2025 Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation Summit

Impact Report

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Foreword

GESDA's mission is to anticipate what the future holds from a scientific perspective and turn it into a call for action and better-informed decision-making. The fifth Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation Summit, and my first as Director General of GESDA, took place at a time of dizzying advances and divisive politics. Against this backdrop, it felt more important than ever to bring together the worlds of science and diplomacy for the purpose of anticipation, looking beyond today's crises and towards tomorrow's solutions.

Science is giving rise to technologies with the potential to profoundly change the world: new AI models, climate engineering, brain-computer interfaces, quantum computing and many more. This year's Summit, *The Age of Possibility: Science, Sovereignty and Shared Futures*, provided a common platform for decision-makers from science, government and diplomacy, industry and civil society to probe the opportunities and challenges these new technologies raise.

Discussions ranged from how to govern environmental systems like our oceans, to how to share the benefits of scientific advances, from synthetic biology to energy storage. At the Summit, we also launched the 2026 GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar®, an anticipatory tool providing unique intelligence about potential scientific and technological advances anticipated over the next 5, 10, and 25 years.

We know that change is coming, but we don't know when or how it will play out. Getting ahead of this uncertainty is at the heart of our Summit and our Radar. Back in 2021, our Radar anticipated conversational AI, a year before ChatGPT exploded into the public domain. As the subsequent growth in AI showed, progress in science is often exponential, not linear. This underlines the importance of both anticipation and multilateralism, to ensure we harness accelerating scientific advances for the benefit of all. Scientists welcomed the opportunity to step out of the lab; government and business leaders welcomed the opportunity to learn about the issues that will reshape society. The 2025 GESDA Summit was a milestone in multilateralism, at a time when collective action matters most.

Prof. Marilyne Andersen
Director General

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Executive Summary

The fifth annual Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation Summit took place from 15 to 17 October 2025, returning to the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) for the third consecutive year.

The theme for the Summit, *The Age of Possibility: Science, Sovereignty, and Shared Futures*, reflected the most urgent issues at the intersection of science and diplomacy, and guided delegates as they worked towards collective responses to the opportunities and challenges emerging from frontier science.

Two overarching themes emerged from the 2025 GESDA Summit.

First, that science is under attack. The mechanisms that enable the open exchange of people and ideas are being restricted. Scientific publications are being censored, collaborations ended, funding withdrawn, and researchers denied the visas they need to carry out their work. Meanwhile, science itself is being undermined, characterised as an elite preoccupation or merely another opinion. This danger to science, some delegates argued, is also a danger to democracy. As Christina Kitsos, Vice Mayor of the City of Geneva, explained: "Democratic society depends on its citizens' ability to make informed decisions, to evaluate arguments, and to distinguish facts from manipulation. This ability requires precisely what the scientific method cultivates: critical thinking, analytical rigour, methodological doubt, and openness to debate. When science is weakened, these democratic values erode and with them our collective capacity to confront major challenges such as climate change."

The second theme was how scientific progress is accelerating faster than our ability to adapt to it. This creates new inequalities, with some able to seize the transformative potential of emerging technologies while others are not. These technologies are already starting to reshape our societies. They could help us live longer and healthier lives, transition to a carbon-free future, create a more connected society, and improve living conditions on every continent. They could also be weaponised. Brain-computer interfaces (BCIs), for instance (the focus of our BCI Futures Initiative) could be life-changing for people with limited mobility and even enhance natural human abilities, but they could also represent profound risks to privacy.

Preparing for these two broad challenges calls for global cooperation: to anticipate the impacts of scientific advances and act to ensure they are used for the common good. The 2025 GESDA Summit provided a space for this cooperation.

> "Democratic society depends on its citizens' ability to make informed decisions, to evaluate arguments, and to distinguish facts from manipulation."

Christina Kitsos
Vice Mayor of the City of Geneva

Watch the Summit highlights

Panel with Doaa Abdel Motaal, Professor, Sciences Po Francesca Bosco, Chief of Strategy, CyberPeace Institute Sabine Gollner, Senior Scientist, Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) Aarti Holla-Maini, Director, UNOOSA Marga Gual Soler, Head, Science Diplomacy Capacity Building, GESDA during the Session:Governing the Global Commons: A Frontier for Collective Action at the GESDA Meeting in Geneva 2025 Thursday 16th of October 2025, Copyright: GESDA / Benedikt von Loebell

We brought together 90 speakers - including scientists, policymakers, diplomats, business and industry leaders, and citizens - for over 40 public-facing sessions. More than 1,000 participants joined them, both in person in Geneva and virtually, with all sessions **livestreamed**.

Beyond the stage, there were closed-door workshops to advance our most mature initiatives, as well as demonstrations and simulations for practical insights into future scenarios.

The public-facing sessions and other events explored five key themes:

01.
Science in a Divided World
Science as a bridge for trust, cooperation, and shared progress in a fragmented global landscape.

02.
From Discovery to Action
Turning breakthrough research into real-world impact through diplomacy and anticipation.

03.
Planetary Stewardship
Building shared responsibility for Earth's future across science, society, and policy.

04.
Intelligent Futures
Shaping the rise of AI and quantum technologies to advance human wellbeing and global cooperation.

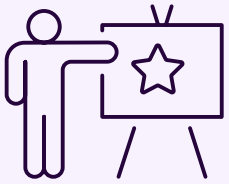
05.
Health and Human Potential
Redefining health and longevity in the biotechnological age.

The 2025 GESDA Summit in numbers

3
Days

16
Workshops and community gatherings

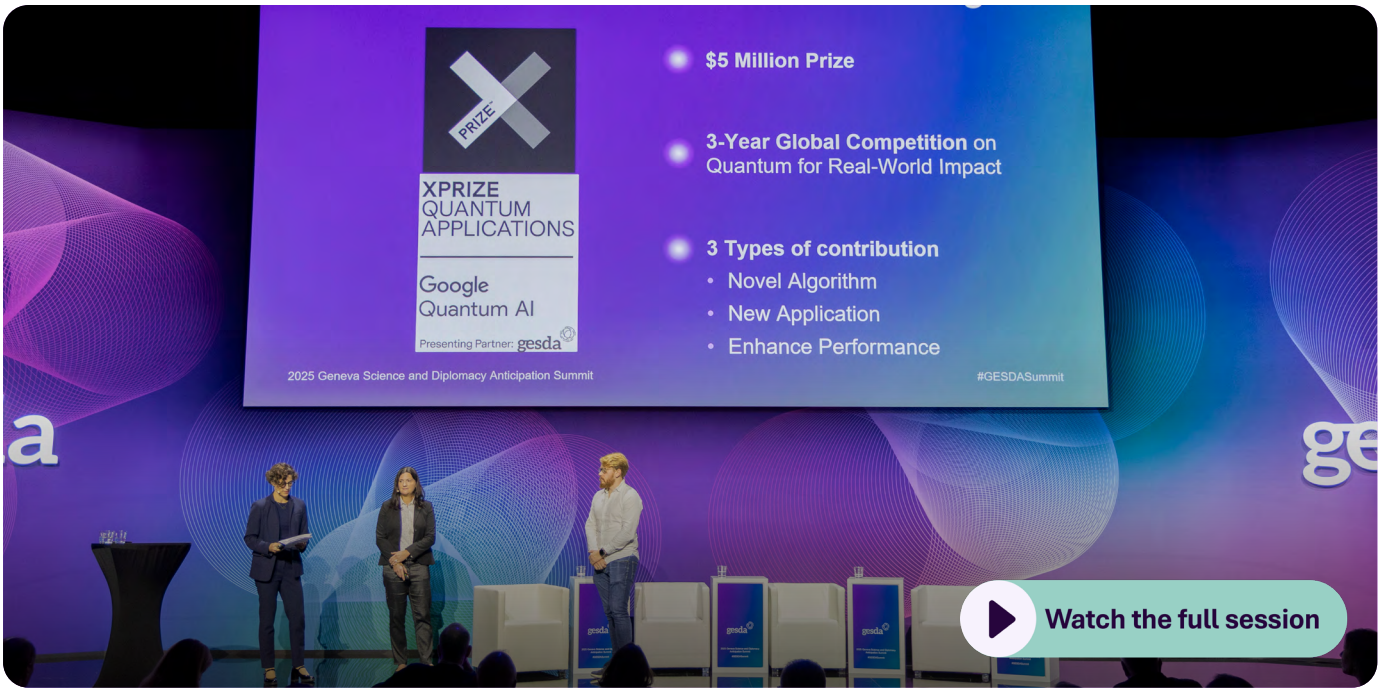
5
Key themes



90
Speakers

40
Public-facing sessions

1000+
Participants



Quantum for All: Announcing the XPRIZE Semi-Finalists. Panel with Thomas O'Brien, Staff Research Scientist, Google Quantum AI, Google, Kathrin Spendier, Technical Prize Director, Quantum Applications, XPRIZE, Catherine Lefebvre, Senior Advisor for the Open Quantum Institute, GESDA. Copyright: GESDA / Benedikt von Loebell.

Other innovations and new initiatives announced at the Summit included:

BCI Futures Initiative

Recognising the potential of Brain Computer Interface technologies, we are gathering a group of philanthropic foundations, banks, medical institutions, and other organisations to work towards ensuring these technologies are of benefit to all.

XPRIZE semi-finalists

XPRIZE Quantum Applications, co-funded by Google Quantum AI and GESDA, aims to accelerate R&D in quantum computing algorithms to solve real-world challenges and shorten the path to impactful applications. The semi-finalists of this 3-year competition were announced at the Summit.

Global Quantum Initiative

UNESCO unveiled the new Global Quantum Initiative, a three-year consultation towards an agenda ensuring that quantum technologies serve humanity and the planet as a whole. GESDA is a founding partner for this initiative.

Intelligence Report on Quantum Diplomacy in Action

The **Open Quantum Institute's 2025 report**, co-signed with Intergovernmental Organisations, identifies both urgency and promise: a need to close the quantum divide, anticipate and take action on security threats, but also the possibility of using quantum computing to address growing global challenges.

Throughout the sessions, workshops, announcements, and informal discussions, delegates returned to two central questions:

What can we do to help science? And what can science do to help us?

Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, Chairman, Board of Directors, GESDA. During the Session: Closing Remarks at the GESDA Meeting in Geneva. Copyright: GESDA / Benedikt von Loebell

What is GESDA?

GESDA, the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator, was founded by the Swiss Government and the State Council of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, in collaboration with the City of Geneva, in 2019. We receive public funding from the Swiss Confederation and the Canton and City of Geneva. Our mission is to anticipate emerging scientific discoveries and translate them into concrete actions for the benefit of society.

The GESDA Summit, which takes place annually, is the leading forum for anticipatory science and diplomacy, bringing together representatives from science, government and politics, the private sector, and citizen communities. It exists to 'use the future to build the present', anticipating the scientific and technological advances to come, and acting to ensure that they are used for the common good.

Radar high-level review committee meeting at the Summit, chaired by Stephen Toope, President and CEO of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR). The review committee will meet again in January 2026 to continue shaping the future of the Radar.

The 2026 GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar®

The GESDA **Science Breakthrough Radar®** is our main instrument for anticipating what innovations the future could hold.

It provides an overview of science trends and possible breakthroughs at 5, 10 and 25 years in a range of emerging science and technology topics, a synthesis of the related fundamental debates and actions in society, and an exploration of opportunities for collaborative action.

Launched at the Summit, the fifth edition of the Radar is built on the expertise of more than 2,300 scientists spanning 42 topic areas. It includes anticipatory perspectives on a number of new topics, including Ecology, Language and Communication, Mathematics, and Fungal Biology.

A high-level review committee chaired by Stephen Toope, CIFAR President and CEO, and composed of distinguished scholars from science, science policy and the private sector will provide key recommendations on the future of the Radar and its use.

The latest edition of the Radar incorporates:

01 Perspectives through three transdisciplinary ‘Lenses’ (scientific, philosophical, and geopolitical) on how future developments might unfold and their implications.

02 Building upon the philosophical lens, an in-depth report on ‘Planetarised Humanity’, using insights from the humanities and social sciences to explore how science and technology will transform us, our societies and our relationship to Earth.

03 A deep dive on breakthroughs in research at the interface of sleep and longevity.

Five Key Themes for the Future of Science

Within the overarching theme of The Age of Possibility: Science, Sovereignty and Shared Futures, the programme explored five specific themes. This section brings together some of the key conversations and conclusions from each topic.

01. Science in a Divided World

This theme explored the role of science as a bridge for trust, cooperation, and shared progress in a fragmented global landscape. Sessions tackled some of the most difficult and divisive issues facing the scientific community at this time, including the challenges posed by ongoing geopolitical upheavals. Throughout, speakers emphasised the importance of collaboration in the face of fragmentation.

In the opening keynote, **Safeguarding Research Ecosystems**, Nature Editor-in-Chief Magdalena Skipper explored how research ecosystems can learn about resilience from natural ecosystems, concluding that thriving in a rapidly changing world would require the research community to remain adaptable, collaborative and diverse: "A fundamental property of a healthy ecosystem is that it's diverse," Skipper said. "I find that analogy to be very helpful when we think about the research community."

Technology strategist and author Mehran Gul explained how the global technology race is widening in his keynote address, **Beyond the Duopoly**. While the US and China remain dominant, he said, innovation is increasingly multipolar, and the future 'map of innovation' could be redrawn by other nations, particularly in Europe and Asia, positioning themselves for the next transformative technologies, including AI. "It's very striking that people realise that the last two platform shifts of internet and mobile created just a staggering amount of US soft, and sometimes hard, power. And I think there's a general recognition [...] that AI looks to be a technological shift of the same scale."

Science diplomacy was identified as a pillar of managing geopolitical challenges to science. A panel bringing together Alexandre Fasel, State Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland, and Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Science Advisor to the Government of India, Anticipatory Diplomacy for Innovation and Emerging Technologies, explained the importance of anticipatory science diplomacy in preparing for emerging technologies rather than merely predicting them. Switzerland and India were used as a case study for international cooperation in emerging technologies, ensuring that they are implemented safely and equitably.

> "A fundamental property of a healthy ecosystem is that it's diverse, I find that analogy to be very helpful when we think about the research community."

Magdalena Skipper
Editor-in-Chief, Nature;
GESDA Board Member

Watch the full session

Anticipatory Diplomacy for Innovation and Emerging Technologies. Panel with Alexandre Fasel, State Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland; Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Science Advisor (PSA) , Government of India; Mercedes Ruehl, Journalist , The Financial Times during the Session: FaselxPSA at the GESDA Summit in Geneva 2025 Thursday 16th of October 2025, Copyright: GESDA / Benedikt von Loebell

> "We should anticipate what kind of challenges we're going to have in 5, 10, 15 years and what kind of legal instruments we need to govern globally in the interest of the whole of humanity"
>
> **Tatiana Valovaya**
> Director-General,
> UN Office at Geneva

Elsewhere, our Director General, Marilyne Andersen, met with a delegation of Canadian academic institutions and diplomatic leaders to mark the start of a new collaboration to reinforce Canada's anticipatory science diplomacy ecosystem. The collaboration with the University of Montreal, University of Calgary, McGill University and diplomatic leaders, was formally launched with a handshake between Canada's ambassador to Switzerland, Jean-Paul Lemieux, and the President and CEO of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), Stephen J. Toope, a longstanding partner of GESDA. Other sessions explored the future of science funding, how geopolitical changes will reshape the innovation landscape, and the importance of science diplomacy in navigating towards a positive future in which science is used to benefit all. In particular, a multistakeholder panel on anticipatory science governance, **Governing the Future: Science, Power, and the New Rules of Engagement**, provided many insights that could inform future action. Ensuring that science remains a non-politicised and progressive force, panellists said, means ensuring it remains open, ethical, and inclusive. This could involve building new, geographically balanced transnational scientific communities that represent global interests and continuing dialogue between scientific and political communities to understand not just what new technologies are emerging, but what their societal impacts could be.

"We must stand together to defend facts against misinformation and evidence against ideology, to make science a bridge between nations, not another line of division.

This ambition needs cooperation between science, politics, business and philanthropy. We need knowledge, sharing, scientific partnership and governance that serves people, not systems."

Ignazio Cassis

Federal Councillor, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

Watch the full session

Sleep, Ageing and Longevity. Briefing with Nici Wenderoth, Future Health Technologies Programme Director, ETH Zürich, Singapore-ETH Centre, Laurent Haug, Founder, 200ideas. Copyright: GESDA / Benedikt von Loebell.

02. From Discovery to Action

This theme examined how breakthrough research can be turned into real-world impact through diplomacy and science anticipation. Sessions in this theme looked at all aspects of these paths ahead: anticipating the impacts in the near, mid and longer term future; questioning how emerging technologies like AI might reshape the discovery-to-action process; and debating how to avoid potential negative impacts. The launch of the 2026 **Science Breakthrough Radar®** also reinforced this theme.

The sessions included 10 anticipatory briefings on topics from the Radar, from ecology to extended reality, exploring how they might develop over the next 5, 10, and 25 years. "Knowing about possible futures should be what enables us to act right. It gives us agency," said Michael Hengartner, President of the ETH Board and Chair of GESDA's Academic Forum, during **the Radar launch**. "This is not a library that we keep at the bottom of the shelf. This is a platform that generates discussion."

For example, the anticipatory briefing on **Sleep, Ageing and Longevity**, from Nici Wenderoth of ETH Zürich and the Singapore-ETH Center, explained that we now have the tools to measure and even manipulate sleep in real time ('sleep hacking'), which could allow us to change the ageing trajectory. She suggested that in five years sleep research will be transformed by digital technologies, that in 10 years personalised sleep interventions could be assessed, and that in 25 years we might see sleep in a way that's precisely engineered for healthy longevity. The briefings also tackled some of the ethical dilemmas that could arise in these scenarios, such as the potential for sleep hacking to be exploited for advertising. "It's very important that science, ethics, politics, are [...] discussing these issues, because science is moving fast," said Wenderoth. This builds upon the findings of a GESDA High-Level Anticipatory Meeting in Singapore earlier in 2025 which provided the basis for a deep dive in this year's Radar edition.

> "Knowing about possible futures should be what enables us to act right. It gives us agency"
>
> **Michael Hengartner**
> President of the ETH Board and Chair of GESDA's Academic Forum

03. Planetary Stewardship

This theme was about building shared responsibility for Earth's future across science, society, and policy. Sessions here examined questions on a planetary scale which can only be answered by global collaboration.

A panel, **Governing the Global Commons: A Frontier for Collective Action**, discussed how anticipatory science and diplomacy could build new models of collective stewardship to ensure that the global commons are used for our benefit, rather than being seized for other purposes, such as militarisation. The panellists brought together expertise spanning the governance of the oceans, space, cyberspace, and Antarctica, comparing attitudes to these global commons in light of the recent ratification of the UN high seas biodiversity agreement. They also questioned how to balance sovereignty and security with openness (for instance, in the face of attacks on deep-sea internet cables) and how to achieve true global participation while resources are so unevenly distributed.

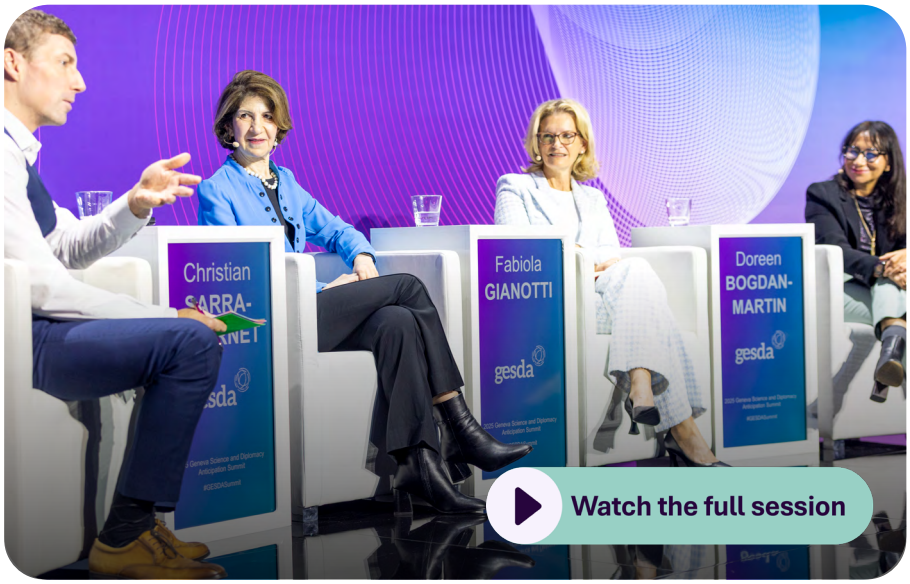
Another panel, **Can We and Should We Rewrite Nature?**, examined the possibilities of eco-augmentation unlocked by breakthroughs in biology like CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing. This could allow us to 'hack' biology for environmental benefit, such as by eradicating invasive species or engineering microbes to enrich depleted soils. The panellists debated how to decide which interventions are acceptable and raised the necessity of a renewed understanding of co-flourishing of people and planet, and of co-governance with local communities. One example is the Whanganui model, developed between representatives of the New Zealand government and the Māori community, which grants the Whanganui River legal personhood with all corresponding rights.

The possible impacts on the planet of our emerging technologies are vast, so it is critical to ensure that they are not just well understood but also consensual, involving input from all communities that could be affected. Responses to the challenges our planet faces, for example, so far have been slow, siloed, and reactive rather than proactive. Developing and implementing innovations where technologies such as AI, synthetic biology and geoengineering converge responsibly and at scale requires complex science diplomacy and socio-economic engagement. GESDA is currently scoping **a new eco-augmentation initiative**.

Can We and Should We Rewrite Nature? Panel with Alexandre Antonelli, Executive Director Science, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, WariNkwi Flores, Founder & PI, KINRAY HUB, Maja Groff, Convenor, Climate Governance Commission (CGC), Massamba Thioye, Principal Advisor UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hu, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Copyright: GESDA / Benedikt von Loebell.

04. Intelligent Futures

The 'Intelligent Futures' theme aimed to contribute to the deployment of AI and quantum technologies for the advancement of human wellbeing and global cooperation. Its sessions examined the profound present and future impact of new information technologies, including on diplomacy and scientific research itself, and how we can promote the technologies that help solve problems. The technologies that reached the semi-finals of **the XPRIZE Quantum Applications competition** represent efforts to create quantum algorithms to address problems spanning health, climate, energy, and materials science, with a global impact.



Quantum Beyond 2025: Turning Global Vision into Scalable Action. Panel with Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary General, International Telecommunication Union, Fabiola Gianotti, Director General, CERN, Amal Kasry, Chief of Basic Sciences, Research, Innovation and Engineering, UNESCO, Christian Sarra-Bournet, Executive Director, Institut Quantique, Universit. Copyright: GESDA / Benedikt von Loebell.

In a fireside chat, **Accelerating Scientific Discovery with AI**, Anna Koivuniemi, Head of Google DeepMind's Impact Accelerator, shared her perspective on how AI is changing the nature of research. She highlighted the AI model AlphaFold, which used deep learning to solve the decades-old problem of predicting protein structures, earning its creators at DeepMind a Nobel Prize in Chemistry. The impacts of this are just beginning to be seen, with, for instance, a European research group engineering disease-resistant bees using information about the structure of the honeybee vitellogenin protein, which was predicted with AlphaFold. Koivuniemi also discussed the possibility of using AI to generate new scientific theories: "AI can accelerate science enormously, like in the case of AlphaFold, hundreds of years of research would have gone into that," she said.

> "The question is no longer if quantum will transform our world, but how we ensure that transformation is equitable, secure, and beneficial for all nations"
>
> **Christian Sarra-Bournet**
> Executive Director of the Institut Quantique at the Université de Sherbrooke

At a panel examining the next steps for quantum technologies, **Quantum Beyond 2025: Turning Global Vision into Scalable Action**, participants raised concerns about an erosion of the collaborative culture of science. Fabiola Gianotti, Director General of CERN, emphasised the wide societal benefits of open science: "CERN promotes and embraces open science, meaning [making] education, knowledge, technology accessible to everyone at no cost. This is enshrined in our founding convention 70 years ago," she said. "The more you share your results, the more science develops and progresses [...] as a means of reducing inequities across societies and all around the world." Panellists also drew attention to the problem of unequal access to these technologies and their benefits. "The question is no longer if quantum will transform our

world, but how we ensure that transformation is equitable, secure, and beneficial for all nations," said Christian Sarra-Bournet, Executive Director of the Institut Quantique at the Université de Sherbrooke.

Initiatives like **the Open Quantum Institute (OQI)**, born at GESDA, hosted at CERN and supported by UBS, can play a part in promoting global and inclusive access to quantum computing. The OQI can support UNESCO's new Global Quantum Initiative towards a Global Quantum Agenda, which was announced at the Summit and will be officially launched in 2026. Participants across various sessions also acknowledged that while there are challenges to be met on global inclusion for quantum technologies because of limited access to hardware, there are more basic gaps in access to information technologies, with one in every three people having never accessed the internet. A prerequisite to ensuring that Intelligent Futures can be enjoyed globally is investment and coordination to provide connectivity to the billions of people without internet access.

This revolution also involves ensuring technologies are used for societally beneficial purposes. The OQI was highlighted as a leading example of how quantum computing use cases addressing the SDGs can be developed.

05. Health and Human Potential

The final theme explored how the biotechnological age is redefining health and longevity. Discussions focussed on genomics and brain-computer interfaces, with delegates grappling with the complex questions raised by advances in these fields, but also taking time to explore and celebrate the possibilities they present to improve human health.

During one of the sessions on genomics, **Lessons from the Front Lines of Genomic Surveillance**, Christian Happi, Director of the Institute of Genomics and Global Health at Redeemer's University Ede, Chair of GESDA's Anticipation Committee on Pathogen Biology and Time100 Honoree, spoke about his work fighting Ebola. He said that he found the outbreak response in Africa was inadequate, typically involving a European or North American expert taking a sample away and then, "two years after, they would tell you: what caused that outbreak that killed almost everybody was this particular virus." Happi explained how real-time genomic sequencing had allowed his team to identify where Ebola had entered the human population, create the first rapid diagnostic test, and track variations. Lessons from this response were later applied during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Happi also argued for the importance of open data sharing to help respond to outbreaks, while acknowledging the difficulty in maintaining this practice in an age of distrust — exacerbated, for instance, by the fact that many African countries that played a critical role in monitoring Covid-19

Lessons from the Front Lines of Genomic Surveillance. Fireside Chat with Christian Happi, Director, IGH, Redeemer's University Ede. Suerie Moon, Co-Director, Global Health Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute. Copyright: GESDA / Benedikt von Loebell.

> “This technological improvement [in BCIs] could go beyond medical applications. And that’s why GESDA thinks that something needs to be done also to frame it.”
>
> **Patrick Aebischer**
> Vice President of the Board of Directors at GESDA and President Emeritus of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL)

found it difficult to access vaccinations afterwards. Rebuilding this trust, he said, would call for greater transparency on data use, a pushback against stigma associated with infectious diseases, and a ‘trusted research environment’ inclusive of scientists from all geographies.

A panel on **Building an Equitable Era of Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs)** addressed an issue with which GESDA has been engaged since 2021. The Radar highlights how much AI and other enabling technologies create new potential to read and write brain signals through BCIs, supporting novel personalised therapies for conditions where current treatments fall short, such as paraplegia, stroke, epilepsy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and severe depression. The discussion underlined how the actions taken in the next few years will determine whether brain-computer interfaces become tools of human flourishing or drivers of inequality. As Patrick Aebischer, Vice President of the Board of Directors at GESDA and President Emeritus of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), put it: “This technological improvement [in BCIs] could go beyond medical applications. And that’s why GESDA thinks that something needs to be done also to frame it.”

Promisingly, the newest devices are potentially less invasive, cheaper, and more accessible, thanks to remote monitoring. However, international collaboration will be needed to ensure that the field moves responsibly towards this best-case scenario. Platforms for this collaboration include our new BCI Futures Initiative, which brings together organisations from around the world to ensure that these devices can be of benefit to everyone.

Building an Equitable Era of Brain-Computer Interfaces. Panel with Patrick Aebischer, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, GESDA Foundation, Carolina Aguilar, Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder, INBRAIN Neuroelectronics, Sara E. Berger, Director, Notre Dame-IBM Tech Ethics Lab, IBM Research, Vincent Borel, Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, Defitech Foundation, Anil Soni, Chief Executive Officer, WHO Foundation. Copyright: GESDA / Benedikt von Loebell.

Beyond the Stage

Alongside the panels, keynotes, and fireside chats, the 2025 GESDA Summit offered a range of other instructive and inspiring attractions for delegates.

Roleplaying Anticipatory Science Diplomacy

Two 'Anticipation Labs' transported participants to imagined scenarios in the years 2035 and 2045. Participants were invited to take on fictional roles to explore the governance of quantum breakthroughs or cyber crises involving neural implants.

Private Workshops

A series of 10 closed-door workshops brought together delegates to move from dialogue to concrete recommendations on a range of subjects: access to quantum technologies, contending with the weaponisation of emerging technologies, expanding space infrastructure, trust in ecosystem interventions and more.

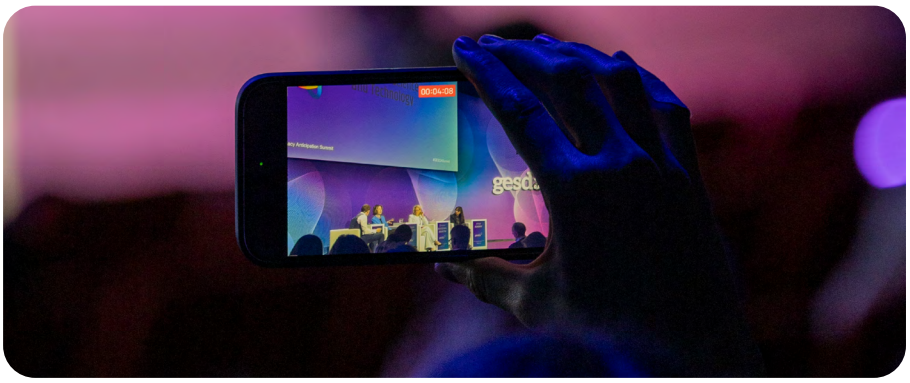
Youth Programme

A cohort of 20 emerging future leaders took part in this year's Summit. The programme aimed to foster anticipatory dialogue on frontier science and technology among the next generation. The participants attended sessions and took part in workshops, including an exercise exploring different visions of the future and how to prepare for them.

Art Exhibition

In a first for a GESDA Summit, emerging and established artists exhibited works at the event, exploring scientific and technological changes through a creative lens. The exhibition brought together four guest pieces and one display of outcomes from our Public Portal to Anticipation (an interactive installation exploring possible visions of the future) from the World Expo 2025, held in Osaka, Japan.

News and Social Media Coverage



The 2025 GESDA Summit attracted considerable coverage across both traditional and social media.

238 articles were published about the Summit, double the 2024 coverage. This was mainly driven by media attention of Güler Sabanci's contributions to the session "**The Role of Philanthropy and Private Capital in a Sovereignty-Driven World**" (66% of total coverage) which was widely reported in Turkish media. Other topics that attracted news coverage included: Federal Councilor **Ignazio Cassis's appearance**; the prospect of **BCI regulation**; **Marilyne Andersen's new leadership of GESDA**; and the participation of **Ivan Trifunović, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the Swiss Confederation**.

Social media content related to the Summit (a total of 133 posts) performed particularly well on LinkedIn, generating 89,300 impressions and 2,600 likes and shares. The top post for engagement on LinkedIn shared Marilyn Andersen's **Le Temps interview**. On X, posts related to the Summit received 3,388 impressions during the week of the event. 42 videos were published on GESDA's YouTube channel, attracting: 5,994 views; 463.7 hours of watch time.

89,300
impressions

2,600
likes and shares.

3,388
impressions

42
videos published

5,994
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The most watched videos were:

Strategic Agility: How Small States Are Shaping Global Science Diplomacy

Watch here

Accelerating Scientific Discovery with AI

Watch here

The Science of Language and Communication

Watch here

Conclusion

At the 2025 GESDA Summit, we brought together a diverse range of expertise to tackle some of the most urgent questions of today and tomorrow, concerning fields of science that ranged from quantum computing to language and communication.

The lively panels, insightful keynotes, and other events were not just for talking, but for crystallising recommendations that may be taken back to participants' home countries to inform decision-making and action, building upon the launch of **the 2026 GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar®**.

This is more critical than ever today, when scientific and technological progress is accelerating at a dizzying pace. There is the opportunity to deploy new energy technologies to combat climate change, to use the latest insights in life sciences to prevent disease and expand not just our lifespans but also our healthspans, and much more. This progress must be guided by the interests of people from all domains - science, policy, diplomacy, industry, civil society - and from all parts of the world, for the benefit of all. At a time when science, and the open, collective pursuit of truth more broadly, is under attack amid turbulent geopolitics, this type of inclusive dialogue is integral to help rebuild trust.

If you would like to join us in using anticipatory science and diplomacy to build a better future, or learn more about our work, please reach out.

We look forward to welcoming the GESDA Community to the sixth annual GESDA Summit in Geneva 14-16 October 2026.

Speakers

Doaa Abdel Motaal
Professor
Sciences Po

Lamia Fathi Abusedra
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Mission of the State of Libya to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Patrick Aebischer
Vice Chairman, Board of Directors
GESDA

Carolina Aguilar
Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder
INBRAIN Neuroelectronics

Marilyne Andersen
Director General
GESDA

Alexandre Antonelli
Executive Director
Science
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Sara E. Berger
Director,
Notre Dame-IBM Tech Ethics Lab
IBM Research

Thomas Biersteker
Senior Fellow
United Nations University Centre for Policy Research

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Secretary-General
International Telecommunication Union

Vincent Borel
Vice-Chair, Board of Directors
Defitech Foundation

Francesca Bosco
Chief of Strategy
CyberPeace Institute

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Futurium

Sylvie Briand
Chief Scientist
World Health Organization

Claude Bruderlein
Adjunct Lecturer
Harvard Kennedy School of Government

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University of Hong Kong

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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

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Henrietta Fore
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Torbjörn Fredriksson
Officer in Charge, Division on Technology and Logistics,
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Mark Freeman
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IFIT

Speakers

Urs Gasser
Dean, TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology; Board Member
GESDA

Stefan Germann
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Ursimone Wietlisbach Foundation

Fabiola Gianotti
Director General
CERN

Sabine Gollner
Senior Scientist
Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ)

Sabrina Grassi
Executive Director; Board Member
Fondation Leenaards

Maja Groff
Convenor
Climate Governance Commission (CGC)

Marga Gual Soler
Head, Science Diplomacy Capacity Building
GESDA

Mehran Gul
Author
The New Geography of Innovation

Sarah Gurr
Chair, Food Security
University of Exeter

Michelle Gyles-McDonnough
Executive Director
UNITAR

Laurent Haug
Founder
200ideas

Michael Hengartner
President, ETH Board; Chair, Academic Forum
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Aarti Holla-Maini
Director
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Matthew James
Chief Animal Officer
Colossal Biosciences

Alok Jha
Science & Technology Editor
The Economist

Sami Kanaan
Former Mayor of Geneva; President
Swiss Federal Commission for Children and Youth

Amal Kasry
Chief of Basic Sciences, Research, Innovation and Engineering
UNESCO

Minhyong Kim
Director and Sir Edmund Whittaker Professor of Mathematical Sciences
International Centre for Mathematical Sciences

Christina Kitsos
Vice Mayor
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Anna Koivuniemi
Head, Impact Accelerator
Google DeepMind

Lise Korsten
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African Academy of Sciences

Erika Kraemer Mbula
Chairholder, DSI/NRF Trilateral Chair in Transformative Innovation; Professor of Economics
University of Johannesburg

Hilal Lashuel
Research, Development & Innovation Advisor to the Chairperson & Executive Director of RDI
Qatar Foundation

Jürg Lauber
Head, Human Rights Council; Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Chris Leck
Group Chief Technology Officer, Public Sector
Science & Technology Policy & Plans Office
Prime Minister's Office, Singapore

Sabina Leonelli
Professor of Philosophy and History of Science and Technology
TUM

Maria Leptin
President
European Research Council (ERC)

Mercedes Maroto-Valer
Professor
Heriot-Watt University

Speakers

Katherine Mathieson
Director
Royal Institution of Great Britain

Angela Moles
Professor of Botany and Ecology
University of New South Wales

Sabine Monauni
Deputy Prime Minister
Liechtenstein

Suerie Moon
Co-Director, Global Health Centre
Geneva Graduate Institute

Geoff Mulgan
Professor
University College London

Mirabelle Muûls
Co-Director, School of Convergence Science - Sustainability
Imperial College London

Thomas O'Brien
Staff Research Scientist, Google Quantum AI
Google

Niniane Paeffgen
Programme Lead, Public Portal to Anticipation
GESDA

Sumit Paul-Choudhury
Director
Alternity

Sarah Pink
Laureate Professor & Founding Director, the FUTURES Hub and Emerging Technologies Research Lab
Monash University

Ayisha Piotti
Managing Partner & Head AI Policy Summit
RegHorizon / ETH Zurich CLE

Enrica Porcari
Head, IT Department
CERN

Karthik Ramani
Donald W. Feddersen Distinguished Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering
Purdue University

Mercedes Ruehl
Journalist
The Financial Times

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Journalist
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Chief Executive Officer
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Ajay Kumar Sood
Principal Science Advisor (PSA)
Government of India

Kathrin Spendier
Technical Prize Director, Quantum Applications
XPRIZE

Sabina Stadler Repnik
Ambassador; Permanent Representative of Slovenia
United Nations Office at Geneva

Ayaka Suzuki
Director, Strategic Planning and Monitoring Unit, Executive Office of the Secretary General (ESOG)
United Nations

Andrzej Szeptycki
Undersecretary of State
Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland

Massamba Thioye
Principal Advisor UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Christian Tientcha Happi
Director, IGH
Redeemer's University Ede

Speakers

Matthias Troyer
Technical Fellow and CVP
Microsoft Quantum

Tatiana Valovaya
Director General
United Nations Office at Geneva

Katerina Vounisiou
First Secretary (Human Rights)
Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Nici Wenderoth
Future Health Technologies Programme Director
ETH Zürich, Singapore-ETH Centre

Eric Xing
President & University Professor
Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence

Joy Zhang
Director, Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice
University of Kent

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