



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

Press Release

HAUSANSCHRIFT Kapelle-Ufer 1, 10117 Berlin

POSTANSCHRIFT 11055 Berlin

TEL 030 / 18 57-50 50

FAX 030 / 18 57-55 51

E-MAIL presse@bmbf.bund.de

HOME PAGE www.bmbf.de

16 October 2018
099/2018

Innovations for Global Health

2018 *Grand Challenges* Conference opens in Berlin / Minister Karliczek: “Strengthen research on global health together”

This year’s *Grand Challenges Annual Meeting* is taking place in Berlin from 15 to 18 October 2018. The conference is co-hosted by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, the Wellcome Trust and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Scientists and researchers will be discussing how we can continue to strengthen global health with representatives from politics, industry and non-governmental organizations.

“One of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals is to ensure healthy lives for all at all ages and in all countries by 2030. Investments by the international community in education, research, innovation and international cooperation are absolutely essential if we are to achieve this goal. That is why we are strengthening research on global health. We will provide funding to research projects in Africa as part of the “Grand Challenges Africa” initiative. We can enhance healthcare, cure diseases and prevent epidemics only if we take targeted action together,” said Federal Research Minister Anja Karliczek in her opening address in Berlin on 16 October. “Grand Challenges Africa” is a programme by the African Academy of Sciences that is also being supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The high-profile conference will spotlight topics such as strengthening our healthcare systems and enhancing the prevention of health crises, vaccine development and the fight against antimicrobial resistance. The issue of patient safety is on the conference agenda for the first time. Another focus is on innovative solutions to the most pressing problems facing the African continent.

The 1,500 participants, who were invited to the conference from all corners of the world, have come together in Berlin to engage in networking and exchange and to jointly develop innovative approaches to research. The German Federal Ministries of Health, for Economic Cooperation and Development, of Food and Agriculture, and for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety will also take part. Furthermore, around 50 alumni of the “Jugend forscht” young researchers’ network will have the opportunity to participate in workshops to discuss topical issues in global health research with experts and to discuss their findings with Minister Karliczek and Bill Gates.

During their get-together, Karliczek and Bill Gates will be discussing global health and meet with young talents from the “Jugend forscht” network. Some of the fledgling researchers will have the chance to present their work to these two hosts of the meeting and discuss the major challenges in the context of global health research, research funding and global health policy.

Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said, “It’s exciting to see Germany, the home of so many transformational advances in science and engineering, strengthen its collaboration with African researchers through this new Grand Challenges initiative with the African Academy of Sciences and the Gates Foundation. International cooperation in scientific research, as in other areas, is essential to tackle tough challenges and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. We look forward to working more closely in the future with our German and African partners to help drive innovations that will make the world a healthier, more prosperous, and safer place.”

The *Grand Challenges* initiative was launched by the Gates Foundation in 2003 and is aimed at developing solutions to problems around global health and development. The *Grand Challenges Annual Meeting* was initiated in 2005 and is coming to Germany for the first time, an opportunity for the BMBF and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to underline their long-standing collaboration and joint efforts to support innovation in global health. “The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is a reliable and key partner in research on global health. We want to further strengthen this partnership,” Karliczek said.

Learn more:

<https://www.bmbf.de/en/poverty-related-diseases-1430.html>
www.grandchallenges.org