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**CONFERENCE**

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Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> 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

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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)

**NINA WARKEN**

Federal Minister of Health (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 | Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine

**CLEMENS HOCH**

Minister of Science and Health of Rhineland-Palatinate

**PROFESSOR DR VERONIKA VON MESSLING**

Directorate-General of the Life Science Division, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

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### **FALKO MOHRS**

Minister for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony

### **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**

Head of the Institute for Medical and Data Ethics and the Section Translational Medical Ethics, Heidelberg University

and

#### **DR SANDRA ZIMMERMANN**

Head of Scientific Dialogue, WifOR Institute

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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

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### **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 HENRIKE HARTMANN**

Head of Business Unit Funding, Volkswagen Foundation

*Afterwards*

*Reception with musical accompaniment*

8:00 p.m.

*End of Event*

This event is presented by Tobias Schmid.