



**From:** Presidents Prof. Steve Wesselingh, Melbourne, Prof. Mike Klag, Baltimore, and Prof. Detlev Ganten, Berlin

The **World Health Summit, Berlin October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011** - under the theme **“Today’s Science – Tomorrow’s Agenda”** - provided a wealth of information, interesting debates, inspiring presentations and stimulating new developments. In addition, the summit created an excellent forum for informal discussions and new connections. The **Key Messages** ([www.worldhealthsummit.org](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org)) provide you with the main results of the discussions, showing that important steps in improving health worldwide have been taken, but that many new challenges, e.g. the rapid increase of Non-Communicable Diseases and the impact of Climate Change on Health, need to remain on the agenda!

- **Non-communicable diseases (NCD)** are now the leading cause of death worldwide. The great public health burden of treating rising numbers of chronically ill patients, including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and mental illnesses, will become increasingly unacceptable. Awareness must be raised about the global economic risk and impact of chronic/NCDs.
- **Climate change** is already having significant impact on the human health. It will pose a fundamental threat to human biological and social wellbeing. Societies worldwide need to adapt in order to reduce the projected adverse impacts ranging from new epidemics of infectious diseases to altered agriculture and nutrition. Strengthening national and international public health infrastructure is an essential component in the management of floods, other extreme weather events and health emergencies.
- **Strengthening health systems** and the transformation of “sick care” to true “health care” systems and research for prevention of disease are important drivers for sustainable economic, social and human development, not only in low- and middle-income countries. If the scale of investments in global health is not maintained, worldwide improvements previously achieved at great cost are at risk. It is crucial for long-term sustainability that countries in general and especially in the developing world do not respond with major cuts in research and health care spending in these times of global financial crisis.
- **Academia, governments, industry and civil society** must jointly develop sustainable solutions in a truly global and multi-disciplinary approach. Innovative ways of maximizing the benefits from limited resources must be developed to ensure that the gains from medical progress reach as many people as possible.

We have the responsibility that innovation is brought to the people in need. The **“M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers and Medical Universities”** has therefore chosen the theme for the next **World Health Summit 2012, October 21st to 24<sup>th</sup>** in Berlin to be: **“Research and Innovation – in times of global financial crisis”**. Join us next year in Berlin and stay informed by visiting our website [www.worldhealthsummit.org](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org)

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