Pandemic Preparedness beyond COVID-19: Learn from the past, prepare for the future

ASSAf-Leopoldina Public Roundtable Discussion
In Cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa, Berlin

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Tuesday, 23 May 2023 | 6:30 pm – 8:15 pm
Embassy of the Republic of South Africa
Tiergartenstraße 18 | 10785 Berlin

The lecture is open to the public and is free of charge. The discussion will be held in English. Simultaneous translation to German is available.

Prior registration is required until 19 May 2023.

Please bring your passport or national ID document for security check. You are kindly asked to come early and leave sufficient time for the registration process. Please note that no bags or pieces of luggage larger than handbags are allowed inside the lecture hall.

www.leopoldina.org

Registration and Further Information:
www.leopoldina.org/infectious-diseases-2023
COVID-19 revealed that pandemics have an enormous impact and create numerous challenges within and between different countries and regions. Thus, lessons learned from COVID-19 also have political and social dimensions. COVID-19 has demonstrated how quickly infectious diseases can spread worldwide when hitting unprepared societies. While no one can prevent the outbreak of new infectious diseases, better preparedness and resilient health systems can help mitigate future pandemics. Prior investments in infectious diseases, open science, research infrastructure and human resource capacity building efforts and strong collaborations and partnerships between Low-Middle Income Countries (LMICs) and High Income Countries (HICs) enabled unprecedented progress in the development of diagnostics; vaccines and treatments buttressed by strong information systems. However, challenges like the unequal access and distribution of diagnostics, vaccines and treatments between LMIC and HIC remain. The recent health crises has once more highlighted the importance of a multi-sectorial and -dimensional approach to pandemics.

How can societies effectively implement prevention measures to strengthen the relevant sectors in preparing for future pandemics? How can pandemic preparedness be increased globally? These are some of the questions that panelists from the field of science, politics and industry will discuss. The audience is welcome to engage in the discussion.

The event is scientifically coordinated by Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim (ASSAf) and Professor Stefan H.E. Kaufmann (Leopoldina). The public event is part of the fourth event (“Infectious Diseases beyond COVID-19”, 23-24 May 2023, Berlin) of a workshop series on Infectious Diseases for post-doc researchers from Africa and Europe, which ASSAf and Leopoldina initiated in 2016.