

## Understanding and shaping the world with physics

Alumni of the DPG Program "Leading for Tomorrow" reflect on the WE-Heraeus Forum.

On November 6, 2023, renowned figures from science, business, and politics gathered for the inaugural WE-Heraeus Forum at the Futurium, the Museum of the Future in Berlin. The event, initiated by the Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation, aimed to shed light on the role of physics in addressing global challenges and to promote exchange between experts and decision-makers.

Among the attendees were alumni of the DPG Program "Leading for Tomorrow" (L4T). This leadership program, made possible through the generous support of the WE-Heraeus Foundation, prepares young physicists for future leadership roles in various fields. The presence of a significant number of L4T alumni was a testament to the appreciation for this initiative.

The event provided a unique platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences. Under the guidance of Jürgen Mlynek, distinguished experts showcased the range of physical innovations and inspired discussions on the role of physics in various sectors: from the fascinating technology of the James Webb Telescope, presented by Eva Schinnerer (MPIA Heidelberg), to advances in EUV lithography and chip development, presented by Peter Kürz (ZEISS) and Peter Leibinger (Trumpf).

Particularly valuable were the personal interactions between the alumni and leading figures in the physics world. In addition to networking, the program offered deep insights into current research topics and forward-looking developments. Discussions on quantum technologies, hydrogen, the universe, as well as topics such as science communication and international collaboration, were highly relevant to the participants.



L4T alumni participated in the WE-Heraeus Forum in Berlin.

Another part of the forum focused on Deep Tech and Sciencepreneurs, providing insights into the future of the startup landscape. Personal success stories – from serial entrepreneurs like Karl Leo (TU Dresden) to first-time founders like Henriette Maaß (NanoStruct) – as well as discussions on industry and political perspectives, rounded off the program.

Prior to the main event in the evening, the alumni organized a half-day autumn meeting at the Magnus-Haus Berlin. They took the opportunity to discuss the annual plan for 2024, including the summer gathering in Berlin in September, which is a central pillar in the alumni event calendar. Additionally, Kirsten Weber delivered a keynote speech on stakeholder analysis, a management tool. Subsequently, participants worked on creating an overview of all individuals and groups influenced by the alumni network, considering how to accommodate their specific interests. This workshop demonstrated how alumni can support each other by collaboratively addressing leadership topics. The L4T-Alumni Community provides a space for the exchange of experiences, reflection, testing new ideas, as well as mutual support and collegial coaching.

On behalf of all L4T alumni, we would like to express our deep gratitude to the Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation, the DPG, and the Magnus-Haus team. We encourage all alumni to engage with the network and register at [anmeldung.l4t-network.org](http://anmeldung.l4t-network.org). Our common goal is to understand and shape the world through the power of physics.

**Christian Kuttner and Adam Kubec**



Autumn meeting of L4T alumni at the Magnus-Haus Berlin.