

**UNIVERSITY OF  
LUCERNE**

**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
AND MEDICINE**

**INVITATION TO LECTURE NO. 8**

**SPOTLIGHT GESUNDHEIT –  
FACULTY LECTURES**

**WITH PROF. DR. ANNETTE PETERS,  
HELMHOLTZ MUNICH**

**TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 2026  
17.00–18.15 | LECTURE HALL 5**

# SPOTLIGHT GESUNDHEIT – FACULTY LECTURES

## LECTURE NO. 8

We are delighted to welcome Prof. Dr. Annette Peters, Director of the Institute of Epidemiology at Helmholtz Munich and full Professor of Epidemiology at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München in Germany.

Annette Peters pioneered work identifying the link between ambient particulate matter and cardiovascular disease. Understanding the role of environmental factors is a lifelong research interest, and today she and her team investigate how genetic, molecular, environmental, and behavioral risk factors jointly shape health and disease in large-scale cohort studies. Annette Peters heads the population-based KORA cohort, initiated in Augsburg, Germany, which has followed 18,000 individuals with regular follow-up since the mid-1980s. She also has a leading role within the German National Cohort NAKO, which is prospectively investigating 205,000 men and women since 2014.

The title of her presentation is:

### **Human Exposome in health and disease: A perspective from the German National Cohort (NAKO)**

The German National Cohort (NAKO) is a prospective, population-based study of participants aged 20–69 years, designed to investigate the determinants of chronic disease through long-term follow-up. Deep phenotyping data and high-quality biosamples were collected in more than 200,000 participants during the baseline examination in 18 study centers located in 16 study regions (Peters et al *European Journal of Epidemiology* 2022). NAKO includes 87.7% participants from urban areas and 12.3% from rural areas. A central pillar is the integration of high-resolution environmental exposure data to explore how cumulative environmental determinants influence health outcomes.

The presentation will give recent examples of ongoing research in the area. Furthermore, NAKO has available a unique collection of biosamples enabling research on the genetic and molecular signatures of disease. The presentation will describe the resources and the current ongoing efforts to enrich the database. Finally, the lecture will highlight the potential of cohort studies to combine human genome and exposome research and discuss approaches to foster prevention based on cohort study data.

**[All participants are requested to register by 24 March 2026. To the registration](#)**

**The lecture will be held in English, is open to the public and free of charge. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to chat over drinks and snacks.**