

Programme

Saturday, 16 May 2026

08:30-08:45 Welcome & Registration

08:45-09:00 Opening of World Heart Summit 2026

Jagat Narula, President, World Heart Federation

09:00-10:00 2025 moved the needle: what comes next? Discussion on UHC, National Action Plans, and the momentum for cardiovascular health

Aim: The session aims to examine how recent political and policy momentum for cardiovascular health in 2025 can be translated into concrete action, by identifying what must come next to strengthen national action plans, advance universal health coverage, secure sustainable financing, and improve prevention and access to care.

Kenneth Connell, President, Healthy Caribbean Coalition Kristina Sparreljung, Secretary General, Swedish Heart and Lung Foundation Junbo Ge, President, Chinese Cardiovascular Association Lilian Mbau, Medical Director, CARDIHUB Sophie Millar, EACH Secretariat

10:00-10:45 Launch of World Heart Report 2026 on congenital heart disease - latest findings

Aim: The aim of this session is to present key findings and insights from the World Heart Report 2026, focusing on congenital heart disease (CHD). The session will highlight the current global and regional burden of CHD and the impacts it has from birth throughout adulthood. It will also showcase successful evidence-based examples of policy interventions and the lived experiences of patients and families of those living with CHD, emphasizing the need for integrated screening, diagnostic and treatment strategies.

Mariachiara di Cesare, Professor, University of Essex Dorairaj Prabhakaran, President Elect, World Heart Federation R Krishna Kumar, Head of the Department of Pediatric Cardiology, Amrita Hospital Tanya Hall, Founder/CEO and Board Member, Hearts4heart; World Heart Federation Bistra Zheleva, Global Advocate, Children's HeartLink

10:45-11:15 Networking Break

11:15-12:00 Panel: Public trust, AI and the future of digital health

Aim: The session aims to explore how artificial intelligence can be used responsibly to strengthen public trust in digital cardiovascular health, address mis- and disinformation, and clarify the roles of governments and other stakeholders in digital ethics, while encouraging panellists to commit to concrete, practical actions to improve the reliability of digital health information over the coming year.

Naman Gosalia, Founder, AnginaX Al Myriam Giselle Vidal Valero, Journalist John Harold, Professor, Cedars-Sinai Health Sciences University Roxana Mehran, President, American College of Cardiology (ACC) Moritz Hundertmark, Cardiologist and Clinical Scientist, Bern University Hospital

12:00-12:45 Geneva Heart Walk & Outdoor Networking

12:45-13:45 Lunch

13:45-14:30 Panel: Nutrition, food systems, and healthy futures

Aim: This session will examine how nutrition policy, food systems, and emerging innovations are shaping cardiovascular health outcomes worldwide. It will explore the roles of regulation, public policy, commercial actors, and medical interventions, and how new therapeutic developments can complement food and nutrition policies.

Latifat Okara, Founder, NomNom Babies Lynnette Neufeld, Director of the Food and Nutrition Division, FAO Diana McGhie, Lead of Health Policy, World Economic Forum (WEF) Tom Frieden, President and CEO, Resolve to Save Lives Flavia Geraldes, Senior Editor, The Lancet

14:30-15:20 Panel: cities leading for healthy living

Aim: The session aims to highlight how cities can lead on cardiovascular disease prevention and equity through urban policies on mobility, air quality, urban design, access to services and city-level health systems, while inviting city leaders to commit to participation in the City Beat Index as a practical step to accelerate action and accountability.

Diarmid Campbell Lendrum, Head of Climate Change, Energy, and Air Quality Unit, World Health Organization Jagat Narula, President, World Heart Federation Lykke Schmidt, Prevention Project Director, Novo Nordisk Donna Fitzsimons, Professor and Contributor, Queens University Belfast; Cities@Heart Vanitha Thurairasu, Public Health Registrar Officer, Ministry of Health Malaysia

15:20-15:45 Break

15:45-16:45 Panel: LMICs and the global health architecture: challenges and opportunities as aid declines

Aim: The session aims to examine how declining development assistance and shifts in the global health architecture are reshaping the financing and sustainability of health systems in LMICs, and to explore how countries can respond by strengthening domestic health financing, rethinking priorities, and leveraging this transition as an opportunity to elevate historically underfunded issues within national health agendas.

Haileyesus Getahun, CEO, CeHDI
Elijah Ogola, Professor and Board Member, University of Nairobi; World Heart Federation
Anu Gomanju, Patient advocate for ending Rheumatic Heart Disease
Liesl Zuhlke, Paediatric Cardiologist, Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, South Africa
Sizwile Sibindi, Co-CEO, Financing Alliance for Health
Jeremias Paul Jr, Head of the Fiscal Policies for Health Unit, World Health Organization

16:45-17:15 Roundtable: next generation and action

Aim: The session aims to amplify the voices of the next generation of health professionals, explore how emerging challenges of the coming decade such as climate change and mental health are reshaping cardiovascular and public health priorities, and inspire concrete action and leadership from the young medical corps.

Sanja Sisovic, President, Youth Health Organization
Stephanie Sargeant, Global Youth Campaigns Coordinator, Act4Food; Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
Gustavo Dalle Cort, Liaison Officer for Public Health Issues, International Federation of Medical Students Association - IFMSA
Francesca Musso, Lived Experience Representative
