

## Welcome Message

World Health Summit Presidents



### Distinguished Delegates, Esteemed Colleagues, and Honored Guests,

We have the great pleasure of welcoming you to the World Health Summit in Berlin which stands as a beacon of our shared mission: “Building Trust for a Healthier World.” Trust is the foundation of every successful health initiative and a prerequisite to develop sustainable health systems. The World Health Summit brings together people from all regions in the world with a specific interest in global health from academia, politics, the private sector and civil society. We need to strengthen the cooperation and trust within and between these groups. And we have to send strong signals that science-based solutions can improve health everywhere. This is not an easy task in times of many challenges from pandemics to persistent inequalities, but the World Health Summit is an optimal place to start.

Following the very successful WHS Regional Meeting in Melbourne, Australia, in April this year, a key focus of

our discussions will be the transition from pledges to tangible progress. Here, financing plays a critical role and we need to ensure that resources translate into real-world impact. We must hold all stakeholder accountable, ensuring that our commitments lead to the betterment of lives across the globe. Consequently, this year’s WHS Signature Event is focused on the WHO Investment Round and will highlight the immense need for sustainable financing for the world’s premier global public health institution. Contributions from nations and nongovernmental donors will set the scene for the WHO Investment Round at the G20 Summit in Brazil this November.

The World Health Summit 2024 will also explore the critical role of youth in shaping our future. Fostering youth leadership is indispensable as we work towards strengthening our global health systems. By enhancing the health of women and children, we can lay the groundwork for a healthier, more prosperous world. We are all witnessing a major revolution in health provision by digital technologies and artificial intelligence. These approaches will change all medical and health aspects in an unprecedented way, offering a multitude of new opportunities. But with this comes the responsibility to ensure an

integration into healthcare which is ethical, equitable, and centered on improving health and wellbeing. The nexus between climate and health is yet another transition and demands our immediate and sustained attention.

Embarking on these vital discussions and many more, we encourage each of you to engage with openness, creativity, and a shared sense of purpose. Together, we can drive the innovations and partnerships necessary to overcome the challenges before us.

Let us make the World Health Summit 2024 a relevant step towards a healthier, more equitable world for all!

**Axel R. Pries**  
President  
World Health Summit

**Sophia Zoungas**  
International President 2024  
Monash University, Australia

**Christina Mitchell**  
International President 2024  
Monash University, Australia