

FALLING WALLS FOUNDATION

02 February 2026

FALLING WALLS LAUNCHES GLOBAL CALL FOR SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR 2026

- The Falling Walls Foundation invites scientists and research-driven initiatives worldwide to submit their groundbreaking projects.
- The most outstanding submissions will be honoured as Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs of the Year 2026 across eight categories.
- Internationally renowned expert juries will select the shortlisted candidates and winners.
- The laureates will present their work to a global audience at the Falling Walls Science Summit on 9 November 2026 in Berlin.
- Submissions are open until 15 April 2026 via <https://falling-walls.com/global-call>.

Berlin, Germany, 02 February 2026 – The **Falling Walls Foundation** today announces the launch of the Global Call for the **Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs of the Year 2026**. From now on, scientists, academics, research institutions, universities, start-ups and non-governmental organisations from around the world are invited to submit their pioneering research projects or nominate outstanding initiatives across the following eight categories:

- Life Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Engineering & Technology
- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Art & Science
- Women's Impact Award (Female Science Talents)
- Science Start-Ups (Falling Walls Venture)
- Science Engagement (Falling Walls Engage)

The submission deadline is **15 April 2026** via <https://falling-walls.com/global-call>.

BREAKTHROUGHS ON STAGE: PRESENTING SCIENCE TO A GLOBAL AUDIENCE

The 18th **Falling Walls Science Summit** will take place from **6–9 November 2026** in Berlin, bringing together leading minds from science, business, politics, media and civil society to celebrate the most impactful scientific advancements worldwide.

On 9 November 2026, the laureates in the categories Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Social Sciences & Humanities, Art & Science, as well as the winner of the Women's Impact Award, will present their breakthroughs on the Falling Walls Grand Stage.

Shortlisted candidates in the Emerging Talents, Science Start-Ups and Science Engagement categories will showcase their projects on 6 November 2026. The winners will be awarded the prestigious title **Falling Walls Science Breakthrough of the Year 2026**.

The selection of finalists and awardees is carried out by internationally recognised expert juries, ensuring scientific excellence, relevance and impact.

FALLING WALLS FOUNDATION

Laureates from previous years include:

- **Lu Fang**, Tsinghua University, Breaking the Wall of High-Power AI Needs (Engineering & Technology 2025). Watch the presentation [here](#).
- **Ângela Gonçalves**, German Cancer Research Center, Breaking the Wall of Healthy Aging in Women (Women's Impact Award 2025). Watch the presentation [here](#).
- **Melina Schuh**, Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences, Breaking the Wall of Invisible Ovulation (Life Sciences 2025). Watch the presentation [here](#).
- **Rafael Prieto-Curiel**, Complexity Science Hub, Breaking the Wall of Drug Cartel Analysis (Social Sciences & Humanities 2024). Watch the presentation [here](#).
- **Apple Pui Yi Chui**, Breaking the Wall to Engage Schools in Coral Restoration (Science Engagement 2024). Watch the presentation [here](#).
- **Reyedar**, developing a patient-friendly medical device for the early detection of degenerative eye and brain diseases (Science Start-Up 2023). Watch the presentation [here](#).
- **Elaine Chew**, King's College London, Breaking the Wall of Musical Medicine (Art & Science 2023). Watch the presentation [here](#).

About the Falling Walls Science Summit
Founded in 2009, the Falling Walls Science Summit has become the leading international forum for scientific breakthroughs and interdisciplinary dialogue. Held annually in Berlin from 6–9 November, the Summit commemorates the fall of the Berlin Wall by bringing together global leaders to explore how science can contribute to shaping a sustainable future. With its core formats – Falling Walls Pitches, Falling Walls Circle and Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs – the Summit fosters collaboration across academia, industry, politics, and civil society to drive transformative change. The event is organised by the non-profit Falling Walls Foundation. More information: falling-walls.com.

About the Falling Walls Foundation
The Falling Walls Foundation gGmbH is a Berlin-based non-profit organisation dedicated to strengthening science communication and public engagement with research. Its initiatives bring together international experts to develop breakthrough solutions for global challenges. In addition to the Falling Walls Science Summit, the Foundation runs the Berlin Science Week and programmes such as Falling Walls Lab, Falling Walls Engage, Falling Walls Venture and Female Science Talents. Since 2020, the Foundation has also hosted the Creative Bureaucracy Festival, an international platform for innovation in the public sector. The Foundation is supported by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, the Berlin Senate, the Hannover Re Foundation, the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, PD – Public Sector Advisory, Volkswagen Foundation, and more than 100 additional international philanthropies, academic institutions, companies and NGOs. Learn more: falling-walls.com/foundation.

Press Contacts

Sophie-Theres Guggenberger, Director Communications, Company Spokesperson
Felix Mihalek, Press Officer, Deputy Company Spokesperson
+49 30 609 883 97 80 | press@falling-walls.com