

About the Foundation

The German Heart Center Foundation is a private, non-profit organization committed to advancing cardiovascular health. In a public-private partnership with Charité, it jointly runs **Deutsches Herzzentrum der Charité (DHZC)**, one of the world's leading academic heart centers.

Through targeted strategic funding initiatives, the foundation supports **innovative patient care, translational research** and **scientific excellence**, while fostering outstanding **education and training** — all for the lasting benefit of patients.

The foundation also fosters collaboration through international partnerships and scientific events. **Cardiovascular Conversations** offers a monthly platform for young scholars to discuss recent findings at the interface of research and clinical practice; every other month, **Beyond the Heart** stimulates interdisciplinary dialogue across the broader healthcare landscape; and **Berlin Cardio Futures** convenes leading international experts at an annual by-invitation meeting to discuss strategies shaping cardiovascular health over the next decade.

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BEYOND THE HEART

The Fire Within: Inflammation Fuels Cardiovascular Disease

Prof. Dr. Ingo Hilgendorf

Apr. 23, 2026

Thomas Michael Höhn-Haus
Amrumer Straße 32 | 13353 Berlin
Next to Charité Campus Virchow-Klinikum

Beyond the Heart

Distinguished Lectures on the Future of Medicine and Health

Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death in industrialized countries, placing cardiovascular medicine at the center of modern healthcare. As such, it is closely connected to numerous medical subspecialties and shaped by technological advances as well as institutional and socioeconomic dynamics.

The Beyond the Heart lecture series explores topics that transcend cardiovascular medicine and address the future of healthcare and medicine as a whole. The bi-monthly series is hosted by the German Heart Center Foundation at its headquarters at the Charité Campus Virchow Klinikum.



Apr. 23, 2026

The Fire Within: Inflammation Fuels Cardiovascular Disease

Cardioimmunology is an emerging and important field for future research. The lecture “The Fire Within: Inflammation Fuels Cardiovascular Disease” will be delivered by Prof. Dr. Ingo Hilgendorf, Director of Cardiology, Angiology and Intensive Care Medicine at the Deutsches Herzzentrum der Charité (DHZC). In his talk, Prof. Hilgendorf explores the role of inflammatory mediators in the development and healing of atherosclerotic and cardiac lesions and how these insights can be translated into therapeutic strategies.

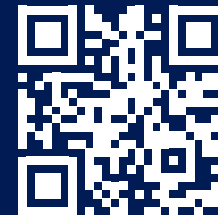
Prof. Ingo Hilgendorf is a cardiologist and clinical scientist specializing in interventional cardiology and immunocardiology. After completing his medical studies, he conducted research at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He later served as Deputy Medical Director and Heisenberg Professor of Immunocardiology at the University Medical Center Freiburg. Since 2025, he has been Director of Cardiology, Angiology and Intensive Care Medicine at Deutsches Herzzentrum der Charité (DHZC).

Program

- 18:00** Doors open
- 18:15** Welcome
Prof. Dr. Hans Maier
- 18:20** Lecture and discussion
**The Fire Within: Inflammation Fuels
Cardiovascular Disease**
Prof. Ingo Hilgendorf, MD
- 19:15** Get-together
with Drinks & Finger Food
- 20:00** End

Registration

Registration using LUMA is kindly requested.



<https://luma.com/alk3s0c7>