

the black women in science network

As summer draws to a close, we're excited to share the latest updates from the Black Women in Science Network. This issue is filled with opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate. From the return of our flagship Celebrating You event to new podcast episodes and blog features. We're also highlighting important initiatives from the wider community, including scholarships, petitions, and funding opportunities. Whether you're a long-time member or new to our network, we're so glad you're here with us.

From the Network

Celebrating You 2025

We're excited to announce that Celebrating You is returning for a 4th year! Join us on Thursday, 23rd October at 6:30 pm at the Academy of Medical Sciences. During the evening, attendees can look forward to connecting with other Black Women in the sciences, feeling supported by their peers, and, as always, being in the room whilst we celebrate you!

This is one of our spaces specifically curated as a safe space for Black women in the sciences; we appreciate the intention of this space being respected. Don't miss out, and [register for free](#) today.

We are grateful for the continued support of The Academy of Medical Sciences, which have supported the event from its inception and are great allies of the Black Women in Science Network.



**CELEBRATING
YOU 2025**

An evening to celebrate Black women in the Sciences and their contributions to UK science.

Thursday 23 October | 6.30 - 10pm

The Academy Of Medical Sciences,
41 Portland Place London W1B 1QH

Free registration via Eventbrite

ORGANISED BY:
the
**black women
in science**
network

SUPPORTED BY:
The Academy of
Medical Sciences

@bwisnetwork

Black Women in Science Podcast

We're back with a new episode! The lovely Dr Sophie Martin joins us for an episode on [AI in Healthcare and Dementia Research](#). On this episode, we discuss Sophie's experience of academia, progressing from a bachelor's to a doctorate in one go, and the challenges within dementia research and how AI can be used to resolve some of these difficulties. Outside of her research, Sophie is one of the founding directors of [The Blackett Lab Family](#). We're so pleased to have had Sophie join us on this podcast episode.

Black Women in Science Network Blog

Have a read over our most recent blog post, *Scent-sations: how science can help you make the most of your fragrance collection*. In this post, you can learn how olfactory science and fragrance layering can elevate your scent game and enhance personal expression. [Read the full post here](#).

Brunch Talks with BWiS (and Evening Chats)

We're still meeting every month, and with a happy monthly addition to our calendar – the weekday dates are here to stay. Brunch Talks with BWiS is our monthly space for Black women in science to come together, share experiences, and support one another in an open and affirming environment. Our evening sessions offer the same thing, just on a weekday!

Our next three online sessions will:

- Saturday 20th October, 11:00 – 12:00
- Wednesday 24th October, 19:00 – 20:00
- Saturday 15th November, 11:00 – 12:00

Details about how to join these meetings are sent directly to Members' inboxes.



Sign up as a member

Don't forget that it is completely free to become a member of the Black Women in Science Network. 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.

From the Wider Community

Adding Sickle Cell Disease to the NHS Prescription Change Exemption List

As many of you know, Sickle Cell Disease is a condition we give a lot of light to as a Network. Currently, there is a petition to [add Sickle Cell Disease to the NHS Prescription Charge Exemption List](#). The result of a successful petition will mean that those affected by this serious condition can access essential medication and treatments without financial burden. Once this petition reaches 100,000 signatures, it will be considered for debate in Parliament. Be sure to make your voice count! The deadline to sign up is 14th January 2026.

Closing Our Gap Scholarships

The [Closing Our Gap postgraduate research scholarship programme](#) has been established by Canterbury Christ Church University to address the persistent under-representation of individuals from Black, Asian, Mixed Heritage, and Other Minoritised Ethnic backgrounds in postgraduate research. During the 2025-2026 academic year, four PhD and four Research Master's scholarships are available. Apply soon; applications will remain open until all scholarships have been filled.

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, and Culture (EDIC) Grants

The Royal Society of Biology (RSB), the UK Society for Extracellular Vesicles (UKEV), and the Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists (ARCS) are collaborating to offer grants of up to £1,000 to support initiatives that increase and promote equality, diversity, inclusion, and a beneficial culture for all in the biosciences. Both non-members and members are eligible. Be sure to [apply](#) by 14th September 2025.

The Royal Society's University Research Fellowship

Applications are now open for one of the Royal Society's flagship schemes, the [University Research Fellowship](#). This programme is for outstanding scientists who are in the early stages of their research career and have the potential to become leaders in their field. These long-term fellowships provide the opportunity and freedom to build an independent research career and pursue cutting-edge scientific research. Applicants can apply for up to a maximum of £1.87 million over eight years. The deadline for applications is 10th September 2025. [Find out more](#) here.

As always, we're grateful for all your continued support and engagement. We look forward to sharing more events, opportunities, and stories with you in the months ahead.

Thanks for reading,

The Black Women in Science Network