

# FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT



## KEY RESULTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

### “RESILIENT PHARMA: INNOVATION AMID GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS”

— *Scaling cures faster through smarter rules, shared infrastructure and government-in-the-loop investment.*

Innovation in pharma is accelerating, yet fragile. Bureaucracy slows clinical trials, public-private coordination is patchy, and geopolitics strains cross-border research. The panel's answer: cut friction, hard-wire collaboration with government and fund shared platforms so promising therapies reach patients sooner.

From gene therapy's leap into complex diseases to AI-enabled discovery and precision delivery, science can move far quicker when ecosystems work as one. China's long-term infrastructure bets and investigator-initiated trials show how policy choices shape speed. Berlin's cell and gene therapy centre and California's policy-backed newborn sequencing pilot show how targeted public funding unlocks uptake. Europe's challenge is known: simplify trials, back translational hubs, and treat government as a core partner, not an afterthought.

### THE PANEL CALL TO ACTION:

#### 1 — Cut trial friction and adopt mutual recognition.

Create one-stop ethics and data approvals for multi-site studies, accept high-quality external evidence, and expand investigator-initiated trials to bring first-in-human and rare-disease studies online faster. This reduces set-up time and increases trial density in Europe.

#### 2 — Build translational hubs with shared access.

Co-finance public-private centres that offer good manufacturing practice suites, data platforms and specialist surgical delivery for advanced therapies, with clear access rules for academia, startups and industry. Shared infrastructure lowers entry costs and de-risks scale-up.

#### 3 — Put the government in the loop from day one.

Co-design pilots with health authorities and treasury teams that report clinical outcomes and economics together, as in California's newborn whole-genome sequencing case, so proven interventions can be sustained and even save costs.

#### 4 — Grow a cross-sector talent pipeline.

Normalise rotations and fellowships between universities, industry and policy (including science-policy placements), and embed venture and product skills in doctoral training. This widens careers beyond academia and retains scientific capacity.

#### 5 — Operationalise responsible AI for equity and speed.

Adopt governance that enables AI across discovery, trial design and delivery while integrating social drivers of health data and privacy safeguards. This accelerates target identification and supports fair access to personalised care.

*This event is supported by Bayer and assembled in the framework of the Falling Walls Science Summit 2025 in Berlin. The Falling Walls Science Summit is a leading international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral forum for scientific breakthroughs. It commemorates the fall of the Berlin Wall and aims to promote dialogue between science and society.*



### PANELLISTS

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*Professor, Dalhousie University*

#### Julianne McCall

*CEO, California Council on Science and Technology (CCST)*

#### Gustavo Pesquin

*CEO, AskBio*

#### Hendrik Streeck

*Member of the German Bundestag*

#### Krysia Sommers

*Head of Strategic PR, Bayer, Moderator*

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