

WORLD LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE — WCPH 2026, Cape Town

Monday 7 September | 10:30 | Roof Terrace Room

Closing the Prevention Gap through Adult HPV Vaccination: From a Women-Only Narrative to Universal Cancer Prevention

HPV vaccination is one of the most powerful tools in cancer prevention, yet its full potential remains unrealised. For decades, national programmes have focused almost exclusively on cervical cancer in girls and young women — a framing grounded in strong evidence but one that has left a substantial burden of HPV-attributable disease unaddressed. Oropharyngeal, anal, penile, vulvar and vaginal cancers affect people of all genders throughout the life course. The science is unambiguous: HPV vaccination works for everyone.

This World Leadership Dialogue presents the case for a paradigm shift — from a cervical cancer-centred model to a life-course, gender-inclusive approach, building on the WFPHA Call to Action on Adult HPV Vaccination (2026). The equity dimensions of current programme design will be a central thread throughout.

Chair

Prof. Bettina Borisch — CEO, World Federation of Public Health Associations

Speakers

Dr. Peter Baker — Director, Global Action on Men's Health

Dr. Georges Benjamin — Executive Director, American Public Health Association

Dr. Luyanda Majija – Strategic Advisor Africa, Global Alliance for Patient Access