

8th Int'l Leh Symposium 2026
Scientific Program

Day 1: Friday, October 23, 2026

	Registration	4:00-5:00 PM
	Welcome address by Qadar Pasha, Founder & Director, Institute of Hypoxia Research & Hypobaric Hypoxia Society (HHS)	5:00-5:15 PM

Inaugural session 1: Online session
Chairs: Qadar Pasha and Max Gassmann

<u>S.No</u>	Speakers	Country	Title of Talk	Time
1	Gregg Semenza	USA	Development of a Dual HIF-1/2 Inhibitor for Cancer Therapy	5:15-6:00 PM
2	Mark Gladwin	USA	Formation and signaling by an NO-ferroheme complex provides a novel pathway for intravascular and intracellular NO signaling	6:00-6:45 PM
3	Damian M Bailey	UK	TBA	6:45-7:30 PM
			DINNER AND INTERACTIONS AMONG DELEGATES	7:30 PM onwards

Day 2: Saturday, October 24, 2026

			Welcome Note	8:00-8:30 AM
Session 2 — High-Altitude: History and Physiology Chairs: Martin Burscher and Dinendra Singla				
1	W Selvamurthy	India	High Altitude Pulmonary Edema-Revisit omits aetiopathology and treatment	8:30–8:50 AM
			Discussion	8:50–8:55 AM
2	Buddha Basnyat	Nepal	History of The Himalayan Rescue Association: The Business of Saving Lives	8:55–9:15 AM

			Discussion	9:15–9:20 AM
3	Max Gassmann	Switzerland	Using an old Alzheimer drug against sickle cell disease	9:20–9:40 AM
			Discussion	9:40–9:45 AM
4	Linda E Keyes	USA	New options for treatment and prevention of High-Altitude Illnesses	9:45–10:05 AM
			Discussion	10:05–10:10 AM
5	Robert Roach	USA	TBA	10:10–10:30 AM
			Discussion	10:30–10:35 AM
			TEA BREAK	10:35–10:55 AM
Session 3— High Altitude Medicine: Lessons from the Field Chairs: Selvamurthy W and Buddha Basnyat				
1	Martin Bartscher	Austria	The importance of cardiorespiratory fitness when climbing high mountains	10:55-11:15 AM
			Discussion	11:15-11:20 AM
2	Kazuo Oshiro	Japan	Exercise-Related Symptoms in Mountain Environments: A Cardiovascular Perspective	11:20-11:40 AM
			Discussion	11:40-1:45 AM
3	Lea Duempelmann	Italy	Treatment of frostbite in hypothermic patients as well as frostbite treatment in high-altitude and remote regions.	11:45–12:05 PM
			Discussion	12:05–12:10 PM
4	Manu Chopra	India	High-Altitude Pulmonary Oedema in Extreme Environments: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Lessons from the Indian Armed Forces in the Himalayas	12:10–12:30 PM

			Discussion	12:30–12:35 PM
5	Ganashree C P	India	Assessment of Sleep Distortion, Daytime Sleepiness, and Psychological Distress at Extreme Altitude: Findings from the Shri Amarnathji Yatra Cohort	12:35–12:55 PM
			Discussion	12:55–1:00 PM
			GROUP PHOTOGRAPH	1:00-1:10 PM
			LUNCH	1:10–2:10 PM
Session 4 — Adaptive and Metabolic Mechanisms at High Altitude Chairs: Josef Prchal and Aastha Mishra				
1	Talant M. Sooronbaev	Kyrgyz Rep	High Altitude Pulmonary Hypertension in Kyrgyz highlanders: new findings and prospects	2:10–2:30 PM
				2:30-2:35 PM
2	Martina Muckenthaler	Germany	Iron metabolism in inflammation/ PAH	2:35–2:55 PM
			Discussion	2:55–3:00 PM
3	Dinender Singla	USA	RNA-Seq Analysis Reveals Adaptive Pathophysiological Mechanisms in Ponatinib-Induced Cardiotoxicity	3:00–3:20 PM
			Discussion	3:20–3:25 PM
4	Netzer Nikolaus	Deutsch	Increased Lung Diffusion (DLCO) in Hypoxia - the Influence of Environmental Pressure	3:25–3:45 PM
			Discussion	3:45–3:50 PM
5	Scott Reading	USA	The association of the Tibetan evolutionarily selected gene EGLN1 and tuberculosis, and the effect of high and low altitude.	3:50–4:10 PM

			Discussion	4:10–4:15 PM
			TEA/COFFEE BREAK	4:15–4:35 PM
Session 5 — Genetic and Epigenetic Architecture of High-Altitude Adaptation and Maladaptation Chairs: Tashi Thinlas, Netzer Nikolaus and Talant M. Sooronbaev				
1	Julian Colleen	USA	Epigenetic and genomic origins of neonatal pulmonary hypertension	4:35–4:55 PM
			Discussion	4:55–5:00 PM
2	Sudipta Ghosh	India	Role of G6PD enzyme level in the prevalence of hypertension among the Angami Naga of North-East India	5:00-5:20 PM
			Discussion	5:20-5:25 PM
3	Josef Prchal	USA	Can the Discoveries from Evolutionary Adaptation of Tibetans and Andean Aymara be Extended to other Races and Ethnicities?	5:25-5:45 PM
			Discussion	5:45-5:50 PM
4	Mahesh K	India	A journey of scientific discovery- from Leh through Delhi and Meghalaya to Kerala and ancient Arabia - tracing & tracking a Rare Lethal Genetic Disorder.	5:50-6:10 PM
			Discussion	6:10-6:15 PM
5	Aastha Mishra	India	Genetic architecture underlying HAPE susceptibility	6:15-6:35 PM
			Discussion	6:35-6:40 PM
	DINNER			7:30 PM onwards

Day 3: Sunday, October 25, 2026

Session 7 — Community and Family Medicine- Panel Discussion

Chairs: Ashok Puranik, Forhad A Zaman and Milap Sharma

1	Forhad Zaman Ashok Puranik Milap Sharma Anindita Mahanta Samarendra Burman Satheeh G Himashree Bhattacharya	India	Panel Discussion From Base Camp to Class room- The Current status & Future Prospects in High Altitude Medicine	8:00-9:00 AM

Session 8 — Molecular Mechanisms and Sex Differences in HAPH

Chairs: Elena Gonchorova and Sandeep Shukla

1	Julián Aragonés	Spain	Role of HIF2a in the cellular response of Club bronchial epithelial cell to hypoxia.	9:00–9:20 AM
			Discussion	9:20–9:25 AM
2	Lan ZHAO	UK	Targeting a hypoxia responsive zinc transporter ZIP12 offers a promising therapeutic strategy for PAH	9:25–9:45 AM
			Discussion	9:45–9:50 AM
3	Tim Lahm	USA	Mechanisms of sex differences in high altitude pulmonary hypertension	9:50–10:10 AM
			Discussion	10:10–10:15 AM
4	Rahul Kumar	USA	Sexually dimorphic inflammatory immune response at High Altitude pulmonary hypertension	10:15–10:35 AM
			Discussion	10:35–10:40 AM
5	Linda E Keyes	USA	Sex-differences in high-altitude physiology	10:40–11:00 AM

			Discussion	11:00–11:05 AM
			TEA/COFFEE	11:05–11:20 AM
Session 9 — Molecular and Cellular Reprogramming in Hypoxic				
Chairs: Matina Muckenthaler and Rahul Kumar				
1	Amardeep Sharma	Germany	Developing RNA therapeutics for the repair and regeneration of organ failure by inducing cellular reprogramming and remodeling	11:20-11:40 AM
			Discussion	11:40-1:45 AM
2	Soni Savai Pullamsetti/ Prakash Chelladurai	Germany India	Decoding the Epigenomic and Chromatin Architecture of Pulmonary Vascular Disease	11:45–12:05 PM
			Discussion	12:05–12:10 PM
3	Manvendra K Singh	Singapore	Hippo Signaling mediators Yap/Taz in pulmonary inflammation and fibrosis	12:10–12:30 PM
			Discussion	12:30–12:35 PM
4	Nirupama Trehanpati	India	EpCAM-Targeted Doxorubicin-Loaded Bacterial Outer Membrane Vesicles for Effective HCC Treatment	12:35–12:55 PM
			Discussion	12:55–1:00 PM
			LUNCH	1:00–2:00 PM
Session 10 — IPVD Session				
Chairs: Ghazwan Butrous and Navneet Dhillon				
1	Pedroso Nhassengo	Mozambique	Post-tuberculosis lung disease: Lung Impairment after successful TB treatment	2:00–2:20 PM

			Discussion	2:20-2:25 PM
2	Peter Nyasulu	Zambia	Perspectives on Epidemiological Determinants of Infection-Associated Pulmonary Hypertension (HIV-PH) in Low- and Middle-Income Countries	2:25–2:45 PM
			Discussion	2:45–2:50 PM
3	Navneet Dhillon	USA	From ROS to HIF-1alpha: Pseudohypoxia in HIV-associated pulmonary vascular remodeling	2:50–3:10 PM
			Discussion	3:10–3:15 PM
4	Prashant Bobhate	India	Pulmonary Hypertension Amid Infectious Burden: Clinical Challenges in India	3:15–3:35 PM
			Discussion	3:35–3:40 PM
Plenary Session 11— Online session Chairs: Qadar Pasha and Max Gassmann				
1	M-B Moser	Norway	Spatial maps in the entorhinal cortex and their origin	3:40–4:25 PM
			TEA/COFFEE	4:25-4:35 PM
Session 12 — Pulmonary Vascular Diseases in Hypoxia Chairs: Tim Lahm and Garima Gupta				
1	Kübler Wolfgang	Germany	Primary cilium elongation by lithium therapy attenuates lung vascular remodeling and pulmonary hypertension in chronic hypoxia	4:35–4:55 PM
			Discussion	4:55–5:00 PM
2	Elena Gonchorova	USA	mTOR signaling in pulmonary vascular disease and hypoxia	5:00-5:20 PM
			Discussion	5:20-5:25 PM

3	Kashif Hanif	India	Improving mitochondrial health: A new approach for cardio-pulmonary complications	5:25-5:45 PM
			Discussion	5:45-5:50 PM
4	Shine Kumar	India	Circulating endothelial cells in congenital heart disease without pulmonary hypertension in children	5:50-6:10 PM
			Discussion	6:10-6:15 PM
5	Amit Prabhakar	USA	PVOD Beyond PAH: Chronic Stress Signal and Precision Diagnosis	6:15-6:35
			Discussion	6:35-6:40
Session 13 — Poster Session Discussion- 6:40 to 8:00 PM Chairs: Linda E Keyes, Julian Colleen, Arpana Vibhuti, and Kashif Hanif				
			GALA DINNER	8:00 PM onwards
Day 4: Monday, October 26, 2026				
Session 14 — Breath, Hypoxia, and Lung Function: Clinical Perspectives Chairs: Kübler Wolfgang and Kumaravelu J				
1	Akshay Anand	India	Can Sudarshan Kriya Yoga and advance meditation techniques facilitate acclimatization at high altitude?	8:30–8:50 AM
			Discussion	8:50–8:55 AM
2	Varun Malhotra	India	Breath, Brain, and Calm: Scientific Insights into Guided Yogic Meditation	8:55–9:15 AM
			Discussion	9:15–9:20 AM
3	Vishal Bansal	India	Cardiorespiratory Characteristics in high altitude natives with COPD	9:20–9:40 AM

			Discussion	9:40–9:45 AM
4	Sonam Spalgais	India	Respiratory Allergic disease in high altitude landers	9:45–10:05 AM
			Discussion	10:05–10:10 AM
5	Asmita A Mehta	India	Dyspnea Perception: Helpful or Harmful?	10:10–10:30 AM
			Discussion	10:30–10:35 AM
			TEA/COFFEE	10:35--10:55 AM
Parallel Session 15 — Cardiac Responses to Hypoxia Chairs: Akshay Anand and Ragini Shrivastava				
1	Kumaravelu J	India	Restoration of KIF1C expression enhances cardiac regeneration and function in the non-regenerative heart	10:55-11:15 AM
			Discussion	11:15-11:20 AM
2	Radhika Gangaraju	USA	Thrombotic, inflammatory, and HIF-regulated genes and thrombosis risk in polycythemia vera and essential thrombocythemia	11:20-11:40 AM
			Discussion	11:40-1:45 AM
3	Mohd. Yunus	India	Hypoxia and Pulmonary Vascular Disease: Clinical Implications, Early Detection, and Emerging Therapies	11:45–12:05 PM

			Discussion	12:05–12:10 PM
4	Arpana Vibhuti	India	Telomere and Telomere Genes: Role in Adaptation and Maladaptation in High Altitude Pulmonary Edema	12:10–12:30 PM
			Discussion	12:30–12:35 PM
5	Kriti Kaushik		Beyond the Genome with Multiomics: Unlocking deeper biology for transforming human genetics	12:35–12:55 PM
			Discussion	12:55–1:00 PM
			LUNCH	1:00-1:10 PM

Parallel Session 16 — Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: Challenges and Advancements

Chairs: Prashant Bobhate and Shine Kumar

1	Snehal Kulkarni	India	Pulmonary hypertension in adults with congenital heart disease	10:55-11:15 AM
			Discussion	11:15-11:20 AM
2	Neeraj Awasthy	India	Interventions in pulmonary arterial hypertension	11:20-11:40 AM
			Discussion	11:40-1:45 AM
3	Anwasha	India	Pregnancy in PAH, how do i manage it?	11:45–12:05 PM
			Discussion	12:05–12:10 PM
4	Sweta Mohanty	India	Imaging in PAH	12:10–12:30 PM
			Discussion	12:30–12:35 PM
5	Niharika Kori	India	Role of digital stethoscope and AI in the evaluation of patients with PAH	12:35–12:55 PM
			Discussion	12:55–1:00 PM

				1:00-1:10 PM
			LUNCH	
Parallel Session 17— Young Investigator Session Chairs: Rahul Kumar and Mahesh K				
1	Raushni Choudhary	India	Cell-Free DNA fragmentomics reveals pathophysiological response to hypoxia at high altitude	2:00-2:15 PM
2	Refat Parveen	India	Exploring the resolution of inflammation in pulmonary Hypertension	2:15-2:30 PM
3	Nabham Rai	Germany	The Pathological Memory of the Extracellular Matrix in Pulmonary Hypertension	2:30-2:45 PM
4	Kanika Singh	India	Respiratory Microbiome Signatures in High Altitude Pulmonary Edema	2:45-3:00 PM
Parallel Session 18— Young Investigator Session Chairs: Aastha Mishra and Amit Prabhakar				
1	Themmayo Hongray	India	Intervention with quercetin in the prevention of cytotoxic edema in the brain of rats under hypobaric hypoxia - a molecular approach	2:00-2:15 PM
2	Chanil Valasaraja	Germany	Role of TGFβ-modulated long non-coding RNA, VIM-AS1, in Pulmonary Hypertension	2:15-2:30 PM
3	Zahraa S. Msheik	Germany	Hidden in the long non-coding RNA: Discovery of a Novel Hypoxia-Associated Peptidein, HyPeLi, in Regulating Cellular Adaptation to Hypoxia	2:30-2:45 PM
4	TBA		TBA	2:45-3:00 PM
			Awards and Valediction / DINNER	7: 30 PM onwards
Day 5: Tuesday, October 27, 2026				

			Hypoxia Society General Body Meeting	9:00-12:00 AM
			Bon voyage with an enriched experience	
			We meet at the next hypoxia meeting in 2028	