



GSA Women's Leadership Initiative Presents

LUNCH *and* LEARN

April 30th, 2026 | Leuven, Belgium



Hosted By: **umec**

About the Event



The GSA WLI Lunch and Learn series aims to offer a blend of executive and technical topics, featuring women who are leaders in their respective fields. Under the theme “Pathway to Success”, these empowering events also provide an excellent opportunity for professionals from different companies in the semiconductor industry to connect, network, and gain valuable insights, which is essential for visibility and professional growth.

On April 30th, we held our 2026 EMEA Lunch and Learn event at imec offices for the first time in Leuven, Belgium with nearly 100 attendees from various companies. The event featured an inspiring keynote address, dynamic discussions, and shared insights, making it a memorable and impactful gathering for attendees.

To view photos from the event, click [here!](#)

Our Speakers



KATRIEN MARENT, WELCOMING REMARKS

EVP & CHIEF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER | IMEC



JOHANNA BOLANDER, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PRINCIPAL MEMBER OF TECHNICAL STAFF | IMEC



CLAUDIA FLEISCHMANN, PANEL MODERATOR

TEAM LEADER & PRINCIPAL MEMBER OF TECHNICAL STAFF, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR | IMEC, KU LEUVEN



LIN HOU, PANELIST

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER | SANDISK



OLIVERA STOJANOVIC, PANELIST

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER | VTOOL



SADB NIC FHIONNBHAIRR, PANELIST

SENIOR MANAGER, AUTOMOTIVE SALES - GLOBAL ACCOUNTS | SAMSUNG



NICOLE TIEN, PANELIST

SENIOR TECHNICAL PROGRAM MANAGER | ASE

Event Recap



What an amazing day filled with great discussions and attendees from various companies in the semiconductor ecosystem! Many left feeling empowered, motivated, and connected. Here are just some of the many key takeaways from Johanna Bolander's keynote presentation "Wired To Lead: Training Your Brain for Growth, Voice & Impact" and the captivating panel discussion moderated by Claudia Fleischmann:

Embrace Your True Self and Innate Qualities: Don't feel like you have to mimic outdated or stereotypical leadership styles. Your unique traits, such as softness, empathy, and authenticity, are valuable assets in leadership.

Advocate for Yourself: Many noted that raising your voice in meetings and ensuring your ideas are heard is essential. It's important to establish your presence in discussions. You don't have to be the loudest, there is power in influence.

Recognize Unwritten Challenges: Many leadership challenges are subtle—often not found in job descriptions. Being aware of who gets interrupted or whose ideas resonate can help you strategize your responses.

Inspiring Journey: Johanna's journey from becoming a world champion in horse riding to an accomplished PhD group leader at imec and serving as a professor at Charité Berlin exemplifies the power of passion, perseverance, and embracing new opportunities. You don't find your voice in leadership once. You train it, like a muscle, every day.

The conversations also highlighted valuable tips on how you manage all aspects of life to being the best version of yourself. A huge thank you to EMEA WLC member, Katrien Marent, our speakers for sharing their insights, and to the incredible team at imec for their hospitality and generosity in hosting this successful event in their beautiful offices.

To view Johanna's keynote click [here](#)!



Event Testimonials

"I really enjoyed attending the **GSA Women's Leadership Initiative** Lunch & Learn at **imec**. It was a great networking opportunity to connect with talented women across the semiconductor industry, hear different career journeys, and exchange experiences. Events like this create an important space to connect, share experiences, and encourage more women to grow and lead in engineering and technology. A big thank you to the speakers, organizers, and everyone who contributed to making the event such a valuable experience."

- **Nadezda Dinic, Capgemini Engineering**

"As a PhD student just starting my journey, it was incredibly motivating to meet and learn from so many inspiring women pioneers in the semiconductor industry. During the panel session, I found myself looking around the room and feeling a strong sense of relatability, especially around conversations on gender representation. It made me reflect that; as a person representing the next generation of women in tech — especially in semiconductor hardware — this should not remain a niche topic of discussion, but something that becomes the norm, and events like these are a great first step."

- **Sri Vaishnavi Jamalapurapu, imec**

"Boundaries seem to vanish when women discuss leadership. Whether during our **FutureWomenX** sessions in the Netherlands or yesterday at **imec** for the **GSA Women's Leadership Initiative**, the sense of commonality is striking. I was struck by keynote Johanna's discipline, starting her day at 4:30 AM to secure family & 'me-time' - and the shared humor in the ladies' room line, where a peer joked about rotating through the four restrooms she has all to herself at work. A lighthearted reminder of the gender ratios that still exist in some corners of tech."

- **Sascha van Belzen, Byteflies**

"It was truly inspiring to hear different personal journeys, honest reflections, and valuable perspectives on leadership & career growth, and how we can better support women in technology and the semiconductor industry. I left the discussion feeling encouraged, energized, and grateful for the opportunity to connect with such a supportive community."

- **Lin Hou, Panelist, Sandisk**

