

Hello, BWIS Network superstars! Can you believe it? We're just a hop, skip, and jump — 31 days away from the new year! Yep, 2023 is waving us goodbye, with all its rollercoaster rides, moments of sheer happiness, and loads of new opportunities. Soon enough, we'll be chatting about it as "last year." But hold on to your hats!

## the black women in science network

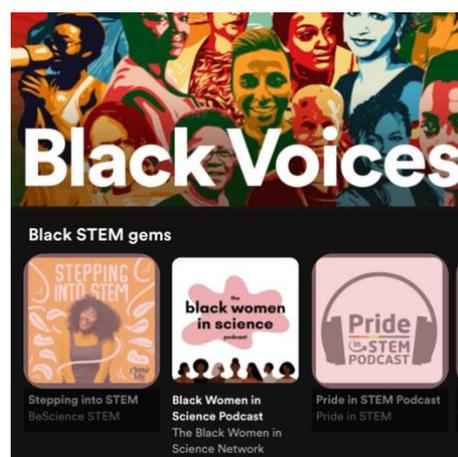
Before we bid adieu to this year, here's a sneak peek at the awesomeness gearing up for us in 2024. Get ready for some exciting reads and inspiration. Happy reading!

### Join the Excitement: Your Voice Shapes Our Podcast's Brilliance!

We just had an awesome conversation diving into SciComm with [Adama Saccoh](#), the brains behind [The Catalyst in Me](#). It's a must-listen! And hold onto your seats because, as part of Black History Month, Spotify picked our podcast as a shining 'Black STEM gem'! None of this would've been possible without our [incredible listeners](#) — you rock!

Now, we're on a mission to keep that gem status shining bright. We want YOUR input! Your thoughts matter, so hit us up with what content you'd love to hear on the podcast. Your [feedback](#) is crucial in making your podcast experience even better—promise, it's anonymous, so be as real and helpful as you can.

Speaking of making things awesome, remember, your mental health matters! With the weather getting chilly and the skies turning grey, it's easy to feel a bit down. Take a moment for yourself, and hey, our older episodes have some amazing discussions on Black women's mental health with [Meg Zeenat-Wamithi](#) and [Melanie Dottin](#). Take a listen, take care, and let's keep making this podcast an absolute gem together! We're eagerly waiting to hear from you.



### Buzzworthy Updates: The BWIS Blog's Vibrant Journey!

The BWIS Blog has been buzzing with activity! Throughout September, our focus was on all things Black hair. We initiated a discussion about the discrimination faced by Black hair in professional settings. And hey, did you get a chance to experiment with some lab-friendly hairstyles? They were a hit! As October rolled in, we celebrated the start of Black History Month in the UK. We curated a list of scholarship opportunities specifically for Black students, shedding light on those that might have slipped under the radar. Embracing this year's theme, 'Saluting our Sister' we spotlighted contemporary achievements by Black women in STEM. Our much-anticipated annual event, 'Celebrating You,' made a triumphant return for the second consecutive year. Catch up on all the exciting highlights from the event in our [latest blog](#) post.

**CATAC 2024: Abstract Submission Now Open for Premier Clinical Academics Conference!**

The Academy of Medical Sciences is thrilled to announce the opening of abstract submissions for the [Clinical Academics](#) in Training Annual Conference (CATAC) 2024. CATAC 2024 serves as a cross-specialty gathering for aspiring clinical academics currently active in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. This event provides a unique opportunity for researchers in medicine and health, spanning diverse clinical backgrounds, to network and present their research in a supportive environment. The conference is set to unfold at Riddell Hall, Queen's University Belfast, on Wednesday, April 17, 2024. Abstracts can be submitted until 12:00 GMT on December 18, 2023. The application form and detailed guidelines can be [found here](#).

**Exciting Announcement: EDICa's Flexible Funding Call - Soft Launch in December 2023**

The EDI Causcus (EDICa) is pleased to introduce a flexible funding opportunity, with £1 million allocated for commissioning small research projects. Priority will be given to supporting marginalised researchers, and they are currently clarifying the eligibility of technical and professional service staff to lead funding bids. The second round of funding will have a soft launch in December 2023, so keep your eyes peeled for this. For full details and application guidelines, please visit [EDICa Flexible Fund website](#).

**Career Development Fellowship: Advancing Diversity in STEM**

Introducing the Career Development Fellowship (CDF): a four-year postdoctoral initiative in STEM aimed at retaining researchers from underrepresented backgrounds, starting with a pilot for individuals of Black heritage. Informed by extensive analysis and benchmarks, the fellowship addresses the need for targeted support in the academic pipeline, especially during the postgraduate to early postdoctoral transition. Successful candidates will receive funding for high-quality research and access to mentoring, training, and networking opportunities to forge successful research careers in the UK. Explore a Tailored Program of Training, Mentoring, and Engagement to Elevate Your Career Development. Find the scheme notes and FAQs on the [webpage](#). Applications accepted until January 24, 2024.

Thanks for reading, and we sincerely hope you take full advantage of the exciting opportunities we've outlined. Remember, the future belongs to those who seize the present, and we're here to support you on your journey. Stay inspired, stay informed, and let's make the most of what lies ahead together!

**Happy December,  
Black Women in Science Network**