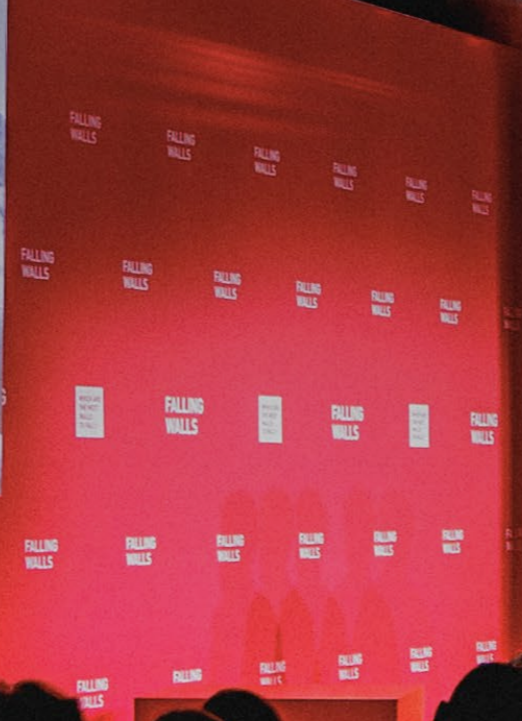


FALLING WALLS LAB



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FALLING WALLS

REPORT 2024



FALLING WALLS LAB

A YEAR IN REVIEW

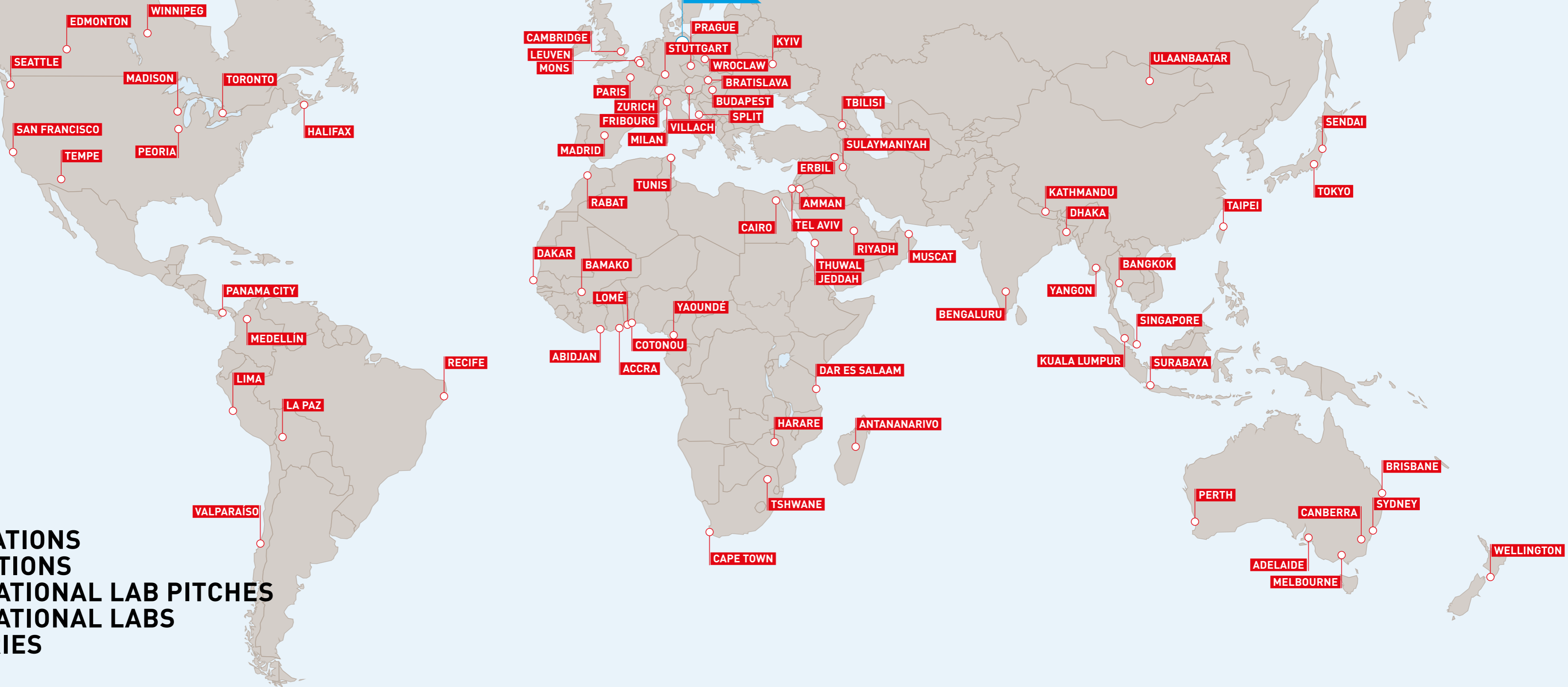
In 2024, 74 dedicated Falling Walls Lab organisers in 58 countries around the world hosted pitch competitions throughout the year. Together, they received an impressive 2500 applications from early-career researchers from 104 countries.

100 winners from these local pitch competitions then travelled to Berlin for the Global Finale at the Falling Walls Science Summit, a great opportunity for our partners and us to introduce these international talents to the European and German research landscape.

This year's winners were warmly welcomed by the Italian Ambassador to Germany at the Italian Embassy in Berlin. Springer Nature hosted career workshops for them, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Research Foundation (DFG) took them on a tour of research institutions in and around Berlin.

At the Falling Walls Science Summits' Global Finale, all winners presented their groundbreaking ideas in three-minute pitches on stage. Our distinguished panel of judges, including Carl-Henrik Heldin, former Chairman of the Nobel Foundation, crowned this year's Breakthrough of the Year winners in the Emerging Talents category.

INTERNATIONAL LABS



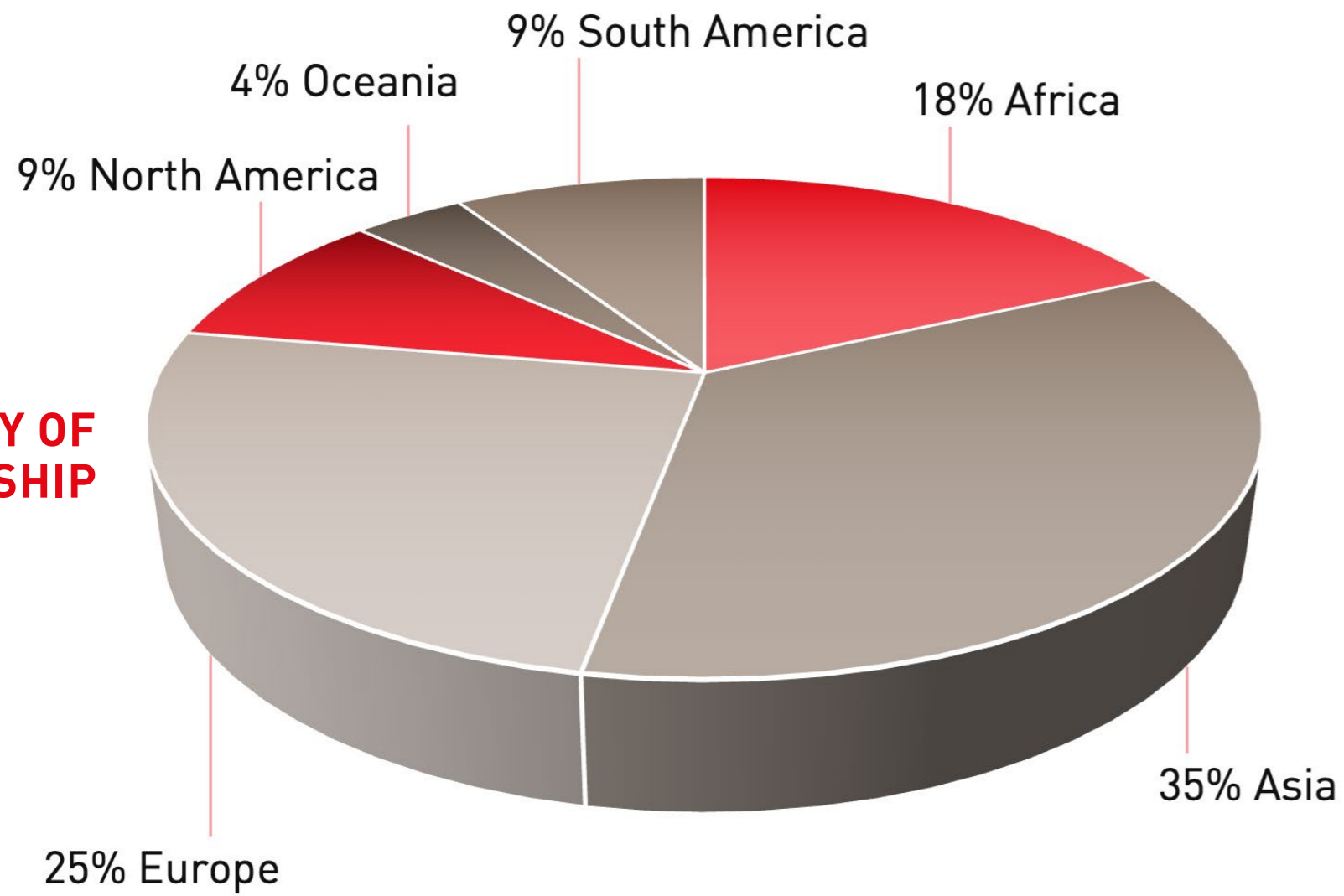
2500+ APPLICATIONS
1400+ INSTITUTIONS
1000+ INTERNATIONAL LAB PITCHES
74 INTERNATIONAL LABS
58 COUNTRIES

THE WINNERS

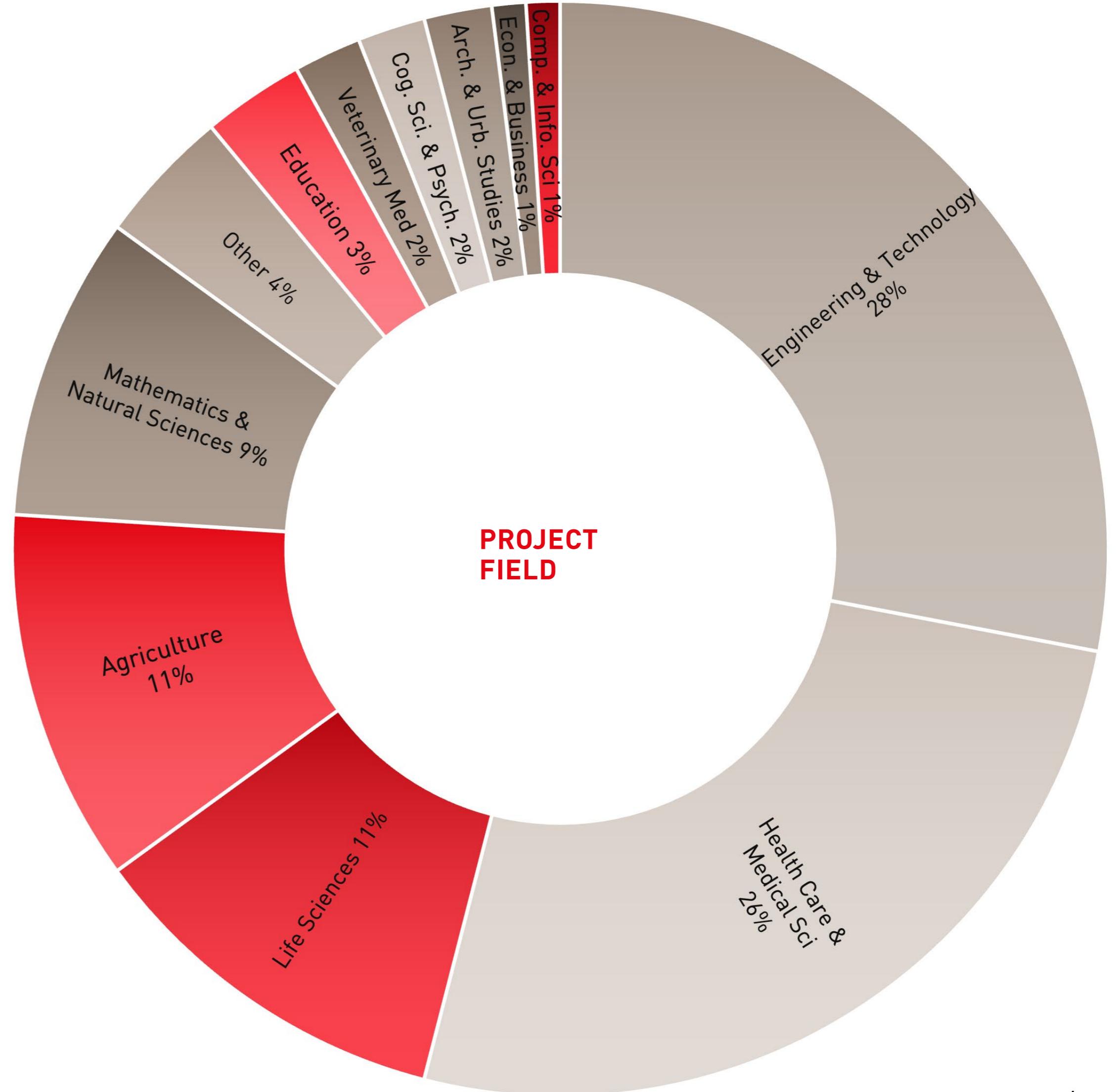
The winner of each Falling Walls Lab is invited to Berlin for the global finale, where groundbreaking ideas from around the world take center stage.

From Amith Kamath's pitch on "Breaking the Wall of Radiotherapy with AI" to Dinga Wonanke's pitch on "Breaking the Wall of Hydrogen Storage" – the 100 international Lab winners showcased a remarkable diversity of disciplines and global perspectives.

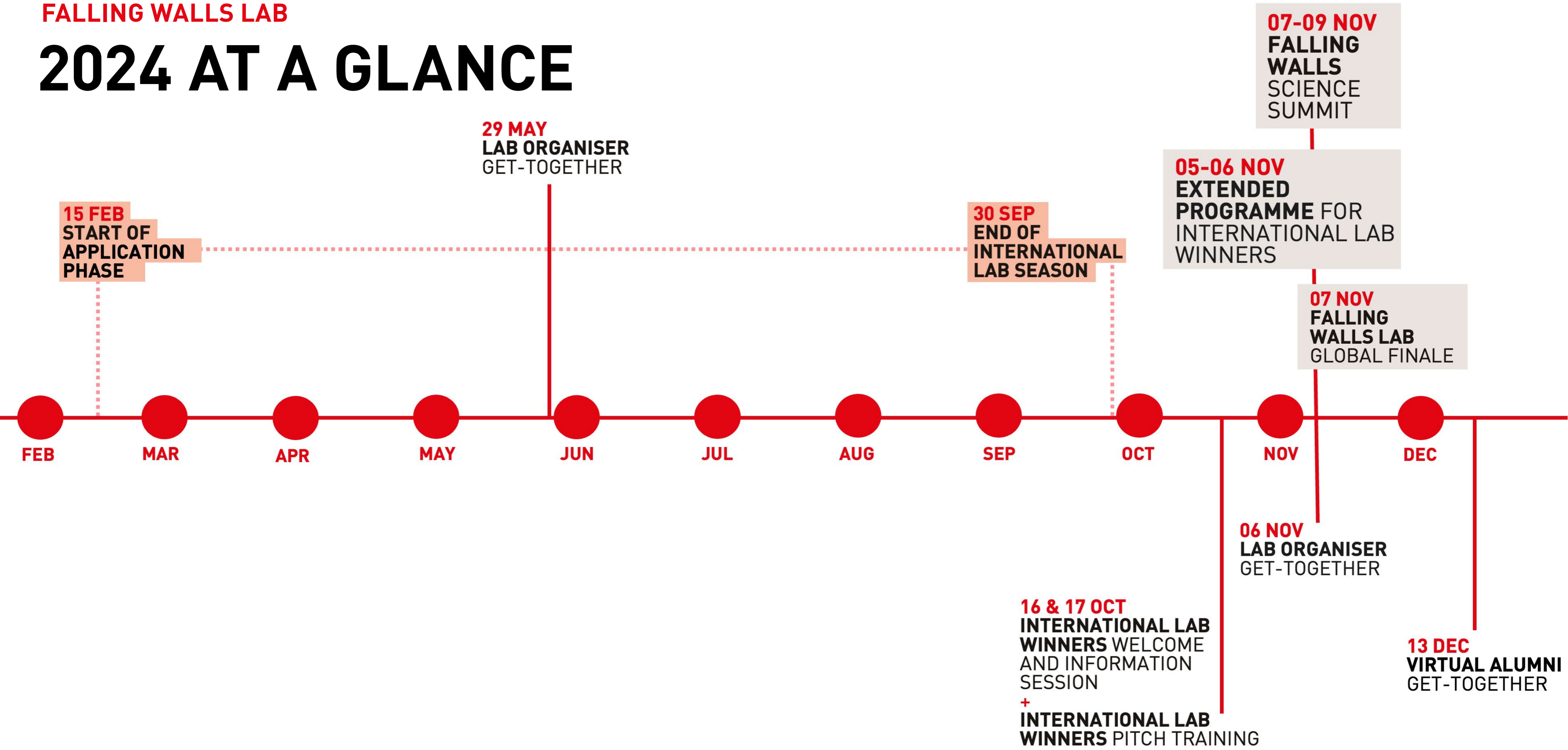
COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP



PROJECT FIELD



2024 AT A GLANCE



FIVE DAYS TO CELEBRATE INNOVATION

05 NOV

EXTENDED PROGRAMME



WELCOME EVENT AT THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN BERLIN

The winners meet the Ambassador, the Lab team, and fellow participants. The day kicks off with inspiring workshops hosted by Springer Nature, followed by a dinner event organized by the German Research Foundation, fostering collaboration and dialogue among emerging scientists.

06 NOV

EXTENDED PROGRAMME



EXCURSION DAY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL LAB WINNERS

The German Academic Exchange Service and the German Research Foundation present „Insights into German Research.“ Winners embark on a visit to local academic institutions and cutting-edge research facilities to explore Germany’s vibrant research landscape.

07 NOV

SCIENCE SUMMIT DAY 1



FALLING WALLS LAB GLOBAL FINALE

The 100 international Lab winners take the stage to present their groundbreaking ideas in 3-minute pitches, competing for the prestigious title „Breakthrough of the Year“ in the Emerging Talents category.

08 NOV

SCIENCE SUMMIT DAY 2



FALLING WALLS CIRCLE: NETWORKING, PUBLIC DEBATES, AND SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIA

The Science Summit provides a platform for networking and interaction with global leaders in science, business, and policymaking, offering valuable opportunities to discuss pressing challenges and innovations shaping the future.

09 NOV

SCIENCE SUMMIT DAY 3



FALLING WALLS SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR

The top three winners of the Emerging Talents category pitch their ideas once again on the Falling Walls „Breakthroughs of the Year“ stage, joining Nobel laureates, Leibniz Prize winners, and leading experts in celebrating scientific breakthroughs.

BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR



CONSTADINA ROGERS, 1ST PLACE
BREAKING THE WALL OF PLASTICS
ACCUMULATION

Constadina Rogers from *Dalhousie University, CA* addresses plastic pollution by enhancing the biological degradation of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), a common plastic used in packaging. **Using a fusion of bacterial and fungal proteins, her research delivers a cost-effective and sustainable solution to managing plastic waste.**



PEEWEE KOLUBAH, 2ND PLACE
BREAKING THE WALL OF ACCESSIBLE
ELECTRICITY

Pewee Kolubah, a Ph.D. candidate at *King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, SA*, is developing a system that converts wastewater into renewable energy while purifying it. **By combining bioelectrochemical technology with advanced 2D MXene materials, his work offers a scalable solution to global energy and water challenges.**



NETANYEL LOYFER, 3RD PLACE
BREAKING THE WALL OF
CELL-FREE DNA

Netanel Loyfer from *the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, IL* has developed a non-invasive method to identify tissue-specific cell death through cell-free DNA. **By analyzing DNA methylation patterns, his approach enhances precision medicine with more accurate diagnostics and disease monitoring.**

THE JURY



The 2024 Falling Walls Lab Jury brings together distinguished experts from diverse fields, including academia, research funding, and industry. Their global expertise ensures a thorough evaluation of the 100 emerging science talents competing in Berlin. Learn more about the jury and their biographies at <https://falling-walls.com/lab/jury>.

JURY CHAIR CARL-HENRIK HELDIN
UPPSALA UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN

JURY CO-CHAIR CAT ALLMAN
DIGITAL SCIENCE & RESEARCH SOLUTIONS, UNITED KINGDOM

JOSEPH BEDARD
SRTX, CANADA

RIVKA CARMİ
ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE IN MEDICINE & SCIENCE ABROAD, ISRAEL

HANNA DENECKE
VOLKSWAGEN FOUNDATION, GERMANY

GABRIELE HERMANI
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, GERMANY

ANDREW HOLMES
AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, AUSTRALIA

BARBARA ISCHINGER
UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE, GERMANY

KATHRIN KOHS
GERMAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION, GERMANY

SWATI MEHERISHI
SPRINGER NATURE, GERMANY

URSULA PAINTNER
GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE, GERMANY

SVEN WAGNER
SARTORIUS, GERMANY

FALLING WALLS LAB

GLOBAL REACH

Falling Walls Lab runs its own social media channel on [LinkedIn](#), with a steadily growing number of highly engaged followers and exclusive LinkedIn groups. In addition, content is published across all Falling Walls channels, with a total **reach of 64.000+ followers** worldwide.

LinkedIn 5.900+

+39% follower growth in 2024

Newsletter 44.000+

+30% subscriber growth in 2024

Instagram 8.600+

+17% follower growth in 2024

facebook 16.500+

+8% follower growth in 2024

Youtube 11.100+

Pageviews 1M+

+11% pageview increase in 2024

Global Finale Livestream Viewer +3960

Science Summit On Site Visitors +1940



“In challenging times marked by rising autocracies, climate change, and global conflicts, hope can seem rare. FallingWalls2024 in Berlin reignited my optimism, showcasing young innovators tackling major global issues and advancing science and society.”

— Jan-Moritz Bogdanovic, *Falling Walls Lab Cambridge Organizer 2024*

“The diversity of nationalities and ideas at the Falling Walls Science Summit reimagines my hope for a global future in AI, medicine, and sustainable energy for all.”

— Pewee Kolubah, *Science Breakthrough of the Year 2nd place 2024, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)*

“To see these young innovative thinkers leverage their expertise and learnings, trying to solve big picture problems, is always exciting and inspirational.”

— Sven Wagner, *Head of Business Development at Sartorius, Falling Walls Lab Jury Member 2024*

“Science holds the key to addressing global challenges, and its essence is profoundly international – there is no better place to witness this in action than at the Falling Walls Conference in Berlin. At DAAD, we share this belief and are proud to help shape this inspiring journey alongside Falling Walls!”

— Ursula Paintner, *German Academic Exchange Service & Falling Walls Lab Jury Member 2024*

“Last week, I had the incredible honor of being chosen as one of the 100 finalists out of 2,500 participants for the Falling Walls Lab Berlin 2024! This event was not just about breaking down physical walls, but also about transcending boundaries that go beyond our imagination!”

— Marisol Dias, *Falling Walls Lab Portugal Winner 2024, International Nanotechnology Laboratory*

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



SARTORIUS



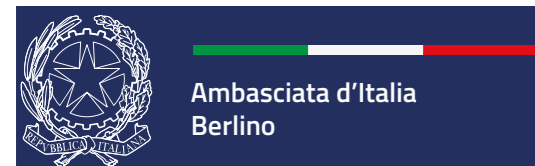
Federal Foreign Office



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

SPRINGER NATURE



FALLING WALLS LAB

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- **APPLY TO A LAB**

Are you currently enrolled at university and/or are currently a postdoc? Or did you receive a Bachelor's degree (no more than 10 years ago), Master's degree (no more than 7 years ago) or PhD (no more than 5 years ago)? Then you are eligible to apply! MDs and Dr. med. degrees are also considered equivalent. For full details, visit <https://falling-walls.com/projects/lab/who-can-apply>. Our local labs are excited to receive your application.

- **LAUNCH A LAB**

Are you a research organisation, or an organisation affiliated with or collaborating with a research institution, and would like to bring together talent for a pitch competition? We are looking forward to cooperating with you. For full details, visit <https://falling-walls.com/lab/launch-a-lab>

- **BECOME A PARTNER**

Support the next generation of pioneering scientists from across the globe by becoming our partner. Together, we can create opportunities that empower emerging talent and enable collaboration on global challenges.

VISIT US AT

www.falling-walls.com/lab





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