

the
**black women
in science**
network

While the start of 2026 may have felt slow for some, we are well and truly in motion now. As we build towards another exciting year for our community, we're delighted to share updates from across the Network; from the return of Brunch Talks LIVE! in Cambridge to new podcast conversations, blog reflections, and opportunities from the wider scientific community.

From the Network

Brunch Talks LIVE!

Brunch Talks LIVE! Returns this year! We are ready to celebrate International Women's Day 2026 in the idyllic scenes of Cambridge for our fourth instalment of this event. We're excited to bring you a brunch session filled with inspiring conversation, where you can immerse yourself in a vibrant atmosphere and meet like-minded individuals and Black women peers who are passionate about science. We have limited space, so make sure you [register your spot now](#).

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PRESENTS

BRUNCH TALKS LIVE! CAMBRIDGE

Join us for a casual and fun-filled gathering of
Black women over refreshments!

Yusuf Hamied Chemistry Department,
University of Cambridge,
Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1EW

Saturday
7th March 2026
10:30am - 2:00pm
Refreshments
provided

Free Registration via Eventbrite

Sponsored by
UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Refreshments and some bubbly (non-alcoholic ones too!) will be provided. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to expand your network, gain valuable knowledge, and be embraced by members of the BWiS Network.

Thanks to this year's sponsors: the Yusuf Hamied Chemistry Department, University of Cambridge.

Black Women in Science Podcast

In case you missed it last year, we had Dr Sope Wolffs and Olympia Amoo join us on the podcast. Dr Sope Wolffs, a lecturer in biomedical sciences at Cardiff University, spoke to us about [respiratory health inequalities](#) and the issues of funding within the respiratory health space. Olympia Amoo, a senior nurse for NIHR BioResource, speaks to us about what the [Improving Black Health Outcome study](#) entails. We're pleased to be able to platform the important work that impacts our community! Keep an eye on this space as we'll be back this year with more episodes.

For any organisations that would be interested in sponsoring a future podcast episode, be sure to contact admin@bwisnetwork.com.

Black Women in Science Network Blog

Have a read over our most recent blog post, [Black Communities and AI: Helpful or harmful?](#). In this post, Vanessa Ankude provides insight into the AI ventures that impact Black communities and offers guidance on how to utilise AI tools positively. You can read this interesting blog post [here](#).

Also on our blog, we have shared numerous other posts on the not-so-hidden costs that Western recycling programmes have on developing countries, as well as a recap of our 2025 as a community. Do have a read and be sure to leave a comment letting us know what you think.

Brunch Talks with BWiS (and Off the Clock)

We'll be back meeting with members from next month on both weekends with Brunch Talks with BWiS, and during the week with Off the Clock. 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! We're excited to be introducing new hosts to our sessions – so keep an eye out for this.

Our next three online sessions will:

- Saturday 21st February, 10:00 – 11:00
- Thursday 26th February, 19:00 – 20:00
- Saturday 21st March, 10:00 – 11:00

Details about how to join these meetings are sent directly to Members' inboxes. If you have any questions, please send them to admin@bwisnetwork.com.



If you are ever unsure about when we have events coming up, you can check out our Events Calendar.

Sign up as a member

Don't forget that it is still 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, exclusive 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 – we're excited to have you!

Share your BWiS Story

We're inviting members to take part in a short questionnaire to help us understand how BWiS has supported and impacted your journey in science. Your voice will help shape the future of the network. If you'd like to take part, please contact admin@bwisnetwork.com. We'd love to hear from you!

From the Wider Community

Join us at Minoritised Life Scientists Future Forum 2026

We're excited to spotlight the upcoming Minoritised Life Scientists Future Forum (MLSFF): Europe's first large-scale conference dedicated to championing minoritised voices across the life sciences. Taking place from the 23rd to the 25th March 2026 at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, the Minoritised Life Scientists Future Forum 2026 will bring together students, researchers, industry professionals and advocates committed to shaping a more equitable future for STEM. With inspiring keynotes, career development workshops, research talks and dedicated networking opportunities, the forum offers a powerful space to connect, collaborate and be seen. Spots are still available, so [register soon](#).

That's it from us for now. We hope you enjoyed hearing about what we are getting up to as a Network and some of the external opportunities and news we have the pleasure of sharing. As always, we're grateful for all your continued support and engagement. We look forward to sharing more events, opportunities, and stories with you over the course of the year.

**Here's to an amazing year ahead,
The Black Women in Science Network**