

## MEDICAL EXCELLENCE: INNOVATION TRANSFER IN SWITZERLAND

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026, AURA ZÜRICH



### Natalie Rickli

Government Councillor, Head of the Department of Health of the Canton of Zurich

#### 🕒 Welcome Address

Natalie Rickli has been a member of the Zurich Cantonal Government since 2019 and heads the Department of Health. She leads one of the most demanding departments at a challenging time for the healthcare sector.

Shortly after taking office, she took charge of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She has reorganised the Department of Health, including the establishment of the Office for Health (AFG). The 2023 Hospital Plan laid an important foundation for ensuring high-quality healthcare in the Canton of Zurich in the long term. She has also demonstrated foresight and a drive to shape the future through the Outreach Service 'Forensic Nurses' – a novel service supporting victims of sexual and domestic violence – the promotion of innovative training projects as part of the implementation of the Nursing Initiative, and the new palliative care strategy for dignified and self-determined support for people with serious or terminal illnesses. At national level, she serves on the Executive Board of the Conference of Cantonal Health Directors (GDK) and as Chair of the Decision-Making Body for Highly Specialised Medicine (HSM).

Her political career began in 2002 on the Winterthur City Council, where she represented the SVP for five years. In 2007, she became a member of the Zurich Cantonal Council and, in the same year, was also elected to the National Council, where she served until 2019. Before taking up her post as a member of the cantonal government, Natalie Rickli held various positions in the media and communications sector, most recently as a freelance communications consultant.