

# GIHF-AI CONFERENCE 2023

## Brochure

05.09.-06.09.2023



# Agenda

## GIHF-AI Conference 2023 @ BBH

05.-06.09.2023, Essen, Moderation: Daniela Amir & Carsten Ovens

### Day 1 - Conference Reception

05.09.2023, Essen Town Hall, 22nd floor

Porscheplatz 1, 45121 Essen

Time	Program
19.00h- 19.30h	<b>Arrival and Accreditation</b>
19.30h- 19.40h	<b>Welcome Note by the Reception Host</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thomas Kufen, Lord Mayor of the City of Essen</li> </ul>
19.40h- 19.50h	<b>Opening Remarks and Greetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carsten Ovens, CEO, ELNET-Germany</li> <li>Prof. Dr. Julia Frohne, Chairwoman, Business Metropole Ruhr GmbH (BMR)</li> </ul>
19.50h- 20.10h	<b>Presentation of GIHF-AI Study</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Alexander Schachinger, CEO, EPatient Analytics GmbH (Online)</li> <li>Dr. Yiska Weisband, Director of Data Research Centers, Clalit Innovation</li> </ul>
20.10h- 22.00h	<b>Dinner and Mingle</b>

# Day 2 - Conference

**06.09.2023, Colosseum Theater**  
*Altendorfer Str. 1, 45127 Essen*

Time	Program
09.15h- 09.45h	<b>Arrival and Accreditation at Colosseum Theater, Essen</b>
09.45h- 09.50h	<b>Opening Remarks and Greetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniela Amir, Head of Partnerships, HealthIL</li> <li>• Carsten Ovens, CEO, ELNET-Germany</li> </ul>
09.50h- 10.10h	<b>Keynote Speeches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ran Ridnik, Head of Directorate for Economics, Regulation and Innovation, Israel Ministry of Health</li> <li>• Nick Schneider, Head of Division, New Technologies and Data Use, German Federal Ministry of Health</li> </ul>
10.10h- 11.15h	<b>Panel: Health data use in Europe and Israel – Sharing experiences</b> Keynote (Online): Dr. Yiannos Toliass, Legal Lead AI and AI Liability in Healthcare & EHDS Team, European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Steffen Heß, Head of Health Data Lab Germany, BfArM</li> <li>• Dr. Axelle Menu-Branthomme, Medical Expert, Health Data Hub France</li> <li>• Liat Nadai Arad, Chief Transformation Officer, Head of I-Medata AI Center, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center</li> <li>• Prof. Dr. Jochen Werner, CEO, University Hospital Essen</li> </ul> Moderation: Dr. Dennis Ballwieser, CEO, Wort & Bild Verlag
11.15h- 11.45h	<b>GINSUM Startup Pitches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">See Startup Brochure</a></li> </ul>

# Day 2 - Conference

## 06.09.2023, Colosseum Theater

Time	Program
11.45h-12.00h	<b>Coffee Break and Moving to Breakout Sessions</b>
12.00h-13.00h	<p><b>Breakout Sessions Part I</b></p> <p><b>Policy Table</b></p> <p>Heads of Table:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ronya Rubinstein, Co-CEO, Comns</li> <li>o Philip Kopf, COO, QuR.digital</li> </ul> <p>Impulses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Yoel Ben-Or, Head of Policy, Digital Health, Israel Ministry of Health</li> <li>o Stephan Pohlkamp, Department for Digitalisation of Medical Care, Ministry for Labor, Health and Social Affairs of NRW</li> <li>o Alexandra von Korff, Content Creator - Breast Cancer Awareness, Kick Cancer Chick</li> <li>o Esti Warhaftig Bass, Legal Advisor, Israel Ministry of Health</li> </ul> <p>Moderation: Lea Ledwon, Program Manager GIHF-AI, ELNET-Germany</p> <p><b>Medical Collaboration Table</b></p> <p>Heads of Table:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Dr. Anke Diehl, Chief Transformation Officer, University Hospital Essen</li> <li>o Liat Nadai Arad, Chief Transformation Officer, Head of I-Metadata AI Center, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center</li> </ul> <p>Impulses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Oshrat Goldberg Hodara, Director of International Partnerships at ARC Innovation, Sheba Medical Center</li> </ul> <p>Moderation: Daniel Shadmy, Spokesperson, ELNET-Israel</p> <p><b>Innovation &amp; Market Access Table in cooperation with HealthIL and GINSUM</b></p> <p>Heads of Table:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Yoav Fisher, Head of Technological Innovation and Digital Health, HealthIL</li> <li>o Prof. Dr. Christian Sina, Director of the Institute of Nutritional Medicine, University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein</li> </ul>

# Day 2 - Conference

## 06.09.2023, Colosseum Theater

Time	Program
	<p>Impulses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Dominik Burziwoda, CEO &amp; Founder, Perfood</li> <li>◦ Daniel Caduff, Principal Security Assurance D/A/CH, aws</li> <li>◦ Assaf Parker, Head of Technologies, Digital Health, Israel Ministry of Health</li> <li>◦ Frank Speer, Head of Internationalization &amp; Location Marketing, Business Metropole Ruhr GmbH (BMR)</li> </ul> <p>Moderation: Genoveva Barrios, Project Manager Innovation &amp; Partnerships, ELNET</p>
13.00h-14.00h	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14.00h-15.00h	<p><b>Breakout Sessions Part II</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of Part I and Summing Up</li> </ul>
15.00h-15.15h	<b>Break and Moving to Conference Hall</b>
15.15h-15.55h	<p><b>Panel Discussion: Presenting the results of the Breakout Sessions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Anke Diehl, Chief Transformation Officer, University Hospital Essen</li> <li>• Yoav Fisher, Head of Technological Innovation and Digital Health, HealthIL</li> <li>• Ronya Rubinstein, Co-CEO, Comns</li> </ul> <p>Moderation: Carsten Ovens, CEO, ELNET-Germany</p>
15.55h-16.00h	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carsten Ovens, CEO, ELNET-Germany &amp; Lea Ledwon, Program Manager GIHF-AI, ELNET-Germany</li> <li>• Hans Thomas Kessler, Chairman, ELNET-Germany; Teams Israel and Germany</li> </ul>



## **Ran Ridnik**

Head of Directorate for Economics, Regulation and Innovation, Israeli Ministry of Health

Ran Ridnik is part of the senior management of the Ministry and is in charge of the Ministry's regulation and supervision of the HMOs, the Digital Health and the IT units and overseeing the Ministry's regulation regarding all different economic sectors. Prior to that, Ran was the Economic Minister of Israel to the OECD from 2018 to 2021. Previously, he worked for eight years in the Israeli Ministry of Finance as the Head of the Healthcare Team and the Head of the Labor Market team in the Budget Department. Ran also served as a board member in Ashra and was a member of the Israeli Health Basket Committee for three years. Ran holds a MA in Financial Economics and a BA summa cum laude in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, both from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



## **Esti Warhaftig-Bass**

Head of Digital, Enforcement, Fertility and Birth, Legal Bureau of the Israeli Ministry of Health

Esti Warhaftig-Bass focuses on legal aspects related to privacy, information transfers, data research, artificial intelligence, fertility and procreation, administrative and criminal enforcement. Warhaftig-Bass leads the drafting process of the health information portability bill. During the Corona period, Warhaftig-Bass was in charge of legislative amendments. Her role encompassed the drafting, leadership, and execution of legislative amendments, regulations, and orders aimed at effectively addressing the challenges posed by the Corona virus. Previously, she worked for six years as a lawyer within the Ministry of Justice's Consulting and Legislation Department (Civil Law). Warhaftig-Bass did her internship in law at the Supreme Court, alongside Judge Sohlberg.



## **Yoel Ben-Or**

Head of Policy, Digital Health, Israeli Ministry of Health

Yoel Ben-Or is the Head of Policy at Digital Health, Israel Ministry of Health. He is responsible for leading the Ministry's efforts in the areas of Data Portability, Standardization (FHIR team), and Secondary Use of Health Data. Prior to this role, Ben-Or worked at Start-up Nation Central and the Israeli National Economic Council. In the later, he was the driving force behind the establishment of social investment funds and the national credit register in Israel. Ben-Or has a diverse academic background, holding an LLB and B.A. in Law and Cognitive Sciences and an M.A. in Economics and Public Policy, all from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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## Israel Ministry of Health



### **Idan Bock**

Senior Advisor to the Director of the Economics, Regulation and Innovation Division, Israeli Ministry of Health

Idan Bock is a senior advisor and chief of staff of the economy, regulation and innovation division (Israeli MoH). He is in charge of the headquarters work of the division and he manages and leads cross-organizational tasks and projects. As part of his position at the MoH, he leads the staff work towards a new paradigm of “management based regulation” that will promote innovation in the medical industry and accelerate research and development in the field. Before joining the Ministry, Bock worked mainly in the legal fields in the State Attorney’s Office. He is a licensed attorney, and holds a Bachelor Degree in Law (L.L.B) and Social Work (B.S.W), both from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



### **Assaf Parker**

Head of Technologies, Digital Health, Israeli Ministry of Health

Assaf Parker leads multiple digital health initiatives-from concept design to implementation – dedicated to finding new and innovative solutions for various national and organizational challenges. As part of his current position within the MoH, he is cultivating cross-sector collaborations and designing models to enable technological implementation that will enhance digital transformation, all while taking advantage of emerging local and international opportunities. This includes efforts such as financial incentive programs for digital technology implementation, scaling-up initiatives, the foundation of the Israeli Telehealth Community, challenge tenders, and many others. Before joining the Ministry, Parker worked mainly in the fields of Management and Economics. He holds a B.A. in Economics and Business (Ben Gurion University) and a B.Sc in Industrial Engineering and Management (Afeka College).

## German Federal Ministry of Health



### **Nick Schneider**

Head of Division, New Technologies and Data Use, German Federal Ministry of Health

Nick Schneider was born and raised in Latin America and studied medicine in Heidelberg. After health advocacy and research activity in Brussels, the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), he joined the German Federal Ministry of Health, where he inter alia coordinated the negotiations to the EU General Data Protection Regulation and its implementation into health law on federal level. In the past years his team was heavily involved in the preparations for the EHDS during the German Presidency of the EU in 2020 and in facilitating secure and data protection friendly access to health data on federal level.

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## German Federal Ministry of Health



### **Aline Kaufmann**

Policy Advisor, German Federal Ministry of Health)

Aline Kaufmann is a policy advisor in the division on new technologies and data use at the German Federal Ministry of Health. She intends to improve patient care with data-driven technologies (e.g. Artificial Intelligence).

She studied Health Sciences at the Technical University of Munich and Health Management & Data Intelligence at the Emlyon Business School in France. Prior to joining the German Federal Ministry of Health, she gained working experience at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, the start-up Ottonova (Germany's first digital health insurance), and at a MedTech company.

## Lord Mayor of the City Essen



### **Thomas Kufen**

Lord Mayor of the City Essen

Thomas Kufen was born in 1973 in Essen and after completing his training as an office administrator, he worked as a commercial employee in the family business for nine years. Most recently, he was chairman of the CDU faction in the City of Essen Council. In 2012 Thomas Kufen returned as a deputy in the parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia, where he was the energy policy spokesman of the CDU parliamentary group and member of the Group Executive Board of the CDU parliamentary group until 2015. On October 21, 2015, Thomas Kufen was elected lord mayor of the City of Essen. He was re-elected in September 2019. In 2014 he became a member of the state board of the CDU NRW, since December 2018 he is a member of the federal board of the CDU in Germany.

## European Commission



### **Dr. Yiannos Toliás**

Legal Officer, European Commission DG SANTE

Dr. Yiannos Toliás is the legal lead on AI and AI liability in Healthcare in the European Commission (DG for Health and Food Safety). He is a member of the team that developed the European Health Data Space (EHDS) legislative initiative. He is also a member of the EC teams that contributed to the development of the AI Act and the EU liability frameworks. He was a Senior Emile Noel Fellow at NYU Law School carrying out research on machine learning in medicine and law (particular focus on AI liability). Prior to joining the European Commission, he was an Assistant Professor of EU law at the Universities of Edinburgh and Dundee. He holds a Ph.D. in EU Constitutional Law from the University of Edinburgh and was a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (Edinburgh University).

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### **Liat Nadai Arad**

Chief Transformation Officer, Tel Aviv Medical Center

Arad is Chief Transformation Officer & Head of the I-Metadata AI Center at the Tel Aviv Medical Center, determined to transform Israeli public healthcare to better exploit data and data science to revolutionize diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. She has recently completed twelve years of service, where she was the first woman commander (Colonel) of the Cyber Division of the Israel Defense Forces Unit 8200. Previously, she held executive management and board positions in the Israeli high-tech industry. Liat holds an MBA from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



### **Daniel Caduff**

Principal Security Assurance, Amazon Web Services

Mr Caduff is a Political Scientist with a background in security policy and a Certified Information System Security Specialist, CISSP.

After working a decade for the Swiss Government in the field of cyberdefence and cybersecurity, he joined AWS as "Principal Security Assurance" for the DACH-Area.

In this role, it's Daniel's responsibility to assure every customer to meet any regulatory demands and to commit AWS to the highest standards of privacy, integrity and availability.



### **Dominik Burziwoda**

Founder & CEO, Period GmbH

Dominik leads Perfood as the CEO. He pursues every endeavor with curiosity, creativity and discipline. He combines these personal qualities with a strong focus on rigorous analysis as the foundation and drive for solving complex problems. Dominik holds degrees in quantitative finance and law and has over 10 years of experience in investment and management. As CEO, Burziwoda also oversees regulatory compliance and sustainable development to help patients today and tomorrow.



### **Dr. Anke Diehl**

Chief Transformation Officer, University Medicine Essen

As a medical doctor, she is responsible for implementing innovative projects as part of the smart hospital's digitization strategy. Prior to her position as Digital Change Manager of UME, she was head of the department of health care structure development in one of the subordinate divisions of the Ministry of Health NRW (LZG.NRW).

The expert for digital medicine has been the consortium leader of the leading edge cluster of artificial intelligence in medicine "SmartHospital.NRW" since March 2021. End of 2021, Dr. Diehl was appointed by the German Federal Ministry of Health and the Gematik to the 7-member National Expert Panel "Interop Council" and won the „Medical Woman of the Year 2021“ award (German Medical Awards).

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### **Yoav Fisher**

Head of Technological Innovation and Digital Health, HealthIL

Yoav Fisher is the Head of Tech Innovation at HealthIL, the leading national ecosystem for healthcare innovation in Israel. As part of HealthIL, Fisher works with all key stakeholders in Israel, including governmental entities, health systems, major MNCs and startups, on a holistic, challenge centric approach to integrating technological solutions into healthcare. Prior to joining HealthIL, Fisher worked in venture capital for one of the leading health-focused investing entities in Israel. Yoav holds an M.A. in Economics from Tel Aviv University, specializing in applied economics.



### **Prof. Dr. Julia Frohne**

CEO, Business Metropole Ruhr

Prof. Julia Frohne is the CEO of Business Metropole Ruhr GmbH (BMR). The Ruhr Metropolis is located in the heart of North Rhine-Westphalia and encompasses 53 cities with approximately 5.1 million inhabitants. The BMR is the regional economic development agency, collaborating with stakeholders from municipalities and businesses in the Ruhr area. Prior to her current role, she worked as a Professor of Communication Management at the Westphalian University of Applied Sciences and as a Professor of Business Psychology at the International School of Management. At RUHR.2010 GmbH, she was responsible for the strategic planning and execution of communication activities for the European Capital of Culture initiative. Before that, she held various leadership positions in marketing, human resources and consulting at KPMG in Berlin, Stuttgart and Düsseldorf.



### **Dr. Steffen Heß**

Head of Health Data Lab, BfArM

Since 2020, Dr. Steffen Heß has been leading the Research Data Center at the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices in Bonn. He is actively involved in various international initiatives, such as the Joint Action TEHDAS and the EHDS2 Pilot. With a strong background in Big Data, his primary research focus lies in pharmacoepidemiology and healthcare research using secondary data. Dr. Steffen Heß is the author and co-author of several scientific publications.



### **Oshrat G. Hodara**

Director of International Partnerships, MHSA

Oshrat G. Hodara (MHSA) joined ARC Shebain in December 2022 as a Director of International Partnerships. She is managing the partnerships in the United States, Europe, Brazil, and several other countries globally. Hodara has a strong background in hospital program and project management, healthcare regulatory compliance, general hospital process improvement, operations improvement, hospital documentation improvement programs, healthcare regulatory compliance program management and healthcare fraud investigations. Hodara earned her Masters in Health Services Administration from George Washington University in Washington, DC in 2009 and her Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and Marketing from The University of Texas in Austin, Texas in 2000.

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### **Philipp Kopf**

COO, QuR.digital

Mr. Kopf studied Economics and Law in Hamburg. Through his longstanding collaboration with attorney Sebastian Vorberg, Mr. Kopf gained early exposure to various aspects of the eHealth sector. In parallel with his studies, he developed expertise in the fields of digital medicine, associated regulations, and data protection. He played a significant role in the establishment of the Institute for Quality and Regulation in Digital Medicine (QuR.digital), founded by Attorney Vorberg. Presently, Mr. Kopf holds the position of Chief Operating Officer at QuR.digital, overseeing tasks such as guiding medical product certifications and providing consultation in matters related to data protection.



### **Alexandra von Korff**

Division Lead, Patients Today

After more than two decades in tourism management, Alexandra von Korff was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017. Since then, she has been involved in this field, blogging as Kick Cancer Chick, launching the podcast "2 Women, 2 Breasts" and participating in various ad boards, projects and patient councils at national and international levels. She helped build yeswecan!cer until the end of 2022, most recently as Managing Director. Since 2023, she has been Division Lead at Patients Today, which offers the latest congress and study results in free videos in understandable language for patients.



### **Dr. Axelle Menu-Branthomme**

Medical Expert, Health Data Hub

Dr. Menu-Branthomme is an experienced MD specializing in health informatics. For more than 20 years, she has been committed to enhancing, sharing and facilitating access to health data for general interest projects in France.

She has coordinated numerous multilateral partnerships within the Greater Paris Hospital (AP-HP) and then on behalf of the French government (Technical Agency for Information on Hospitalization (ATIH) and Regional health agency (ARS) of the Paris Region).



### **Ronya Rubinstein**

Co-CEO, Comns

Rubinstein's passion is building ideas into successful companies, and fusing knowledge bases and relationships into meaningful outcomes. She has led clinical trials, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship at Rambam Healthcare Campus during the last 12 years, working with C-Suite, policymakers and many other stakeholders in building a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem. She has since worked with both international pharma and digital health companies, as well as startups. Rubinstein is also a co-founder of a digital platform for validating AI modules in radiology and she chairs the health and gender sub-committee of the National Committee for Promoting Women in Science (under the Ministry of Science).

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### **Frank Speer**

Head of Internationalization & Location Marketing, Business Metropole Ruhr  
Mr. Speer, with MBA-background and various positions in international sales & marketing in his vita, drives forward the international marketing of Germany's biggest metropolitan area, the Ruhr region. By initiating „Innovation Bridges“ between the Ruhr region and innovation hotspots around the globe, his team is the ideal contact for international innovators who are looking to grow their business in Germany. The BMR provides access to the region's B2B and B2C market and to the region's talent pool.



### **Dr. Alexander Schachinger**

Founder & CEO, EPatient Analytics

Dr. Alexander Schachinger is the founder of EPatient Analytics GmbH, a digital health research company.

After working as a physiotherapist and studying media management and empirical social research, Mr. Schachinger worked in the healthcare industry.

He received his doctorate in 2014 with his empirical work on the topic of "digital patients" at the Humboldt University in Berlin.



### **Prof. Dr. Christian Sina**

Professor of nutritional medicine

Christian Sina is Professor of Nutritional Medicine and Director of the Institute of the same name at the University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein. In addition, he has recently been appointed medical director of the Disease Prevention Unit at the Fraunhofer Research Institution for Individualised and Cell-based Medical Technology in Lübeck. In addition to researching the causes of intestinal barrier disorders as the starting point for many gastrointestinal and metabolic diseases, his scientific focus is on personalised nutrition in the context of prevention and therapy of chronic inflammatory and metabolic diseases. Prof. Sina is co-founder of Perfood GmbH, a Lübeck-based start-up company that develops digital health applications based on personalised nutrition.



### **Dr. Yiska Weisband**

Director of Data Research Centers, Clalit Innovation

With a profound background in data research, epidemiology, and computer science, Dr. Weisband oversees dynamic interdisciplinary teams consisting of clinicians, data scientists, and epidemiologists. Drawing upon her vast expertise, Dr. Weisband adeptly bridges the gap between medical professionals, analysts, and data scientists, fostering seamless collaboration.

Dr. Weisband exemplifies the fusion of multidisciplinary knowledge. With a steadfast commitment to advancing healthcare through rigorous research and data-driven exploration, Dr. Weisband stands as a prominent figure in the realm of data research and epidemiology.

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## Additional Speakers and Heads of Tables (Breakout Sessions)



### **Prof. Dr. Jochen Werner**

CEO, University Hospital Essen

Prof. Dr. Jochen A. Werner, CEO of the University Hospital of Essen and member of the Leopoldina, has been driving the transformation to the "Smart Hospital" since 2015. Previously, he was director of the Marburg University ENT Clinic, then Medical Director of the University Hospital Gießen and Marburg GmbH. Werner uses digitization to make healthcare efficient, affordable and more humane. The Smart Hospital is the basis and prerequisite for a holistic approach to medicine, which also includes sustainability and climate protection under the term "Green Hospital."

## Moderators



### **Carsten Ovens**

Executive Director, ELNET-Germany

Carsten Ovens is the CEO of ELNET in Germany since March 2019. With almost two decades of experience in politics, i.a. as a Member of the Hamburg State Parliament, he devoted his work to the German Israeli relations with a focus on digital innovation. Together with ELNET, he founded the German Israeli Network of Startups & Mittelstand (GINSUM) in 2020 as well as the German Israeli Health Forum for Artificial Intelligence (GIHF-AI) in 2021. Beforehand, Carsten worked in business development and management consulting throughout Europe, as a lecturer on marketing and communications at several leading universities, and as a researcher on social media communication effects on politics and society. He studied business administration and international business at Macquarie University (Australia) and at the University of Hamburg (Germany).



### **Daniela Amir**

Head of Partnerships, HealthIL

Daniela leads collaborations with stakeholders worldwide and drives the expansion of HealthIL's international presence. Throughout her career, Daniela has worked in diverse roles within the non-profit sector both in Israel and the USA. Daniela is a licensed social worker and serves as a Mental Health Officer in the IDF on her Reserve duty. She holds an M.A. in Non-Profit Management & Leadership from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem

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## Moderators



### **Dr. Dennis Ballwieser**

Managing Director & Editor, Wort & Bild Verlag

Ballwieser is a trained physician and journalist with experience in medical science, patient care and editorial work. Currently, he is serving as an executive editor with Germany's leading health-focused publishing company. He has had the chance to learn from top physicians and scientists during his training at the Universities of Munich and Yale, and from the finest editors at the German School of Journalism and at different media outlets. After his training Ballwieser worked in the Department of Anaesthesiology at the University of Munich's hospital and at SPIEGEL ONLINE, "Der Spiegel"'s digital news outlet, before moving on to "Wort & Bild Verlag", where he's currently the editor, as well as managing director with the publishing house.

## ELNET Board



### **Hans Thomas Kessler**

Chairman, ELNET-Germany

Hans Thomas Kessler is a commercial lawyer specializing in the real estate transactions and finance, as well as infrastructure projects. He has advised numerous real estate investors, owners, financial institutions, construction and engineering firms. Mr. Kessler has worked for several leading International law firms. He studied law and political science at the Universities of Frankfurt, Lausanne, Geneva and Strasbourg, earned the LL.M. at the London School of Economics and Political Science and was a Visiting Scholar at Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

## ELNET Team



### **Carsten Ovens**

Executive Director, ELNET-Germany

Carsten Ovens is the Executive Director of ELNET in Germany since March 2019. With almost two decades of experience in politics, i.a. as a Member of the Hamburg State Parliament, he devoted his work to the German Israeli relations with a focus on digital innovation. Together with ELNET, he founded the German Israeli Network of Startups & Mittelstand (GINSUM) in 2020 as well as the German Israeli Health Forum for Artificial Intelligence (GIHF-AI) in 2021. Beforehand, Carsten worked in business development and management consulting throughout Europe, as a lecturer on marketing and communications at several leading universities, and as a researcher on social media communication effects on politics and society. He studied business administration and international business at Macquarie University (Australia) and at the University of Hamburg (Germany).

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**Lea Ledwon**

Program Manager of the GIHF-AI, ELNET-Germany

Program Manager GIHF-AI, ELNET-Germany

Lea Ledwon has extensive experience in the German healthcare system. Before she was responsible for the communication work of several clinics, she headed the office of the Freundeskreis der Charité. During her stay in Israel for several years, she worked at the Peres Center for Peace. She holds a BA in Government, Diplomacy and Strategy from Reichman University IDC Herzliya and an MA in Peace & Conflict Management Studies from the University of Haifa. At ELNET she heads the German Israeli Health Forum for Artificial Intelligence (GIHF-AI).



**Genoveva Barrios**

Project Manager - Innovation & Partnerships, ELNET

Genoveva Barrios is the Project Manager for ELNET's innovation projects GINSUM and GIHF-AI in the Israeli office. She studied Intercultural Communication and Economics at the Justus Liebig University in Giessen and then worked in the real estate industry for several years. While focussing first on the sales and later on the asset management field, she completed a second bachelor degree in real estate. After moving to Israel in 2021, Genoveva Barrios was able to gain extensive experience in the Israeli high-tech and innovation scene.



**Daniel Shadmy**

Spokesperson, ELNET-Israel

Daniel Shadmy has extensive experience in the field of Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs. Prior to joining ELNET, Daniel held several positions at the Israeli MFA. Such as Political Adviser at Israel's Mission to the United-Nations in New-York, Political Officer at the Embassy of Israel in London and most recently as Congressional Affairs Officer at the Embassy of Israel in Washington D.C. Daniel holds a double Major B.A. in International Relations and Chinese Studies from INALCO University in Paris and an M.A. in Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution from Reichman University in Herzliya.

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### **Francesca Fassbender**

Project Coordinator, ELNET-Germany

Francesca Fassbender has been working as a Project Coordinator for Foreign and Security Policy at ELNET since August 2023. After completing her studies in Economics at Humboldt University Berlin, she pursued her Master's in Public Policy and Conflict Resolution in Tel Aviv. Through her experience in NGOs and think tanks in Israel, as well as her scholarly research, she has gained profound knowledge of the Abraham Accords and the utilization of environmental and economic cooperations for promoting peace.



### **Elisabeth Spiegel**

Team Manager, ELNET-Germany

Elisabeth Spiegel is Team Manager at ELNET-Germany and primarily responsible for financial accounting and controlling. She acts as the central contact for all ELNET offices as well as external partners and supports the strategic development of ELNET-Germany. Previously, she worked as a Customer Success Manager at a FinTech company and for several years as an office manager as well as in human resources. She holds a double bachelor degree BA/B.Sc. in Public Administration and European Studies as well as a M.A in Administrative Sciences.



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