



Starting up in Women's Health: From Science to Innovation & Market Impact

23 April 2026 | 14:00 - 16:30 + Networking

sitem-insel, Auditorium Felix Frey | Freiburgstrasse 3, 3010 Bern

Women's health is entering a new era of innovation—driven by advances in gender medicine, digital technologies, and entrepreneurial potential. This seminar brings together experts from research, clinical practice, digital health, and venture capital to explore how scientific insights can be translated into scalable, market-ready solutions.

PROGRAM

Moderation by: **Laura Camurri, Albora de Pablo Pena & Monika Kugemann**, University of Bern

14:00 - 14:10 Welcome & Framing

14:10 - 14:50 Global & Ecosystem Perspectives

Sonia Muliylil

Editor-in-Chief, The Lancet Obstetrics,
Gynaecology & Women's Health

*"Women's Health: Lessons from the Past, Visions
for the Future."*

Fiona Thwaites

Commercial Leader for HealthTech Ventures;
Former FemTech CEO (Jennis)

*"Building Women's Health Innovation
Ecosystems: From Public Investment to
Accelerator Programs."*

14:50 - 15:30 From Biological Insight to Disease Risk & Intervention

Mariapaola Barbato

Scientific Lead, Women's Brain Foundation

*"Closing the Gap in Brain and Mental Health: The
Work of the Women's Brain Foundation."*

Berna Özdemir

Senior Physician, Inselspital, Bern University
Hospital

*"How Does Circadian Biology Affect Cancer
Treatment in Women?"*

15:30 - 15:40 Break

15:40 - 16:20 Translational Innovation

Anna-Luisa Schaffgotsch

Founder & CEO, Impli

*"Continuous Hormone Monitoring and the Future
of Precision Medicine for Women."*

Nina Porter Reinhart

Angel Investor; Founder, Meno Suisse

*"Investing in Women's Health: Trends, Gaps and
Opportunities in the Menopause Market."*

16:20 - 16:30 Closing Reflections

16:30 - 17:30 Networking Tea / Coffee

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UNIVERSITÄT
BERN



DEPARTMENT
DIGITAL
MEDICINE

*Womxn who start up
bring your ideas to life*

innovation | **u^b**

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Global & Ecosystem Perspectives



Sonia Muliyl
Editor-in-Chief, The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Women's Health

Prior to joining The Lancet Group as the founding Editor-in-Chief of The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology, & Women's Health, Sonia worked as a Senior Editor for Nature Medicine. She has also served as the lead editor of Trends in Genetics and a consulting editor for Cell Genomics and Developmental Cell. As an EMBO and HFSP fellow at the University of Oxford (UK), she investigated the role of TNF signalling in lipid metabolism and neurodegeneration. Sonia has been a member of UN Women UK and a facilitator of RisingWISE, a program aimed at enhancing the career development of women scientists. She remains passionate about all aspects of women's health.



Fiona Thwaites
Commercial Leader for HealthTech Ventures; Former FemTech CEO (Jennis)

Fiona Thwaites is a commercialisation specialist and former CEO of Jennis, a women's health platform she led to a strategic exit in 2024. She now works as a fractional commercial leader for healthtech ventures and serves as a Board Director of CensHERShip, an initiative advocating for the removal of censorship affecting women's health products and services in advertising and communications. An active venture scout, angel investor, and advisor to Femtech France and Femtech UK, Fiona is deeply committed to improving how capital flows to female founders in health.

From Biological Insight to Disease Risk & Intervention



Mariapaola Barbato
Scientific Lead, Women's Brain Foundation

Dr. Mariapaola Barbato is a cognitive neuroscientist with over 15 years of international research experience in cognition, mental health, and neurodegenerative diseases. She is Director of Science at the Women's Brain Foundation in Zürich, where she advances research and advocacy to promote sex- and gender-sensitive precision medicine in brain health.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

From Biological Insights to Disease Risk & Intervention (continued)



Berna Özdemir

Senior Physician, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital

Berna Özdemir is an oncologist and researcher with an MD-PhD in experimental cancer biology and a strong focus on sex and gender medicine. She studies how sex and gender shapes cancer biology, treatment toxicity, and patient outcomes, and she works to integrate these insights into clinical care and medical education. She is also founding member of the ESMO Gender Medicine Task Force and an active voice in advancing sex-based research in oncology.

Translation: From Lab to Market - Building and Financing Women's Health Innovation



Anna-Luisa Schaffgotsch

Founder & CEO, Impli

Anna Luisa Schaffgotsch is the Founder and CEO of Impli, a deep-tech MedTech company revolutionizing female endocrine health. With a background in biotechnology and entrepreneurship, she is leading the development of the world's first real-time, implantable hormone monitoring platform to optimize outcomes in IVF and beyond.



Nina Porter Reinhart

Angel Investor; Founder, Meno Suisse

Nina co-founded Reinhart Capital which invests in early-stage technology ventures. Her challenging menopause transition made her decide to focus on Women Health innovations and also start Meno Swiss, a non-for-profit Association establishing modern menopause standards of care for women to age well.