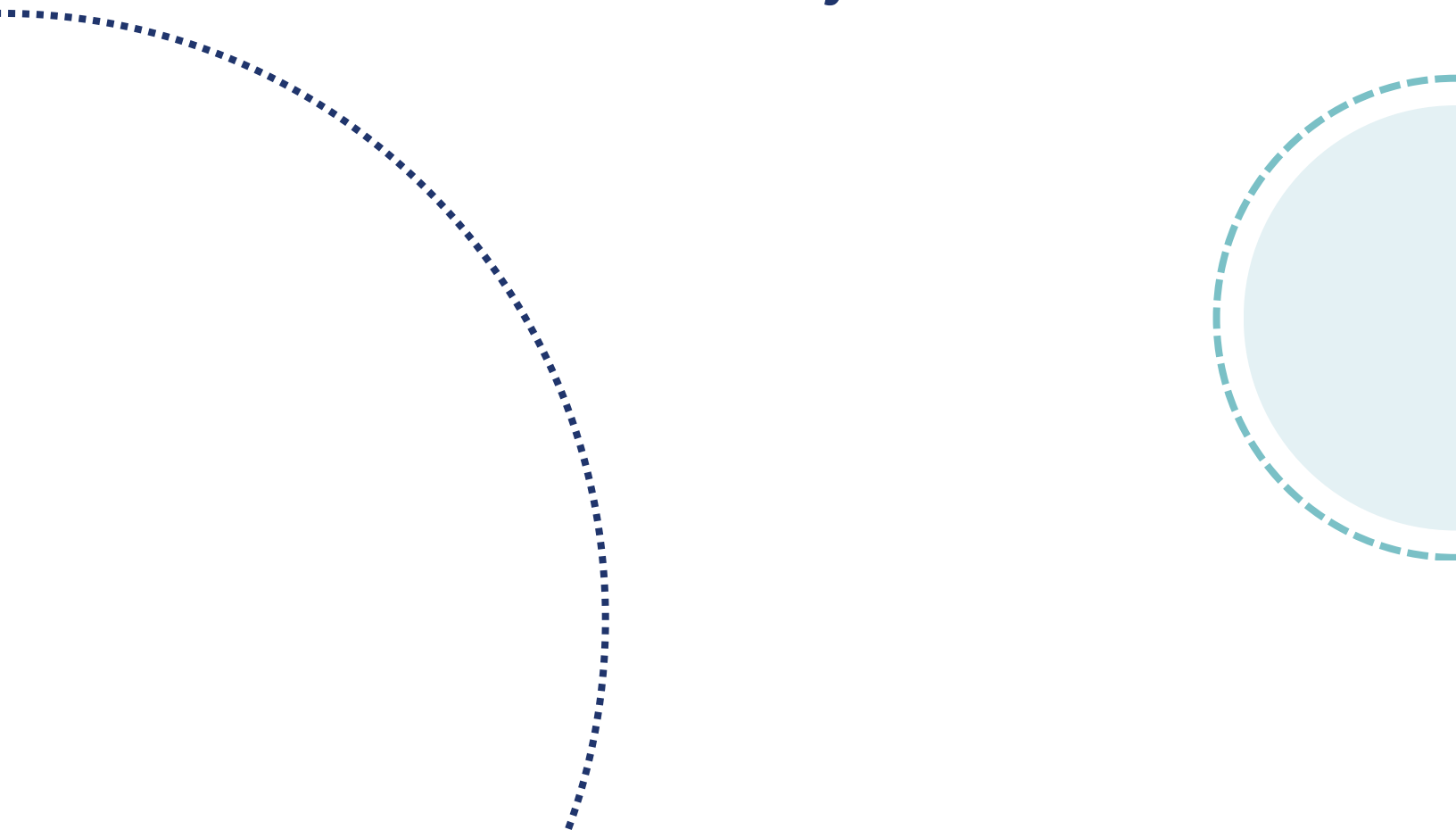




Global Health Talk 2026

**Berlin, Germany
7th and 8th July 2026**





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Dear Participants of the Global Health Talk 2026,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Berlin and the Ministry of Health's Conference Centre for this year's Global Health Talk!

The Global Health Talk brings together members of the Global Health Hub Germany, especially those engaged in our thematic Hub Communities, alongside political decision makers and participants from academia, civil society and other stakeholder groups to discuss pressing issues in global health.

This year's Global Health Talk takes place at a time when global health is undergoing profound transformation. Shifting geopolitical dynamics, increasing health threats, shrinking resources and growing pressure on multilateral cooperation and its institutional custodians are reshaping the global health landscape. These developments raise fundamental questions about health security, resilience and international cooperation—and about Germany's future leadership role in global health.

These questions are at the heart of this year's programme. Through our three-part Future Lab, participants will work together to explore and develop ideas for Germany's future role in shaping global health policy, bringing together perspectives from government, academia, civil society and international organizations. The outcomes of these discussions will form the basis for a dialogue on how Germany can contribute to a resilient, equitable and forward-looking global health architecture.

At the same time, our programme examines key dimensions of health security from different perspectives. We begin by exploring how gender norms shape health systems and outcomes, underlining that resilient health systems must also be inclusive and equitable. Our simulation exercise, *Critical Choices – Beyond the Pathogen: The Social Dimension of Pandemic Preparedness*, challenges participants to look beyond biomedical responses and consider the social, political and mental health dimensions of health emergencies. Building on these discussions, the second conference day turns to one of the most rapidly evolving topics in global health: artificial intelligence. During the panel *AI in Global Health – A Double-edged Sword*, we will present this year's Global Health Hub Germany policy brief and discuss both the opportunities and the challenges AI presents for health systems, policymaking and equitable access to healthcare.



Beyond the plenary sessions, the Global Health Talk is above all a place for exchange and collaboration. During the Early Bird Matchmaking session, the Community Poster Session, and the evening reception, participants will have the opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the global health community, share experiences and build new partnerships. Many of our members are working with partners at home and abroad on collaborative solutions to global and local health challenges, and we hope these conversations will spark new ideas and lasting collaborations.

We are very grateful to the Federal Ministry of Health and the Wellcome Trust for their generous support of the Global Health Talk 2026.

We hope that you find this year's programme insightful and inspiring, and we look forward to engaging, thought-provoking conversations throughout the conference.

All the best,
Corinna Heineke



Location

Konferenzzentrum Mauerstraße
Mauerstraße 27
10117 Berlin

Transport

- The conference center is located between underground station Anton-Wilhelm-Amo-Straße (line U2) and S-Bahn (suburban train) station/underground station Brandenburger Tor (lines U5, S1, S2 S25 and S26).
- The bus lines 100, 200 and 300 stop in the direct vicinity of the conference center.

Registration

- The building will be accessed through the main entrance. At the entrance, you will need to have your **ID card or passport** ready for identification.
- After the security check downstairs, you will receive your **badge** for the conference on the first floor, on the right-hand side.

Global Health Talk 2026

07.07.2026



08:30 – 09:00	Registration
08:30 – 09:30	Early Bird Matchmaking: Building Connections Across the Global Health Community
09:30 – 09:45	Welcome to the Global Health Talk • Corinna Heineke Managing Director Global Health Hub Germany • Leonie Kienzle Global Health Hub Germany • Katrin Würfel Global Health Hub Germany
09:45 – 10:45	Panel Discussion Beyond Biology: How Gender Norms Shape Health Systems and Outcomes Moderator • Dr Martina Kloepfer Founder and President Institute for Gender and Health (Institut für Gender-Gesundheit e.V.) Speakers • Prof. Dr Ute Feucht Director of the Research Centre for Maternal and Child Health University of Pretoria, South Africa • Nate Brown Executive Director Pan Africa ILGA – the leading pan-African network for LGBTIQ+ rights • Peter Baker Chief Executive Global Action on Men's Health
10:45 – 11:00	Keynote Speech • Dr Georg Kippels Parliamentary State Secretary German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:45	Future Lab Part 1 Germany's Leadership Role in Global Health 11:30 – 11:35 Introductory interview • Dr Christophe Bayer Head of Division "Health Security and International Crisis Response" German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) 11:45 – 12:45 Group discussions
12:45 – 13:00	Simulation Exercise Teaser

The Global Health Hub Germany and the Global Health Talk 2026 are financed by the Federal Ministry of Health and the Wellcome Trust.



Global Health Talk 2026

07.07.2026



13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:45	Simulation Exercise Critical Choices - Beyond the Pathogen: The Social Dimension of Pandemic Preparedness 14:00 – 14:55 Simulation Exercise 15:00 – 15:45 Panel Discussion Moderator • Dr Fahmy Hanna Technical Officer Unit for Mental Health, Brain Health and Substance Use World Health Organization HQ Speakers • Anna Grigoryan WHO Consultant on Mental Health Consultant at HIPPOS Global Consulting Company • Silvi Hurkmans Coordinator of the MHPSS Surge Mechanism Netherlands Enterprise Agency • Natalie Pidmurniak, MD Youth Advisory Board to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine
15:45 – 16:15	Coffee Break
16:15 – 17:30	Community Poster Session
17:30 – 18:00	Global Health Quiz Night: Vaccines, Vectors & Very Good Guesses
18:00 – 20:00	Evening Reception

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Global Health Talk 2026

08.07.2026



08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:05	Opening of the Global Health Talk Day 2
09:05 -09:30	Future Lab Part 2 Presentation of Future Lab Results
09:30 – 11:00	Future Lab Part 3 Discussion of Future Lab Results Moderator - Paul Zubeil Deputy Director-General for European and International Health Policy German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG) 09:30 – 09:45 Interview Speakers - Dr Kirsten Kappert-Gonther Member of the German Bundestag Alliance 90 / The Greens 09:45 – 11:00 Panel Discussion Speakers - Dr Francisco Pérez Cañado Adviser on the External Dimension of Health DG SANTE European Commission - Dr Unni Karunakara Senior Fellow at Yale University's Global Health Justice Partnership Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy - Dr Revati Phalkey Director United Nations University Institute for Global Health (UNU-Global Health)
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break

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Global Health Talk 2026

08.07.2026



11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:35	Panel Discussion AI in Global Health - A double-edged Sword 11:30 - 11:45 Illustrated Quiz Moderator • Dr Michael Bayerlein Research Associate Global Health Policy Lab 11:45 - 12:35 Presentation of Policy Brief and Panel Discussion Moderator • Dr Zahra Karimian, MPH Researcher Heidelberg Institute of Global Health Heidelberg University Medical Faculty and University Hospital Speakers • Prof. Dr Arash Rashidian Director of Science, Innovation and Data WHO EMRO Professor of Health Policy University of Washington • Bernd Fiedler Director of Government Affairs Siemens Healthineers • Jana Fehr AI for Health researcher Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) at Charité • Rachel Firestone Representative of the GHG Working Group Independent Consultant Digital Health
12:35 – 12:45	Official Closing of the Global Health Talk Day 2 • Dr Katja Pohlmann Head of Directorate General "Health Security, Resilience, International Policy Issues, Europe" German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch Break

The Global Health Hub Germany and the Global Health Talk 2026 are financed by the Federal Ministry of Health and the Wellcome Trust.





Official Opening of the Global Health Talk and Keynote Speech Dr Georg Kippels

Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Health

Dr. Georg Kippels is a German lawyer and politician. Born in 1959 he studied law in Cologne and worked as a lawyer in a family firm. His political career began in 1994 as a member of a city council for the Christian Democratic Party (CDU).

Since 2013, he has been a directly elected member of the German Bundestag for the Rhein-Erft District in North Rhine-Westphalia. Until 2025, he served on the Committee on Health and the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development in the German Bundestag. In 2018, he co-founded and joined the Sub-Committee on Global Health as speaker and chair of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group. From 2021 to 2025, he was elected chair of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group of the Committee on Health.

Since 7 May 2025 he serves as Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Health.

His political focus lies in improving quality of life through strong healthcare, research and education, economic growth and structural change.



Official Opening of the Global Health Talk Corinna Heineke

Managing Director of the Global Health Hub Germany and Head of a GIZ project supporting the German Federal Ministry of Health on German global health policy

Corinna Heineke has led the Secretariat of the Global Health Hub Germany since August 2023. Before joining the Hub she worked with GIZ in Berlin and Cambodia for ten years on diverse health-related issues such as access to medicines, local pharmaceutical production, regulatory strengthening, universal health coverage, and Cambodia's COVID19-response.

Holding degrees in Political Science and Global Political Economy she has also worked in a number of non-governmental organisations, including on health, indigenous health, and access to medicines.



Moderator

Leonie Kienzle

Hub Management Team of the Global Health Hub Germany

Leonie Kienzle has been part of the Hub Management Team at the Global Health Hub Germany since June 2024. She has worked for several years with GIZ in the health sector, the last few years living and working in Ghana to support local vaccine production and health systems strengthening. Before that, she gained experience in training, facilitation, and organizational development. With a background in Health and Organizational Psychology, she has a particular interest in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and global mental health, further enriched by training in global health and health economics.



Moderator

Katrin Lea Würfel

Head of Community Management, Global Health Hub Germany

Katrin Würfel is Head of Community Management at the Global Health Hub Germany, where she connects diverse stakeholders across disciplines and regions to foster dialogue and collaboration for equitable global health solutions. She brings several years of experience in international cooperation, having worked with organizations such as the GIZ, WHO, and HEPS Uganda.

Her professional focus lies in international health policy and stakeholder management. At the GIZ, she advised the German Federal Ministry of Health on international processes including the G7 Health Track during Germany's presidency. She also supported community-based health governance programs in Tanzania and midwifery care projects at WHO headquarters in Geneva.

Katrin holds a Master of Science in Public Health from Charité Berlin and a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy, Neuroscience, and Cognition. Her approach is shaped by a deep belief in empathy, local ownership, and co-creation.

When she's not designing co-creative formats like the Global Health Talks or simulation exercises, she cultivates vegetables with her family in a small-scale market garden in northern Germany – her personal way of staying grounded and connected to systems change at the local level.

Beyond Biology: How Gender Norms Shape Health Systems and Outcomes

Moderator

Dr Martina Kloepper

*Founder and President | Institute for Gender and Health
(Institut für Gender-Gesundheit e.V.)*



Dr Martina Kloepper initially studied biochemistry at the Free University of Berlin (FU Berlin) and went on to complete her PhD in literary studies at the Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin). In 2013, together with her husband Dr Albrecht Kloepper, she launched the Federal Congress on Gender and Health, which took place for the sixth time in Berlin in 2026, and in 2017 she co-founded the Institute for Gender and Health (IfGG), which she has chaired ever since. The IfGG sees itself as a platform for the interdisciplinary discussion of issues relating to gender-sensitive healthcare and for bringing these topics onto the (health) policy agenda through various event formats, projects – such as the healthcare research project ‘HeartGap’, funded by the Innovation Fund – as well as through publications and podcasts.

Speaker

Prof. Dr. Ute Feucht

Director of the Research Centre for Maternal and Child Health | University of Pretoria, South Africa



Professor Ute Feucht is a Community Paediatrician, who is a full professor in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, as well as the Director of the University’s Research Centre for Maternal, Fetal, Newborn, and Child Health Care Strategies. The Centre focuses on pioneering clinical research, frontline implementation research, and exploring sustainable strategies for clinical interventions for mothers and children, mainly at the primary and secondary levels of care. Her own PhD was on Paediatric HIV prevention and treatment.

In addition to this, Prof. Feucht’s clinical position is as public sector Paediatrician in the Tshwane District Clinical Specialist Team, holding a joint appointment in the Gauteng Department of Health. In this role, she is responsible for enhancing maternal and child health services at the district level. She has also been instrumental in the development of several national guidelines, including the South African HIV treatment and prevention guidelines, for over 2 decades.



Beyond Biology: How Gender Norms Shape Health Systems and Outcomes

Speaker

Nate Brown

Executive Director | Pan Africa ILGA – the leading pan-African network for LGBTIQ+ rights

Nate Brown serves as Executive Director of Pan Africa ILGA, a regional network advancing human rights for LGBTIQ+ people across the continent, a role he has held since his appointment in January 2019. Nate earned a BA (Hons) in Accounting & Finance and a BA (Hons) in Business Administration from Greenwich University in London. This academic grounding has proven invaluable to his work in organisational leadership and financial stewardship.

After spending his early years abroad, Nate returned to South Africa in 2012 and began his career as an Accountant at Barloworld Motor Retail, trading as Audi Centre Bruma. In June 2016, driven by a growing commitment to human rights and social justice, he stepped away from the corporate sector to pursue advocacy work full-time.

Recognising the vital role of activism in building a more inclusive society, Nate turned his energy toward defending the rights of marginalised communities, eventually taking on a leadership position within a regional organisation focused on LGBTIQ+ rights across Africa.

Guided by a firm belief in collaboration and solidarity, Nate continues to drive the movement forward, shaping strategy and building partnerships that advance equality. His blend of corporate and non-profit experience makes him a respected leader in Africa's LGBTIQ+ rights movement.



Speaker

Peter Baker

Chief Executive | Global Action on Men's Health

Peter Baker is Chief Executive, Global Action on Men's Health. Peter has been a men's health advocate since the 1990s and was the Chief Executive at Men's Health Forum UK (2000-12) and Campaign Director of HPV Action (2013-20) which successfully made the case for the UK's HPV vaccination programme to be extended to boys. He has also been a consultant to the European Men's Health Forum and the European Cancer Organisation and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Public Health and of the Royal Society of Arts.

Future Lab | Part 1 | Germany's Leadership Role in Global Health



Speaker

Christophe Bayer

*Health Security, International Crisis Management | Head of Division
Germany | German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)*

Dr Bayer is a medical doctor by training, with a specialisation in epidemiology. He also holds a law degree (LLB). He is Head of the Division of Health Security and International Crisis Management at the German Federal Ministry of Health (MoH). Before joining the MoH, he gained several years of professional experience in public health at organisations including the World Health Organization and the Robert Koch Institute. He also worked as a physician at Hamburg University Hospital. Dr Bayer has worked in the field of public health emergencies for almost two decades. During this time, he has been involved in various aspects of health crisis preparedness and emergency management. These include the health of child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the 2014/15 Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the 2019 outbreak in the DRC, as well as crisis preparedness in the context of the G7 and G20. Dr Bayer was responsible for various aspects of Germany's response to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and recently led the German delegation in the process of amending the International Health Regulations (IHR). He is currently co-leading the German delegation in negotiations of the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System (PABS).



Simulation Exercise | Critical Choices - Beyond the Pathogen: The Social Dimension of Pandemic Preparedness

Moderator

Dr Fahmy Hanna

Technical Officer | Unit for Mental Health, Brain Health and Substance Use | World Health Organization HQ

Dr Fahmy Hanna is a medical doctor and psychiatrist with nearly two decades of global experience in mental health service delivery, emergency response, and systems development. His work spans across WHO, national ministries, NGOs, and donor institutions, with a focus on scaling up mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in humanitarian and public health emergencies. He worked full time in several conflict-affected countries including Syria and Libya. Since 2014, he has been based at the World Health Organization Headquarters in Geneva, where he serves as a senior technical officer supporting field operations and policy development in crises on-site in more than 30 humanitarian emergencies such as Ukraine, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Bangladesh. Dr Hanna has led WHO's work on interagency MHPSS coordination as Co-Chair of the IASC Reference Group since 2017, playing a key role in developing global guidance, training tools, and establishing and running surge mechanisms. He is also the director of WHO's "Build Better Before" global field-based full scale MHPSS simulation initiative—an immersive preparedness exercise that has trained over 300 humanitarian and development professionals across six regions. Dr Hanna contributed to WHO's technical response to COVID-19, Ebola, Mpox, and Zika. His work reflects a deep commitment to equity, innovation, and mental health integration in global health security.



Speaker

Natalie Pidmurniak, MD

Youth Advisory Board to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine

As a Youth Advisory Board Member to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, she leads the Department of International Medical Diplomacy, contributing to national and international policy dialogues on post-war health system recovery, resilience, and youth engagement. She initiated and launched Ukraine's National Youth Delegate Program to the World Health Organization, becoming the country's first youth delegate to the World Health Assembly (WHA). She was later entrusted to deliver Ukraine's official national statement at the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC75), strengthening youth participation in global health decision-making. Since the start of the full-scale invasion, she has also led eight international delegations of Ukrainian medical students, ensuring continued policy advocacy and international representation of Ukraine's medical youth.



Simulation Exercise | Critical Choices - Beyond the Pathogen: The Social Dimension of Pandemic Preparedness

Speaker

Dr Anna Grigoryan

WHO Consultant on Mental Health | Consultant at HIPPOS

Global Consulting Company

Dr. Anna Grigoryan is a physician–scientist with over 20 years of diverse international experience leading complex projects, fostering innovation, and building strategic partnerships. She spearheaded the WHO–CDC Collaborating Center for Global Public Health Informatics, serving as its first Program Manager. During her tenure at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Grigoryan played a direct role in emergency responses to major crises, including the Haiti and China earthquakes, the avian influenza outbreak, and the Fukushima nuclear accident. In 2015, she supported the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health during the Ebola epidemic as part of the CDC Ebola Response Mission. In her more recent role at the UN/IAEA, Dr. Grigoryan managed a portfolio of projects focused on laboratory strengthening, cancer control, and emergency preparedness, supporting Member States across Africa. She has mentored emerging leaders and cultivated cultures of accountability and inclusion during periods of organizational transition. Dr. Grigoryan’s amicable and dynamic personality is complemented by her solid professional expertise at the intersection of program management (Prince2 certified) and technical fields.



Speaker

Silvi Hurkmans

Coordinator of the MHPSS Surge Mechanism | Netherlands Enterprise Agency

Silvi Hurkmans is a dedicated humanitarian professional holding a master’s degree in Humanitarian Action from the NOHA Erasmus Mundus programme. She brings a diverse, international track record spanning United Nations agencies, non-governmental organisations, and government institutions. Her experience includes working with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), serving as a programme manager for the Dutch NGO Vastenactie, and working as a Migration Policy Officer at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Currently, Silvi Hurkmans serves as the Programme Coordinator for the MHPSS Surge Mechanism at the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). In this capacity, she oversees the rapid deployment of mental health and psychosocial support expertise into global humanitarian crises. Leading this initiative, she strengthens global humanitarian responses by matching acute field needs with specialized MHPSS experts. Under her guidance, the programme also prioritises international capacity-building in MHPSS, delivering targeted training programmes that empower experts worldwide to better address mental health and psychosocial needs. With her strong background in both policy and operations, she excels at bridging the gap between international frameworks and immediate on-the-ground needs.

Future Lab | Part 3 | Discussion of Future Lab Results

Moderator

Dr Paul Zubeil

Deputy Director-General for European and International Health Policy / German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)



Paul Zubeil is Deputy Director-General for European and International Health Politics at the German Federal Ministry of Health, where he leads Germany's engagement in both EU health politics and multilateral health cooperation. He advances strategic efforts to strengthen multilateral health governance, reinforce pandemic preparedness, and support the transformation of the global health architecture. With over two decades of experience in international public service, including senior roles at the United Nations, he has worked across regions to support resilient health systems, improve access to essential services, and respond to cross-border health threats. He leads the design and implementation of Germany's international health strategies, including cooperation with WHO, UNAIDS, the EU and the G7/G20 health tracks. As Germany's representative in the High-Level Panel (HLP) of UNAIDS, he contributes to forward-looking discussions on the institutional future of the Joint Programme and the evolving dynamics of multilateral cooperation. His work is grounded in the conviction that UN reform and inclusive leadership, both globally and regionally, are essential to a resilient, equitable, and more effective international health system.

Speaker

Dr Kirsten Kappert-Gonther

Member of the German Bundestag / Alliance 90 / The Greens



Dr. Kirsten Kappert-Gonther is a specialist in psychiatry and psychotherapy and has been a member of the German Bundestag for Alliance 90/The Greens since 2017. From 2022 to 2025, she served as acting chair of the Health Committee. Dr. Kappert-Gonther serves as her parliamentary group's representative on the Health Committee and as the rapporteur on European and global health, as well as mental health and women's health. She has been a member of the steering committee of Global Health Hub Germany since last year. She is also a member of the World Health Summit Council and the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Population and Development of the German Foundation for World Population.



Future Lab | Part 3 | Discussion of Future Lab Results

Speaker

Dr Francisco Pérez Cañado

Adviser on the External Dimension of Health | DG SANTE| European Commission

Mr. Francisco Pérez-Cañado is the Advisor on the External Dimension of Health to Mrs. Sandra Gallina, Director General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission.

Under the umbrella of the EU Global Health Strategy, whose design he led, his purview covers all international aspects of the health dossier. This includes bilateral relations with third-country partners, health-related work in multilateral organisations, and global health actors—from a strategic, negotiation and operational perspective. All of these have fed into the design of the recent EU's Global Health Resilience Initiative.

His career at the European Commission has been dedicated to external dimension of EU policy, leading the trade strategy directorate; heading the EU's global market access strategy; steering the EU's response to the steel crisis in the G20, G7 and OECD contexts; negotiating international agreements; or managing EU relations with China in a variety of fields as head of section in the Delegation of the European Union in Beijing. In the context of those dossiers, he has worked with a wide panoply of third countries and international organisations, chaired numerous EU and international committees, and dealt with a variety of policy aspects of health-related sectors.



Speaker

Dr Unni Karunakara

Senior Fellow at Yale University's Global Health Justice

Partnership | Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy

Dr Unni Karunakara is a Senior Fellow at Yale University's Global Health Justice Partnership and a Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy. He served as Director a.i. of the UN University International Institute for Global Health (2024–2025) and as International President of Médecins Sans Frontières (2010–2013), having earlier led MSF's Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines (2005–2007). He co-founded vivo, a mental health organisation focused on the treatment and prevention of traumatic stress, in 2001. A humanitarian worker and global health professional for three decades, he serves on the boards of the Dr Denis Mukwege Foundation and the Prasanna School of Public Health.



Future Lab | Part 3 | Discussion of Future Lab Results

Speaker

Dr Revati Phalkey

Director | United Nations University Institute for Global Health (UNU-Global Health)

Dr Revati Phalkey is a Global Health practitioner with over 20 years of experience in implementation research from West and East Africa, South and Southeast Asia and Europe. Currently she is Director of the International Institute for Global Health at the UN University based in Malaysia and Honorary Associate Professor for Global Health at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Prior to this, as Global Director for Health, Nutrition and WASH at Save the Children International she oversaw a portfolio of development related projects in 66 countries and humanitarian focused projects in over 54 countries exceeding US\$350 million/year.

Dr Phalkey has served as the Head of Climate Change and Health at the UK Health Security Agency where she co-led the national climate risk assessments. She was the health focal point for adaptation in the UK and to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and co-developed the regional zero regrets strategy for climate resilience. In this role she led health input into COP26 and served as member of the Steering Committee of the first ever Health Day at COP28. Dr Phalkey is contributing author IPCC AR6 and AR7 and lead chapter author for the UNEP Adaptation Gap Report on Health. Currently she is member of the Global Health Board of the World Humanitarian Summit.

Dr Phalkey holds a PhD in Public Health (infectious disease surveillance) from the Heidelberg University Germany and a Masters in International Health with a specialisation in tropical medicine and disease control from the Humboldt University, Germany

AI in Global Health - A double-edged Sword

Moderator

Dr Michael Bayerlein

Research Associate | Global Health Policy Lab



Dr Michael Bayerlein is a Senior Policy Analyst in the Global Health Policy Lab (GHPL) at the Charité Center for Global Health. His recent work focuses on global health governance and geopolitics, EU health policy and the resilience of medical supply chains, as well as the development of agentic AI tools for evidence-informed health policymaking. Earlier research and policy contributions cover the political economy of crises, populism, and European integration. Previously, he worked as a policy advisor and researcher at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) and was a fellow at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. He holds a doctorate from the Faculty of Business, Economics, and Social Sciences at Kiel University.

Moderator

Dr Zahra Karimian, MPH

Researcher | Heidelberg Institute of Global Health | Heidelberg University Medical Faculty and University Hospital



Dr. Karimian is a global health expert and public health practitioner with over a decade of experience spanning academia, clinical practice, regulation, and health policy. She holds a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Public Health from Université Sorbonne Paris Cité.

She has served as a consultant to the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, working with the Evidence and Data to Policy Unit, and previously advised the Department of Assessment and Control on Prescribing and Use of Medicines and Health-Related Products at the Iranian Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

She is currently a researcher at the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, where she focuses on how evidence is generated, communicated, and used to inform decision-making and strengthen health systems. Her work connects research with policy and practice to support more accessible and equitable healthcare, particularly for underserved populations and in resource-limited settings.



AI in Global Health - A double-edged Sword

Speaker

Prof. Dr Arash Rashidian

Director of Science, Innovation and Data | WHO EMRO | Professor of Health Policy | University of Washington

Since 2015, Dr Rashidian (MD, PhD) has led the WHO regional agenda on evidence-informed policy making, digital health, health information systems, research promotion and governance, and knowledge sharing. He is a professor of health policy and an affiliate professor of health metrics sciences. His career in health policy research and health system development spans 25 years and several countries.

He is the Executive Editor of the Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal – WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean’s flagship publication. He was the Vice-Chair of WHO’s Guideline Review Committee (2021-2025), and the Chair of WHO EMRO publication committee (2017-2025). During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Rashidian led the research and knowledge management pillar of the WHO response management team in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. He has conducted policy development, policy implementation, and institutional building in over 20 countries. He has authored strategic policy documents, advised national health policy committees and health insurance organizations, developed and taught post-graduate programs in health policy and economics, supervised over 30 PhD students, and co-authored over 200 academic papers (h-index: 70; January 2026).



Speaker

Bernd Fiedler

Director of Government Affairs | Siemens Healthineers

Bernd Fiedler is Senior Director Government Affairs at Siemens Healthineers, focusing on AI, Data and womens health. Born in 1990, he studied political science at Freie Universität Berlin, graduating in 2014. As a parliamentary aide in the German Bundestag for Matthias Mieves (Social Democrats / SPD) he supported the legislative processes around digitization in healthcare and helped drafting the coalition agreement between CDU, CSU and SPD.

As lecturer at Freie Universität Berlin he focused on digital policy topics. At the NGO Wikimedia Deutschland he advocated in the area of digital and copyright legislation.

Siemens Healthineers’ mission is to pioneer breakthroughs in healthcare, enabling access to high-quality, personalized care while improving patient outcomes and operational efficiency globally. Bernds role is communicating and bringing forward innovation, managing obstacles in the legislative process, reducing complexity, providing orientation and building trust.



Speaker

Jana Fehr

AI for Health researcher | Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) at Charité

With an interdisciplinary background in biotechnology and machine learning, Jana works at the intersection of technology and medicine to advance the responsible and evidence-based use of artificial intelligence in healthcare. Jana is a postdoctoral scientist at the Berlin Institute of Health at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Her research focuses on evaluating both the opportunities and limitations of AI applications in clinical practice and health systems. In addition, her work aims to translate theoretical ethical principles for trustworthy AI into practical quality assessment and evaluation frameworks that support safe and effective real-world implementation, thereby contributing to the development of guidance and standards for the field.



Speaker

Rachel Firestone

Representative of the GHHG Working Group | Independent Consultant Digital Health

Rachel Firestone is a solution designer and digital transformation specialist, with over a decade of experience developing, rolling out, and assessing large-scale digital transformation efforts for national health system strengthening, pandemic prevention, and crisis recovery. Rachel holds a Master's degree in international Affairs from Georgetown University and a Bachelor's in History from Wesleyan University in the United States. Previously with the World Bank and the technology start-up Hala Systems, she blends program and digital product design, strategy, stakeholder engagement, and user training to co-create ethical, scalable solutions in collaboration with national governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector. Last-mile digital ecosystems, digital self-determination, and data sovereignty are at the heart of her work. Recent projects include empowering local communities to own and manage their own internet networks—including connectivity to health centers, augmenting population-level health data capture and integration for improved decision-making, assessing point-of-care decision support and data capture tools for equity, transparency, and effectiveness, and using AI to forecast cross-border disease behavior for dengue, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and yellow fever. Rachel currently lives and works from Berlin.



Official Closing of the Global Health Talk

Speaker

Dr Katja Pohlmann

Head of Directorate General "Health Security, Resilience, International Policy Issues, Europe" | German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)

Dr. Katja Pohlmann heads the Department for "Health Security, Resilience, International Affairs, and Europe" at the Federal Ministry of Health. Previously, she was head of the Division for Global Health and Health Financing at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Before joining the BMZ in March 2023, she headed the Division for Development Cooperation at the Federal Chancellery, where she advised, among others, former Chancellor Angela Merkel and former Chancellor Olaf Scholz. During the pandemic, she was responsible for Germany's contribution to the international COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Prior to that, she held various positions in the German Bundestag for 13 years, including in the areas of economic cooperation and development as well as human rights. Dr. Pohlmann studied at Freie Universität Berlin and at the University of Pennsylvania. She holds a degree in American Studies from Freie Universität Berlin and earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Potsdam.

The Hub Community on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR-community)

comprises 61 members and is currently co-coordinated by Dr. Aurélia Souares (Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, Heidelberg University Hospital, Group leader) and Ali Yildiz (Abbott Rapid Diagnostics Germany GmbH, Manager Health Care).

Community members come from a variety of professional backgrounds, including academia, private sector, non-governmental organizations and international organizations working in the field of antibiotic resistance. From PhD students and technicians to medical doctors, PhDs and CEO, working in the fields of human, animal health and environment. This ensures both diversity and a high level of expertise in the themes of interest to our community.

The AMR-Community focuses on antibiotic resistance as a “silent pandemic” responsible for claiming millions of deaths every year. The AMR-Community offers a platform for exchanging ideas and discussing proposed solutions for policy makers.

The objectives of the community are:

- to keep AMR high on the agenda of the entire Bundesregierung,
- motivate different stakeholders from civil society to contribute and exchange of uptodate knowledge,
- have a voice in the field of AMR policy recommendation for a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to AMR,
- enhance a direct contact and discussions with decision-makers,
- activities with other Hub-Communities when overlapping with AMR.

The **Climate Change & Health Community** embarked on a fresh start in January 2025. Since then, regular meetings have been held every 4–6 weeks, focusing on a wide range of topics related to climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems.

Community managers are facilitating technical inputs through concise presentations, followed by open discussions and knowledge exchange. Past sessions have featured speakers from organizations such as GIZ and the German Climate Change and Health Alliance (KLUG e.V.).

Both community managers and members warmly welcome new participants and look forward to active engagement in shaping the future of this community.

Community Managers:

- Dr Klaus Geiselhart - University of Erlangen-Nuernberg
- Donald Sandmann - Healthy Planet - Healthy People
- Jennyfer Wolf - World Health Organization

The Hub Community on **Global Women's Health** is dedicated to promoting and sharing knowledge and experiences to improve health outcomes for women worldwide.

The community brings together researchers, advocates, and practitioners to critically examine inequities in global health. Together, we work to build feminist, intersectional, and equity-centered approaches into the heart of global health research and policy.

A variety of topics are covered, from sexual and reproductive health and rights in conflict settings to feminist global health policy, exploring how intersectional perspectives can shape global health policies and foster more inclusive and equitable health systems.

In 2026, the community looks forward to co-developing the concept, activities, and outputs related to the Annual Theme of AI in Health, by addressing critical issues at the intersection of AI and women's health in diagnostics, prediction and detection for disease modalities and bias mitigation in women-specific health datasets.

Community Managers:

Ertila Druga – Researcher at Political Science 4 Health

Hannah Eger – Ärzte der Welt

Boluwatife Ogunjumelo - Medical Doctor & Advocate for Women and Children's Health

The **Hub Community on Global Health & Migration** serves as a catalyst for change, promoting research, evidence-based policy design, and advocacy for the health and well-being of refugees and migrants. The ongoing humanitarian crises caused by various conflicts worldwide underscore the need for a coordinated, streamlined approach to refugee and migrant health within and beyond Europe. In 2024/2025, the community hosts the Global Health Hub Community Annual Theme, Global Health in Conflict Settings, focusing on the health challenges faced by displaced populations in conflict zones. As part of this initiative, a Policy Brief will be presented and discussed at the Global Health Talk 2025. Furthermore, the community will host a webinar in early 2026 to explore findings from the Policy Brief.

Community Managers:

- Dr Sonu M. M. Bhaskar - NSW Brain Clot Bank, Department of Neurology, Liverpool Hospital and South Western Sydney Local Health District
- Dr Henna Riemenschneider MPH, MA – Department of General Practice, University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technical University Dresden
- Dr Zahra Karimian, PharmD MPH – Researcher, Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, Medical Faculty and University Hospital, Heidelberg University

The Hub Community on Epidemic Preparedness and Response (EPR) is dedicated to strengthening preparedness and response for infectious disease outbreaks/epidemics through multidisciplinary contributions to the development and implementation of feasible, user-friendly and potentially cost-effectiveness public health applications.

A validated machine learning-based tool, namely, EWARS-csd (Early Warning and Response System for climate sensitive diseases) is the prime approach proposed for guiding the prediction-and-response of climate sensitive disease outbreaks such as malaria, dengue fever, cholera, meningitis and others. EPR closely interacts with two WHO departments in Geneva and a range of cross-continent countries, providing regular training and feed-back sessions.

A universal fact sheet and a policy brief of EWARS-csd was co-produced with support from the GHHG, and more recently district-specific weekly bulletins with information from the EWARS dashboards were developed and tested, to operationalize technical and statistical information for routine use for skilled and unskilled users.

The EPR community offers novel opportunities to enhance local capacity and decision making and provides know-how for implementation strategies including experience sharing from multiple settings and contexts.

Community Managers:

- Prof. Dr. Axel Kroeger - Albert-Ludwig-University Freiburg, Centre for Medicine and Society
- Tatiana Rivera - Albert Ludwig-University Freiburg, Centre for Medicine and Society
- Dr. Laith Hussain-Alkhateeb - Senior University Lecturer at the University of Gothenburg and Consultant at the TDR- and Climate Change and Health, WHO

The interdisciplinary and intersectoral **Hub Community on snakebite envenoming** unites German expertise on snakebite envenoming and invites all interested parties to form partnerships and cooperate on projects.

Snakebite envenoming is classified by the WHO as a neglected tropical disease, affecting more than 5.4 million people each year, mainly in (sub)tropical and rural areas around the world. In terms of numbers, snakebite results in more than 100,000 deaths and over half a million amputations and other permanent disabilities per year. It impacts not only the individual victim, but entire families and their communities through lifelong mutilations, economic and mental health consequences. Although snakebite envenoming can be diagnosed and treated quickly and cost-effectively, most people worldwide have no access to this life- and limb-saving treatment. This is why the interdisciplinary and intersectoral Hub Community on snakebite envenoming has been established. It consists of members from several leading German and international partner institutions as well as from civil society who are active in the field of snakebite and venom research. These include, beside many others, the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, the Fraunhofer Society and universities across the country.

Through this network, we aim to raise awareness of snakebites and their consequences, which are tragically part of everyday life in many regions of the world. Furthermore, we want to provide medical and scientific answers to questions that have remained unanswered until now.

Community Managers:

- Maik Damm - Institute for Chemistry, TU Berlin
- Dr Ulrich Kuch - Department of Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main
- Martin Biener - Snake-Bite e.V.

The Hub Community on **Global Mental Health**

No Health Without Mental Health.

The Hub Community on Global Mental Health is dedicated to strengthening the integration and complementarity of biomedical and psychosocial approaches in care, prevention, research, education, resource allocation, and policy.

As the first crosscutting theme adopted by the Global Health Hub Germany following its establishment in 2019, Mental Health and Wellbeing was selected by members in 2022 to foster a deeper understanding of the role of mental health across Communities of Practice and to advance dialogue on mental health and health system strengthening.

Since then, the Hub Community on Global Mental Health has hosted a series of webinars and published three policy papers: on global mental health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (2022), on global mental health as a crosscutting issue (2023), and on global mental health at the nexus of climate change (2024).

In 2025 and 2026, the Community further expanded its engagement through contributions to the annual themes on Global Health in Conflict Settings and AI in Global Health. In collaboration with other Communities of Practice, the Community contributed to policy development activities and facilitated expert dialogues on mental health in humanitarian and conflict settings.

The Hub Community seeks to advance sustainable improvements in global mental health and mental health systems through interdisciplinary collaboration and engagement across diverse stakeholder groups. We warmly invite current and future members to contribute to this shared mission.

Community Managers:

Dr. Jinan Abi Jumaa, Associate Professor, Arden University Berlin.

Dr. Solveig Kemna - Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Dr. Franziska Laporte Uribe – University of Witten/Herdecke (Lead for the Subgroup on Mental Health & Climate Change)

Initiator and Senior Advisor:

Prof. em. Dr. med. Michael Wirsching, former (1989-2016) Chairman Dept.

Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy Univ. of Freiburg Medical Center

The Hub Community on Global Urban Health focuses on the urban determinants of health, including spatial, social and economic disparities. Our vision is that urban spaces can be transformed into health-promoting, sustainable spaces that not only support the health of urban populations, but also contribute to climate change mitigation. In our first Policy Brief (2023), we highlighted the need for intersectoral collaboration for health in urban planning and urban development, i.e. calling for “Health In All Policies” at the urban level. Structural prevention is key in the urban context, as only if the urban environment is conducive to healthy behavior can a city become health-promoting, “make the healthy choice the easy choice”. In our Community, we recognize the small-scale inequities that persist in all urban areas. While some neighborhoods are already providing many urban benefits others are still suffering from urban disadvantage. For this reason, our community is working towards “City Diagnosis”, as each individual city must first understand what areas are lacking and what opportunities exist. Only then can effective interventions be developed and implemented. Following our extensive Seminar Series, the community is now working on a guidance document on how to implement City Diagnosis.

Community Managers:

- Dr Timo Falkenberg - University of Bonn, GeoHealth Centre
- Dr Dennis Schmiede - University of Essen

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Community on Pandemic Prevention and Biosecurity

With new infectious disease outbreaks on the horizon, a layered and holistic approach to pandemic prevention and preparedness is urgently needed. To guard against both natural and man-made pandemics, the German government must strengthen public health systems and increase investments in biosafety and biosecurity. The Community on Pandemic Prevention and Biosecurity wants to raise awareness for these topics, foster synergies by connecting actors from the Global Health and Biosecurity communities, and develop policy suggestions for relevant stakeholders in Germany. By integrating these elements, the Community seeks to drive sustainable change for effective pandemic prevention.

For example, the Community has focussed on the role of indoor air quality in the transmission of airborne diseases. In a policy brief, they outline key recommendations for improving indoor air quality in Germany [Link: <https://www.globalhealthhub.de/en/news/detail/breathe-better-and-prevent-pandemics-by-enhancing-indoor-air-quality>]. The Community also presented them to the Commission on Indoor Air Quality of the Federal Environment Protection Agency (Umweltbundesamt – UBA).

Community Managers:

- Dr. Emil Iftekhar - Robert-Koch-Institut / WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence
- Dr. Jeffrey Mecaskey - Britain Nepal Medical Trust/Infectious Disease Alliance

The Hub Community on **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)** brings together a diverse group of stakeholders working to advance action on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health. With participants from academia, civil society, private sector and multilateral institutions, the Community serves as a collaborative space for dialogue, agenda-setting, and collective advocacy. The NCD HC focuses on interdisciplinary dialogue and policy engagement with health policy makers. In 2025, the community has taken a more focused policy approach, contributing a collective response to the Zero Draft of the Political Declaration for the upcoming UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health. It is also developing a Policy Brief that highlights key priorities such as prevention, sustainable financing, universal health coverage, and equity. The group regularly convenes to exchange knowledge and align efforts on topics such as sustainable financing, universal health coverage, and prevention and control strategies.

You can join the NCD community any time.

Community Managers:

- Gabriela Nasser
- Ali Yildiz



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Global Health Talk 2026

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Become a **Community Member** to engage in active communities on various topics and contribute to shaping the future of global health.

- Please contact info@globalhealthhub.de.

Collaboration Space

If you are already a Member of the Global Health Hub Germany join the **Collaboration Space** to actively engage with other members.

Register here

