



CONFERENCE

Wednesday, 25th February 2026

Herrenhausen Palace
Hanover

AGENDA

Preventive Health Care: From Research to Action

The international conference “Preventive Health Care: From Research to Action” is organised by the German Science and Humanities Council (Wissenschaftsrat, WR) in co-operation with the Volkswagen Foundation.

The event focuses on how research on prevention can be effectively translated into concrete practice. During the conference, the Wissenschaftsrat will present a new policy paper that offers a fresh perspective on prevention in Germany. It advocates for a health-oriented transformation in science and health care, promoting cross-sectoral, evidence-based prevention strategies and measures.

The conference addresses a broad audience of national and international experts and stakeholders from science, policy, and the health sector. Thematic sessions will explore the societal value of health promotion and prevention, discuss the key conditions for successful implementation, and highlight practical pathways for translating research into action. A particular focus will be placed on European best practices that demonstrate how scientific findings can be transformed into tangible, health-promoting measures. Moreover, the conference fosters networking and collaboration across disciplines to strengthen sustainable structures for preventive action.

AGENDA

9:30–10:15 a.m. Arrival and Registration

10:15–10:30 a.m. **Welcome**

DR GEORG SCHÜTTE

CEO, Volkswagen Foundation

PROFESSOR DR WOLFGANG WICK

Chair of the German Science and Humanities Council, Professor of Neurology and Neuro-Oncologist at Heidelberg University Hospital

10:30–12:30 p.m. **Impulses on Topics related to the Position Paper**

DOROTHEE BÄR

Federal Minister of Research, Technology and Space (video message)

DR DANIELLE JANSEN

Associate Professor and Medical Sociologist, University of Groningen, Netherlands, Former Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport

DR WOLFGANG PHILIPP

Principal Adviser for Health and Crisis Management, DG SANTE, European Commission

Presentation of the Position Paper

PROFESSOR DR WOLFGANG WICK

Chair of the German Science and Humanities Council, Professor of Neurology and Neuro-Oncologist at Heidelberg University Hospital

Panel Discussion on the Position Paper

ABOVE SPEAKERS PLUS

PROFESSOR DR CORNELIA BETSCH

Director of the Institute for Planetary Health Behaviour (IPB) at the University of Erfurt

CLEMENS HOCH

Minister of Science and Health of Rhineland-Palatinate

PROFESSOR DR VERONIKA VON MESSLING

Head of Health and Department and Life Science, Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

FALKO MOHRS

Minister for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony

AGENDA

DR GEORG SCHÜTTE

CEO, Volkswagen Foundation

Open Discussion

12:30–1:30 p.m.

Lunch (Flying-) Buffet incl. Movement Intervention

1:30–2:30 p.m.

The Value of Health

Introductory Keynote

PROFESSOR DR MERI KOIVUSALO

Professor of Global Health and Development, Tampere University,
Finland

Panel Discussion

ABOVE SPEAKER PLUS

PROFESSOR DR CHRISTIAN GERLOFF

Medical Director and Chairman at University Medical Center Hamburg-
Eppendorf

DR STEFANIE HOUWAART

Coordinator Advisory Board, BRCA-Netzwerk

PROFESSOR DR ANITA PATEL

Health Economist, Imperial College London

HAN STEUTEL

President of Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical
Companies (vfa)

PROFESSOR DR ANNA WAGNER

Assistant Professor at the Centre for Language Studies, Radboud
University Netherlands

with a "Town Hall"-Statement by

PROFESSOR DR DR EVA WINKLER

Managing Director, National Center for Tumor Diseases Heidel (NCT)
Heidelberg

and

DR SANDRA ZIMMERMANN

Head of Scientific Dialogue, WifOR Institute

AGENDA

2:30–3:15 p.m.

Health Goals and Health in All Policies

OPENING STATEMENTS

DR ANDREAS PHILIPPI

Minister of Social Affairs, Employment, Health and Equal Opportunities
Lower Saxony, Chair of the Conference of Health Ministers (GMK), Lower
Saxony

DR ANJA MARIA RITTNER

Head of Health Department at Verband der Ersatzkassen (vdek), Vice
President of Bundesvereinigung Prävention und Gesundheitsförderung e.V.
(BVPg)

Perspectives from the WHO

DR FATEN BEN ABDELAZIZ

Head of Enhanced Wellbeing Unit at WHO, Department of Health Promotion

Perspectives from Finland

DR TIMO STÅHL

Chief Specialist in Effectiveness of Preventive Work Unit, Finnish Institute
for Health and Welfare

Discussion

3:15–4:00 p.m.

Coffee break incl. movement intervention

4:00–5:00 p.m.

From Evidence Generation to Implementation Science

Opening Statement

PROFESSOR DR JOCHEN (J.O.) MIERAU

Professor of Public Health Economy, University of Groningen Netherlands

Presentations

PROFESSOR DR KATHARINA LADEWIG (MBA) Managing
Director, Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Public Health Research,
Robert Koch Institute (RKI)

PROFESSOR DR CORNELIA MAHLER

Director of Nursing Science Department, University Hospital and Faculty
of Medicine, University of Tübingen

AGENDA

PROFESSOR DR HEATHER LYNN ROGERS

Ikerbasque Associate Professor, BioBizkaia Health Research Institute, Spain

Discussion

with a "Town Hall"-Statement by

PROFESSOR DR HAJO ZEEB

Head of Department of Prevention and Evaluation, Leibniz Institute for Prevention Research and Epidemiology (BIPS)

5:00–6:00 p.m.

Application Networks in Research and Healthcare

Opening Statement

PROFESSOR DR WOLFGANG HOFFMANN

Head of Department at Section Healthcare
Epidemiology and Community Health, University Medicine Greifswald

Pitches from Networks

PROFESSOR DR EVA SCHERNHAMMER

Head of Department for Epidemiology, Medical University Vienna, Vienna
Prevention Project (ViPP)

SARAH STAPEL

President, Together for Mental Health (Gemeinsam für psychische
Gesundheit - GPG)

ALESSANDRO FALCONE

Medical Student at Heinrich Heine University and Medical Influencer

Open Discussion

6:00 p.m.

Outlook

PROFESSOR DR WOLFGANG WICK

Chair of the German Science and Humanities Council, Professor of
Neurology and Neuro-Oncologist at Heidelberg University Hospital

DR GEORG SCHÜTTE

CEO, Volkswagen Foundation

Afterwards

Reception with musical accompaniment

8:00 p.m.

End of Event

This event is presented by Armin Himmelrath, Science Journalist.