



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 organized 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 healthcare, 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

09.30–10.15 a.m. Arrival and Registration

10:15–10:30 a.m. **Welcome**

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

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 GEORG KIPPELS

Parliamentary State Secretary

EKATERINA ZAHARIEVA

Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation, European Commission (tbc)

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

CLEMENS HOCH

Minister of Science and Health of Rhineland-Palatinate

FALKO MOHRS

Minister for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony, Chair of the Joint Science Conference (GWK)

DR GEORG SCHÜTTE

CEO, Volkswagen Foundation

Open Discussion

12:30–1:30 p.m. *Lunch (Flying-) Buffet incl. Movement Intervention*

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1:30–2:30 p.m.

The Value of Health

Introductory Keynote

PROFESSOR MERI KOIVUSALO

Professor of Global Health and Development, Tampere University, Finland

Panel Discussion

ABOVE SPEAKER PLUS

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

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

PROFESSOR DR JOCHEN (J.O.) MIERAU

Professor of Public Health Economy, University of Groningen Netherlands

Perspectives from the WHO

DR FATEN BEN ABDELAZIZ

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

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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

Presentations

DR KATHARINA LADEWIG

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

PROFESSOR DR HEATHER LYNN ROGERS

Ikerbasque Associate Professor, BioBizkaia Health Research
Institute, Spain

Discussion

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

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Pitches from Networks

SARAH STAPEL

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

PROFESSOR DR EVA SCHERNHAMMER

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

Open Discussion

6:00 p.m.

Outlook

Volkswagen Foundation and Science and Humanities Council

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.