

# Melanin Medics



Black History Month is an important time of reflection, celebration, and hope. It provides us with the opportunity to amplify black voices, spotlight achievements within the black community and celebrate diversity. This month must be used to challenge negative stereotypes and ensure that institutions are continually working to break biases that they may hold. Black British history within healthcare is abundant with inspirational figures and trailblazers who have overcome systemic barriers. As a community, we are pleased to honour the great work of those who came before us and celebrate the ongoing missions of black leaders today.

We remember the contributions of black doctors in history such as Harold Moody; a Jamaican-born doctor who came to the UK to study medicine in the early 20th century. As a result of the racial discrimination, he faced as a student and doctor, he fervently campaigned against racial injustice. Ms Monica Lewin was the first Jamaican woman to become a fellow of The Royal College of Surgeons of England. Her career illustrates the personal determination that often underlies extraordinary achievement by people from under-represented groups. Dr Christopher B Lynch is the pioneer of the B-Lynch brace suture, a surgical technique used to halt post-partum haemorrhaging saving millions of lives. After retiring as an obstetric and gynaecological surgeon, Dr Lynch returned to his native country Sierra Leone to continue to teach medical students and doctors.

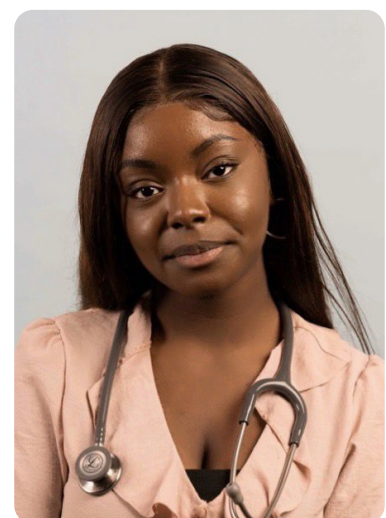
It is difficult to think about Black History Month without recognising the presence of adversity and discrimination that black doctors and medical students have experienced over the years. Whilst we celebrate the great degree of progress that has been made, we also recognise that there is much more to be done.

Melanin Medics is a charity focused on supporting the present and future black African and Caribbean doctors. Our mission is to promote diversity in Medicine. Initially starting as a blog, Melanin Medics has rapidly grown to become home to the largest intergenerational network of current and future black African and Caribbean doctors in the UK.

We champion racial equity by implementing positive solutions to overcome racial and socio-economic barriers, through educational programmes, social empowerment, and valuable resources. We do this to empower the workforce directly but to also positively impact patient care indirectly. Since our establishment, we have delivered bespoke mentoring programmes, events and support services to our members as they begin and navigate their medical careers, reaching thousands across the UK.



**Ms Olamide Dada**  
Founder and Chief Executive  
of Melanin Medics



**Dr Oyinda Adeniyi**  
Strategic Communications  
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At Melanin Medics, we envision a future where diversity in Medicine thrives, and every person can fulfil their maximum potential irrespective of their race and socioeconomic background. Black History Month is a reminder that there is a fairer future to hope for.

Take this month as an opportunity to reflect on the experiences of black doctors and medical students both historically and at present. Celebrate and amplify the work of great pioneers in Medicine of black African and Caribbean heritage. As we collectively hope for a fairer future, think about what further steps you can take to promote racial diversity and equity in Medicine.

**Written by Dr Olamide Dada and Oyinda Adeniyi**

**Ms Oyinda Adeniyi** is a 4th-year medical student at the Hull York Medical School and the Strategic Communications Officer at Melanin Medics. She has several interests such as widening participation, social enterprise and diversity within medicine.

**Dr Olamide Dada** is a junior doctor, leadership fellow and charity leader. She is the Founder and Chief Executive of Melanin Medics. Olamide is an advocate for racial equality in Medicine and is also passionate about widening participation, tackling ethnic inequalities in health and empowering young leaders.