# ABOUT THE VIRCHOW PRIZE

The Virchow Prize honours outstanding achievements in global health that advance the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With an annual award of €500,000, the Prize recognises individuals and organisations whose research, innovations, and commitment significantly strengthen health-related sustainability goals.

First awarded in 2022 under the High Patronage of the Federal President of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the Virchow Prize has become an international symbol of recognition for humanitarian, peace-oriented, and partnership-driven efforts in global health – and a firmly established part of Berlin’s global health landscape.

Endowed by the **Virchow Foundation**, the award commemorates the legacy of Rudolf Virchow, a pioneer of social medicine and advocate for health as a human right.

Based in Berlin and Münster, the Virchow Foundation is a non-profit under the High Patronage of the Governing Mayor of Berlin. It was established jointly with support of the Presidents of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, alongside civil society representatives, and leading experts from academia, to contribute to the improvement of health worldwide.

# THE VIRCHOW PRIZE 2025 LAUREATES

This year, the Prize was awarded to two exceptional leaders for their pioneering, lifelong leadership in advancing maternal, newborn and child health equity through community-centred, evidence-based research.

**The laureates of the Virchow Prize 2025 are Quarraisha Abdool Karim from South Africa and Zulfiqar A. Bhutta from Pakistan.**

* **Quarraisha Abdool Karim** (South Africa) – recognised for her pioneering work in HIV prevention, particularly among women and adolescent girls in low- and middle-income countries. A globally respected scientist and advocate, she has shaped policy and championed equitable access to care for young women and mothers.
* **Zulfiqar Bhutta** (Pakistan) – honoured for his groundbreaking efforts to improve maternal, newborn, and child health worldwide, with a particular focus on nutrition. His work has sustainably transformed health systems and delivered community-based solutions to some of the most underserved populations.

The [official announcement](https://youtu.be/FRQ-koP3gWE) of the independent Virchow Prize Committee’s decision, made by the Co-Founders of the Virchow Foundation – Foundation President Christoph Markschies, Detlev Ganten, and Roland Göhde – is available online: <https://youtu.be/FRQ-koP3gWE>

# PAST LAUREATES

* **2022 –** [**John Nkengasong**](https://virchowprize.org/vp2022/)

*“for his outstanding and significant lifetime contributions towards strengthening global health*’ as well as his commitment to pandemic response and to ensuring equitable access to healthcare”

* **2023 –** [**Rose Gana Fomban Leke**](https://virchowprize.org/vp2023/)

*“for her distinctive and exceptional lifetime achievements in strengthening global health, pioneering infectious disease research towards a malaria-free world and relentless dedication in advancing gender equality”*

* **2024 –** [**Lucy Gilson & Johan Rockström**](https://virchowprize.org/vp2024/)

*“for their holistic and systems-based approach safeguarding human and planetary health through the analysis of climate impacts on our living conditions and the international adaptation of health systems and care”*

**PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR THE VIRCHOW PRIZE**

The Virchow Prize follows a yearly rhythm designed to ensure global participation and visibility:

* **14 July 2025** Official announcement of the laureate(s)
* **10 October 2025** Virchow Prize Lecture at ESMT Berlin
* **11 October 2025** Virchow Prize Dinner at the Medical History Museum of the

Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

* **11 October 2025** Award Ceremony at the Rotes Rathaus (Berlin City Hall) with

leading international and national representatives from science, business, politics, and civil society

* **11.10.2025 - 28.02.2026** Nomination period for the Virchow Prize 2026

# VIRCHOW PRIZE 2025 AWARD CEREMONY

* Date Saturday, 11 October 2025
* Time 17:00 CET
* Venue Rotes Rathaus Berlin, Germany

# MEDIA INFORMATION Full press release with quotes and background: <https://virchowprize.org/virchowprize-2025/>

# KEY WEBLINKS & SOCIAL MEDIA

* [Website des Virchow-Preises](https://www.virchowprize.org/)
* [Pressemitteilung – Bekanntgabe der Preisträgerinnen und Preisträger 2025](https://virchowprize.org/virchowprize-2025/)
* [Informationen zu den Preisträgerinnen und Preisträgern](https://virchowprize.org/the-virchow-prize-2025/)
* [Livestream-Link](https://virchowprize.org/)
* [LinkedIn: @VirchowPrize](https://www.linkedin.com/company/virchowprize/)
* [Bluesky: @VirchowPrize](https://bsky.app/profile/virchowprize.bsky.social)
* [YouTube – The Virchow Prize](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8h63nRZglOQShz_JhS39Xg)
* Hashtag: #VirchowPrize2025

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