Black Women in Science Network Blog

The blogs are here and coming in faster than ever before. We've covered everything from your favourite scent, to the psychological effects of a cup of tea; there is something for everyone.



**Black Women & The Glass Cliff Effect.** An insightful exploration of the “glass cliff” phenomenon—how Black women are disproportionately promoted during times of crisis and the unique challenges they face in leadership roles. [Read the full post.](#)

**Cups & Connections: can tea make us feel less lonely?** This post delves into the psychology of comfort, examining how tea fosters social thermoregulation and emotional well-being—especially during isolating times. [Read the full post.](#)

**Menstruation & Memory: Can menstrual blood help treat Alzheimer’s Disease?** A compelling read on how menstrual blood-derived stem cells are being studied as potential treatments for neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s, highlighting scientific promise and equity in healthcare. [Read the full post.](#)

**Bowels & Braids: The Rise of Cancer Diagnoses in Young People.** This post explores the alarming rise in early-onset cancer among young people, particularly in the digestive system, and how it disproportionately affects underrepresented groups. [Read the full post.](#)

**Artificial Blood: A Potential Solution to the Global Blood Supply Issue.** A deep dive into the science of artificial blood and its potential to revolutionise emergency medicine and solve global shortages. [Read the full post.](#)

**A Summer of Science: How to Make the Most Out of Networking Events.** This guide offers practical tips for building confidence, making connections, and getting the most out of summer science events. [Read the full post.](#)

**Scent-sations: how science can help you make the most of your fragrance collection.** Learn how olfactory science and fragrance layering can elevate your scent game and enhance personal expression. [Read the full post.](#)



## From the Wider Community

### The Catalyst Collective is seeking mentors

Our friends at The Catalyst Collective are looking for Black women working in scientific careers, from all science backgrounds, to join their next mentoring cohorts, starting this September and January. Mentoring requires just 1 hour a month to support a Black girl aged 14-18, and no experience is needed. The Catalyst team provides training, resources and ongoing guidance every step of the way. If you want to make a big impact, [sign up](#) soon.

### Investigating the physics identity of Black Female STEM Students

A PhD researcher at the University of Surrey is inviting Black British women studying STEM to participate in a study exploring how socio-economic, cultural, and personal background factors shape physics identity, particularly about choosing physics at A-level. Participation involves a one-on-one online interview and is entirely voluntary. The study aims to inform better academic support and strategies to improve representation and retention in physics. If you are interested or have any questions, contact [o.ayoola@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:o.ayoola@surrey.ac.uk).

### **Mentoring catalysis workshop by the Academy of Medical Sciences**

The Academy of Medical Sciences is hosting its annual mentoring catalysis workshop on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September at 41 Portland Place, London. This free workshop is for individuals from organisations that are working on mentoring programmes and want to share their experiences. This year's workshop is focusing on the role of the mentee, and participants will gain essential skills and information to improve the mentee experience. We will also hear from an Academy mentee about the positive impact mentoring has had on their life and career. You can sign up and see more about this [here](#).

### **Medical Research Council (MRC) Board and Panel Associates Scheme**

The Medical Research Council (MRC) Board and Panel Associates Scheme offers a unique opportunity for researchers to gain valuable insight into the assessment process and develop the skills necessary for future leadership. This two-year programme offers experience serving on an MRC funding board or panel, mentorship and training from experienced members and MRC staff, and a chance to strengthen your assessor skills and broaden your research perspective. The scheme is designed for researchers from underrepresented groups who have achieved independence and are transitioning into leadership roles. Applications close on 15 September 2025. Find out more and apply [here](#).

### **Sanger Excellence Fellowship**

The Wellcome Sanger Institute is now accepting applications for the Sanger Excellence Fellowship, a three-year, fully funded research opportunity starting in early 2026. This fellowship is designed to support early-career researchers of Black heritage, including those of mixed Black backgrounds, who have obtained their degrees from institutions in the UK, Ireland, the Isle of Man, or the Channel Islands. Fellows will work within one of Sanger's leading scientific programmes (ranging from cancer and genetics to parasites and synthetic genomics) and benefit from dedicated mentorship, structured development support, and a strong equity-focused community. Applications are open until 7 September 2025. This is a unique opportunity to advance independent research in a world-class institute committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion in genomics. You can [find out more](#) on their website.

### **BioSci Future Leaders Mentorship Scheme**

The BioSci Future Leaders Mentorship Scheme, launching this October and running through to March 2026, and the scheme is looking for mentors. This initiative is designed to support

students and recent graduates from Black, mixed, and ethnic minority backgrounds as they take steps towards fulfilling careers in the biosciences. By volunteering as a mentor, you'll be offering invaluable guidance and support to the next generation of bioscientists. If you're interested in taking part, the BioSci Toolkit would be delighted to hear from you. Please [complete their mentor sign-up form](#).

### **Participate in a Research Study on Racial Discrimination & Emotions**

Researchers at the University of Bristol are looking for Black participants aged 18+ to take part in a short online study help researchers understand how language shapes our emotional responses to online racial discrimination. Participation involves a 20-minute Zoom session, where you will be asked to watch a short video clip and complete two questionnaires. All participants must be over 18 years of age, self-identify as Black, and be in good mental health. Those who participate fully will receive compensation for their time. This study will. For more information, please contact Amira ([bq19366@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:bq19366@bristol.ac.uk)), and/or sign up [here](#).

### **Diabetes UK's Black Leaders in Diabetes PhD Studentship Scheme**

Diabetes UK has extended their Black Leaders in Diabetes PhD Studentship Scheme, a powerful funding programme aimed at supporting Black science graduates in pursuing PhDs in diabetes research across the UK. This three-year award, starting in September 2026, offers tuition fees at the home rate (international applicants may self-fund fees), an annual stipend to live on, and a research allowance of £10,000 per year (plus up to £2,500 conference costs and £1,500 for training). Supervisors based in UK universities or NHS Trusts are invited to apply by 29 August 2025. Student applications open on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 and close on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026. [Read more and apply via Diabetes UK](#).

### **A 'Brunch' of SiSTEMs**

Join A '*Brunch*' of SiSTEMs, a vibrant community event organised by SiSTEM UK on Saturday, 16 August 2025 at The Exhibit, London. SiSTEM are celebrating three years of impact, with glowing reviews of past events and a growing reputation as a space where women in STEM can flourish personally and professionally. Join them for an afternoon of brunch, music, a raffle, goodies and a panel of inspirational and accomplished Black women in STEM from various fields such as technology, medicine and engineering. You can still [purchase tickets here](#).

### **Black in Plant Science Conference 2025**

[Black in Plant Science](#) (BiPS) will host its UK Conference on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025, at the innovative Helix venue, University of Leeds. This conference spotlights the contributions of Black researchers in UK plant science, both historically and today, and aims to cultivate greater visibility, connection, and opportunity for Black plant scientists. Attendees can expect plenary talks from luminaries such as Nicola Patron (Cambridge) and Kevin Cox (WashU / Danforth Plant Science Center), who bring cutting-edge perspectives on synthetic biology,

plant metabolomics, and spatial gene expression, all while exemplifying leadership in equity-driven plant science. Learn more and register [here](#).

For those who read this far, thank you! We're always looking to amplify voices, build connections, and share resources that uplift Black women in science. Keep an eye on our socials, visit our website, or reach out directly if you want to get involved or have any news to share.

**Until next time,**

**The Black Women in Science Network**