

Swiss Public Health Conference Programme 2026

Health is complex, and it is precisely in this complexity that its beauty lies

A dialogue between research and practice across science, society, and the humanities

Day 1, 02 September 2026 – University of Lucerne

| Time | Subject | Speaker |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:00 | Reception and registration | |
| 09:30 | Opening | Prof. Dr. Sara Rubinelli , Health Communication, University of Lucerne Prof. Dr. Viktor von Wyl , Director, SSPH+ Dr. med., MPH. Thomas Steffen , President, The Swiss Society for Public Health |
| 10:00 | Session I – Interactive panel (German) What is knowledge in public health? Chair: Dr. Sarah Mantwill , Research Manager Competence Center for Learning Health Systems, University of Lucerne | Cross-examination of knowledge – a dialogical debate Prof. Olivia Keiser , Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva, Head of division of Infectious Diseases and Mathematical Modelling Prof. Dr. phil., dipl. biol. Christoph Rehmann-Sutter , former president of the Swiss National Commission on Biomedical Ethics; University of Lübeck Dr. med. Christiane Meier , Chief Physician at Zurich Municipal Health Services Katrin Zöfel , Science Journalist with focus on medicine and Life sciences |
| 11:15 | Break | |
| 11:45 | Parallel Sessions I | <i>Separate program</i> |
| 13:00 | Lunch | |
| 14:00 | Poster flash | |
| 14:30 | Parallel sessions II | <i>Separate program</i> |
| 15:45 | Break | |
| 16:15 | Session II - Interactive panel (English) The lived experience of health Chair: Dr. Céline Bolliger , Research Coordinator, University of Lucerne | A narrative encounter and translational dialogue Mark J. Moser , Author of the book <i>The Art of Living with Illness</i> Dr. Saskia De Gani , Head Center for Health Literacy, Careum Dr. med. Beat Müller , Head palliative care, Lucerne Cantonal Hospital (LUKS) Dr. Stéphane Cullati , Epidemiology and Public Health, UniFr |
| 17:30 | SPHD Award & SSPH Best PhD Abstract Award | Prof Arnaud Chiolero , Co-Director, SSPH+ |
| 18:00 | Aperitif | |
| 19:00 | Evening programme | Boat tour on the Lake of Lucerne /Dinner |

Day 2, 03. September 2026 – University of Lucerne

| Time | Subject | Speaker |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08:30 | Reception and registration | |
| 09:00 | Welcome words | RR Michaela Tschuor , Gesundheitsdirektorin Kt. Luzern |
| 09:15 | Session III – Interactive Panel (German) Interprofessionality as a practice of human recognition Chair: Dr. med. Christian Schirlo , Director Office for education and student affairs, University of Lucerne | Gesundheitscluster Zentralschweiz – Dialog über Fach- und Professionsgrenzen hinweg als ethische Praxis Prof. Luzia Vetter Räss , Klinische Pflegewissenschaftlerin Advanced Practice Nurse (APN), LUKS - HSLU Sybille Bracher , Program manager XUND Bildungszentrum Gesundheit Zentralschweiz Prof. Dr. Jürgen StremLOW , Dozent und Projektleiter, Institut für Soziale Arbeit, HSLU Manuela Rohrer , Physiotherapeutin, MPTSc, LUKS Prof. Dr. med. Björn-Christian Link , Chefarzt Orthopädie, LUKS |
| 10:30 | Break | |
| 11:00 | Session IV - Interactive panel (English) The seduction of simplicity: Why low-quality health information persists Chair: PhD Students , University of Lucerne | If it's false but feels true: what makes it so convincing? Dr. med. Florian Scherer , Federal Office of Public Health, Cindy König , Nutrition Zürich. Health Communication specialist and influencer Dr. Marcel Verhoeven , FHNW, Institute for Competitiveness and Communication |
| 12:00 | Lunch | |
| 13:00 | Poster flash | |
| 13:30 | Parallel Sessions III | <i>Separate program</i> |
| 14:45 | Break | |
| 15:15 | Session V – Interactive Panel (English) Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Public Health Chair: Prof. Dr. Viktor von Wyl , Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Prevention Institute, University of Zürich | What happens to care when machines decide who is at risk? Prof. Dr. Mike Schäfer , CHESS – Center for Higher Education and Science Studies, UZH PD Dr. Nadine Bienefeld , University of Lucerne, Senior Researcher & Lecturer – Human-AI Teaming in Healthcare Prof. Dr. phil. Rouven Porz , University of Bern, Medical Ethics Fabian Vollrath , Artificial Intelligence Expert |
| 16:30 | SSPH+ Best Poster Award and final remarks | Prof. Dr. med Murielle Bochud , Co-Director SSPH+ |