

# FALLING WALLS LAB

# SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

April 17, 2024  
4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Exploratorium San Francisco  
Kanbar Forum  
Pier 15 Embarcadero at Green Street,  
San Francisco, CA 94111

FALLING  
WALLS  
LAB



## CONCEPT

The Falling Walls Foundation founded the Falling Walls Lab in 2011 to:

**CONNECT** aspiring innovators

**DISCOVER** and develop talents

**SUPPORT** interdisciplinary dialogue and international cooperation

**DEVELOP** new ways of scientific communication

**BUILD** new and strong networks

## TIMELINE

4:00 pm	Participant arrival and registration
4:30 pm	Welcoming Remarks
5:00 pm	Pitches (1-7)
5:45 pm	Short Break
6:00 pm	Pitches (8-14)
6:45 pm	Break
7:15 pm	Awards ceremony / Group picture
7:30 pm	Farewell reception

# JURY

## Zahar Barth-Manzoori, Ph.D.

*Director*

*German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) San Francisco*

Dr. Zahar Barth-Manzoori took over the position of Director of the DWIH San Francisco in January 2022. After completing her doctorate in Middle Eastern Studies at the Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel – supported by a scholarship from the German Academic Scholarship Foundation – she began working at the DAAD in Bonn in 2011 as head of the Events and Visitor Programs section. In 2015, she took over the position as Head of Section Joint Scholarship Programs Middle East, North Africa, returning to her professional roots. From May 2020 until her departure for San Francisco, she played a leading role in setting up DWIH San Francisco as head of the DWIH management office at DAAD. As an experienced science manager and passionate networker, she is particularly looking forward to initiating international university collaborations, fostering knowledge transfer between research, business, and society, and supporting research-based innovation in San Francisco.

## Danilo Maddalo, Pharm.D., Ph.D.

*Group Leader*

*Genentech*

Danilo Maddalo is currently a group leader at Genentech (South San Francisco, USA) where he focuses on in vivo pharmacology, translational research and genome editing. He obtained a degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry with honors from the University of Naples (Italy) 'Federico II' before moving to Karlsruhe (Germany) where he carried his PhD studies in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (with honors) focusing on the role of molecular chaperones in cancer. Thereafter he was awarded a grant as Young Investigator from the Helmholtz Society to investigate the impact of cell stress on tumor growth and response to chemotherapy. To further specialize in mouse modeling, he moved to New York City (USA) at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center where he established a model of chromosomal rearrangements using the CRISPR/Cas9 technology. Before moving to Genentech, Dr. Maddalo was a group leader at the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research in Basel (Switzerland) to focus on mouse modeling of disease for drug discovery and target identification in oncology.

## Anne Cocquyt

*Founder, GUILD Academy*

*Lecturer, UC Berkeley Haas School of Business*

Anne Cocquyt is a serial entrepreneur with a great passion for new ideas and helping people achieve their career goals and launch their dream businesses. Anne used to work for Fortune 500 companies in senior roles in innovation, oversaw international multi-million dollar projects in IT and switched multiple times in her career between corporate roles and entrepreneurial endeavors, small businesses and non-profit organizations. She mentored rapid prototyping classes at the University of San Francisco, business model innovation at California College of the Arts, startups at Singularity University and is a lead mentor at the German Accelerator and Founder Institute, she's on the advisory board of digital health startups, a fund and a change maker community. She invests in consumer product startups, social enterprises and clean tech. She is the founder of the GUILD, the global AI-powered networking platform for innovators and entrepreneurs.

## Arno Puder, Ph.D.

*Professor of Computer Science*

*San Francisco State University*

Arno Puder is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer Science at the San Francisco State University. Prior to joining SF State, he worked for Deutsche Telekom AG and AT&T Labs Research. As department chair, he promotes equitable and diverse pedagogy through socially responsible computing. Dr. Puder published two books as well as over 60 peer reviewed conference and journal papers. His research interests include Embedded Systems, Mobile Platforms, IoT and Reinforcement Learning. His collaborators include Mozilla Research, Microsoft Research, and SAP and he served as an expert witness in a class action suit against prominent mobile app developers. He is the founder and co-founder of several widely used open-source projects. Dr. Puder has a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany.

## Shamala Hinrichsen

*Founder and CEO, Hanai*

Shamala Hinrichsen is a medical scientist by training, having worked in research organizations, corporate, biotechs, and at policy level for governments. She has worked in seven countries with a specific interest in relaying correct medical information. She is the Founder and CEO of Hanai, an social impact technology provider that brings healthcare access and education primarily to vulnerable communities across the world. Through her work, she has empowered indigenous communities with medical information on maternal and mental health, refugees on domestic violence and where to get help, and more recently women globally to seek help for women-related healthcare. She is also a published author currently working on a novel and in her spare time supports democratic party efforts in California. In her past, she has set up mechanisms for communities to voice disparities - be it via social channels or via the written word. She has invested in startups and continues to seek ways to redefine healthcare equity.

## Leandra Zimmermann

*Mechanical Engineer, Verne*

Leandra grew up in Augsburg, Germany. She came to the US in 2015 for her undergrad studies at MIT, discovered her love for engineering and building cool stuff, and graduated with her Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Computer Science in 2019. Afterwards, she continued with her graduate studies at Stanford completing a Masters in Mechanical Engineering with a focus in Energy Systems and Design. After a brief intermission working for the rocket start-up Isar Aerospace and a battery startup in Munich during the pandemic, Leandra moved to San Francisco in 2022 to work as an engineer and project manager at Verne, a hydrogen storage start-up with the mission to decarbonize heavy duty transportation.

Leandra is passionate about climate change and loves to explore the wonders of nature. In her free time, you can find her running in Golden Gate Park or up Twin Peaks.

## Hendrik Ohldag, Ph.D.

*Staff Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*

Hendrik Ohldag received the Ph.D. in experimental physics from the Universität Düsseldorf, Germany, in 2002. He joined the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Light Source (SSRL) in 1999 as a research assistant as part of his Ph.D. research. After a postdoctoral fellowship at SSRL he became a permanent member of the research staff in 2005. Between 1999 and 2002 he was a visiting researcher at the Advanced Light Source (ALS) at Berkeley National Laboratory. Since 2014 he is a visiting researcher at New York University. Dr. Ohldag was awarded the David. A Shirley Award at the ALS in 2006 for “outstanding contribution in using photoemission electron microscopy for the study of magnetic materials.” He is a member of the IEEE Magnetics Society and the chair of the Magnetic Interfaces and Nanoscale Device Division of the American Vacuum Society. He has authored or co-authored over 50 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters which have been cited over 2500 times. He has participated in the organization of 25 international conferences and workshops. His research focuses on the use of X-ray microscopy to study the dynamic and static properties of complex magnetic materials.

# PRESENTERS

- 1 Ruchika Bajaj**  
UCSF  
Precision Natural Medicine
- 2 Kashika Bharol**  
UC Berkeley  
Early Cancer Detection
- 3 Francesco Crivelli**  
UC Berkeley  
Parkinson's Disease
- 4 Meisam Habibimatin**  
Purdue University  
Brain Modulation
- 5 Freda Harris**  
CSU, East Bay  
Renesting Addiction
- 6 Tobias Kreiman**  
UC Berkeley  
Science for AI & AI for Science
- 7 Moritz Kretzschmar**  
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory  
Photosynthesis
- 8 George Rabeshi Obaido**  
UC Berkeley  
Data Access in Africa
- 9 Nandini PS**  
UC Berkeley/UCSF  
Depression with BrainStim
- 10 Rohan Rattan**  
UC Berkeley  
Plant Root Engineering
- 11 Kamran Samudrala**  
UC Berkeley  
Neurodivergent AI Bias
- 12 Madeline Svab**  
UC Berkeley/Lawrence Berkeley  
Laboratory  
Phages in Agriculture
- 13 Mia Wesselkamper**  
UC Berkeley  
Non-Compostable Adhesives
- 14 Alexa Zytneck**  
UC Berkeley  
Sustainable Metal Mining

# FALLING WALLS LAB SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

WHICH ARE  
THE NEXT  
WALLS  
TO FALL?

IN COOPERATION WITH



**THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS**

Supporting Partner

**SARTORIUS**

Network Partners



**SPRINGER NATURE**

**DIE ZEIT**  
VERLAGSGRUPPE



## FEEDBACK

What was your impression of Falling Walls Lab?  
Do you have suggestions for improvement?

German Center for Research and Innovation San Francisco  
101 Montgomery Street, Suite 1900  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
[info.sanfrancisco@dwih.org](mailto:info.sanfrancisco@dwih.org)