



DIVERSITY TECH SUMMIT

Investing in Women's Health

Keynote | Panel | Showcases | Networking





CONTENTS

DIVERSITY TECH SUMMIT 2025

- Welcome
- Event Overview
- Event Schedule
- Keynote
- Speakers
- Showcase Speakers
- Founder Showcase
- About Diversity UK
- Our Sponsors



Lopa Patel MBE



Ramesh Vala CBE



Sherad Dewedi



Alice Huang



Francesca Jus-Burke



Lalita Taylor



Sareeta Vala

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to the third Diversity Tech Summit.

When we hosted our inaugural Diversity Tech Summit in 2016, our aim was to address the underrepresentation of ethnic minorities and women founders within the UK tech ecosystem. At the time, women made up just 17% of the tech workforce, and we questioned whether there were deeper, more systemic barriers in the sector beyond gender alone. Our discussions focused on how to create meaningful change and move towards genuine balance and inclusion in technology.

By 2022, the conversation had progressed to how we might accelerate investment in women-led ventures, support underrepresented founders, and bridge regional disparities in opportunity and access. We also tackled the persistent digital skills gap and explored the role of innovation in fostering inclusion.

A Focus on Women's Health

Since then, Diversity UK has convened five 'Investing in Women Founders' panel discussions; run eight Tech Showcases featuring start-up founders; and organised a Demo Day to connect entrepreneurs with peers and investors.

This year, we are dedicating the Diversity Tech Summit to a single, critical topic: **Investing in Women's Health.**

Why women's health? A recent report from the McKinsey Health Institute, *Closing the Women's Health Gap: A \$1 Trillion Opportunity to Improve Lives and Economies*, highlights that women spend 25% more of their lives in poor health than men, a disparity with profound social and economic implications. As women continue to bear the brunt of caregiving responsibilities, this inequality hinders economic growth and individual wellbeing.

The report estimates that addressing this gap could enhance the lives of 3.9 billion women globally and contribute an additional \$1 trillion annually to the global economy by 2040. Health equity, therefore, is not just a moral necessity, it's a significant economic opportunity.

According to the World Economic Forum's 2025 Global Gender Gap Report, only 68.8% of the gender gap has been closed, with full parity still 123 years away.

We sincerely hope we won't need a Diversity Tech Summit in 123 years' time. Until then, thank you for joining us to explore an issue that touches us all - either directly or through someone we care about.

Warm regards,

Lopa Patel MBE (Chair)
On behalf of the Trustees of
Diversity UK

Event Overview



Theme: Investing in Women's Health

The Diversity Tech Summit will explore findings from a recent McKinsey Health Institute report, [Closing the Women's Health Gap: A \\$1 Trillion Opportunity to Improve Lives and Economies](#). The report reveals that women spend 25% more of their lives in poor health than men - an inequality with serious economic and social consequences. Closing this health gap could not only improve the lives of 3.9 billion women globally but also contribute an additional \$1 trillion annually to the world economy by 2040. The report emphasises that health equity is not only a moral imperative but also a major economic opportunity.

'Researcher to Entrepreneur: How to Create a HealthTech Spinout'

The current theme being explored for the panel debate is "Researcher to Entrepreneur: How to Create a HealthTech Spinout". This builds on the theme of 'Investing in Women Founders' debates that we have been hosting for the past 5 years and why 'Investing in Women's Health' is a key focus.

The debate will explore the questions of:

- Investing in women-focused research: what, where, when, how;
- Improving sex- and gender-specific data collection: debiasing the data to ensure inclusion;
- Increasing access to equitable care, navigating the NHS acceleration routes;
- Incentivising innovation, creating and scaling a healthtech spinout;
- Implementing supportive workplace and healthcare policies.

Event Schedule

Diversity Tech Summit 2025 - Investing in Women's Health

Following the resounding success of its last event, equality charity Diversity UK is set to host the Diversity Tech Summit 2025 on Wednesday 25 June, 6pm-9pm in Central London. Building on the momentum of previous events, which have brought together industry leaders, innovators, and changemakers, this year's summit aims to drive even greater impact in fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the tech sector, focussing on one of the most under-researched areas, Women's Health.

Over the past few years Diversity UK has hosted 2 Diversity Tech Summits; run 5 'Investing in Women Founders' panel debates; hosted 8 Tech Showcases to highlight start-up founders and organised a Demo Day to enable entrepreneurs to meet peers and investors, among other initiatives.

Programme

Registration & Networking	6.00pm - 6.30pm
Welcome <i>Ramesh Vala CBE, Diversity UK Deputy Chair</i>	6.30pm - 6.35pm
Introduction <i>Alex Danks, Principal, Futurum Financial Advice</i>	6.35pm - 6.40pm
Introduction <i>Philippa Sturt, Greenwoods Legal LLP</i>	6.40pm - 6.45pm
Keynote <i>Dr Kamel Hothi OBE, NED, Trustee & Advisor</i>	6.45pm - 7.00pm
Panel debate: Introduction to Diversity UK, debate + Q&A <i>moderated by Lopa Patel MBE, Diversity UK Chair</i>	7.00pm - 7.30pm
Tech Showcase - (4 tech founders) 4x3 mins + Q&A	7.30pm - 7.45pm
Closing remarks <i>Sareeta Vala, Diversity UK Trustee</i>	7.45pm-7.50pm
Networking, drinks & canapes	7.50pm-8.30pm
Close	9.00pm

Dr Kamel Hothi OBE

INTERNATIONAL MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER, NED, TRUSTEE & ADVISOR

KEYNOTE

Dr. Kamel Hothi OBE is an international motivational speaker and supports several boards as a NED, advisor, and trustee, including Lloyds of London ESG Committee for the Insurance Industry, The Queen's Commonwealth Trust across 54 countries on social change for youth, and as an advisor to Alzheimer's Society. She was previously a NED for TLC Lions supporting over 300 global companies on their inclusion, wellbeing, leadership development and executive coaching.

Kamel had 40 year career as a banker, working her way up in the industry from cashier to Director, and building her experience as an architect of numerous initiatives that have shaped the banking industry such as leading Lloyds Banking Groups 250th anniversary and developing local programmes with Business in the Community which is part of the Prince's Charities group formed by HM The King while he was The Prince of Wales. In recognition of her commitment and purpose around inclusion, Kamel was awarded an OBE for diversity across banking in 2017.

As an international motivational speaker, she is invited to inspire colleagues on topics like allyship, gender, race equality and leadership, helping senior executives transition to becoming more inclusive and empathetic. All this she has balanced as a mother, carer and wife living within a complex traditional Indian culture full of honour and traditions.



Alex Danks DipPFS

FINANCIAL ADVISOR & PRINCIPAL - FUTURUM FINANCIAL ADVICE

SPEAKER



Alex Danks DipPFS has been with St. James's Place since February 2012 and spent the first six years working alongside two very experienced Partners. Alex launched his own business in January 2018, seeking to combine the benefits of a traditional approach to financial planning with more modern, technology-based solutions to help clients meet their goals.

"I wanted to make our services available to all, based on my core belief that everyone should have the opportunity to benefit from the guidance and structure provided by a financial planner," says Alex, "what we provide at Futurum Financial Advice is built on what I've learned and what our clients have told us they want. We are dedicated to service and put you at the centre of everything we do. And this is backed by the tradition and support of St. James's Place, a FTSE 100 company, which provides you and us with first-class investment management technical expertise."

Delegate your financial planning to the experts and focus on you.

The value of an investment with St. James's Place will be directly linked to the performance of the funds you select and the value can therefore go down as well as up. You may get back less than you invested.

Sherad Dewedi

MANAGING PARTNER - SHENWARD

TRUSTEE

Sherad Dewedi is the Managing Partner of Shenward, a chartered accountancy and business advisory firm with offices in Cleckheaton, Leeds and London. Under his leadership, Shenward continues to grow its national and international presence while maintaining a commitment to high-quality professional services. In addition to Sherad's role as a Trustee of Diversity UK, he serves as a Finance Governor at Ghyll Royd School, a board member of Bradford Breakthrough and an Ambassador of the 1662 Committee at Bradford Grammar School.



Alice Huang

TRUSTEE

Lingbing (Alice) Huang is a dedicated working professional venturing into healthcare studies, driven by a passion for tackling health inequalities. She has worked for PwC in the UK for over 6 years and experience in media agencies and professional services, she has leveraged her networks to champion various meaningful initiatives close to her heart, including diversifying the stem cell registry, neurodiversity empowerment and addressing the gender health gap at work. As the organiser for the 2025 TEDx Square Mile Women event, she established a collaboration between Wellbeing of Women and her company's Gender Balance Network to curate an impactful event for International Women's Day. She now focuses on creating platforms that amplify the voices of invisible women, ensuring their stories and challenges are heard and addressed.

Alice holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Harbin Institute of Technology, China, and is currently pursuing Master's degree in Healthcare and Design at Imperial College London.



Francesca Jus-Burke

MANAGING ASSOCIATE - GREENWOODS LEGAL LLP

Francesca Jus-Burke is a corporate and commercial lawyer at Greenwood Legal LLP in Cambridge. She advises businesses and individuals based in the UK and internationally with private acquisitions and disposals, joint ventures and shareholder arrangements, as well as contract reviews, general commercial issues and company law matters. At her previous firm she founded a CSR Committee and sat on its D&I Steering Committee.

Before becoming a lawyer, Francesca worked as a rowing coach for Putney High School and Barn Elms Boat Club, as a tutor & assessor for British Rowing, and as a sports performer coordinator and mentor for the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust. More recently, Francesca has been a trustee of Love Rowing (British Rowing's charitable foundation), a charity that changes lives by increasing diversity in the sport.

SPEAKER



Melinda Nicci

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE CHAIR - BODY COLLECTIVE GROUP

SPEAKER

Melinda Nicci, as the Founder and Executive Chair of Body Collective Group (Baby2Body), spearheaded the creation of an AI-driven personal health coaching app for women. With a passion for wellness, she developed a platform that provides daily advice on health, fitness, beauty, mindfulness, and nutrition, impacting millions of women globally. Melinda's leadership led to the recognition of Baby2Body as an award-winning VC backed business, with accolades such as the Winner of UKActive Lab and App Promotion Awards.

She is a Sports & Exercise Psychologist, author of two bestselling books and sits on numerous boards as a NED, including The ICE List and Team GB (Olympic & Para-Olympics snow-sport teams). Melinda was named the UKBAA High Growth Founder of the year 2019/20, and has won numerous accolades for entrepreneurship, including being named in the UK list of the Most Influential Women in Tech for 4 years running.



Priya Oberoi

FOUNDING GENERAL PARTNER - GODDESS GAIA VENTURES

SPEAKER

Priya Oberoi is the Founding General Partner of Goddess Gaia Ventures (GGV), Europe's first women's centric healthcare fund. Priya conceptualised and started to build GGV in 2021 after a long-held belief that women's healthcare is greatly underserved and underfunded and there remains huge, untapped market potential in this investment vertical. GGV invests across the spectrum of women's health at seed +; its investment thesis focuses on 5 core investment themes to create alpha in a cross-pollinated portfolio.

Priya is also the founder of Oberoi Capital Partners, a boutique private placement firm she built from the ground up. She built, managed, and ran the investment firm for over 12 years, providing fund raising expertise, strategic business advice and multi-channel scale-up positioning across different asset classes and distinct investment strategies.

Priya is a structured finance and derivatives lawyer by background and training, attaining of-counsel recognition in 2010 at Clifford Chance - a magic circle law firm. She is one of the pioneers of Islamic Derivatives having been an architect of the ISDA-IIFM Tahawut Master Agreement that now is a foundational template for a \$1.2 Trillion Industry.

Priya holds a BA (Hons) and MA in Jurisprudence from Oxford University.



Lopa Patel MBE

CHAIR - DIVERSITY UK

Lopa Patel is a digital entrepreneur with significant experience of creating start-ups and transforming businesses through technology. The founder of two ventures in online media and a data-driven marketing consultancy, she is also Chair of equality and inclusion charity, Diversity UK; Chair of the Finance & Performance Committee and a NED of The National Archives, a non-ministerial department and the official archive and publisher for the UK Government, and she is Deputy Chair & Non-Executive Director on the NHS Devon Integrated Care Board (ICB).

Lopa is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (FCIM) and a Fellow of the Institute of Data & Marketing (FIDM); holds a BTec in Computer Science; a BSc degree in Biochemistry, attained at the University of Manchester (UMIST) and a postgraduate qualification, the FT Diploma in Corporate Governance. With a lifelong love of science and technology, she is an evangelist for STEM, innovation and bridging the skills gap in business.

SPEAKER



Rosalind Singleton

INVESTOR & ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER - ANGEL ACADEME

SPEAKER

Rosalind Singleton is a NED, Chair, advisor and investor with over 30 years of experience in the technology sector, having been CEO of Spring Fibre (wholesale FTTP startup), UK Broadband (4G and 5G) wholesale, retail (Relish) and business networks. She has served as CIO and COO and been instrumental in acquisitions, divestments and fundraising.

Rosalind is currently an Independent Board Observer at Lumine Group. She chairs the UK Government's Telecoms Supply Chain Diversification Advisory Council and is a member of the Board of INCA and Ofcom's Spectrum Advisory Board. Until June 2024 Rosalind was an Independent NED on the board of Alphawave PLC, a semiconductor business which floated on the LSE in 2021. She previously held senior technology positions in multiple telecoms businesses including Cable and Wireless, Vodafone, various VNOs, and international operators.

Rosalind has been an active angel investor and mentor and has led several deals, focussing on tech businesses with a female founder. She is a member of the Angel Academe Advisory Board.



Ed Smith

CO-FOUNDER & CTO - ADORA HEALTH

SPEAKER

Ed Smith is the Co-founder & CTO of Adora Digital Health, a personalised expert-backed app and platform that helps women navigate perimenopause and menopause with confidence. Ed is an expert in disruptive tech solutions in the mobile industry. He has developed Conversational AI for organisations ranging from EY to Deloitte and international banks, as well as working for Qualcomm. Ed has worked in the UK, US and Far East.

When Co-Founder & CEO Ann O'Neill first told Ed what it was like to be a perimenopausal woman both in and out of the workplace, he was surprised. After doing his own research he was shocked at the lack of detailed information and could see how Conversational-AI could improve women's lives.



Phillipa Sturt

PARTNER, CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL - GREENWOODS LLP

SPEAKER

Phillipa Sturt is a corporate law partner at Greenwood's LLP based in Bloomsbury. She advises clients on the full range of corporate, transactional and commercial issues and is the go-to corporate advisor for founders and entrepreneurs navigating the landscape of acquisitions and disposals, MBOs, company reorganisations, company law, shareholder matters, employee incentives, and commercial agreements.

Phillipa's unique talent lies in simplifying legal jargon into plain English and keeping clients laser-focused on what matters. Whether you're seeking seed funding, navigating series A, B and C fundraises or selling your business, Phillipa will be in your corner, cutting through the noise to deliver the clarity and pragmatic legal advice you need.

Similarly, whether it's the challenge of shepherding businesses through the complexities of equity investments, SEIS/EIS, crowdfunding, exiting or incentive schemes, Phillipa will be as invested in the success of your venture as you are. Whilst her recent experience includes advising food and beverage, FMCG, and tech clients she is experienced in working across all business sectors.

If you're an ambitious founder looking to level up or an investor seeking guidance through the start-up ecosystem, Phillipa can help.



Lalita Taylor

INCLUSION CONSULTANT, STRATEGIST & GENDER EQUITY ADVOCATE

TRUSTEE



Lalita Taylor is an inclusion consultant, strategist, and gender equity advocate dedicated to advancing women's leadership and systemic inclusion through strategic influence and grassroots action.

In her current role as Inclusion Consultant for CoSTAR - a pioneering national R&D infrastructure shaping the future of storytelling - she ensures inclusive practice is embedded from inception across the UK's screen and performance industries.

Internationally, Lalita serves as Expert Advisor to the UNFPA Equalizer Fund and the WomenX Collective, helping integrate gender equity into innovation on a global scale. As a UK Advisory Council Member to the World Woman Foundation, she co-developed the World Woman Commonwealth Agenda ahead of CHOGM.

She also co-founded MediaTechWomen, a cross-industry alliance between the BBC, Sky, and News UK, to drive systemic inclusion in the media tech sector. At the BBC, Lalita served as Co-Chair of Women in STEM, leading initiatives that grew membership by 40% and introducing roles such as Youth Co-Leads and a Responsible AI lead.

Lalita's leadership is defined by care, clarity, and courage. From shaping national frameworks to global strategies, she creates inclusive ecosystems where women and gender-diverse people can thrive, lead, and innovate.

Ramesh Vala CBE

DEPUTY CHAIR - DIVERSITY UK

Ramesh Vala CBE is a Consultant and International Brand Ambassador, having worked for a number of leading law firms, including as a Partner and Head of Property, where he gained extensive experience in advising clients on property related matters. Graduating from the London School of Economics, Ramesh went on to achieve a distinction in his finals at Lancaster Gate College of Law. He became a partner within eighteen months of qualification and soon became one of very few Asian equity partners in a top UK law firm.

In his personal life, he is dedicated to improving the lives of those less fortunate by fundraising for various charities. In 2001, Ramesh was appointed an OBE for his charitable work and in 2022, he was honoured with a CBE in recognition of his services to the community and to the Covid-19 Response.

SPEAKER



Sareeta Vala

TRUSTEE - DIVERSITY UK

SPEAKER

Sareeta Vala is a passionate NLP (Neurolinguistic Programming) Trainer and Consultant, part of the NLP Global Training and Consultancy Community and Neuroscience Coach, dedicated to helping individuals and businesses achieve self-mastery and peak performance. Having trained under renowned figures like Robert Dilts and Judith Delozier at NLP, she integrates proven NLP methods to inspire personal and professional growth.

With a rich background in business and retail management, product design, and procurement, Sareeta combines her expertise in business with her deep understanding of human behaviour. This unique blend enables her to provide tailored strategies that foster both personal development and business excellence. Sareeta's approach focuses on unlocking potential, driving positive change, and guiding clients on their path to self-improvement and lasting success.



Linda Hong Cheng

CO-FOUNDING CEO - MUNG!

SHOWCASE

Linda Hong Cheng is the Co-Founding CEO of Mung!, the world's first AI-driven AgeTech infrastructure serving older consumers, and the Founding Director of Girlpane, AI-powered ArtTech democratising access to the global art market. She holds a PhD in Computational Sociology from the University of Oxford; an MA in Regional Studies: East Asia from Columbia University, USA, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA.

A visionary tech-for-good founder & angel investor, Linda is a Computational Sociology PhD researcher supported by the Clarendon Award at Oxford and WEAI-FLAS Fellow at Columbia, she bridges cutting-edge academic research with venture innovation - leading the next era of responsible AI innovation.

Her work on decolonising AI has been published in the Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Machine Learning where she was the youngest invited contributor, and her research on gender and political representation has been published in Mobilization: An International Quarterly, the world's premier social movements journal.



Sandra Igwe

FOUNDER - THE MOTHERHOOD GROUP

Sandra Igwe is a pioneering Black maternal health leader and FemTech innovator, revolutionising digital support for Black mothers through AI-powered platforms. As the Founder of The Motherhood Group, she has connected and supported thousands of Black mothers through her social enterprise, which delivers community-based events, training workshops, peer-to-peer support, and culturally sensitive programmes. Sandra is the visionary behind several ground-breaking initiatives in the UK, including the Black Maternal Health Conference (the largest of its kind in the UK), Black Maternal Mental Health Week, and the Black Maternal Health Awards.

Sandra is the author of 'My Black Motherhood: Mental Health, Stigma, Racism and the System,' where she amplifies both her voice and the experiences of countless Black mothers, advocating for healthcare professionals to listen to, believe, and understand Black women. She served as a Trustee for Birthrights Charity, the leading organisation for human rights in pregnancy and childbirth in the UK. A compelling TEDx speaker, Sandra regularly shares her expertise at major organisations including Meta, Diageo, Dove, Mbrace-UK, NHS E&I, and the Trades Union Congress (TUC) Conference. She effectively bridges the gap between Black maternal communities and service providers, policy-makers, and organisations.

SHOWCASE



Dr. Stasa Stankovic

CO-FOUNDER & CEO - OVARTIX

SHOWCASE

Dr Stasa Stankovic is a world leading scientist in reproductive medicine with a BSc from the University of Oxford, and MPhil and PhD in Reproductive Genomics from the University of Cambridge. She focuses on deciphering genetic architecture of reproductive ageing, fertility and menopause, and their link to other health conditions and longevity in women. Commercialising her PhD, today she is a co-founder and CEO of OvartiX, a women's health drug discovery company aiming to develop next-generation therapeutics for reproductive disorders like infertility, polycystic ovarian syndrome, menopause etc. She also works as a strategy consultant for AstraZeneca, where she is defining and growing corporate-wide strategy around application of human omics, AI and ML for drug discovery, and Cercle AI, an AI driven women's health startup.

Based on her work, she was awarded 'McKinsey&Company Next Generation Women Leader' for 2020, the best young investigator under the age of 40 by the International Menopause Society ('Robert Greenblatt Award'), one of ten best UK young scientists in the biomedical sector by the UK Government 'STEM for Britain', one of top 100 women in tech in the UK by Barclays and she is considered as one of 11 scientists with the highest impact on innovations in menopause and reproductive health by Forbes.



Dr. Elsa Zekeng

FOUNDER & CEO - SOKER DATA

SHOWCASE



Elsa Zekeng is a scientist, an entrepreneur and a policy advocate. With a PhD in Infectious Disease and Global Health and 7+ years as a consultant with organisations like the World Health Organisation and 2+ years in life science strategy consulting at LEK Consulting and Guidehouse (ex-Navigant), she is founder of SökerData, a start-up increasing equity in clinical trials for women and black and ethnic minority groups by engaging with Pharmaceutical and biotech companies to support them in diversifying their drug development process.

Elsa has been listed as; one of 40 under 40 future black leaders by the British Cultural Archives (BCA), the “Top 50 Most Inspiring, prominent and influential black voices in UK Tech” by Tech Nation, nominated as “One to Watch” and an ‘Agent of Change’ by Northern Power Women. Elsa received a medal from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (RIP) for exceptional work with the World Health Organisation (WHO) during the biggest Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Africa. Elsa is also an advisory board member at the Science and Industry Museum, University of Salford and a Trustee at SmartWorks Greater Manchester charity.

Ahana Banerjee

FOUNDER AND CEO - CLEAR



Ahana Banerjee, Founder and CEO - Clear

e: ahana@getclearapp.com

Seed stage, seeking investment

Ahana Banerjee is the Founder and CEO of Clear, a Y Combinator-backed beauty-tech startup. Ahana has been recognised in Forbes 30 Under 30 and on The Sunday Times 'Young Power List 2024, where, at 24, she was the youngest female technology founder on both lists. Ahana holds a BSc Physics degree from Imperial College London. Before founding Clear, Ahana had experience in software engineering and investment banking at Morgan Stanley and UBS, and in startups.

"I have previously spoken at Diversity UK showcases and exhibited Clear at its inaugural Demo Day last year and have found it to be an incredible network with deeply insightful conversations."

Clear is a mobile app that helps consumers get data-driven, unbiased skincare product recommendations. The app enables users to track their skincare routine, measure skin changes with progress selfies, and fosters a community where you can find people with similar skin types and concerns. You can also find educational skincare content, and share your skincare data with your dermatologist via the app. Clear has raised \$1M in VC funding; their investors include Y Combinator and Harvard Management Company, they work with over 3,000 beauty brands, and have grown organically to over 20,000 users. They were the L'Oréal Beauty Tech for Good winners, selected by Beiersdorf for the Beauty Tech Innovation Summit, and were featured by Apple as "Best New Apps and Updates" on the iOS App Store. <https://getclearapp.com/>



Dr. Mehak Mumtaz

COO - ILOF, OPTOMICS™



Mehak Mumtaz, COO - iLoF, Optomics™

e: info@ilof.tech

Series A, seeking investment

With a PhD in Pathology from the University of Oxford, Mehak Mumtaz has a solid grounding in the biological mechanisms underpinning the disease and biomarker discovery. Combining this with experience in strategy consulting and innovation, Mehak was able to advise C-suite leaders on expansion, market-entry, and growth strategy engagements as a strategy consultant at EY-Parthenon. In her previous roles, Mehak has been involved in managing a €1.5m innovation project on Rare Cancers at Oxford University. She is also an I2I Fellow at the Said Business school and a member of the RisingWise network at Oxford.

We've developed Optomics™, an advanced AI-powered platform that integrates Machine Learning and Deep Learning algorithms with a patented, low-cost photonics device to enable label-free detection of nano-scale structures in liquid samples like blood or plasma. Optomics™ can identify both individual biomarkers - such as beta-amyloid, tau proteins, and peptides - and broader biological profiles, including early-stage Alzheimer's or mild cognitive impairment. Results are delivered in under 30 seconds with over 84% accuracy. At the heart of Optomics™ is a non-destructive, highly focused laser beam, precisely guided by a nano-engineered lensed optical fiber. When the laser interacts with a sample, it generates a distinctive back-scattered signal.



This signal is processed through our proprietary AI pipeline, which creates an “optical fingerprint” of the sample. By comparing this fingerprint with our extensive library of stored references, Optomics™ rapidly and accurately identifies disease-related structures, helping accelerate diagnosis and enable earlier, personalized treatment. <https://www.ilof.tech>

Sonakshi Senthil

CEO - YOUR CUE LTD



Sonakshi Senthil, CEO - Your Cue Ltd

e: <https://linktr.ee/YourCueUK>

Pre-seed stage, seeking investment

Sonakshi Senthil, CEO (co-founder), has a distinction in Personalised Medicine from UCL and an Innovate UK awardee. She is also a Top 100 Asians in UK Tech awardee (2023 and 2024) and a successful YouTube channel owner. She was raised in a family of entrepreneurs who have a strong orientation for business in various sectors. She has always been keen to improve global healthcare standards and started her journey by creating a significant impact in improving hospital administration workflows during her work at Aravind Eye Hospital, India. This fuelled her passion further and she even pursued Improving global healthcare and safety through Harvard EDX before beginning her journey with Your Cue.

Your Cue

Your Cue automates emergency care and first responder support for anyone suffering a life threatening emergency such as a cardiac arrest outside of a hospital and improves efficiency of care provided within hospital and care homes. Our first product to market is Neo-Alert. A life saving device to reduce newborn mortality rates in developing countries.

www.yourcue.co.uk



THENA Capital Secures £27m First Close for Inaugural MedTech Fund

THENA Capital has announced the first close of its debut UK MedTech Fund at £27 million, boosted by a cornerstone commitment of up to £30 million from the British Business Bank through its Enterprise Capital Funds (ECF) programme. The fund aims to raise £50 million in total to support early-stage UK medical technology startups focused on digital health solutions and fast-tracked medical devices.

Backed by high-profile investors including Firebird Collective, This Day Foundation, Baroness Martha Lane Fox, and executives from private equity and pharma, the fund is poised to play a transformative role in advancing the UK's MedTech sector.

Founded in 2021 by Dr Pamela Walker Geddes, Esther Reynal de Saint-Michel, and Tatum Getty, THENA Capital is led by an all-female general partner team with deep expertise across the healthcare industry in the UK, Europe and the US. The fund targets high-potential ventures in areas such as oncology, chronic conditions, cardiovascular and neurological health, mental health, care delivery, and women's health - a focus area the team views as significantly underserved.

In addition to financial backing, THENA Capital will work closely with founders to help commercialise innovations and scale them internationally, particularly into the US market. A quarter of the fund is earmarked specifically for women's health, and the firm applies a gender-smart investment strategy to support equitable access to healthcare solutions and funding.

Christine Hockley, Managing Director and Co-Head of Funds at the British Business Bank, said: "This commitment to THENA Capital supports our strategic objective to back innovation as they support startups developing digital healthcare solutions and medical devices. As one of the founding signatories of the Investing in Women Code, we're also proud to support the advancement of female entrepreneurship through our first partnership with an all-female general partner team."

The Bank's ECF programme is designed to lower barriers for emerging fund managers and increase the availability of venture capital for early-stage UK businesses. Since inception, it has backed 48 funds, representing nearly £2.4 billion of investment.

New Endometriosis Pill Approved for NHS Use in England

A new once-daily pill for endometriosis, linzagolix, has been approved for use on the NHS in England, potentially helping over 1,000 women each year who have not responded to previous treatments.

Approved by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), linzagolix will be made available in the coming months for women who have already tried other medical or surgical options without success. The drug aims to ease symptoms such as chronic pelvic pain and heavy periods, which affect around 1.5 million women in the UK living with endometriosis.

Endometriosis occurs when tissue similar to the womb lining grows in other parts of the body, often causing severe discomfort, fatigue and fertility issues.

Linzagolix is the second oral treatment approved for endometriosis in England. It follows the March approval of relugolix combination therapy, the first long-term daily pill licensed for this condition. Both options offer women the convenience of at-home treatment.

The new medication will be prescribed alongside 'add-back' therapy - a low-dose hormone replacement treatment - to reduce potential side effects like bone thinning and menopause-like symptoms.

Clinical trials have shown linzagolix to be effective in reducing both period-related and non-menstrual pelvic pain compared with a placebo.

Women's Health Minister, Baroness Merron, added: "After years of underinvestment in women's health, we're now making real progress - not only by backing new treatments like linzagolix but also by tackling diagnosis delays and cutting waiting times."

The move comes as part of the Government's wider commitment to improving women's health, including through the Women's Health Strategy and Plan for Change, which aims to provide faster, fairer care for women across the NHS.

Closing the Women's Health Gap:

A \$1 Trillion Opportunity



Ground-breaking research released in Davos by the McKinsey Health Institute, in collaboration with the World Economic Forum's Centre for Health and Healthcare, highlights the vast potential of investing in women's health.

On average, women spend 25% more time in poor health than men. Closing the Women's Health Gap: A \$1 Trillion Opportunity to Improve Lives and Economies report examines the underlying causes of this disparity and outlines key actions to unlock better health outcomes and economic gains.

According to the report, narrowing the health gap could cut the time women spend in poor health by nearly two-thirds and contribute up to \$1 trillion to the global economy annually by 2040. Women could gain an additional seven healthy days each year - over 500 days across a lifetime. For every \$1 invested in women's health, the projected return is \$3, equivalent to enabling 137 million women to enter full-time work.

Realising this opportunity involves several steps: increasing investment in women-focused research, collecting and analysing data by sex, gender, and ethnicity, improving access to tailored healthcare, encouraging new funding models, and adopting workplace policies that support women's health.

Anouk Petersen, co-author and Partner at McKinsey, noted: "Historically, women have been treated as 'small men' in medicine, even though our biology differs significantly. Women's health is often narrowly defined, which understates the broader health burden they face."

Co-authors Valentina Sartori and Pooja Kumar stressed the urgency of funding research and improving care delivery. "Fifty-six percent of the women's health burden is linked to conditions that are more common or manifest differently in women," said Kumar.

Closing the Women's Health Gap: A \$1 Trillion Opportunity report can be downloaded from https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Closing_the_Women%E2%80%99s_Health_Gap_2024.pdf

UK Launches Groundbreaking AI Trial to Improve Breast Cancer Detection

Nearly 700,000 women across the UK will participate in a pioneering trial to test how advanced AI tools can improve early detection of breast cancer, the Department of Health and Social Care has announced.

As part of a nationwide push to embrace innovative technologies, 30 screening centres will be equipped with cutting-edge AI systems. These tools will assist radiologists in analysing mammograms, identifying early changes in breast tissue that could indicate cancer and recommending further tests when necessary.

Currently, each mammogram requires two specialists to review the results. The new technology could safely allow a single radiologist to conduct the screening, potentially freeing up hundreds of clinicians to see more patients, reduce waiting times, and save more lives.

The EDITH trial (Early Detection using Information Technology in Health) is backed by £11 million in government funding through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). It reflects the UK's commitment to leading global cancer care through research and innovation.

Breast cancer remains the most common form of cancer among women in the UK, with around 55,000 diagnoses each year. Women aged 50 to 71 are invited for NHS breast screening every three years—totalling about 2.1 million screenings annually. This programme is estimated to prevent approximately 1,300 deaths per year.

Cancer remains a leading cause of death in the UK, with someone dying every four minutes. A recent review led by Lord Darzi found that survival rates here lag behind those in comparable countries.

The government aims to make the UK a global leader in cancer survival through better research, diagnosis, screening, treatment and prevention to build an NHS ready for the future.

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Diversity UK has achieved many successes over the years, including:

- Publishing a flagship 'Beyond the Glass Ceiling' Research Report in 2013.
- Participating in 4 Reviews including the McGregor-Smith 'Race in the Workplace' Review.
- Establishing the annual Paul Stephenson lecture on race equality.
- Devising and leading the Asians in Tech initiative over the past decade.
- Supporting 160 industry events; organising 38 events; celebrating 14 IWD events & 2 Summits.

Diversity UK is a registered charity (No: 1155189) in England & Wales. For further information, visit

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