



Berlin, October 14, 2010

## Education and prevention are the keys to global health

### 2nd World Health Summit ended yesterday in Berlin

#### 3. October 2011 World Health Summit in Berlin

At the second World Health Summit that came to a close yesterday in Berlin, for four days more than 1200 people from over 70 countries gathered in order to discuss global health issues. Leading personalities, including experts from the fields of politics, business, industry and civil society, are in agreement: medical needs and health are undergoing tremendous and rapid changes throughout the world. In the opinion of all participants, the summit has made a significant contribution to cooperation across all sectors and to strategic development. Detlev Ganten, president and initiator of the World Health Summit, stressed that the increase in chronic diseases has been drastic and requires immediate action. This also includes psychiatric diseases: suicides are among the leading causes of death in younger age groups, said Thomas Insel, director of the US National Institute of Mental Health as he stressed the importance of national information campaigns. "Health requires international efforts," underscored Jorge Sampaio, a former president of Portugal and current Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis, who presented the WHO campaign for the global fight against tuberculosis at the World Health Summit. "Improving global health care also means changing behavior at the individual level. We are currently developing plans in that regard," explained Steve Wesselingh, dean of the University of Melbourne Medical School and co-president of the World Health Summit 2011. Serbian health minister Tomica Milosavljevic drew attention to the negative consequences of the financial and economic crisis on the still-developing health care systems in Southeastern Europe and stressed the importance of close cooperation between the countries of Western and Eastern Europe. Charité chairman Karl M. Einhäupl stressed Berlin's significance as a city of business and politics for the international exchange of health strategy ideas.

**Transition, Translation, Transformation** was the mission statement of the World Health Summit 2010. In the many discussion forums, the participants debated, among other topics, issues such as reducing infant mortality and improving maternal health care, the increase in chronic diseases in industrial and developing nations, the effects of climate change on health, the development and financing of health care systems, the future of health care in megacities, as well as the use of information and mobile and technologies in the research and health sectors in order to provide care to rural populations. Here

[www.worldhealthsummit.org](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org)  
Get more information online at the Summit website.

#### Media & Press Office

Anja Marx  
B2 talk+tv produktion GmbH  
Schiffbauerdamm 8  
10117 Berlin, Germany  
[media@worldhealthsummit.org](mailto:media@worldhealthsummit.org)  
Tel.: +49 30 97004833  
Fax: +49 30 97004834

Summit Presidents  
Detlev Ganten  
Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin  
Stephen K. Smith  
Imperial College London

Executive Director  
Dr. Mazda Adli  
Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin  
T +49 30 450570003  
E [mazda.adli@charite.de](mailto:mazda.adli@charite.de)

Preser  
Charité  
Organ  
K.I.T. C  
[www.v](http://www.v)



are a few of the key messages formulated by international representatives at the summit:

- Education is fundamental for improving health.
- Prevention is essential if our health care systems are to survive.
- The rapid increase in avoidable chronic diseases in industrial and developing nations hinders achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Only coordinated cooperation among industry, academic research and politics can result in a turnaround of this trend.
- The development of research and educational capacity in low-income regions, as well as development programs such as, for example, product development partnerships, are the decisive factors for success.

Additional results from the World Health Summit 2010 (Key Messages) can be found at the location below (in English).

**Additional information available at [www.worldhealthsummit.org](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org)**