



Univer-Cities Inaugural Distinguished Annual Lecture 2026

by Prof Dr Bertil Andersson:

Univer-Cities and Today's Global Challenges

22.-23. February 2026, Zurich, Switzerland

Univer-Cities is an initiative to investigate the bidirectional role of universities and their host cities in facing present and future societal challenges. The initiative organized several conferences that were published in a book series (Univer-Cities Volume I-V). The initiative starts now a Distinguished Annual Lecture series with the inaugural lecture being held at the University of Zurich.

Patrons of the Univer-Cities Annual Distinguished Lecture Series:

- Prof. **Sir Leszek Borysiewicz**, Emeritus Vice Chancellor of University of Cambridge
- Prof. **Bertil Andersson**, member of the Advisory Board Univer-Cities, Nobel Foundation Trustee, Emeritus NTU President & Former CEO, and European Science Foundation Professor

Chairperson of the Inaugural Distinguished Annual Lecture 2026 Zurich:

Prof. **Caroline McMillen**, AO FAHMS, Emerita Vice Chancellor University of Newcastle, Former Chief Scientist of South Australia, Member Univer-Cities Advisory Council, Moderator UC-ADL Zurich 2026, Conference Host UC2016.

We are pleased to host the Univer-Cities Inaugural Distinguished Annual Lecture 2026, given by **Professor Dr Bertil Andersson**, Nobel Foundation Trustee, Emeritus NTU President & Former CEO, and European Science Foundation Professor. His lecture will focus on the role of Univer-Cities and Today's Global Challenges. This lecture and the following discussion shall contribute to the definition of the role of Univer-Cities in the face of novel challenges and in the creation of a future eco-system for all populations.

Organizers:

- Prof. **Anthony S.C. Teo**, former Adjunct Professor at Singapore University of Social Sciences, founder and Convenor & Editor of Univer-Cities Volume I-V
- Prof. **Frank Rühli**, Dean Medical Faculty, University of Zurich, Director of the Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, University of Zurich.



Agenda

Day 1 (chairs and speakers only): Sunday, 22 February 2026

Location: [Zunfthaus zur Zimmerleuten](#), Limmatquai 40, CH-8001 Zürich

Time: 18.00 - 18:30	Apero and networking
Time: 18.30 - 18:45 Chair: Prof. Anthony S.C. Teo	Opening: Welcoming words, and introduction of the Chairperson of the Inaugural Distinguished Annual Lecture 2026 Zurich Prof. Caroline McMillen
Time: 18.45 - 19:15 Speaker: Prof. Frank Rühli	Keynote lecture: <i>The University of Zurich Medical Faculty Perspective on future challenges for Universities.</i>
Time: 19.45	Dinner and networking

Day 2 (all attendees): Monday, 23 February 2026

Location: room RAA-G-01 (Little Aula), [Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zurich](#), Switzerland

Time: 9.00 – 9.30	Registration and coffee in the entrance of the building
Time: 9.30 – 09.45 Speaker: Prof. Frank Rühli	Greeting words and introduction of Prof. Beatrice Beck Schimmer , Vice President Medicine Zurich, University of Zurich
Time: 09.45 – 10.00 Speaker: Prof. Anthony S.C. Teo	Opening words, introduction of the topic, and introduction Prof. Caroline McMillen
Time: 10.00 – 10.15 Speaker: Prof. Caroline McMillen	Opening words and introduction of Prof. Bertil Andersson



Day 2 (all attendees): Monday, 23 February 2026

Location: room RAA-G-01 (Little Aula), [Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zurich](#), Switzerland

Time: 10.15 – 11.00 Chair: Prof. Caroline McMillen Speaker: Prof. Bertil Andersson	UC Inaugural Annual Lecture 2026 in the name of Gordon Johnson and Anthony S.C. Teo: <i>Univer-Cities and Today's Global Challenges</i>
Time: 11.00 – 11.45 Chair and moderator: Prof. Caroline McMillen Panellists: – Prof. Beatrice Beck Schimmer – Prof. Luciano Saso, Sapienza University of Rome, and University of Zurich	Panel discussion and comments on the UC Inaugural Annual Lecture 2026 by Prof. Bertil Andersson
Time: 11.45 - 12.00 Speakers: Prof. Frank Rühli Prof. Anthony S.C. Teo	Closing words and announcement of the 2nd Univer-Cities Distinguished Annual Lecture, November 2026 in Turin, Italy. Host will be Prof. Gianmaria Ajani and Prof. Alessandro Arduani, King's College London.
Time: 12.00 - 13.30 Location: Senate Room (KOL-E-13, UZH main building, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich).	Lunch and networking



Organisers:

Prof. **Frank Rühli** is chair (full Professor) for evolutionary medicine, and Dean of the Medical Faculty of the University of Zurich, as well as Director of the Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, University of Zurich.

He is faculty member of both, the medical and the science faculty of the University of Zurich. He is Co-Head of the Center for Crisis Competence" at the Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics, University of Zurich. He holds the Toh Chin Chye Visiting Professorship at the Yong Loo Lin Medical School, National University of Singapore (NUS), and a Honorary Adjunct Professorship at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, The University of Adelaide, Australia.

Prof. **Anthony S.C. Teo** is former Adjunct Professor at Singapore University of Social Sciences and Convenor & Editor of Univer-Cities Volume I-V.

His academic engagement includes founding University Secretary and Member of the Cabinet at the autonomous corporatized Nanyang Technological University (NTU) with the President and Provost, and lecturing at NTU.

Symposium management:

Prof. **Nicole Bender**, Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, University of Zurich,
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Mr. **Marcus Chua Hon Wei**, National University of Singapore.



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