



# Charité Berlin World Health Summit

The Evolution of Medicine | October 14th - 18th, 2009 | [www.worldhealthsummit.org](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org)

## Welcome Message | Dr. Angela Merkel



Dr. Angela Merkel  
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

Everyone's wish is to become and stay healthy. While medical research has already made major advances in disease prevention, diagnosis and therapy, many questions remain unanswered, and constant changes in living and environmental conditions give rise to new issues. For example, along with the ageing of society, the increasing frequency of "lifestyle diseases" such as diabetes, heart problems, circulatory ailments and rheumatism pose new challenges to health care.

These changes lead to a number of questions: How can successful prevention be ensured from childhood onwards? What innovative therapies and strategies exist to combat epidemics and new health risks? How can we fund medical progress, and what forms should national health systems take? In a globalized world these issues no longer respect national borders. If we want to seek and find good and stable solutions, it is clear that we can only do so together rather than in isolation.

For this reason I am very pleased that this year, for the first time, the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, together with the Université Paris Descartes and other international partners, are holding the World Health Summit in Berlin. For five days numerous experts and guests from around the world will discuss current and future challenges facing medicine and health care. I wish everyone, including the organizers, an informative and successful conference.

## Under the High Patronage of Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, and Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

### Welcome Message | Nicolas Sarkozy

Europe is facing new geopolitical realities. The challenges in the fields of energy supply, climatic change, innovation and health care, if dealt with appropriately, will allow Europe to sustain its global competitiveness. In light of these trends and changes, it is necessary to create ideal conditions to facilitate joint discussions towards developing and offering aligned political, economic and scientific solutions for the well-being of the European citizens.

The World Health Summit organised by the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin in cooperation with the Université Paris Descartes is a perfect example of what Europe needs. It offers necessary elements ensuring its appeal and influence in the medical world and beyond. The World Health Summit is part of the “M8-Alliance”, a group of internationally prestigious medical faculties. This initiative represents an opportunity to bring together politicians, public and private decision-makers dedicated to the health of our citizens.

For me personally it is a pleasure to support the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and the Université Paris Descartes in organising and coordinating such an event. I wish the World Health Summit global success. The World Health Summit confirms the commitment of France and Germany to Europe in accordance with the Lisbon Strategy.



Nicolas Sarkozy  
President of the French Republic