V RCHOW FOUNDAT ON



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



We all know how hard it is, in the time in which we are living, to be confident about what is to come in the future [...] What is the vaccine that we have against all these [global] challenges?

I think there is only one vaccine available for this and that is politics rooted in science. This is the crucial understanding that Rudolf Virchow had.

He was the first to clearly understand that the risks of mankind can only be dealt with if politics and policy are full rooted in evidence and in science.

99

Karl Lauterbach

Former German Federal Minister of Health

Welcome speech at the Virchow Prize 2024 Award Ceremony

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FOREWORD

VIRCHOW FOUNDATION FOUNDERS

As we reflect on 2024, we are reminded once more of the enduring relevance of Rudolf Virchow's legacy: that health is not simply the absence of disease, but a foundational pillar of equity, security, and societal progress. In a year marked by escalating geopolitical tensions and growing uncertainty, the imperative to champion global health—boldly, collaboratively, and inclusively—has never felt more urgent.

We were deeply honoured to celebrate Professors Lucy Gilson and Johan Rockström as the Virchow Prize 2024 Laureates. Their work stands as a powerful testament to the holistic, systems-based thinking that is required to address the profound challenges of our time—from strengthening inclusive health systems to safeguarding planetary boundaries that sustain life itself. Their voices, and those of our broader community, serve as beacons of evidence-based leadership, compassion, and foresight.

This 2024 award weekend brought together hundreds of individuals from across disciplines, borders, and generations—underscoring the global resonance of the Prize and the shared commitment of our partners. From the Virchow Lectures hosted with ESMT Berlin, to the spirited discussions and collaborations during high-level diplomatic dinners and global health forums, we have seen first-hand the power of dialogue and trust in advancing solutions.

Through engagements with key institutions—from the World Health Assembly and World Health Summit, to newly formed collaborations at the UNITE Global Summit, Union of the German Academies, and beyond—we continue to strengthen the bridge between science, policy, and people.

In these complex times, our conviction remains clear: health must be viewed as a common good, safeguarded through solidarity, interdisciplinary action, and unwavering commitment to human dignity.

We thank each of you for walking alongside us in this shared endeavour.

Yours sincerely,

Leveryn humelus Roland Göhde Dekerfamen CHRISTOPH MARKSCHIES ROLAND COHDE DETLEV GANTEN

Friede Springer Gerald H. Haug

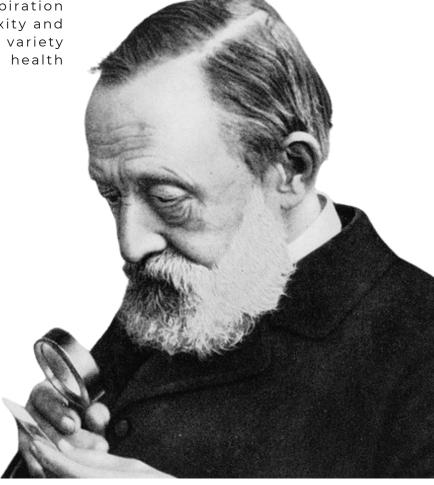
RUDOLF VIRCHOW

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.

Born over 200 years ago on 13 October 1821, Virchow worked as a physician at Charité. As the founder of the famous Berlin School of Medicine, he became one of the most influential scientists at the beginnings of modern medicine.

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.



1821-1902

The Virchow Foundation's mission is to promote global and public health. This shall be realised in particular through the following measures:

- Awarding the Virchow Prize accompanied by expedient public relations work.
- Promotion of research projects and the application of research results.
- The networking of actors, groups of actors and sectors (civil society, NGOs, science, politics, business) relating to global health and public health at the national and international levels. Symposiums and conferences can be supported for this purpose.

The Virchow Foundation strives to promote and raise awareness of global health issues in a targeted and comprehensive manner among the general public, both nationally and internationally, and to contribute to the improvement of global health.

The Virchow Foundation acknowledges, supports and relates its work in particular to the efforts of the United Nations to preserve our planet Earth and make possible a healthy life in the meaning of the comprehensive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the UN 2030 Agenda.

In this spirit, the Virchow Prize, established and supported by the Virchow Foundation, recognises innovations of outstanding significance having a positive and sustainable impact on the broad field of global health.

OUR MISSION



With only five years remaining to achieve the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the urgency to accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has never been greater. The Virchow Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to championing holistic, cross-sectoral solutions that promote equitable health and well-being for all—especially as global health is increasingly shaped by complex geopolitical, environmental, and societal pressures.

At the heart of our mission is the belief that health must be understood as a foundational enabler of sustainable development, peace, and prosperity. The Virchow Prize directly supports this vision by recognizing individuals whose work exemplifies the integrated, systems-based thinking needed to tackle today's most pressing global challenges.

In 2024, we honoured Prof. Lucy Gilson and Prof. Dr. Johan Rockström, whose combined contributions span the continuum from inclusive health system governance to the science of planetary boundaries. Their work illuminates the vital interdependence between SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being, SDG 13: Climate Action, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, among others.

Through our continued engagement with policy leaders, research institutions, and civil society partners worldwide, the Virchow Foundation fosters inclusive dialogue, long-term collaboration, and innovative thinking. Crucial tools as we collectively navigate the final stretch toward 2030.

& THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

VIRCHOW

VIRCHOW FOUNDATION

The committees of the Virchow Foundation comprise leading international experts with broad expertise and exceptional track record covering a broad range of sectors and disciplines in global health.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees steers the Virchow Foundation's general policy and strategy, aiming to realise the Foundation's purpose and mission as laid down in the Statutes of the Foundation. Current composition: virchowprize.org/board-of-trustees/

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Comprised of leading, international experts with a shared dedication to improve health worldwide, the Council provides strategic guidance on the direction of both the Foundation and the formation of the Virchow Prize Committee. Members of the Council are committed to ensure the Foundation's success through cross-sectoral cooperation and aligning activities with the United Nations 2030 Agenda SDGs. Current composition: wirchowprize.org/council/

VIRCHOW PRIZE COMMITTEE

The Virchow Prize Committee is the independent jury that elaborates and provides the laureate selection of the Virchow Prize, awarded annually by the Virchow Foundation. The Virchow Prize Committee members show full loyalty to the eligibility criteria of the Virchow Prize as well as to the Virchow Foundation's overall mission and goals. Current composition: wirchow-prize-committee/

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AS OF AUGUST 2025



CHRISTOPH MARKSCHIES FOUNDATION PRESIDENT PRESIDENT, BERLIN BRANDENBURG ACADEMY OF SCIENCES & HUMANITIES



OLE PETTER OTTERSEN **FOUNDATION VICE** PRESIDENT FORMER PRESIDENT, KAROLINSKA INSTITUTE



ELIZABETH BLACKBURN NOBEL LAUREATE 2009



DETLEV GANTEN FOUNDING PRESIDENT WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT



ROLAND GÖHDE CHAIR OF THE BOARD GHA – GERMAN HEALTH ALLIANCE CO-FOUNDER GÖHDE FOUNDATION



HERMANN GRÖHE MEMBER, GERMAN BUNDESTAG MINISTER OF HEALTH 2013-2018



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MIRIAM ORCUTT FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LANCET MIGRATION



BETTINA ROCKENBACH PRESIDENT, GERMAN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES LEOPOLDINA



FRIEDE SPRINGER CHAIR AXEL SPRINGER STIFTUNG



JOHANNES STELLMANN MANAGING DIRECTOR. SOFTWARE AG -STIFTUNG (SAGST)



OTMAR D. WIESTLER CHRISTIANE PRESIDENT HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION



WOOPEN DIRECTOR CENTER FOR LIFE **ETHICS**



KAI WEGNER GOVERNING MAYOR OF BERLIN



HEYO KROEMER EX-OFFICIO GUEST CEO CHARITÉ-UNIVERSITY MEDICINE



BALVIR S. TOMAR EX-OFFICIO GUEST 2025 INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

AS OF AUGUST 2025



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CHAIR
FOUNDING DIRECTOR
THE VACCINE
CONFIDENCE
PROJECT, LONDON
SCHOOL OF HYGIENE
& TROPICAL MEDICINE



CHIKWE IHEKWEAZU CHAIR-ELECT ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



TILL BÄRNIGHAUSEN DIRECTOR HEIDELBERG INSTITUTE OF GLOBAL HEALTH



DAME SALLY DAVIES
UK SPECIAL ENVOY
ON
ANTIMICROBIAL
RESISTANCE



CHRISTIAN DROSTEN DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY CHARITÉ – UNIVERSITY MEDICINE BERLIN



VICTOR J. DZAU PRESIDENT U.S. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE



RANA A. HAJJEH FORMER DIRECTOR PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



MARIAM JASHI CEO GLOBAL SEPSIS ALLIANCE



ILONA KICKBUSCH FOUNDING DIRECTOR, GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE GRADUATE INST. OF INTL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



FABIAN LEENDERTZ FOUNDING DIRECTOR, HELMHOLTZ INSTITUTE FOR ONE HEALTH (HIOH)



JOANNE LIU
CHAIR
PROFESSOR
SCHOOL OF
POPULATION AND
GLOBAL HEALTH
MCGILL UNIVERSITY



ELIZABETH MACINTYRE BOARD MEMBER, BIOMEDICAL ALLIANCE IN EUROPE



BENOÎT MIRIBEL SECRETARY GENERAL ONE SUSTAINABLE HEALTH FORUM



ANDERS NORDSTRÖM GLOBAL HEALTH ADVISOR



TOLULLAH ONI DIRECTOR, GLOBAL DIET AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY GROUP UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



NICOLE REDVERS
WESTERN RESEARCH
CHAIR & DIRECTOR,
INDIGENOUS
PLANETARY HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN ONTARIO



JÖRG ROCHOLL
PRESIDENT
EUROPEAN SCHOOL
OF MANAGEMENT
AND TECHNOLOGY



JOHN-ARNE RØTTINGEN CEO, WELLCOME TRUST



LUCIANO SASO FORMER DEPUTY RECTOR, PROFESSOR, SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME



BERNHARD SCHWARTLÄNDER GLOBAL HEALTH ENVOY EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY



GEORG SEIFERT PAEDIATRICIAN, CHARITÉ – UNIVERSITY MEDICINE BERLIN



AMIRHOSSEIN TAKIAN VICE DEAN, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH TEHRAN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES



LOTHAR H. WIELER CHAIR, DIGITAL PUBLIC GLOBAL HEALTH, HASSO-PLATTNER-INSTITUTE



EUGENIO GAUDIO GUEST OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT ROME SAPIENZA FOUNDATION



H.E. MONICA GEINGOS GUEST OF THE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON, ONE ECONOMY FOUNDATION



MICHEL SIDIBÉ
GUEST OF THE
COUNCIL
SPECIAL ENVOY,
AFRICA MEDICINE
AGENCY
AFRICAN UNION

VIRCHOW PRIZE COMMITTEE



OLE PETTER OTTERSEN CHAIR FORMER PRESIDENT KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET



FRAN BAUM
DIRECTOR OF
STRETTON HEALTH
EQUITY
STRETTON
INSTITUTE,
UNIVERSITY OF
ADELAIDE



OMNIA EL-OMRANI FELLOW, GLOBAL CLIMATE AND HEALTH PROGRAM, THE WORLD BANK



TIM EVANS
DIRECTOR AND
ASSOCIATE DEAN
SCHOOL OF
POPULATION &
GLOBAL HEALTH,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY



GITHINJI KIAMA GITAHI GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AMREF HEALTH AFRICA



JOHANNA HANEFELD VICE PRESIDENT (ACTING) ROBERT KOCH INSTITUTE GERMANY



JEMILAH MAHMOOD DIRECTOR SUNWAY CENTRE FOR PLANETARY HEALTH MALAYSIA



CHRISTOPH
MARKSCHIES
PRESIDENT, BERLIN
BRANDENBURG
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES AND
HUMANITIES



VIROJ TANGCHAROENSATHIEN SENIOR ADVISOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH POLICY PROGRAM (IHPP)



© Henning Schacht

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

This annual report provides an overview of the Foundation's activities and finances towards upholding the four key pillars of its mission.

The Virchow Foundation was founded to promote awareness of global health issues nationally and internationally, while strengthening research and development cooperation to jointly contribute towards health for all.



THE VIRCHOW PRIZE 2024

AWARD CEREMONY | OCTOBER 12 ROTES RATHAUS (BERLIN CITY HALL)

- Master of Ceremony | Hiba Boujnah, Head of International Cooperation and Partnerships, Charité University Medicine Berlin
- Kai Wegner | Governing Mayor of Berlin
- Bärbel Bas | President of the German Bundestag
- Gerald Haug | President, Virchow Foundation, President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus | Director-General, World Health Organization
- Laudation | Lia Tadesse, Former Minister of Health, Ethiopia
- Laureates | Lucy Gilson & Johan Rockström
- Detlev Ganten | Co-Founder, Virchow Foundation
- Roland Göhde | Co-Founder & CEO, Virchow Foundation
- Carsten Schicker | CEO & Managing Director, World Health Summit

Watch the ceremony highlights at https://virchowprize.org/vp2024/

THE VIRCHOW PRIZE 2024 LAUREATES

LUCY GILSON

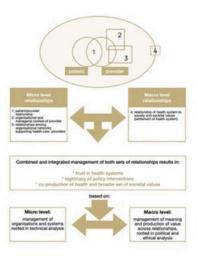
CHAMPIONING INCLUSIVE HEALTH SYSTEMS FOR EQUITY AND RESILIENCE

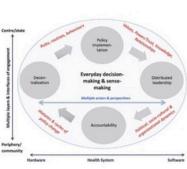
Prof. Lucy Gilson, an esteemed academic at the University of Cape Town and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, has been a pivotal figure in the field of health policy and systems research (HPSR). Her work emphasizes the importance of governance and leadership in health systems, advocating for approaches that ensure all individuals have access to quality healthcare.

Gilson's research delves into the dynamics of health system strengthening, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. She has been instrumental in highlighting how power dynamics, trust, and frontline leadership impact health policy implementation and outcomes.

Her commitment to capacity building is evident through her mentorship of emerging health system researchers and her involvement in initiatives that bridge the gap between research and policy. By fostering environments where evidence informs practice, Gilson has contributed to the development of more equitable and resilient health systems globally.







Managing health system relationships to build trust | 2003

Practicing governance towards equity in health systems: LMIC perspectives and experience | 2017





THE VIRCHOW PRIZE 2024 LAUREATES

JOHAN ROCKSTRÖM

ADVANCING PLANETARY BOUNDARIES SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Prof. Dr. Johan Rockström, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, is renowned for his pioneering work on the Planetary Boundaries framework. This groundbreaking concept identifies the environmental limits within which humanity can safely operate, emphasizing the interconnectedness of Earth's systems and human wellbeing.

Rockström's research has been instrumental in shifting global perspectives on sustainability, highlighting the risks of transgressing ecological thresholds. His work underscores the necessity of maintaining the stability of Earth's systems to ensure a safe and just operating space for humanity.

Beyond academia, Rockström actively engages with policymakers, businesses, and civil society to promote science-based targets for sustainable development. His advocacy for integrating environmental considerations into decision-making processes has influenced international climate policies and sustainability agendas.

Top: Nine planetary systems - proposed safe operating space (green) and estimate of the position for each variable 12023

Bottom left: Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries 12023

Bottom right: Proposed safe and just (NSH = no significant harm) Earth System Boundaries (ESBs) 12023

2023

2023

AWARD CEREMONY PROGRAMME

WELCOME NOTES



© Henning Schacht

Hosting the Virchow Prize in the Rotes Rathaus since 2022, Governing Mayor Wegner emphasized Berlin's role as a global healthcare hub, where world-class research, hospitals, and innovators drive medical progress and social responsibility. He congratulated Professors Gilson and Rockström, highlighting that their system-based approaches embody Virchow's vision of linking science, empathy, and global well-being.

High Patron of the Virchow Prize in 2023 and 2024, Former President of the Bundestag Bärbel Bas highlighted Rudolf Virchow's vision of medicine as a social science, stressing the inseparable link between human health, society, and environment. She praised Professors Gilson and Rockström for their holistic approaches to resilient healthcare systems and planetary health. the Prize's spirit global embodying οf responsibility.



© Yves Sucksdorff



Director General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, highlighted the Virchow Prize as a symbol of global collaboration, emphasizing that resilient health systems and planetary health must be advanced together to confront today's complex challenges. He commended Professors Gilson and Rockström for their pioneering contributions and thanked Germany for its leadership in strengthening global health and supporting WHO's mission.

Former Federal Minister of Health of Germany, Karl Lauterbach, highlighted the urgency of strengthening prevention, education, and resilient health systems to address the intertwined challenges of disease, climate change, and global health. He commended Professors Gilson and Rockström for exemplifying the Virchow Prize's spirit of holistic, cross-disciplinary solutions that inspire progress toward a sustainable and healthy future.



VIRCHOW LECTURE

OCTOBER 11 HOSTED BY THE ESMT BERLIN

Hosted with our partner the European School of Management Technology Berlin, the Virchow Lecture featured presentations by 2024 Laureates, Lucy Gilson and Johan Rockström. Their presentations explored the critical and timely topic of holistic and systems-based approaches to safeguarding "Health for All" and the crucial interconnectedness of health with the different levels of health systems, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the planetary boundaries of environmental sustainability.

Their lectures were followed by a panel discussion moderated by Prof. Dr Ole Petter Ottersen, Vice President of the Virchow Foundation and Former President of the Karolinska Institutet. Other speakers included:

- Roland Göhde | Co-Founder and CEO of the Virchow Foundation
- Prof. Jörg Rocholl, PhD | President of the ESMT Berlin and Council Member of the Virchow Foundation
- Iris Plöger | Member of the Executive Board of the Federation of German Industries (BDI e.V.)









VIRCHOW PRIZE DINNER

OCTOBER 11 CHARITÉ MEDICAL HISTORY MUSEUM

On the evening before the 2024 Award Ceremony, the Virchow Prize Dinner was hosted to honour the 2024 Laureates, Lucy Gilson and Johan Rockström, within the historic ruines of the Charité Medical History Museum.

High-level guests included:

- Karl Lauterbach, German Federal Minister of Health
- Matshidiso Moeti, Regional Director, World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa
- John-Arne Røttingen, CEO, Wellcome Trust
- Axel Pries, President, World Health Summit
- Hermann Gröhe, Former German Federal Minister of Health
- Maike Sander, Scientific Director and Chair of the Board, Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Helmholtz Association



© Catharina Boehme

DEBATE OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON GLOBAL HEALTH

GERMAN BUNDESTAG OCTOBER 14

The Virchow Prize 2024 Laureate, Lucy Gilson, joined the official debate of the Subcommittee on Global Health. The session brought together experts to debate the United Nations Biodiversity Conference COP 16 und UN Climate Change Conference UNFCCC COP 29, the roles these conferences play in environmental protection, the need for collaboration and partnerships to advance their goals, and expected outcomes of these high-level meetings.

Lucy Gilson spoke on the topic of rethinking global governance structures so that it advances health equity and justice across a variety of dimensions, including climate, environmental and social. Reinforcing that our health systems must break away from 'siloism' and instead promote disciplines, and most importantly people, working together to advance our common goals.

Additional speakers included:

- Jeremy James Farrar, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization
- Maria Neira Director of Environment, Climate Change and Health, World Health Organization
- Vincent Bretin, Director, Climate and Health, UNITAID
- Florian Titze, Senior Policy Advisor, World Wildlife Federation

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

COVERAGE OF THE VIRCHOW PRIZE



Being jointly honoured with the Virchow Prize is a wonderful and very special surprise for both of us, we, Lucy Gilson and Johan Rockström, therefore feel stimulated to make a brief joint statement in addition to personally thanking the Virchow Foundation and the Virchow Prize Committee.

Although we have so far never collaborated or published on joint projects, we both recognise that the health of our planet and human health are closely linked. We also both sought to understand and address such complexity in our quite different areas of work by adopting an holistic and systemic approach. The fact that the prestigious Virchow Prize has been bestowed upon us jointly, although we work in different areas of research, is a strong signal for us and hopefully for others of the importance of addressing complexity through even stronger transdisciplinary exchange and collaboration, and the application of systems thinking.

We are proud of being honoured with the Virchow Prize 2024. This encourages us to continue our own research and we hope that it will stimulate collaboration between seemingly separate communities towards 'Health for All' in the spirit of Rudolf Virchow.

Lucy Gilson and Johan Rockström The Virchow Prize 2024 Laureates







dpa



























LE MATIN













ÄrzteZeitung







THE VIRCHOW PRIZE: IMPACT IN ACTION

The Virchow Prize 2024 has sparked innovative projects that bridge research, policy, and practice. Here's a look at how our laureates are putting their Prize into action.

LUCY GILSON

Lucy Gilson is exploring plans for a program that would connect public health practitioners and academic researchers to strengthen health systems in South Africa and potentially across Africa. The initiative is being designed to focus on mentorship, training, and real-world placements to help participants understand the realities of health system development. Building on existing educational programs and partnerships, the program is intended to provide practical experience and bridge the worlds of academia and public-sector health, while fostering long-term system strengthening.

JOHAN ROCKSTRÖM

Johan Rockström is leading research to map how environmental changes, from climate and air quality to biodiversity loss, directly affect people's well-being. He is collaborating with global partners to ensure this knowledge informs international climate and development planning. At the Potsdam Institute, the Planetary Health Check now tracks human health alongside planetary health each year. Inspired by the Prize, Johan is also creating a new book, Life Gives Life, with filmmaker Dr. Mattias Klum, exploring how Earth's natural systems sustain life, accompanied by films, talks, and events to bring these insights to a broad audience.



VIRCHOW PRIZE TROPHY

Lucy Gilson has framed her work with the guiding principle: UMUNTU NGUMUNTU NGABANTU. This can be translated as "A person is a person through other people" and highlights the importance of community and interconnectedness.

The phrase emphasizes that an individual's identity and well-being are closely tied to their social environment, and that altruism and mutual support are essential for the flourishing of all.

As a symbol of this altruistic philosophy, the designers of the Virchow-Prize, Noa Lerner und Axel Kufus have chosen a wasp nest, which, in its very structure, embodies the values of care and collective action that define this fascinating species.



© Framewerk GmbH



© Framewerk GmbH

In his messages, Johan Rockström repeatedly finds powerful imagery to illustrate the increasingly exhausted limits of our terrestrial systems and to highlight the critical tipping points that could irreversibly destroy their life-sustaining balance.

The designers of the prize, Noa Lerner and Axel Kufus, were tasked with symbolizing the fragile state of our planet within this specimen jar. They suspended a mouth-blown, highly delicate glass sphere inside the jar, held by a single strand of hair. Any excessive acceleration or strain would cause the sphere to shatter against the boundaries of the jar, serving as a poignant metaphor for the vulnerability of our Earth. The designers urged the jury to handle the trophy with great care during the award ceremony. For Johan Rockström, this risk is not just self-evident; it is central to his research and the heart of his message."

TROPHY ROTATION IN BERLIN MUSEUM OF MEDICAL HISTORY

The Virchow Prize trophies are showcased in the exhibition room of the Berlin Museum of Medical History of the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin. These are rotated each summer to feature the most recent Laureate. On June 3, 2023, Victoria Grandsoult, Managing Director of the Virchow Foundation, and Navena Widulin, Medical Curator of the museum, updated the display with Rose Leke's award. Professor Leke's trophy features steps made out of chalkboard like material with terms symbolizing her dedicated career.



© Steffi Gasteiger

PARTNERSHIPS

Upholding its core vision to raise awareness and networking across sectors, the Virchow Foundation established strategic partnerships for both its organisational growth and the joint advancement of global health targets. Through these activities in 2024, the Foundation upheld the remaining pillars of its mission.

- 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.



APRIL

ONE EUROPE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH APRIL 23 | ONE HEALTH - RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AT THE CROSSROADS OF ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

On Tuesday April 23, Leuven One Health, One Europe for Global Health, the One Sustainable Health for All Foundation and the Virchow Foundation organised a One Health workshop at KU Leuven university under the auspices of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU, which was attended by eighty on-site participants and an international audience of over two hundred people online.

Various actors were brought together in sessions that focused on themes that are high on the Belgian and European policy agenda, such as safeguarding a healthy environment for healthy people, sustainable food systems, the digital revolution of our healthcare and the implementation of One Health policies on the level of the EU and beyond.



KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION

MAY 24 | ACCESS TO INNOVATION & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN GLOBAL HEALTH

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation hosted a political roundtable in Washington, D.C. to discuss international health policy issues. Leading the delegation was Hermann Gröhe, Deputy Chairman of the CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag, Deputy Chairman of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and Member of the Virchow Foundation Board of Trustees.

Further representing the Virchow Foundation was Roland Göhde, Co-Founder & CEO. They met members of Congress, representatives of the US government and international health experts. Including, former U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and 2024 Laureate of the Virchow Prize, John Nkengasong.





GAVI, THE VACCINE ALLIANCE

MAY 7 | UNITING FOR HEALTH AND ENVISIONING GAVI'S FUTURE

The Virchow Foundation and Gavi co-hosted a high-level dinner during the Global Solutions Summit to welcome Dr. Sania Nishtar, Gavi's new CEO, and Marie-Ange Saraka-Yao, Chief Resource Mobilisation & Growth Officer and Virchow Prize Ambassador. Discussions focused on Gavi's impact, the transition to its new strategy, and financing needs.

Gavi and the Virchow Foundation have an established partnership since signing a memorandum of understanding in May 2023. In January 2024, Marie-Ange Saraka-Yao assumed the role of Ambassador for the Virchow Prize, leveraging her leadership to raise awareness for this international prize.





GLOBAL SEPSIS ALLIANCE

SEPTEMBER 10 | GERMAN PARLIAMENT



At the 77^{th} World Health Assembly in Geneva, Victoria Grandsoult, Managing Director, represented the Virchow Foundation at the high level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on the 2030 Global Agenda for Sepsis.

This strategy was later launched on September 10 for World Sepsis Day within the German Parliament. Virchow Foundation CEO, Roland Göhde gave an intervention underlining the need for holistic and systems based approach to end sepsis.

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER 7 | HIGH LEVEL DINNER DIALOGUE

HOW CAN RESEARCH "FROM GERMANY" CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF GLOBAL HEALTH PRODUCTS?

OCTOBER

The first dinner of a two part series, the evening explored how German research contributes to the development of global health products. Keynote speakers included Dr. Rana Hajjeh (President, Population Council) and Prof. Otmar Wiestler (President, Helmholtz Association), who highlighted the significance of German-funded research in advancing biomedical and behavioral science solutions. Discussions emphasized prevention, public-private partnerships, and Germany's leadership role in global health R&D.





Michael Baumann, Rana Hajjeh, Andreas Eckert, Tina Rudolph, Otmar Wiestler, Annette Welling, Markus Landthaler, Paola Eckert, Harald Hasselmann, Roland Göhde, Joachim Schultze, Angelika Eggert, Matthias Suermondt, Deborah Weiss,

OCTOBER 13-15 | WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT 2024

Central to this partnership is the close collaboration each October which bridges the Virchow Prize Award Ceremony (Saturday, October 12) with the WHS Opening Ceremony (Sunday, October 13). This was once more executed with an intervention by WHS CEO & Managing Director, Carsten Schicker.



The Virchow Prize 2024 Laureate, Lucy Gilson, was a panelist at the WHS session, Can Al Enhance Trust in Science?, hosted by the Max Planck Society. Other panelists included:

- Patrick Cramer, President, Max Planck Society
- Meeyoung Cha, Scientific Director, Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy
- Jeremy Farrar, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization
- Rowland Illing, Chief Medical Officer & Director of Global Healthcare and Non-Profits, Amazon Web Services (AWS)

UNFPA | WOMEN X COLLECTIVE LAUNCH



The WomenX Collective launched at the World Health Summit 2024, featuring its first Hub in Berlin at the Berlin Institute of Health at Charité. Designed to leverage the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), this innovative programme is set to transform the health of every woman and girl and seeks to close health gaps by introducing innovative, women-centric solutions.

Roland Göhde, Virchow Foundation CEO, sits on the Advisory Board of the Women X Collective.

Roland Göhde, Victoria Grandsoult, Nigina Mutean, Rabea Knorr

NOVEMBER 4 | HIGH LEVEL DINNER DIALOGUE

INNOVATION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH



Johann Voss, Mariam Jashi, Hermann Gröhe, Georg Kippels, Jutta Reinhard-Rupp, Michael Makanga, Victoria Grandsoult, Iman Abdikarim, Rieke Beckmann, Rabea Knorr, Cosima Pfenninger, Roland Göhde, Wolfgang Maenning, Andreas Ulrich

The second dinner (November 4) focused on innovation in women's health. Dr. Jutta Reinhard-Jupp (Head of the Global Health Institute, Merck Group) and Dr. Michael Makanga (Executive Director, EDCTP3) addressed gaps in research, funding, and clinical trial access, particularly in underserved regions. Discussions underscored the urgency of integrating women's health into Germany's global health priorities through public-private partnerships, parliamentary initiatives, and targeted funding.

NOVEMBER

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2024

ACCOUNTING STATEMENT on the balance sheet from Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2024

Assets	
ASSELS	
Purchased property rights, similar rights and assets, licenses 17,624.31	€
Bank Accounts 238,007.91	€
Global Health Policy Lab Bank Account, Credit Card, Cash 684,362.75	€
Total Assets 939,994.97	€
Liabilities	
Basic Foundation Capital 100,000.00	€
Annual Result 15,994.97	€
Free Reserve 35,000.00	€
Reserve for Virchow Prize 2025 150,000.00	€
Reserve for Global Health Policy Lab 2025 639,000.00	_€

ACCOUNTING STATEMENT on the surplus account from Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2024

Income		
Donations & Grants	771,257.98	€
Subsidies / Project Funding	149,720.95	€
Project Execution	86,261.91	€
Global Health Policy Lab Related Donations & Grants	712,500.00	€
Operative Income	1,719,740.84	€
Interest from Fixed-Term Asset Account	14,465.89	€
Reversal of Reserve for Virchow Prize Ceremony 2023	500,000.00	€
Reversal of Free Reserve from Previous Year	95,000.00	€
Reversal of Reserve for GHPL from Previous Year	365,000.00	€
Total Income	2,694,206.73	€

Total Liabilities

939,994.97

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2024

ACCOUNTING STATEMENT on the surplus account from Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2024

Operative Cost 1,882,800.09	€
Global Health Policy Lab Cost 2024* (details below) 392,980.44	€
Friends of the Virchow Foundation 1,961.69	€
Virchow Prize Endowment 2023 500,000.00	€
Virchow Prize Endowment 2024 500,000.00	€
Virchow Prize: Ceremony, Lecture & Events 241,132.45	€
Memberships 6,070.00	€
Insurances, Legal Cost & Consulting Fees 6,590.58	€
Travel Cost, Accommodation, Hospitality Expenses 26,107.71	€
PR & Communication 31,775.42	€
EDP & Software Licenses, Webhosting 3,846.43	€
Office Supply, Portage & Phone, Banking Fees 2,857.93	€
Office Rent 19,278.00	€
Cost of Staff 177,205.44	€
Cost	

*Detailed Cost Overview Global Health Policy Lab		
Cost of Staff	68,404.83	€
Office Supply, Portage & Phone, Banking Fees, Miscellaneous	454.96	€
EDP & Software Licenses, Webhosting	1,215.45	€
PR & Communication	2,019.66	€
Travel Cost, Accommodation, Hospitality Expenses	4,295.75	€
Overhead incl. Office, Legal & Consulting fees, Administration	86,261.91	€
Digital Repository, Policy Engagement, Partners, Chair	230,327.88	€
Operative Cost	392,980.44	€

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2024

ACCOUNTING STATEMENT on the surplus account from Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2024

Operative Cost	1,882,800.09	
Depreciation on Purchased Property Rights, Assets, Licenses	3,627.26	€
Tax from Received Interest of Fixed-Term Asset Accounts	3,815.30	€
Total Income	1,890,242.65	€
		€
Total Income	2,694,206.73	
Total Cost	1,890,242.65	€
Annual Result	803,964.08	€
Profit Carried Forward from Previous Year	36,030.89	€
Allocation to Free Reserve	(35,000.00)	€
Allocation to Reserve for Virchow Prize 2025	(150,000.00)	€
Allocation to Reserve for Global Health Policy Lab 2025	(639,000.00)	€
Profit Carried Forward	15,994.97	€

FRIENDS OF THE VIRCHOW FOUNDATION

A PLATFORM FOR CHANGE BUILDING A FUTURE TOWARDS HEALTH FOR ALL

Friends of the Virchow Foundation is a change driven platform which brings together highly committed individuals, companies and institutions who support the Foundation's goals, both ideally and financially.

Key activities of Friends include:

- 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

Friends of the Virchow Foundation part of an exclusive network that works towards contributing innovative solutions at the national, international and global level. These efforts uphold UN Sustainable Development Goal 17 – "Partnerships for the Goals".

The Virchow foundation cordially thanks our friends and partners in sharing and supporting our joint aims in line with the health-related United Nations 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals – listed in alphabetical order:

- Bayer Science & Education
 Foundation
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Bosch Health Campus GmbH
- Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung
- Dr. Andreas Eckert
- Dr. Dr. Hildegard & Prof. Dr.
 Wolfgang Göhde
- Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Maennig
- Arend & Brigitte Oetker
- Pfizer Pharma GmbH
- Software AG Stiftung
- Dr. h.c. Friede Springer
- further anonymous supporters



BERLIN GLOBAL HEALTH COLLECTIVE

DOROTHEENSTRASSE 83 | ENTER NEUSTÄDTISCHER KIRCHPLATZ | 10117 BERLIN

Launched in autumn 2023, the Berlin Global Health Collective is a new hub and meeting point for diverse stakeholders located in the centre of the capital city. The location supports enhanced engagement for global health for both local and visiting partners in Berlin. The Virchow Foundation Secretariat office is based within the Collective.

Friends of the Virchow Foundation gain preferred access to the Berlin Global Health Collective as well as other benefits, including:



- Invitation to the Virchow Prize Award Ceremony with an opportunity to meet the laureates exclusively
- Regular invitations to roundtable discussions, contributing a voice in shaping the global health agenda
- Organise meetings with the support of our team around preferred global topics

For more information, please contact Dr. Harald Hasselmann, Chair of the Friends network, at secretariat@virchow.foundation



IMPRINT

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Regulatory Authority:

Bezirksregierung Münster Dezernat 21 - Stiftungsaufsicht Albrecht-Thaer-Str. 9 DE-48147 Münster, Germany

Independent Non-Profit Foundation under Civic Law Registry 21.13 - V 24

Executive Board:

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Christoph Markschies (Chair) Professor Dr. Detlev Ganten Roland Göhde