



**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Celebrating women in the field of science and engineering who have had remarkable journeys and broken glass ceilings, whilst encouraging young female scientists to pursue careers in STEMM.

Workshops, panel session and prospects for networking with eminent leaders of the field and your peers

#WISECAN #WISEQMUL2021 #ChooseToChallenge

Day 1 | Thursday 25th March 2021

Theme: Ethnic Minority Women in STEMM

Day 2 | Friday 26th March 2021

Theme: Future Directions and Priorities for Women in STEMM



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WISE@QMUL is celebrating International Women's Day 2021 by hosting a two-day virtual conference. The conference will cover the themes of 'Ethnic Minority Women in STEMM', and 'Future Directions and Priorities for Women in STEMM'.

This is a unique opportunity to celebrate women in the field of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine, who have had remarkable journeys and broken glass ceilings, whilst encouraging young female scientists to pursue careers in STEMM.

Our expert speakers are sharing their brilliant work and career experiences to inspire and motivate the current and next generation. The conference is a prime opportunity to provide attendees with examples of STEMM careers and views on the future of women in STEMM and the experiences of BAME women in STEMM.

Ranking first place for equality and diversity this year, we hope to build on the work already done by staff and students at QMUL and contribute towards being "the most inclusive university of its kind, anywhere".

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Women's Day 2021**

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Virtual Conference Schedule | Day 1

Thursday 25th March 2021

*Theme: Ethnic Minority
Women in STEMM*

09:45 – 10:00

Welcome & Opening Address

Atiya Sarmin, WISE@QMUL Chair

10:00 – 11:00

Keynote Speech: What It Means To Be a Male Ally

Zeb Farooq MBE

2019 WISE Man Award Winner and Community Integration Leader

11:00 – 11:15 *Break*

11:15 – 12:00

Molecular Biology to Business Development

Dr Olivia Festy, Founder of iCreate.Digital and QMUL Alumna

12:00 – 12:30

Navigating Web Engineering

Winsome Yuen, Web Engineer at Spotify and QMUL Alumna

12:30 – 13:00 *Break*

13:00 – 13:30

Academia to Industry

Dr Margot Khouri, Senior BD Specialist at IQVIA and QMUL Alumna

13:30 – 14:00

Promoting Inclusivity in STEMM

Sheila Gupta MBE, Vice Principal for People, Culture and Inclusion at QMUL

14:00 – 15:00

Workshop (Separate registration required)

Dr Hannah Thompson, Product Manager at HealX and QMUL Alumna

15:15 – 16:15

Keynote Speech: Women in Space Engineering and Rocket Women

Vinita Marwaha Madill

Founder of Rocket Women and Project Manager at Mission Control in Canada

**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Virtual Conference Schedule | Day 2

Friday 26th March 2021

*Theme: Future Directions and
Priorities for Women in STEMM*

09:30 – 10:15

Keynote Speech: Future Directions for Women in STEMM

Prof Nirmala Rao OBE

Vice Chancellor of the Asian University for Women

10:15 – 10:30 *Break*

10:30 – 11:00

Art, Brewing and Crime Fiction: Showcasing the Diversity of Chemical Engineering Careers

Yasmin Ali, Chartered Chemical Engineer and 2020 Nominee for Top 50 Women Engineers in Sustainability

11:00 – 11:15 *Break*

11:15 – 12:00

Research Commercialisation

Dr Rosalind Hannen, Founder & CEO of Keratify, QMUL Post-Doctoral Researcher

12:00 – 13:00

Keynote Speech: Dream Big, Hustle Hard

Abadesi Osunsade

Founder and CEO of Hustle Crew and Author of "Dream Big, Hustle Hard: The Millennial Woman's Guide to Success in Tech"

13:00 – 13:30 *Break*

13:30 – 14:00

Future Directions in Genetics

Dr Sara Bandres Ciga, 2019 NIA Women in Science Excellence in Research Award Winner

14:00 – 15:00

Workshop (Separate registration required)

Dr Hannah Thompson, Product Manager at HealX and QMUL Alumna

15:15 – 16:15

Panel Discussion : Perceptions of Stereotypes Applied to Women in STEMM

Dr Danielle Tomasello, Founder of The Social Scientist and Post-Doctoral Researcher at Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research

Dr Gloria Gonzalez Aseguinolaza, Co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Vivet Therapeutics

Dr Katherine Evely, Clinical Affairs Director at Covalon Technologies Ltd

15:15 – 16:15

Closing Remarks

**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Keynote Speakers

Thursday 25th March 2021

*Theme: Ethnic Minority Women
in STEMM*

Keynote Speaker | Zeb Farooq MBE

Zeb Farooq is a community integration leader who has spent the last fifteen years promoting inclusivity and cohesiveness in society. He has done this in an exclusively voluntary capacity, most recently as a member of the Prince's Trust North West Regional Leadership Group. His humble background growing up in inner-city Manchester gave him the personal motivation to succeed, champion important causes and inspire others.



After gaining a first-class degree and two Master's in Mathematics, Zeb joined Jacobs in 2008 and spent six years as a thermal hydraulics engineer and project manager. Zeb currently works as a Bid Manager within Sales & Strategy for the Jacobs CMS-I Business, where he assembles and leads teams to win new contracts.

Zeb was named the WISE Man Award 2019 winner for his work with the Prince's Trust Mosaic Mentoring Programmes, which inspires young people from deprived communities to realise their talents and potential. The programme aims to improve students' self-confidence, self-efficacy and employability by linking them with positive and relatable role models. Zeb promotes STEMM subjects and career paths to students by empowering them through opportunities such as World of Work visits and secondary school mentoring.

Zeb believes that there is a lack of accessible role models for young girls in the STEMM arena, especially in areas of high deprivation, and that mentoring is vital in raising their aspirations. Zeb is particularly passionate about working with young Muslim girls who can face a double disadvantage when entering the world of work (gender and ethnicity), and often those from low socio-economic backgrounds face a triple disadvantage.

Zeb is confident that by harnessing the power of young women we can drive greater innovation, creativity and diversity. He encourages better gender balance in STEMM subjects and careers by striking at the very heart of teaching young girls to stand up for themselves and not allow negative stereotypes to hold them back.

Zeb Farooq's talk about Ethnic Minority Women in STEMM will take place on March 25th at 10:00 (GMT).

**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Keynote Speakers

Thursday 25th March 2021

*Theme: Ethnic Minority Women
in STEMM*

Keynote Speaker | Vinita Marwaha Madill

Vinita Marwaha Madill is a space engineer and Founder of Rocket Women. Vinita is currently a Project Manager and Business Development Lead at Mission Control Space Services in Canada, focused on lunar exploration missions and leading space health initiatives. Previously, Vinita has been based at the European Space Agency (ESA) (as a contractor via TERMA B.V.) focused on human spaceflight operations for future projects, including the European Robotic Arm to be launched to the International Space Station (ISS). Vinita has worked at the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) and ESA on



International Space Station (ISS) operations and spacesuit design. At ESA's European Astronaut Centre, Vinita helped design the SkinSuit and conducted a study on future spacesuit design for lunar exploration.

At the German Aerospace Centre, she guided astronauts through experiments and wrote astronaut procedures in Germany's version of Mission Control. Vinita studied Mathematics and Physics with Astrophysics at King's College London and went on to gain master's degrees in Space Management from the International Space University (ISU) and in Astronautics and Space Engineering from Cranfield University, UK.

Vinita is an advocate for STEM outreach, founding the platform Rocket Women (www.rocket-women.com) that aims to inspire women to study STEM and consider a career in the space industry. Rocket Women has been featured in media including BBC, Stylist Magazine, She The People, Fast Company and The Telegraph. Based in Canada, Vinita led an Intelligent Transportation Systems team as an Engineering Manager and took part in a focused round table discussion with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, highlighting the importance of education. She was mentioned in ELLE magazine's feature on '12 Genius Young Women Shaping The Future'.

Vinita Marwaha Madill's talk Ethnic Minority Women in STEMM will take place on 25th March at 15:15 (GMT_.

**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Keynote Speakers

Friday 26th March 2021

*Theme: Future Directions and
Priorities for Women in STEMM*

Keynote Speaker | Prof Nirmala Rao OBE

Nirmala Rao is the Vice Chancellor of the Asian University for Women (AUW), Chittagong, Bangladesh. Prior to joining AUW, she was Pro-Director of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, between 2008 and 2016, and Pro-Warden for Academic Affairs at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Nirmala was elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2003. She has extensive experience of public service, serving as an advisor to a range of bodies including the UK Audit Commission and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM),

as lay member of the General Council of the Bar of England and Wales, a non-executive director of Ealing Hospital NHS Trust and an appointed member of the Architects Registration Board in London. An Honorary Fellow of Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge, Nirmala has published widely in the field of urban politics and was awarded an OBE for services to scholarship at the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 2011.



Prof Nirmala's talk about Future Directions & Priorities for Women in STEMM will take place on March 26th at 09:30 (GMT).

**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Keynote Speakers

Friday 26th March 2021

*Theme: Future Directions and
Priorities for Women in STEMM*

Keynote Speaker | Abadesi Osunsade

Abadesi Osunsade is the Founder & CEO of Hustle Crew, Co-Host of Techish podcast (Top 20 Tech podcast on Apple Podcasts), and author of Dream Big. Hustle Hard: The Millennial Woman's Guide to Success in Tech.

Abadesi was recently included in the Financial Times list of Top 100 Influential Leaders in Tech and Tech Nation's 50 most prominent and influential voices in Tech. She graduated from the London School of Economics in 2009 and wrote for the Financial Times before joining London's tech scene. Prior to her current roles she worked at Product Hunt, Elpha, Amazon, HotelTonight and Groupon, where she was promoted after her first 8 months and helped scale her department 5X leading up to their record-breaking IPO. In 2016, she published her careers advice book, Dream Big Hustle Hard: A Millennial Woman's Guide to Success in Tech which is rated 5 stars on Amazon. She has been featured in Elle, Stylist, BBC, Forbes, The Times and The Independent.



You can follow her on social networks:

www.instagram.com/abadesi
www.instagram.com/hustlecrewlive
www.twitter.com/abadesi
www.twitter.com/hustlecrewlive
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/abadesi/>

More about her activities:

www.hustlecrew.co
www.techishpod.com

Abadesi Osunsade's talk about Future Directions and Priorities for Women in STEMM will take place on March 26th at 12:00 (GMT).

**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Speakers and Panellists

Thursday 25th March 2021

*Theme: Ethnic Minority Women
in STEMM*

Speaker | Dr Olivia Festy

Dr Olivia Festy is a creative entrepreneur who is passionate about living life to the full and helping others to succeed. A Biophysicist by training, Olivia has worked with innovations in healthcare for the last 15 years, from clinical research to digital health accelerators. Olivia is currently supporting Queen Mary University with Global Innovations Partnerships. She is also the founder of [iCreateDigital](#) a social enterprise start-up which aims to digitally empower young people using immersive technology. In her spare time, she runs her yoga and antenatal business [YogaAvenue](#) and home schools her two little monkeys.



Dr Festy's talk about Ethnic Minority Women in STEMM will take place on March 25th at 11:15 (GMT).

Speaker | Winsome Yuen

Winsome Yuen is a Web Engineer at Spotify in the London office, where her tasks are building the marketing and checkout web pages. She is a British-born Chinese and has lived in the UK her whole life.

She joined Spotify after completing her Bachelor's degree in Computer Science at Queen Mary University of London in the summer of 2019, where she went from an intern (before graduating) to a full-time software engineer. Since then, she has been working on exciting projects to transform the website pages.



Winsome's talk about Ethnic Minority Women in STEMM will take place on March 25th at 12:00 (GMT).

**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021
Virtual event



Speakers and Panellists

Thursday 25th March 2021

*Theme: Ethnic Minority Women
in STEMM*

Speaker | Dr Margot Khouri

Dr Margot Khouri is an immunologist, with a speciality in vaccines and cell and gene therapy. After a Master's degree in France, she did a PhD at Barts Cancer Institute, which she describes as an eye-opening experience into the world of academia and research.

"While I enjoyed working in the lab, I realised I was much happier talking to people and networking. After attending numerous career events, I decided to drive my path towards sales in the science field. With this, I have travelled the world, had fantastic scientific conversations with humbling talents and spoken at international conferences to promote innovative technologies. Ultimately, this is another way to accelerate the roll out of life-saving therapies to patients."

Dr Khouri's talk about Ethnic Minority Women in STEMM will take place on March 25th at 13:00 (GMT).



Speaker | Sheila Gupta MBE

Sheila Gupta studied History and Politics as an undergraduate and has postgraduate qualifications in Management Studies and Human Resource Management. She began her career in Local Government at a time of major policy changes including Compulsory Competitive Tendering and Local Management of Schools, providing her with first-hand experience of managing complex change.

She assumed her first role in Higher Education (HE) in 1990 and has subsequently worked in institutions spanning pre and post 1992, specialist institutions and the Russell Group, either as Director of Human Resources or the equivalent. Her most recent experience was at the University of Sussex, where she was also a member of the University Executive Group, prior to which she was at the Universities of Cambridge and Edinburgh.

Sheila is also a former Chair of the Russell Group HR Directors Forum and Universities HR, the professional body for HR professionals in HE. In 2006, she received an MBE for services to Higher Education and became a Leadership Foundation Fellow for Higher Education. She also served as an Independent Member of the Education Honours Committee for six years.

She has been invited to speak at conferences in the UK, Europe and the US, on topics relating to good governance, talent management, embedding equality and diversity into leadership development programmes and advancing gender equality.

Ms Gupta's talk about Ethnic Minority Women in STEMM will take place on March 25th at 13:30 (GMT).



**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Speakers and Panellists

Friday 26th March 2021

*Theme: Future Directions
and Priorities for Women in
STEMM*

Speaker | Yasmin Ali

Yasmin Ali is a chartered chemical engineer, passionate about the future of energy. She studied chemical engineering at the University of Nottingham before starting her engineering career at E.ON. Yasmin worked in conventional power generation as well as oil and gas exploration, production projects and operations. She now works as an Energy Innovation Project Manager for the UK Government's Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), supporting technical solutions to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions.



Yasmin is an avid promoter of engineering, regularly visiting schools, presenting at events, and writing for mainstream media about the achievements of engineers. Yasmin was awarded the Women's Engineering Society Young Woman Engineer 2013, and was shortlisted for a number of science and engineering awards. In 2020, she was listed as one of the WES top 50 women engineers in sustainability.

Yasmin Ali's talk about Future Directions and Priorities for Women in STEMM will take place on March 26th at 10:30 (GMT).

Speaker | Dr Rosalind Hannen

Dr Rosalind Hannen is the Founder and CEO of **Keratify**. She completed her BBSRC-Unilever PhD studentship in dermatoendocrinology at the Blizard Institute, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) in 2009 and actively created all her subsequent postdoctoral research positions by personally writing and winning grant funding, pitching to businesses and engaging in all types of funding opportunities.



She won the British Skin Foundation grant award in 2016 to further her research in psoriasis and was awarded a MedCity grant (the highest ranked grant) in 2017 with Fourth State Medicine to assess the effectiveness of plasma technology for chronic wound healing. In 2018, Ros won the MedTech SuperConnector and QMUL Life Sciences Initiative awards to accelerate the commercial development of her research; and most recently an Innovate UK Smart grant. Ros founded **Keratify** in December 2018 to advance laboratory human skin testing.

Dr Rosalind Hannen's talk about Future Directions and Priorities for Women in STEMM will take place on March 26th at 11:15 (GMT).

**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Speakers and Panellists

Friday 26th March 2021

*Theme: Future Directions
and Priorities for Women in
STEMM*

Speaker | Dr. Sara Bandres-Ciga

Dr. Sara Bandres-Ciga, is a molecular geneticist whose research interests are primarily focused in understanding how genetic variation affects neurodegenerative diseases. Her career started with a PharmD degree, followed by a Neuroscience MSc, and lastly a PhD (Hons) in Genetics from the University of Granada, Spain. In 2017, she joined the Laboratory of Neurogenetics at NIH (USA) as a postdoctoral researcher with the goal of conducting further research in the bioinformatics field, aimed at studying neurological disorders spanning the aetiological risk spectrum from monogenic to more complicated sporadic forms.



Dr. Bandres-Ciga has been recently awarded the 2019 NIA Women in Science Excellence in Research Award. She is passionate about inclusivity and democratization in science and has been active in scientific outreach and training.

Dr. Bandres-Ciga's talk about Future Directions and Priorities for Women in STEMM will take place on March 26th at 13:30 (GMT).

**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Speakers and Panellists

**Thursday 25th March 2021
&
Friday 26th March 2021**

Workshop Facilitator | Dr Hannah Thompson

Dr Hannah Thompson believes that everyone should have the opportunities to achieve their real potential, so that together we can change the world. Hannah loves to chat with anyone who will listen about the usefulness of self-awareness and networking to find career opportunities.

She has a PhD on the mechanistic link between type 2 diabetes and colorectal cancer from Queen Mary University of London (2014-2018). In 2014, she graduated with a Pharmacology Master's Degree from the University of Bath, which included a year of Drug Discovery with MedImmune where she focused on using phage display to identify novel targets for pancreatic cancer.

Since her PhD, she has worked in 4 different start-ups. It is likely she will try to convince you to work in a startup too! Hannah is currently working as Product Manager at Healx. She has experience across product, business, operations and people functions with user facing software products that monitor health and enable precision medicine and clinical trials. She has helped raise a seed fundraising round, hired 40 people, sourced initial customers, built partnerships, networks and product teams.

Hannah was awarded a spot on BioBeat's 2019's 50 Movers and Shakers in the BioBusiness report, highlighting the trailblazers and trendsetters shaping the future of the UK life sciences sector, for her commitment to collaboration through her work and her focus on simplifying software for monitoring cancer patients (<https://www.mws-consulting.co.uk/publication/50-movers-and-shakers-in-biobusiness-2019/>). She uses her startup experience to mentor for the Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (<http://www.yescompetitions.co.uk/>), QMUL Enterprise and Lair East Labs Accelerator in NYC (<https://laireastlabs.com/>). She also helps to mentor the next wave of Communication Experts in The Talent Factory (<https://showoftalentfactory.wordpress.com/>).

Hannah is an experienced speaker. Ever since an accountant told Hannah they understood all of her Pint of Science (<https://pintofscience.co.uk/event/playing-wheres-wally-with-cancer>) talk on the possible link between type 2 diabetes and bowel cancer, she has done lectures, panel talks, awards speeches and comedy gigs. In July 2017, she received the "Outstanding Contribution to Public Engagement" award from The Blizzard Institute, QMUL. In 2019, she did a show at Edinburgh Fringe while in 2020, Hannah appeared on Channel 4 news speaking about Long Covid. In her spare time, Hannah loves to read (she went a bit wild with 42 books read in 2020), play netball, blog, cross stitch and look after her 60+ plants! You can find more about what Hannah gets up to here: <https://linktr.ee/drhannah1>.

Dr Hannah Thompson will hold a workshop on 25th and 26th March at 14:00 (GMT). Separate registration required; a link will be provided upon registration for the conference).



**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Speakers and Panelists

Thursday 26th March 2021

*Theme: Ethnic Minority Women
in STEMM*

Panelist| Dr. Danielle Tomasello

Dr. Danielle Tomasello is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, MIT. She has a PhD in Neuroscience, and her current research focuses on Neuroscience and Developmental Biology in Neurodevelopmental Disorders. She is the founder of The Social Scientist (www.thesocialscientist.org): a community of mentors dedicated to STEM professional development.



"I have a huge obsession with tea and spend my free time bettering the STEM community!"

Dr Tomasello will take part in the panel discussion on perceptions of stereotypes applied to women who publicly communicate their STEMM work, on March 26th at 15:15 (GMT).

Panelist| Dr Katherine Evely

Dr Kate Evely attended the State University of New York at Buffalo (University at Buffalo) as a Division 1 Student Athlete, where she pursued a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacology & Toxicology and was a coxswain on the varsity rowing team.



She continued at the University at Buffalo to complete a Master's of Science in Pharmacology & Toxicology before entering the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences' PhD Program in Neuroscience.

Following completion of her dissertation, Kate worked briefly in the area of medical communications before joining Covalon Technologies, a biotechnology and medical device company focused on infection prevention. In her role as Director of Clinical Affairs at Covalon, Kate works on evidence generation, medical communications and supports other functions, such as regulatory affairs, research & development, and marketing as new products are brought to global markets. Outside of work, Kate enjoys spending time with her family and nature while sailing, biking and riding horses.

Dr Evely will take part in the panel discussion on perceptions of stereotypes applied to women who publicly communicate their STEMM work, on March 26th at 15:15 (GMT).

**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Speakers and Panellists

Thursday 26th March 2021

*Theme: Ethnic Minority Women
in STEMM*

Panelist | Dr Gloria Gonzalez Aseguinolaza

Dr Gloria González Aseguinolaza graduated in Biology from the University of the Basque Country and then completed her doctoral thesis at the Center for Biological Research of the Spanish Scientific Research Council, Madrid, under the direction of research professor Vicente Larraga.

After her PhD, she worked for three and a half years with Dr Ruth Nussenzweig and Dr. Moriya Tsuji (New York University), pioneering researchers in the search for new vaccines and treatments for malaria. She returned to Spain to join the Department of Gene Therapy and Hepatology of the University of Navarra, to lead the laboratory of Gene Therapy of Liver Diseases of the Centre for Applied Medical Research of the University of Navarra, CIMA. From 2014 to 2019, she was the Director of the Gene therapy and Regulation of Gene Expression at CIMA. Dr. González Aseguinolaza is co-founder and scientific director of Vivet Therapeutics, a biotech company for the development of Gene therapy for liver inherited diseases, founded in 2016. She is also currently the President of the Spanish Society of Gene and Cell Therapy and a board member of the European Society of Gene and Cell Therapy.

Dr González-Aseguinolaza has published more than 100 articles in international journals and has continued regional, national, and international funding. She participates as commissioner in the State Agency for Research Evaluation and in the evaluation of projects for different national and international agencies. She has trained 16 PhD students and 25 undergraduate, graduate and Master's students.

Dr Gloria Aseguinolaza will take part in the panel discussion on perceptions of stereotypes applied to women who publicly communicate their STEMM work, on March 26th at 15:15 (GMT).



WISE@QMUL International Women's Day 2021

National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021
Virtual event



Conference Committee

2020 - 2021

About WISE@QMUL

WISE@QMUL was set up in 2009 as an informal student group for discussion of female participation in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine). Our goals align with the Athena SWAN Charter, which STEMM subjects.

Our ongoing mission is to:

1. Establish informal links with women working within STEMM sectors that that can act as role models
2. Discuss a wide range of career paths; and
3. Provide encouragement for female students and early career researchers at Queen Mary University of London.

Conference Chair | Atiya Sarmin

Atiya Sarmin is a 4th year PhD student on the MRC DTP programme, completing her research at the Blizard Institute which focuses on Developing Advanced Models of Cutaneous Wound Healing using 3D Bioprinting. Prior to this, she completed a BSc in Biomedical Sciences at The University of Southampton before completing an MRes in Cancer Biology at Imperial College London.



Atiya has been Chair and Co-Chair of the WISE@QMUL committee since 2018 where

she has helped organise events for PGR students, staff and the local community that promote awareness and opportunities for girls and women in STEMM. In her role as Chair of the Conference Committee for the International Women's Day 2021 Conference, she manages the overall organisation of the Conference, ensuring that the team are motivated and able to complete tasks collaboratively and efficiently, whilst maintaining a positive and uplifting work environment especially during the difficult circumstances presented by the pandemic.

"It has been a great pleasure working alongside such driven and inspiring individuals at WISE@QMUL, who are mostly PGR students that generously contribute their own time to this great cause whilst also juggling study, work and family commitments. I am excited to see all our hard work come to fruition through this conference in March, and hopefully raise awareness of the obstacles women face in STEMM careers and give inspiration on how this has been overcome by successful individuals and organisations."

**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Conference Committee

2020 - 2021

Programme Chair | Ahsen Ustaoglu

Ahsen Ustaoglu is a third year PhD student at the Blizard Institute, investigating pain mechanisms in the oesophagus of patients with reflux disease. She has been the Secretary of the WISE@QMUL committee for 2 years, and has the role of Programme Chair in the committee for the International Women's Day 2021 conference. She is currently finalising the event schedule together with the programme committee and communicating event details with the speakers. She is particularly excited to facilitate conversations around the theme of ethnic minority women in STEMM and celebrate the journeys of some brilliant women!



Programme Committee | Dr Sharan Sidhu

Dr Sidhu has been the Staff Advisor of WISE@QMUL since 2013, championing for women in the STEMM subjects. She is a Reader at the Institute of Dentistry, Honorary Consultant in Restorative Dentistry at Barts Health NHS Trust and Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. She teaches at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, while maintaining clinical commitments, research supervision and an international research profile. She has been overseeing the organization for the International Women's Day 2021 conference and facilitating arrangements.



Programme Committee | Medalin Paul

Medalin Paul is a second year Chemical Engineering student who is the first Undergraduate Liaison to be actively involved in the PhD student-led group, WISE@QMUL. She currently supports both the programme and publicity committees in the organization for the International Women's Day 2021 Conference. She has been working alongside the Programme Chair to help manage the agenda and take initiative in selecting and liaising with speakers. Within the publicity committee, Medalin works with the Chair to plan the content for advertising through various social media platforms.



"The organisation of this conference has given me the opportunity to act for a good cause - to encourage women in science, engineering and technology while also celebrating those who have already carved their paths and have each made their mark in their respective disciplines."

**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Conference Committee

2020 - 2021

Finance Chair & Technology Co-Chair | Beth Hughes

Beth Hughes is the Treasurer of the WISE@QMUL committee. She is a first year PhD student in the department of Cell Biology and Cutaneous Research at Queen Mary University of London), and she is particularly interested in what happens to our bodies when we age, as well as how to improve human healthspan.

"I really enjoy my role within WISE@QMUL and it has enabled me to meet many inspiring and engaging women in STEMM."



Finance Committee & Technology Co-Chair | Duncan Wotherspoon

Duncan Wotherspoon is a 2nd year PhD student at the Blizard Institute, Queen Mary University of London, and he is interested in skin formation and cell biology.

"I'm not a member of the WISE@QMUL committee but have participated in a few events. I wanted to help organise the International Women's Day 2021 conference as a way of giving back to the excellent female peers and mentors I have had so far in my career, as well as those I will have in the future. I'm helping out with the finances, technical aspects and some of the organisation of the conference."



Publicity Chair | Dr Carla Usai

Dr Carla Usai is a postdoctoral researcher at the Blizard Institute (Queen Mary University of London), where she studies the immune system of patients infected by the Hepatitis delta virus, and by SARS-CoV-2.

She joined the WISE@QMUL Committee in 2020, undertaking the role of Social Media Manager; she is currently the Publicity Chair in the organisation for the International Women's Day 2021 conference, organising the content for advertising the event through social media platforms.

"I have studied and worked in Italy, Spain, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom, collecting experiences that I want to share with other students and scientists. I had an amazing woman scientist as a mentor during my PhD, and I have always been surrounded by female role models. As a member of WISE@QMUL, I would like to give visibility to women in STEMM and be a role model myself for girls of any age interested in pursuing a scientific career."



**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event

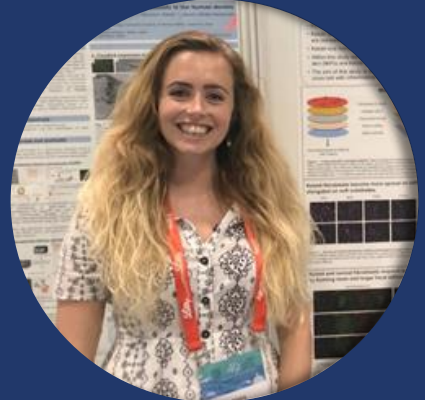


Conference Committee

2020 - 2021

Publicity Committee | Rosie Ross

Rosie Ross is a member of the publicity team for the WISE@QMUL International Women's Day 2021 conference. She is currently working towards her PhD, researching mechanotransduction in normal and keloid dermal fibroblasts. From a young age, she has always had a passion for STEMM subjects, in particular human biology, which has led her to pursue a career in scientific research.



"Growing up, feminism has always been an interest of mine but I have become much more engaged throughout adulthood as I have become more aware of existing inequalities, for example the unequal representation of women in STEMM. I joined the WISE@QMUL committee to help organise this conference because I think it is very important to bring people together to discuss solutions and ideas on how to compact this unequal representation but also to hear from women who have successful careers in STEMM to inspire new generations of women in STEMM."

Publicity Committee | Dr Debosree Pal

Dr Debosree Pal is a postdoctoral researcher at QMUL, trying to unravel the epigenetic mechanisms of rare neurodevelopmental disorders. In her free time, she likes to read, travel and participate in science outreach activities. She joined WISE@QMUL in September 2020, as a member of the evaluation and publicity committees towards organizing the WISE@QMUL International Women's Day 2021 conference.



"As an advocate for equal opportunities and recognition for women in STEMM, I hope to contribute my bit towards discussing relevant matters and developing a support system for women in STEMM as well as inspiring young women to pursue careers in STEMM."

Registration Chair | Hannah Mizen

Hannah Mizen is the Chair of the Registration & Evaluation Team for the WISE@QMUL International Women's Day 2021 Conference. She is in the final year of her PhD exploring the role of small extracellular vesicles encapsulated miRNAs (MicroRNAs) in senescence and skin ageing.



"From the first time I visited a lab, I've been excited by the role science research can play in improving people's lives, particularly through healthcare. I believe the most exciting strides in STEMM are achieved when diverse groups come together and through this conference, we are able to champion inspiring people that demonstrate the many future directions our research can take us."

**WISE@QMUL
International
Women's Day 2021**

**National Conference
25 - 26 March 2021**
Virtual event



Conference Committee

2020 - 2021

Registration Committee | Louise Gathercole

Louise Gathercole is a second year PhD student in the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences and at Kew Gardens, studying the genomics of British oak trees and their microbiomes. She has previously worked in the museums and heritage sector, as a facilitator and trainer, and as a primary school teacher where she saw first-hand how gender stereotyping about careers can begin at a very early age. She has also taken time out of her career to be a full-time parent to her three daughters.



Louise has been co-chair of WISE@QMUL since Feb 2020. She was involved in the early brainstorming for the conference and is working on evaluating the experience of the conference for both speakers and attendees. She is keen to be part of creating a world in which young people's career choices are not defined by their gender, ethnic or class background and is keen to help raise awareness of the many different career options in STEM.

Registration Committee | Isabelle Foote

Isabelle Foote is a registered nurse and third year PhD student based in the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine. Her research project uses statistical genetics to explore the mechanisms by which risk factors may lead to dementia. Isabelle has been a WISE@QMUL committee member for the past year. She has been involved in organising the agenda and selecting speakers, and she is helping the Finance & Technology team to run the workshops. She is really excited about the broad backgrounds and specialisations of the speakers and is keen to hear about innovative ways in which different fields are responding to women in STEM issues both in the UK and internationally.



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Registration Committee | Amy Dowse

Amy Dowse is in the second year of her PhD at the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science, investigating the use of technology in the treatment of anxiety in patients suffering from chronic pain. She has been part of WISE@QMUL since the start of her PhD and is giving her contribution in organising the International Women's Day 2021 Conference.

"This conference is an amazing opportunity to showcase the fantastic contributions women make in STEMM subjects as well as encourage other women to follow in their footsteps to continue the great work being done."



Registration Committee | Dr Jane Abbott

Dr. Jane Abbott is a medical doctor, and planning to sub-specialise in hepatology. She also holds a Master's Degree in Medical Ethics and Law. Jane is currently a clinical research fellow at the Blizard Institute, with her project focusing on quality of life and improving patient engagement for patients with Chronic Hepatitis B; more recently, she has been involved in a Covid-19 vaccine trial.

"A late addition to the committee, I have assisted with reaching out to speakers and helping with registration. I am passionate about having positive female role models for the next generation and I believe WISE@QMUL is ideally placed to help promote STEMM careers and engage with local schools and undergraduates. The range of speakers in the conference pays testament to the endless career possibilities for women, and will be inspiring for all of us."

