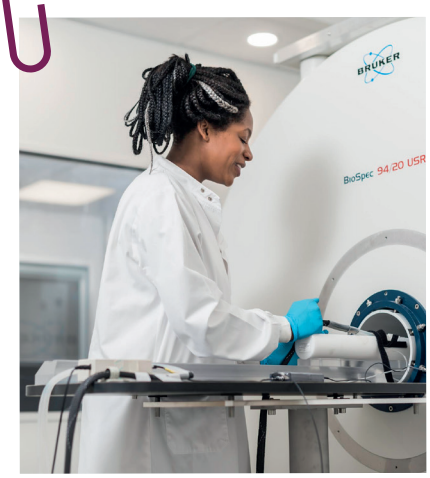
The Ogden Trust

making physics matter

Phizzi professionals



Dr Yolanda Ohene

School

I enjoyed music and art at school; I was able to express myself and be creative. But my favourite subject was maths. I loved trying to solve complex problems and found it very satisfying when abstract concepts began to make sense. I took A-levels in maths, physics, chemistry and French – I was attracted to the scientific subjects but wanted to be able to speak a foreign language too!

What next?

I did a degree in physics with a year in Europe at Imperial College London, followed by a PhD in biomedical imaging at University College London (UCL). I am now a biophysicist doing postdoctoral research at the University of Manchester to help develop understanding and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease using new MRI techniques.

Why physics?

I have always been really curious about the world around us, and always asking 'but why?'. I find it fascinating that we are able use physics to try to solve some of the world's most important healthcare problems, such as Alzheimer's. I am proud to be part of the efforts to better understand why and how this disease happens.

And now?

I have developed a new imaging technique to help in the understanding of neurodegenerative (brain) disorders, such as Alzheimer's. I spend my time working with imaging sequences and doing brain scans, but I also use biology techniques, mathematical modelling and computer analysis. Working on the interface between physics and biology brings new questions and variety every day.

Physics in practice

From doing physics as an undergraduate to now using this physics to probe brains is really cool! I think it's amazing when you can use physics, and other tools, to see things that you can't usually see with your eyes.

Advice for young scientists

My advice for young scientists would be to always stay curious! Don't forget that you can learn lots from getting things wrong, as well as getting it right. And most of all, follow what you are most passionate about.

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