DAAD Global Centres

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Global Centres for Health and Pandemic Prevention

GLOBAL CENTRES SYMPOSIUM

Programme

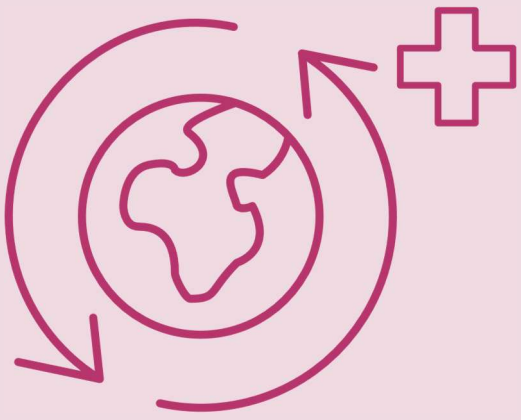
Five Years of Impact, Five Years of Vision: Transforming Knowledge into Practice

29 September- 01 October 2026

Tagungswerk

Lindenstraße 85, 10969 Berlin

Version: 24 September 2026



Workshop assignments were made based on the preferences indicated during registration. **All participants received information about the workshops for which they are registered; only these workshops can be attended.** If you don't know about which Workshops you are registered for, please ask at reception desk.
If you are unable to participate in a workshop you are registered for, please inform us.

Please also look at the programme of the **Symposium of the Centres for Climate and Environment: "Bridging the gap: Knowledge, Policy and Practice for Climate-Resilience and Sustainable Development"** taking place at the same time in the same location. You are cordially invited to participate in this symposium as well! Sessions that are part of both conferences are written in blue.

Tuesday, 29 September 2026

9 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. PARALLEL SESSIONS

9 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.
Saal Süd

WORKSHOP 1: TRAINING FOR IMPACT: ALIGNING GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRES' CAPACITY STRENGTHENING WITH WORKFORCE NEEDS

This interactive workshop engages participants in enhancing workforce capacity for pandemic preparedness by bridging training activities with real-world needs. It begins with brief framing remarks from Global Health Centre Directors and a moderated stakeholder panel, followed by facilitated small-group work and plenary synthesis. Participants will examine workforce gaps, assess the current alignment of training, and identify priorities for improvement across diverse health sectors and regions. The main goal is to generate practical recommendations for needs-based capacity-strengthening and inform future training models within the DAAD Global Health Centres.

CHAIRED BY

Prof Dr Wilm Quentin, G-WAC, Professor of Public and Global Health at the University of Bayreuth

Prof Dr Jan Felix Drexler, GLACIER, Institute of Virology, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

PANELLISTS

Dr Emmanuel Allegye-Cudjoe, Chief Veterinary Officer, Veterinary Services, Ghana

Prof Dr Linda Batsa Debrah, G-WAC, Director G-WAC, KNUST, Ghana

Prof Paul Effler, Senior Medical Advisor and Professor at University of Western Australia

Dr Dagmar Garcia Rivera, Scientific director, Finlay Vaccine Institute, Cuba

Prof Dr Hu Song Le, PACE-UP, Director, 108 Military Central Hospital/ Co-Director, Vietnamese-German Center for Medical Research (VG-CARE)

Nathaniel Nkrumah, Senior Technical Officer, African Medicines Agency

Prof Dr Thirumalaisamy P. Velavan, PACE-UP, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Universitätsklinikum Tübingen

11 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Seminar 2

WORKSHOP 2: TAKE A LOOK BACK AT THE COVID PANDEMIC

Subgroups will have in-depth table discussions on COVID-19 response timelines from France, Vietnam, and Gabon, each featuring epidemiological data and government measures. After an ice-breaker sharing personal and professional pandemic experiences, experts in COVID-19 management will provide insights, and participants will compare control strategies and discuss related scientific, political, or religious controversies. Each group will present their main discussion points in a closing plenary. The workshop is designed to foster cross-cultural exchange and deepen understanding of epidemic management across different contexts.

CHAIRED BY

Dr Alejandra Duque, CAIDERA, Project Manager at Institute of Tropical Medicine, University Hospital of Tübingen

Theresa Kahl, CAIDERA, Study Program Coordinator at Institute of Tropical Medicine, University Hospital of Tübingen

Dr Thierry Lang, CAIDERA, Head of International Education at Institute Pasteur

Dr Clémentine Schilte, CAIDERA, Head of Digital Education at Institute Pasteur

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9.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.

Seminar 3

PHD RETREAT, PART 1

1.00-2.00 p.m. — LUNCH BREAK

2.00-3.30 p.m.

Saal Nord

KEYNOTES BY VICENTE VEREZ BENCOMO AND OLIVER MORGAN

KEYNOTES

Navigating New Risks and Opportunities to Prevent the Next Pandemic

Dr Oliver Morgan, Head of the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence

Local Vaccine development and production during emergencies: Key elements from the Cuban example

Dr Vicente Verez Bencomo, Former General Director Finlay Vaccine Institute and Director of the Centre for the Study of Synthetic Antigens, Cuba

CHAIRED BY

Prof Daniel García Rivera, GLACIER, Centre Coordinator Cuban Hub, Professor at University of Havana

Dr Verena Struckmann, G-WAC, Team Lead Global Health, Department of Healthcare Management, Technical University Berlin

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3.30-4.00 p.m. — COFFEE BREAK

4.00– 5.00 p.m.

Saal Gesamt

OFFICIAL OPENING FOR BOTH THE HEALTH AND THE CLIMATE SYMPOSIUM

WELCOME NOTES AND PROGRAMME PORTRAIT OF THE GLOBAL CENTRES

Dr Muriel Helbig, Vice President, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Christina Beinhoff, Head of the "Culture and Communication" department, Federal Foreign Office (AA)

ROUND TABLE: GLOBAL CENTRES. IMPACT AND VISION FROM AN ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE

In this session, alumni from various Centres share how their experiences shaped their careers and enabled them to translate academic work into real-world benefit. They will highlight career development, research themes, and challenges faced. The session also explores how the Centres can further strengthen health systems, prevent pandemics, and promote sustainability over the next five years, offering authentic alumni perspectives and inviting audience dialogue on maximizing impact

CHAIRED BY

Dr Alejandra Duque, CAIDERA, Project Manager, Institute of Tropical Medicine, University Hospital of Tübingen

PANELLISTS

Praise Oluwakemi Joy Adewumi, CAIDERA, Researcher at Medical University of Vienna

Dr Huy Loc Do, PACE-UP, Researcher at Institute of Tropical Medicine, University of Tübingen

Joseph Ndiba, AFAS, Research Associate at University of Nairobi

Mai Nusir, SAGE, PhD Student Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus-Senftenberg

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5.30-6.00 p.m. GROUP PHOTO

6.00-9:30 p.m. **DRINKS AND RECEPTION AT THE CONFERENCE VENUE**

Wednesday, 30 September 2024

9.00 – 10.30 a.m.

Seminar 4

PLENARY: BRIDGING RESEARCH AND POLICY: IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FOR COLLABORATIVE PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

CHAIRED BY

Prof Dr Wilm Quentin, G-WAC, Professor of Public and Global Health at the University of Bayreuth

Prof Dr John Amuasi, G-WAC, Head, Department of Global Health, School of Public Health, KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana

PANELLISTS

Dr Franklin Asiedu-Bekoe, Director, Division of Public Health Ghana Health Service (GHS)

Dr Ernest Asiedu, Technical Coordination Directorate, Ministry of Health (MoH), Ghana

Geoffrey Namara, WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence

Dr Daniel Opoku, G-WAC, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)

Dr Verena Struckmann, G-WAC, Technische Universität Berlin

Dr Gerardo Suzán, Laboratorio de Ecología de enfermedades y Una Salud, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)

10.30 – 11.00 a.m.

2nd floor

COFFEE BREAK ON THE SECOND FLOOR!

11.00 – 11.45 a.m.

Seminar 4

POSTER TALKS

Posters will be presented in 3-min-pitches to the audience. Afterwards, the authors will be available to answer questions and hold discussions by maintaining a presence directly at their posters. We invite all academics participating in the conference whose research topics correspond to those of the posters to enter discussions. Thank you.

PRESENTATIONS ON

DIGITAL HEALTH

Dr Fortress Aku, G-WAC: Feasibility and effectiveness of m-Health integrated community-based Tuberculosis screening strategy in the Western Region of Ghana: A cluster randomized trial

ADVANCED LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS, TREATMENT, DISEASE MONITORING, VACCINATION AND INFECTION CONTROL (AMR)

Omotayo Anick Jacquelina Bara, CAIDERA: Characterization of mosquito infection experimental platform for controlled human malaria infection via bites of *Plasmodium falciparum* isolate-infected *Anopheles gambiae*

Flavian Fukah Jam, CAIDERA: Evaluation of the *Plasmodium falciparum* induced NK cell Antibody Dependent Cellular Cytotoxicity Response

Thi Kieu Linh Le, PACE-UP: Profiling of Antibiotic Resistance Genes using Shotgun Metagenomic in Humans and Pigs on Vietnamese Smallholder Farms

HEALTH SYSTEM PREPAREDNESS

Benjamin Wonder Nyakutsey, G-WAC: Health security in contemporary discourse: A qualitative enquiry into Ghana's multisectoral governance framework in times of crisis.

Dr Hugo Mendoza, GLACIER: From concept to practice: Two decades of limited integration of One Health across domains, disciplines, and sectors

Prof Elliot Koranteng Tannor, G-WAC: Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Health Service utilization among patients with non-communicable diseases in Ghana

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE OF EMERGING AND RE-EMERGING INFECTIOUS AND ZOONOTIC DISEASES (PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND POST-CRISIS CARE)

Dr Jonathan Mawutor Gmanyami, G-WAC: Understanding the Drivers of Excess Mortality During Pandemics: Evidence from Ghana

Dr Nhat My Truong, PACE-UP: OBI Prevalence, Genotype B Mutations, and Persistent Susceptibility in Vietnamese and Indonesian Populations

Do Huy Loc, PACE-UP: Sero-epidemiology of Viral Haemorrhagic Fever - Associated Pathogens in Vietnam: Evidence to Strengthen Diagnosis and Surveillance

Gideon Acheampong Kwarteng, G-WAC: Facility-Level Determinants of COVID-19 In-Hospital Mortality in Ghana; A Multilevel Analysis of National Surveillance Data, 2020 -2022

Theophilus Odoom, G-WAC: Molecular Characterization and Serological Evidence of Marburg Virus Circulating in Bats in Ghana

Praise Adewumi, CAIDERA: Serosurveillance of Bordetella species spread in the Austrian population: establishing a multiplex serological test system

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, ETHICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dr Caroline Namubiru, CAIDERA: Healthcare Users' Perspectives on Numerical Health Information Delivery and Use in Gabon

11.45 a.m.-12.30 p.m., Seminar 2	**POSTER WALK**
12.30-1.30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK

1.30- 3.00 p.m. Saal Gesamt	**PANEL DISCUSSION: CLIMATE WATER AND HEALTH NEXUS** *The panel explores the intersection of SDG 6 (Water), SDG 3 (Health), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). The discussion highlights innovations in resilient infrastructure, digital water management, health equity, and integrated governance to secure water systems against climate-driven risks. By convening experts across sectors, the session aims to advance scalable technologies, promote climate finance, and build strategic partnerships, aligning with the 2026 UN Water Conference and Africa Water Vision 2063* CHAIRED BY **Prof Dr Sannisiraj Sannasi Annamalaisamy,** ABCD, Professor at the Department of Ocean Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras PANELLISTS **Dr Kalpana Balakrishnan**, Director of WHO-CC for Occupational and Environmental Health, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research **Prof Dr Venkatachlam Lingappan**, Professor at Shiv Nadar University, Madras Institute of Development Studies **Dr Manjula Rahi**, Director at ICMR-National Institute for Vector Control Research **Prof Dr Thenmozhi Ramaswami**, ABCD, Professor at Indian Institute of Technology Madras **Prof Dr Thirumalaisamy P. Velavan**, PACE-UP, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Universitätsklinikum Tübingen **Dr Ramana Murthy Mallavarapu Venkata**, Mission Director, Deep Ocean Mission at Ministry of Earth Sciences
3.00 – 3.30 om	COFFEE BREAK
3.30-6.30 p.m.	PARALLEL SESSIONS

3.30-6.30 p.m.

Seminar 4

WORKSHOP 5: INTERNATIONAL OUTBREAK RESPONSE: LESSONS FROM THE FIELD AND CASE SIMULATIONS

This interactive workshop supported by the World Health Organization's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (WHO GOARN), provides participants with a practical introduction to international outbreak response and public health emergency operations. Through expert-led sessions, stories from the field, and case-based activities, participants will gain insight into how outbreaks are coordinated and what outbreak response looks like at the individual, national and international levels. A central component of the workshop is an interactive outbreak response activity that explores what it is like to work in international outbreak response and public health emergencies.

PRESENTED BY

Prof Dr Paul Effler, Senior Medical Advisor and Professor at University of Western Australia

Dr Alexa Purgreth, PACE-UP, Centre's Project Manager, Institute of Tropical Medicine, University Hospital Tübingen

Salome Steinke, PACE-UP, Researcher and Project Manager at Vietnamese-German Center for Medical Research (VG-CARE)

Prof Dr Thirumalaisamy P. Velavan, PACE-UP, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Universitätsklinikum Tübingen

3.30-4.30 p.m.

Seminar 3

WORKSHOP 4: LEARNINGS FROM 10 YEARS OF MOOCS: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR GLOBAL CENTRES

This workshop distills a decade of experience from the Institute Pasteur in creating research-driven MOOCs for the life sciences. Digital education experts will guide participants through all key aspects: selecting topics, collaborating with experts, course structuring, video production, learner engagement, timelines, and budgeting. The session offers step-by-step practical advice for institutions aiming to develop high-quality online courses, including best practices for content creation, assessment strategies, and fostering learner interaction. Participants will leave with a realistic roadmap for building impactful MOOCs that reflect scientific excellence and effective digital pedagogy.

PRESENTED BY

Dr Thierry Lang, CAIDERA, Head of International Education Head at Institute Pasteur

Dr Clémentine Schilte, CAIDERA, Head of Digital Education at Institute Pasteur

3.30-5.00 p.m.

Seminar 2

WORKSHOP 3: REFRAMING GLOBAL HEALTH AND PANDEMIC PREVENTION: STRENGTHENING SOUTHERN LEADERSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS FOR EQUITY IN RESEARCH GOVERNANCE

This academic workshop brings together researchers from Latin America, Africa, and Germany to explore equitable approaches to research governance in global health partnerships. Through short analytical inputs, case reflections, and moderated discussion, the session examines how governance structures, funding models, authorship norms, and decision-making processes shape priority-setting and leadership in international collaborations. Focusing on pandemic prevention, participants will analyze how power dynamics and structural asymmetries impact research agendas and partnership models, with specific attention to co-leadership and strengthening decision-making authority in the Global South. The goal is to develop practical recommendations for advancing equity, inclusion, and accountability in global health research governance.

PRESENTED BY

Dr Andrea Chaves, GLACIER, CENIBiot, CeNAT-CONARE, University of Costa Rica

Prof Dr Jan Felix Drexler, GLACIER, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany

Dr Carlos Napoleón Ibarra-Cerdeña, GLACIER, Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados (Cinvestav), Mérida Unit, Mexico

David Morán, GLACIER, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala

Dr César Ricardo Rodriquez-Luna, Cinvestav, Mérida Unit, Mexico

Dr Gerardo Suzán-Azpiri, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)

Thursday, 01 October 2026

9.00 – 1.00 p.m.	PARALLEL SESSIONS
9.00 a.m.– 1.00 p.m. Seminar 4	**PHD RETREAT PART 2: HOW TO MANAGE YOUR PHD-PROJECT** with Andrea Perino
9 a.m. – 12.30 p.m., Seminar 2	**PROJECT TEAM MEETING**
1.00 – 2.00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
2.00-6.00 p.m.	PARALLEL SESSIONS
2.00 – 5.00 p.m. Seminar 2	**PHD-PI MEETING:** **1. CAREER PATH EXAMPLES** **2. EXCHANGE ON EXPECTATIONS: WHAT DO I EXPECT FROM MY PHD-STUDENT/ SUPERVISOR**
2.00 – 6.00 p.m. Seminar 4	**WORKSHOP 6: DESIGNING, IMPLEMENTING, AND EVALUATING DIGITAL PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS: PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH** *This interactive workshop equips participants with practical skills for designing, implementing, and evaluating digital public health interventions in resource-limited settings. Guided by digital health experts, the session covers three topics: locally responsive intervention design, implementation strategies for fragile health systems, and robust evaluation methods to build an evidence base for scaling. Early career researchers and alumni present case studies from Africa and share insights from their own digital health projects, illustrating real-world challenges and successes. Through problem-based group activities, planning exercises, and peer feedback sessions, participants collaboratively develop and refine strategies for effective and sustainable digital health solutions, with a focus on applying lessons in the Global South.* PRESENTED BY **Dr Fortress Yayra Aku**, G-WAC, Fred N. Binka School of Public Health, University of Health and Allied Sciences, Hohoe campus, Ghana **Prof Dr John Amuasi,** G-WAC, Head, Department of Global Health, School of Public Health, KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana **Dr Laura Maass,** Postdoctoral researcher, Leibniz Science Campus Digital Public Health Bremen, University of Bremen, Germany **Prof Wilm Quentin**, G-WAC, Chair of Planetary and Public Health, University of Bayreuth, Germany

END OF THE CONFERENCE

We have new Factsheets for the Global Centres Programme and for each of the eight Centres!

Have a look and share!

DAAD-Fact Sheets of the Global Centres Climate & Health

Are you already part of our DAAD Health-LinkedIn-Group? Would be happy to welcome new members!

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