



VIRCHOW PRIZE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH 2022 AWARD CEREMONY





# HIGH PATRON 2022 VIRCHOW PRIZE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

The 2022 Virchow Prize for Global Health is held under the High Patronage of the German Federal President, Frank Walter Steinmeier.

Under the High Patron, the mission of the international Virchow Prize for Global Health and its alignment with health-related Sustainable Development Goals within the United Nations 2030 Agenda are endorsed. As stated in the Federal President's letter upon taking over the patronage on May 12, 2022, "international and interdisciplinary collaboration in research networks to address global health crisis deserve our great support".

This year is particularly special, because the ceremony will award the first laureate of the Virchow Prize for Global Health; representing a milestone towards improving awareness of global health issues and achieving our common mission of health for all.

The Virchow Foundation for Global Health is honoured to award the 2022 Virchow Prize for Global Health to John N. Nkengasong under the distinguished recognition of President Steinmeier.

#### PHOTO CREDITS:

- 1 Portrait Steinmeier: Federal Government/Steffen Kugler
- 2 Portrait Giffey: Lena Giovanazz
- 3 Portrait Ghebrevesus: WHO/Christopher Black
- 4 Portrait Nkengasong: Mulugeta Avene

FRANK WALTER STEINMEIER
PRESIDENT OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
HIGH PATRON OF THE VIRCHOW
PRIZE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH



## WELCOME TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS

## WELCOME FRANZISKA GIFFEY

The Virchow Prize for Global Health is being awarded this year for the very first time. Welcome to Berlin for this very special event!

The COVID-19 pandemic has given us fresh proof that research and innovation in the health care sector are essential to achieving sustainable development and decent living conditions everywhere in the world. I am delighted that starting this year, the Virchow Prize will be honouring award winners for their many years of outstanding work in the area of global health and in conjunction with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

This international award shines a spotlight on vital issues and can be another incentive for the commitment to finding innovative solutions in health care. At the same time, the Virchow Prize will help to raise Berlin's profile still further as an exceptional home to science, academia, medical research and treatment, and an innovative health care industry. Our city's development in these areas has been very gratifying, and we want to continue to move forward with that. For this reason, too, I am delighted about this new award.

My special thanks go to the Virchow Foundation for Global Health and to everyone else whose hard work and support is making this premiere possible. And now I'd like to wish all of you an unforgettable awards ceremony and inspiring encounters, as well as a very pleasant stay in Berlin.

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FRANZISKA GIFFEY
GOVERNING MAYOR OF BERLIN

Dear guests and friends, it is a great pleasure to welcome you to the opening ceremony of the Virchow Prize for Global Health.

Health is an essential human right, and improving access to health services globally is a humanitarian imperative. Yet governments often under-invest and under-prioritise it. Despite the unique opportunity presented by the COVID-19 pandemic to fundamentally change health and response mechanisms, we see the same breakdowns persisting. Understanding the diverse needs of our communities to strengthen local health policy and establish innovative partnerships are essential for establishing a sustainable global health architecture.

The Virchow Prize for Global Health aims to contribute to global health security and was launched during a momentous time for health in Germany. The German Government launched its ambitious Global Health Strategy 2020, followed by the opening of the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence in 2021. The Virchow Prize for Global Health, and the Virchow Foundation for Global Health which awards this annual prize, build on these initiatives to serve as a platform for raising awareness of global health while fostering collaboration across sectors and expertise.

There are many reasons to be remain optimistic about the future and the progress we have achieved. This is due in great part to exceptional individuals like Ambassador John Nkengasong, who have persevered in bridging the gap for equitable healthcare to the world's most un-

derserved and vulnerable. For the past 30 years, Ambassador Nkengasong has demonstrated unparalleled commitment in addressing

Our celebration of Ambassador Nkengasong not only recognizes his dedication to "health for all" and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, but aims to highlight the current state of global health and the importance of worldwide cooperation to achieve equitable health access.

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TEDROS ADHANOM
GHEBREYESUS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

## WELCOME FOUNDERS



Esteemed guests of the Virchow Prize for Global Health Award Ceremony 2022, Dear friends & colleagues, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to this first ceremony of the Virchow Prize for Global Health. When we established the Virchow Foundation for Global Health in October 2021 on the 200th birthday of Rudolf Virchow, it was with a clear and hopeful mission: to broaden public awareness on the importance of global health and to convene stronger partnerships towards mobilising the attainment of the United Nations 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) in respect to "health and well-being for all".

A key pillar of this mission is upheld through the awarding of the Virchow Prize for Global Health, which elevates those exceptional individuals who have dedicated their lives to improve global health.

As we look to what we have achieved as a global community since the UN SDGs were unanimously adopted by Member States in 2015, it is clear that major challenges remain ahead of us. Only together can we reach health equity as a prerequisite to protect our planet earth.

Laureates of the Virchow Prize for Global Health serve as leading examples and inspiration on how outstanding contributions, strong commitment and ground-breaking innovation can drive this transformation.

We are deeply honoured and delighted to welcome you to this inaugural ceremony, celebrating John Nkengasong and his unparalleled commitment in addressing complex global health challenges and making healthcare accessible to the world's most vulnerable.

We remain grateful to you for being here with us today and we hope you share our renewed ambition to improving health a truly universal human right.

#### CEREMONY PROGRAMME SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022 18:00 CET

#### WELCOME NOTES

#### FRANZISKA GIFFEY

Governing Mayor of Berlin

#### **GERALD HAUG**

President, Virchow Foundation for Global Health President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

## TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS

Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO)

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

PRESENTATION OF
VIRCHOW PRIZE
FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
JOHN N. NKENGASONG

### LAUDATION BY SIR PETER PIOT

Former Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

#### MUSICAL INTERLUDE

**CLOSING REMARKS** 

RECEPTION

## MASTER OF CEREMONY **STÉPHANIE SEYDOUX**

Ambassador for Global Health Ministry for Europe & Foreign Affairs Republic of France

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#### 2022 VIRCHOW PRIZE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH LAUREATE

#### JOHN N. NKENGASONG

The laureate of the 2022 Virchow Prize for Global Health is John Nkengasong for his outstanding and significant lifetime contributions towards strengthening global health.

Dr Nkengasong was born in Cameroon and started his impeccable and impressive academic career studying virology at the University of Yaoundé. He then went on to obtain master's degrees in Tropical Biomedical Science at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium and in Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences University of Brussels School of Medicine. Dr Nkengasong also holds a doctorate in Medical Sciences and Virology from the University of Brussels, Belgium.

Dr Nkengasong has held many prominent positions towards furthering our understanding and response to infectious diseases. He researched the diagnosis, pathogenesis, and drug resistance of HIV/AIDS as Chief of Virology at the World Health Organization (WHO). Following this role, Dr Nkengasong joined the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. Assigned to Abidjan, Ivory Coast, under his leadership the team created one of the first laboratories on the continent capable of precisely measuring HIV in the blood and sequencing of the virus.

In 2011, Dr Nkengasong played a crucial role in establishing the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), a pan-African organisation strengthening laboratory networks and systems in Africa, as well as lending strong support and development opportunities to African researchers. In 2016, Dr Nkengasong significantly contributed to the es-

tablishment of the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) as its Founding Director. Under his leadership, the Africa CDC established strong cooperation between African Union member countries to strengthen their public health institutes and tackle future health threats. The framework established moved the Africa CDC into a full autonomous health agency of the Africa Union.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Nkengasong continued to coordinate the African continent's response and was appointed Special Envoy to the Director-General of the World Health Organization on COVID-19 Preparedness and Response. Most recently, in June 2022, Dr Nkengasong was appointed the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Special Representative for Health Diplomacy of the United States. As the first coordinator of African origin, Dr Nkengasong is leading, managing, and overseeing the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

John Nkengasong has demonstrated an exceptionally impressive role in global health since his earliest academic and political beginnings in scientific research. This is underscored by his establishment of crucial global health institutions and advancing education, including training of new generations of global health scientists, activists, and diplomats, which contribute to raised awareness on the essential need for international cooperation in health.

During his time as Director of the Africa CDC, Dr Nkengasong implemented and developed health-improving governance and cooperation, which enhanced health and individual well-being on a global scale. This has elevated him as one of the key individuals in establishing the global health dynamics and infrastructures to raise the international participation of the Global South.

It is this unparalleled commitment to addressing complex global health challenges, his development of systemic and holistic approaches which have fundamentally shaped the global health landscape, and mobilisation towards the attainment of the United Nations 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals and "health and wellbeing for all" that John Nkengasong is a deserving laureate of the 2022 Virchow Prize for Global Health.

"I am humbled and honoured to receive the Virchow Prize for Global Health. What drives me today and has driven me throughout my career in public health over the past 30 years is a need to serve the underprivileged and vulnerable populations by eliminating inequities in global health. Growing up in my country of birth, Cameroon, I experienced first-hand and very personally what it means to be vulnerable to disease threats. I frequently suffered from malaria episodes, any one of which could have taken my life because access to basic medicine was limited. I am fortunate, I survived, but millions have not. My experience in Cameroon was the catalyst for my commitment to bridging inequities in global health. I am among many dedicated public health professionals committed to making better health for all a reality. The Virchow Prize for Global Health is the highest honour in recognizing contributions to global health and bringing visibility to an underrecognized field that has an impact of global proportions. It is with deep gratitude that I accept this award, which is named after the great scientist Rudolf Virchow. His work advanced global health during his time through today. I share his commitment to improving the lives and wellbeing of the world's most vulnerable and I will continue to dedicate my time and energy to that effort."

JOHN N. NKENGASONG

## VIRCHOW PRIZE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH



#### RUDOLF VIRCHOW

#### VIRCHOW FOUNDATION FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

The Virchow Prize for Global Health is an international award of the highest prestige, awarding laureates €500,000 for their outstanding achievements in addressing the global health challenges.

The Virchow Prize for Global Health was founded with the vision to simplify the complexity of global health challenges and give a face to those who dedicate their lives to bridging these health areas and improving outcomes. Moreover, it aims to incentivize and spur future generations of great minds in their commitment to global health.

It is with this spirit and intention that the Virchow Prize for Global Health honours lifetime achievements towards health for all. Most importantly, these accomplishments must align and uphold the United Nations 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) – an ambitious framework of action to carry the planet onto a more sustainable path.

The Virchow Prize for Global Health is the first award of such high prestige to be intentionally established in direct connection to the UN SDGs. Specifically, addressing SDG 3 "Good Health and Well-Being" among the 17 SDGs. The Virchow Prize aims to serve as a beacon – shining bright light on the importance and interconnectedness of health, across all societies and cultures around the world.

The Virchow Prize is awarded by the Virchow Foundation for Global Health, a non-profit foundation established through the support of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, alongside civil society and leading experts within global health.

The mission of the Virchow Foundation for Global Health is to provide a platform which promotes global and public health through the following pillars:

- Awarding of the Virchow Prize for Global Health.
- Promotion of research projects and the application of research results.
- Networking across actors, sectors, and disciplines related to global and public health.
- Supporting symposia and conferences in the field of global health.

The Virchow Prize for Global Health is named in honour of Rudolf Virchow – a physician at the Charité University Medicine Berlin and founder of the famous Berlin School of Medicine, which laid the foundation for today's Berlin School of Health. Born 200 years ago on October 13, 1821, Rudolf Virchow is a unique example of a great scientist, medical doctor, pathologist, anthropologist, sociologist and influential politician, who with his ideas, discoveries and activities, had profound impact on the health and well-being of people during his time through present day.

Virchow united in one person the interdisciplinary, intersectoral and humanistic concept of well-being which is needed today to improve health at a global scale. Rudolf Virchow is thus a role model and inspiration to overcome complexity and to bridge the great variety of challenges within health and related areas. He coined the famous concept that medicine is a social science.

Laureates of the Virchow Prize for Global Health will be shining examples in striving for these ambitious efforts, while providing inspiration to the community in improving health and well-being for all – our common and noble goal.

# VIRCHOW PRIZE DOGGGGGA, MGATE

## MASTER OF CEREMONY **STÉPHANIE SEYDOUX**

#### VIRCHOW PRIZE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH TROPHY

The Virchow Prize for Global Health trophy is awarded for the first time on October 15, 2022 and aspires to be recognised as a symbol of innovation and dedication to advancing health for all.

This one-of-a-kind design provides a bridge between the past and future of global health. Its central feature is the glass specimen jar, curated from the Pathology Laboratory of the Charité University Medicine in Berlin. Estimated to be more than 100 years old, similar specimen jars were utilized by Rudolf Virchow himself to preserve medical discoveries and contribute to the advancement of science and education.

Suspended within each Virchow Prize for Global Health trophy is a "specimen" that represents or symbolizes the longstanding work of the laureates and their unique contribution to global health. Within the trophy is a brass plate, laser etched with the name of the laureate and indicating the awarding year. The lid is additionally made of brass, etched with the image of Rudolf Virchow and sealed.

This original jar featuring the specimen, brass plate and lid will be showcased in the Historical Museum at the Charité University Medicine for students and the community to visit and learn from the achievements of the Virchow Prize for Global Health laureates – upholding Rudolf Virchow's lifelong ambition to democratize and stimulate education.

The trophy awarded to the 2022 Virchow Prize for Global Health laureate, Ambassador John Nkengasong, will be a replica of this museum specimen; additionally utilizing an original glass jar curated from the Charité University Medicine.

The Virchow Prize for Global Health trophy design was developed under the direction and vision of artists Professor Axel Kufus, Noa Lerner and Bastian Thürich from Berlin University of the Arts (Universität der Künste) and OH Studio. Its concept and design finalized in close cooperation with the Virchow Foundation for Global Health Founders and Directors.

Stéphanie Seydoux was appointed French Ambassador for Global Health in 2018, helping design and implement the French Strategy for Global Health executed by French actors all around the world. Ambassador Seydoux represents France in various international organisations and was actively involved in in the 6th replenishment conference for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, hosted in Lyon, October 2019.

Ambassador Seydoux started her career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Afterwards she joined the Ecole nationale d'administration (ENA) and the General Inspectorate of Social Affairs (IGAS) in 2004. From 2007 to 2010, she was Head of Equality Promotion at the French Independent Equality Commission, before serving as Deputy Ambassador at the French Embassy in Kenya. Upon returning to France, she became Head of the French Women's Rights Department from 2014 to 2017.

Ambassador Seydoux currently serves as Co-Chair of the Virchow Foundation for Global Health Council, the strategic body which advises on the Foundation's direction, its contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and elects the Virchow Prize Committee.

STÉPHANIE SEYDOUX

AMBASSADOR FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

MINISTRY FOR EUROPE & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REPUBLIC OF FRANCE

#### **MUSICIANS**









#### LILY DAHAB AND BENE APERDANNIER WITH JUAN CAMILO VILLA

For more than a decade, Lily Dahab and Professor Bene Aperdannier have composed, arranged and produced music together. The resulting releases were highly celebrated by the press. The debut album "Nómade" was nominated by both the German Critic Association "Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik" and "Echo Jazz" as "Best World Music Album". "Huellas" was selected by the German Parliament's artist support "Initiative Musik". Their two most recent albums were chosen several times by German radio stations as "CD of the week".

Lily Dahab has been acclaimed by critics as "the one who kisses with the voice". Complimenting Bene Aperdannier, whom the press praises as "one of the greatest pianists and arrangers" for his versatility, exquisite and unique sound, which pioneer a new dimension in the hand of his jazz experience. Following their dream to arrange their music for full band and orchestra led to an iconic concert in the chamber music hall of Berliner Philharmonie sold out with 1,100 people.

In 2017, Colombian Jazz Bassist Juan Camilo Villa joined their band. Juan Camilo won the National German Young Jazz Award and became one of the leading bass players actively touring with prestigious international artists from the Jazz/Latin scene. Since 2010, and with more than 300 concerts, they have performed multicultural quintet tours throughout Europe and were invited to perform at several prestigious jazz festivals.

#### THE WALKING BLUES PROPHETS

After many years of criss-crossing by foot across Europe, they have arrived at the 2022 Virchow Prize for Global Health Award Ceremony! Wherever they appear, the Walking Blues Prophets offer a rousing journey through the world of jazz, soul and blues. Since 1994, the Walking Blues Prophets have been on the road, playing in diverse venues from clubs and festivals to anniversaries and presentations. Tours abroad have taken the band to Italy, Spain, England, Austria and the Netherlands, where they have won many friends with their exciting performances. Most engaging is their extravagant instrumentation, which is sure to sweep the audience away. The five walking musicians are from Berlin and Münster – the very cities in Germany where the Virchow Foundation for Global Health is based.

Ronald Lechtenberg | Guitar & Vocals, Manfred Wex | Saxophone, Stefan Gocht | Tuba, Bene Apperdannier | Accordion, Jochen Welle | Drums

# FRIENDS OF THE VIRCHOW FOUNDATION FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

## A PLATFORM FOR CHANGE

The Friends of the Virchow Foundation for Global Health are a group of highly committed individuals and strategic partners, such as companies, foundations and NGOs, who support the Virchow Foundation's goals by:

- raising awareness on the importance of global health among the broader public
- networking actors, sectors and disciplines related to global health on a national and international level
- elevating the recognition of the Virchow Prize for Global Health

You are invited to become part of our global network, helping us to achieve our goals.

future generations worldwide and help shape our future in a sustainable way? You can fund the goals of the Virchow Foundation for Global Health with a one-time or recurring, tax-deductible donation.

and your ideas for joint initiatives and campaigns are welcome. Please feel invited to contact us any time.

Friends of the Virchow Foundation for Global Health Dr Harald Hasselmann, Chair

Leave a legacy for a better and healthier future through an endowment to the Virchow Foundation fo Global Health. With a testamentary donation or endow ment, you have the opportunity to contribute long term funding to a specific focal point or project in the field of global health. If you are interested in an endowment or nave specific questions, we would be pleased to continue the conversation personally.

POOL NETWORKS AND COLLECTIVELY ACHIEVE MORE As a company, foundation or NGO already active in the field of global health, you have the opportunity to become part of an exclusive and dedicated network which contributes to innovative solutions at the national, international and global level. These efforts uphold UN Sustainable Development Goal #17 – "Partnerships for the Goals".

Individual arrangements regarding a particular engagement with the Virchow Foundation for Global Health and your ideas for joint initiatives and campaigns are very welcome. Please feel invited to contact us any time.

Friends of the Virchow Foundation for Global Health Dr Harald Hasselmann, Chair Reinhardtstrasse 14 DE-10117 Berlin virchow.foundation/friends friends@virchow.foundation

#### OCTOBER 15, 2022 BERLIN



HONOURING LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENTS TOWARDS
HEALTH FOR ALL