

Swiss Public Health Conference Programme 2026

Health is complex, and it is precisely in this complexity where 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
08:30	Reception and registration	
09:30	Opening	Sara Rubinelli , Professor of Health Communication, University of Lucerne Viktor von Wyl , Academic Director, SSPH+ Thomas Steffen , President, The Swiss Society for Public Health
		Cross-examination of knowledge – a dialogical debate
10:00	Session I – Interactive Panel (German) What is knowledge in public health? <i>Chair:</i> Sarah Mantwill , Research Manager, Competence Centre for Learning Health Systems, University of Lucerne	Olivia Keiser , Head of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Mathematical Modelling, Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva Christoph Rehmann-Sutter , former President of the Swiss National Commission on Biomedical Ethics, University of Lübeck Christiane Meier , Chief Physician, Zurich Municipal Health Services Katrin Zöfel , Science Journalist, Medicine and Life Sciences, Swiss Radio and Television (SRF)
11:15	Break	
11:45	Parallel Sessions I	<i>Separate programme</i>
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Poster flash	
14:30	Parallel Sessions II	<i>Separate programme</i>
15:45	Break	
16:15	Session II – Interactive Panel The lived experience of health <i>Chair:</i> Céline Bolliger , Research Coordinator, University of Lucerne	A narrative encounter and translational dialogue Mark J. Moser , Lecturer, at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts (FHNW) and Consultant, Author of the book <i>The Art of Living with Illness</i> Saskia De Gani , Head of the Centre for Health Literacy, Careum Beat Müller , Head of Palliative Care, Lucerne Cantonal Hospital (LUKS) Stéphane Cullati , Senior Researcher, Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Fribourg
17:30	SSPH+ best PhD Abstract Award	Arnaud Chiolero , Academic Co-Director, SSPH+
18:00	Aperitif	
19:00	Evening programme	Boat tour on the Lake of Lucerne with Dinner

Day 2, 03 September 2026 – University of Lucerne

Time	Subject	Speaker
08:00	Reception and registration	
09:00	Welcome Address by the Host Canton	Michaela Tschuor , Health Minister, Canton of Lucerne
	Session III – Interactive Panel (German)	Health Cluster Central Switzerland – Dialogue across professional and disciplinary boundaries as an ethical practice
		Manuela Rohrer , Physiotherapist, Lucerne Cantonal Hospital (LUKS)
09:15	Interprofessionality as a practice of human recognition <i>Chair:</i> Christian Schirlo , Head of the Faculty Office for Education and Student Affairs, Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine, University of Lucerne	Luzia Vetter Räss , Clinical Nurse Scientist and Advanced Practice Nurse (APN), LUKS and Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU) Sibylle Bracher , Programme Manager, XUND Bildung Gesundheit Zentralschweiz Jürgen StremLOW , Lecturer and Project Manager, Institute of Social Work, HSLU Ralf Baumgärtner , Head Physician, Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery, LUKS
10:30	Break	
	Session IV – Interactive Panel (English)	If it's false but feels true: what makes it so convincing?
		Florian Scherer , MD, Prevention and Public Health Specialist, Canton of Lucerne Cindy König , Health Scientist and Founder, Nutrition Zurich
11:00	The seduction of simplicity: Why low-quality health information persists <i>Chair:</i> PhD Students , University of Lucerne	Marcel Verhoeven , Lecturer, Institute for Competitiveness and Communication, University of Applied Sciences and Arts (FHNW) Anna-Sophia Beese , Scientific Project Lead, Careum Marcel Zwahlen , Professor Emeritus, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM), University of Bern
12:00	Lunch	
13:00	Poster flash	
13:30	Parallel Sessions III	<i>Separate programme</i>
14:45	Break	
	Session V – Interactive Panel (English)	What happens to care when machines decide who is at risk?
		Mike Schäfer , Director, CHES – Centre for Higher Education and Science Studies, University of Zurich
15:15	Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Public Health <i>Chair:</i> Viktor von Wyl , Professor of Digital and Mobile Health, University of Zurich	Nadine Bienefeld , Senior Researcher and Lecturer – Human-AI Teaming in Healthcare, University of Lucerne Rouven Porz , Head of the Clinical Ethics Unit, University Hospital in Bern (Insel Gruppe) Fabian Vollrath , Digital Health Strategist
	SPHD Award	Anne Jachmann , Board Member, Swiss Public Health Doctors (SPHD)
16:30	Best Poster Award and final remarks	Murielle Bochud , Academic Co-Director, SSPH+ Bettina Maeschli , Director, The Swiss Society for Public Health
16:45	End of the Conference	