

The Conversation and Burroughs Wellcome Fund Announce Partnership to Encourage Diverse Voices in the Media

BOSTON, MA, USA, October 26, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [The Conversation US](#) (TCUS) has received a planning grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF) to develop a program to identify and cultivate scholars of color in the biomedical sciences to become public voices.

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*Beth Daley, Editor and
General Manager of The
Conversation*

The \$75,000 grant will fund The Conversation to develop a series of webinars designed to inspire and inform scholars about public scholarship, how to write for The Conversation and more generally how to interact more regularly with the public through a variety of communication channels, including public speaking, broadcast interviews, and writing.

This grant is the first step of a major initiative by The Conversation to develop, promote and sustain diverse and trusted expert voices for the public good.

“This grant is critically important given the lack of diverse perspectives in media,” said Bruce Wilson, chief innovation

and development officer for TCUS. “Bringing the expert voices of scholars of color into the public square will ensure a more inclusive dialogue in society.”

BWF and The Conversation seek to change how scholars of color contribute expertise to help the public. Both organizations strive to identify, cultivate, and inspire these academics to become public voices on their areas of expertise, not only on issues of inequality or race.

“We are delighted to support this unique partnership with The Conversation to engage and bring into the public forum diverse scholars to lend their voices, experiences and talents,” BWF President and CEO Dr. Louis Muglia said. “We hope to encourage broader engagement by the public at large and inspire future generations of scientists and scholars.”

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Conversation. "By doing so, we can allow new authority from different perspectives."

In 2012, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund launched the Postdoctoral Enrichment Program for underrepresented minority biomedical research fellows. Since then, the Fund has invested \$7.5 million into the program. There are 125 past and present BWF scholars/researchers of color who will be invited to participate in these professional webinars to become public voices.

The Conversation's subject-expert editors work with top scholars nationwide to transform their research into accessible journalism, which is offered for free to news media. Stories are distributed through the Associated Press, Yahoo News and hundreds of other media outlets across the globe.

About the Burroughs Wellcome Fund

The [Burrough Wellcome Fund](https://www.bwffund.org/) is a private foundation based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Its mission is to serve and strengthen society by nurturing a diverse group of leaders in biomedical sciences to improve human health through education and powering discovery in frontiers of greatest need. <https://www.bwffund.org/>

About The Conversation US

The Conversation US is an independent, nonprofit media organization offering news, commentary and analysis that is authored by academics and edited by journalists for the general public. Its mission is to increase the availability of evidence-based information and strengthen journalism by unlocking the rich diversity of academic knowledge and expertise for audiences across America.

Launched in October 2014, The Conversation US has published work by over 9,000 scholars from more than 630 American colleges and universities. It is funded by many of the nation's leading foundations and universities. www.theconversation.com/us

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The Conversation US

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