



RaCE Network Conference 2023 Milton Keynes



'Stories We Tell'



**A ROUND OF INTRODUCTIONS FROM
THE RACE TEAM TO BEGIN THE
DAY!**

**ANNABELLE LAMBOURN,
LONDON NETWORK LEAD & MC
FOR THE DAY**

**RUSHMI KANJEE,
LUTON & BEDFORDSHIRE NETWORK
LEAD**

**SAHAR KARIZ,
NETWORK SUPPORT COORDINATOR**





MOHIT VENKATARAM, OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND EXECUTIVE SPONSOR OF THE TRUST'S ELFTABILITY NETWORK HELPED US TO SET THE MOOD FOR THE DAY WITH SOME OPENING WORDS

WE ALL HAVE OUR STORY AND EVERY SINGLE ONE COUNTS



WE THEN GOT THE ROOM MOVING WITH LOVELY SHOWING US SOME TRADITIONAL BHANGRA MOVES!



Dr Evelyn Mensah



Dr Evelyn (Evie) Mensah is a Consultant Ophthalmologist at Central Middlesex Hospital, London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust where she's the Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology and Co-Lead for the North West London Ophthalmology Clinical Reference Group.

Evie obtained her medical degree from Imperial College and ophthalmology training was at Moorfields. Her expertise includes the management of medical retinal disease and complex cataract surgery. She's a previous educational supervisor and college tutor to Ophthalmology Specialist Trainees (OSTs) in her unit and has trained and accredited a multi-professional workforce to take on extended roles. Evie has been the recipient of two 'Best Trainer in Ophthalmology' Health Education England awards over the past four years nominated by London OSTs.

Evie is a trustee of the Moorfields Lions Korle Bu Trust and has developed an innovative diabetic retinopathy management course for West African Ophthalmologists underpinned by input from educators at University College London and the West African College of Surgeons. She also runs an innovative Laser simulation course for London OSTs.

Evie is the Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES) Expert for her Trust that comprises a 69% global majority workforce. She is also the new Chair for EDI (equity, inclusion and diversity) at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

Evie is active on social media where she is an advocate for antiracism and social justice.



Dr Evie delivered a powerful presentation on systemic racism in the NHS and received a standing ovation

'SILENCE IS VIOLENCE'

Juliana Ansah



Juliana Ansah, Head of Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, ELFT

CEO & Founder of Black Leaders in Healthcare, a community of over 300 nurses, doctors, Allied Health Professionals, programme managers and more across the UK and are passionate about building a community of Black Leaders and investing in change for future generations to come.

Using social media, it has led to the demand for a safe space for Black professionals to learn and grow through sharing lived experiences.

As part of EDI, Juliana looks at the Workforce Race Equality Standards (WRES), which uses equality indicators to track and improve performance, giving more insight into the experiences of global majority workforce



Juliana gave us a run-down of the recent WRES data for the Trust with an Introduction to EDI

We were then treated to a Career Guidance session with a Building Your Confidence workshop to improve CVs and interview skills!

Michelle Cox



Michelle has 30 years' experience in the NHS, and 26 years as a registered nurse. Michelle has a particular interest in health inequalities.

As a black nurse she has shone a light on issues affecting not just black and ethnic minorities in her home town of Liverpool but has led on a number of national programs to elevate understandings around Equality Diversity and Inclusion ensuring that challenges are addressed and learning embedded throughout NHS organisation.

Michelle is more than passionate about challenging discrimination and injustice and has often her platform as a nurse. Until recently she was the Chair of Steve Biko Housing Association ensuring that the elderly and vulnerable in the local community have access to quality affordable homes free from race discrimination.

It comes as no surprise to hear of Michelle's landmark win at an Employment Tribunal, February 2023, taking on her employer for race discrimination, harassment, victimisation and detriments for whistleblowing. A fight she describes as a win for global majority staff in the NHS.

She has just returned from volunteering at her second medical mission in Ghana. Her first was in 2022 to Sierra Leone which Michelle describes as an enriching experience.



During the conference, Michelle brought her solicitor, Ferguson Doyle, who gave practical legal advice.

Michelle then delivered us an exceptional talk, taking us through her journey with the NHS and her discrimination tribunal





We then had a fantastic presentation from PC Cris Ryan who gave some very insightful and informative advice regarding hate crimes and reporting processes with the Metropolitan Police



A local Milton Keynes Drumming group 'Nkiru Arts' then gave a lively performance to round of the day



**Our beautiful members
joined in and gave us a
spectacular dance!**



**Our Henna Station was also
in full swing throughout the
day**







The Conference had a great turnout and was packed with powerful stories throughout the day with emotive speakers that really made us think, feel and reflect deeply. It is with a rekindled hope that we go forward in the New Year with this renewed vigour to embrace the true meaning of diversity, equity and inclusion in our everyday life - at work and at home.

We look forward to seeing everyone again at next year's conference, and of course, until then, we encourage you to actively take part in the network events and spaces that we regularly hold, and we are always here to support you in facilitating any sessions or events that you are passionate about

As stated by our wonderful Executive Sponsor for the Network, our Chief Operating Officer and newly appointed Deputy Chief Executive, Mr Edwin Ndlovu in his resounding closing speech:

This is 'Our Thing'. Each and every one of us, the NHS is 'Our Thing', this Network is 'Our Thing'. This Network is ours and it is for us to drive it forward in the direction that we want - together, united.



**Happy New Year
From the RaCE Network Team**