8th International Leh Symposium 2026

Therapeutic Targets and Molecular Mechanisms for Pulmonary Diseases in Hypoxia

October 23 - 27, 2026, Fortune Park Moksha, McLeodganj, India

Scientific Program

DAY 1: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026

4:00-4:30 PM

REGISTRATION
Registration Desk, Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha

4:00-4:30 PM

WELCOME ADDRESS
Welcome address by Qadar Pasha, Founder Organizer Int'l Leh Symposium & Founder President Hypobaric Hypoxia Society (HHS)

INAUGURAL SESSION 1 (ONLINE)
Decoding Hypoxia: Fundamental Pathways and Translational Applications
Venue : Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha
Chairs : Qadar Pasha and Max Gassmann

4:30-5:15 PM

MARK GLADWIN, USA
Formation and signaling by an NO-ferroheme complex provides a novel pathway for intravascular and intracellular NO signaling

5:15-6:00 PM

GREGG SEMENZA, USA
Development of a Dual HIF-1/2 Inhibitor for Cancer Therapy

6:00-6:45 PM

DAMIAN M BAILEY, UK
Brain at the Brink: From Extreme Physiology to Clinical Care

7:30 PM ONWARDS — **DINNER AND INTERACTIONS AMONG DELEGATES**

DAY 2: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

8:30-9:00 AM — **Welcome Note by Organizers**

SESSION 2
High-Altitude : History and Physiology
Venue : Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha
Chairs : Tashi Thinlas, Martin Burtscher and Ralph Schermuly

9:00-9:20 AM

W SELVAMURTHY, INDIA
High Altitude Pulmonary Edema-Revisit omits aetiopathology and treatment

9:20-9:25 AM	DISCUSSION
9:25-9:45 AM	**MAX GASSMANN, SWITZERLAND** Using an old Alzheimer drug against sickle cell disease
9:45-9:50 AM	DISCUSSION
9:50-10:10 AM	**LINDA E KEYES, USA** New options for treatment and prevention of High-Altitude Illnesses
10:10-10:15 AM	DISCUSSION
10:15-10:35 AM	**NETZER NIKOLAUS, USA** The history of sleep recording at high altitude“ (from Humboldt until today)
10:35-10:40 AM	DISCUSSION
10:40–11:00 AM	**TEA/COFFEE BREAK**

SESSION 3
High Altitude Medicine : Lessons from the Field
Venue : Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha
Chairs : W Selvamurthy and Buddha Basnyat

11:00-11:20 AM	**MARTIN BURTSCHER, AUSTRIA** The importance of cardiorespiratory fitness when climbing high mountains
11:20-11:25 AM	DISCUSSION
11:25-11:45 PM	**KAZUE OSHIRO, JAPAN** Exercise-Related Symptoms in Mountain Environments: A Cardiovascular Perspective
11:45-11:50 PM	DISCUSSION
11:50-12:10 PM	**LEA DUEMPELMANN, ITALY** Treatment of frostbite in hypothermic patients as well as frostbite treatment in high-altitude and remote regions.

12:10-12:15 PM	DISCUSSION
12:15-12:35 PM	**NETZER NIKOLAUS, GERMANY** Increased Lung Diffusion (DLCO) in Hypoxia - the Influence of Environmental Pressure
12:35-12:40 PM	DISCUSSION
12:40-1:00 PM	**GROUP PHOTOGRAPH**

1:00–2:00 PM **LUNCH**

SESSION 4
Adaptive and Metabolic Mechanisms at High Altitude
Venue : Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha
Chairs : Josef Prchal and Dinender Singla

2:00-2:20 PM	**RALPH SCHERMULY, GERMANY** Circulating Microparticles in Kyrgyz Lowlanders and Highlanders with High Altitude Induced Pulmonary Hypertension
2:20-2:25 PM	DISCUSSION
2:25-2:45 PM	**KASHIF HANIF, INDIA** Improving mitochondrial health: A new approach for cardio-pulmonary complications
2:45-2:50 PM	DISCUSSION
2:50 -3:10 PM	**GANASHREE C P, INDIA** Assessment of Sleep Distortion, Daytime Sleepiness, and Psychological Distress at Extreme Altitude: Findings from the Shri Amarnathji Yatra Cohort
3:10-3:15 PM	DISCUSSION
3:15-3:35 PM	**HORST OLSCHEWSKI, GERMANY** Inhaled Therapies for Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension and ILD-PH
3:35-3:40 PM	DISCUSSION

3:40–4:00 PM **TEA/COFFEE BREAK**

SESSION 5
Pulmonary Vascular Diseases in Hypoxia
Venue : Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha
Chairs: Tim Lahm and Paras Chawla

4:00-4:20 PM	**MARTINA MUCKENTHALER, GERMANY** Iron metabolism in inflammation/ PAH
4:20-4:25 PM	DISCUSSION
4:25-4:45 PM	**KÜBLER WOLFGANG, GERMANY** Primary cilium elongation by lithium therapy attenuates lung vascular remodeling and pulmonary hypertension in chronic hypoxia
4:45-4:50 PM	DISCUSSION
4:50 -5:10 PM	**ELENA GONCHOROVA, USA** mTOR signaling in pulmonary vascular disease and hypoxia
5:10-5:15 PM	DISCUSSION
5:15-5:35 PM	**AMIT PRABHAKAR, USA** PVOD Beyond PAH: Chronic Stress Signal and Precision Diagnosis
5:35-5:40 PM	DISCUSSION
5:40 PM ONWARDS	**TEA/COFFEE BREAK**
7:30 PM ONWARDS	**DINNER**

DAY 3: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

PARALLEL SESSION 6
Molecular Mechanisms and Sex Differences in High Altitude Pulmonary Hypertension
Venue : Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha
Chairs : Elena Gonchorova and Aastha Mishra

PARALLEL SESSION 7
From Adaptation to Maladaptation : Genetic Mechanisms of High-Altitude Responses
Venue : Dhauladhar Hall, Fortune Park Moksha
Chairs : Netzer Nikolaus and Talant M. Sooronbaev

9:00–9:20 AM	**JULIÁN ARAGONÉS, SPAIN** Role of HIF2a in the cellular response of Club bronchial epithelial cell to hypoxia.	**JOSEF PRCHAL, USA** Can the Discoveries from Evolutionary Adaptation of Tibetans and Andean Aymara be Extended to other Races and Ethnicities?

9:20–9:25 AM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION
9:25–9:45 AM	**LINDA E KEYES, USA** Sex-differences in high-altitude physiology	**SUDIPTA GHOSH, INDIA** Role of G6PD enzyme level in the prevalence of hypertension among the Angami Naga of North-East India
9:45–9:50 AM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION
9:50–10:10 AM	**RAHUL KUMAR, USA** Sexually dimorphic inflammatory immune response at High Altitude pulmonary hypertension	**ASMITA A MEHTA, INDIA** Dyspnea Perception: Helpful or Harmful?
10:10–10:15 AM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION
10:15–10:35 AM	**LAN ZHAO, UK** Targeting a hypoxia responsive zinc transporter ZIP12 offers a promising therapeutic strategy for PAH	**AASTHA MISHRA, INDIA** Decoding human responses to acute hypobaric hypoxia
10:35–10:40 AM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION
10:40–11:00 AM	**TBA**	**ARPANA VIBHUTI, INDIA** Telomere and Telomere Genes: Role in Adaptation and Maladaptation in High Altitude Pulmonary Edema
11:00–11:05 AM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION
11:05-11:20 AM	**TEA/COFFEE BREAK**	
	PARALLEL SESSION 8 Molecular and Cellular Reprogramming in Hypoxia Venue : Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha Chairs : Martina Muckenthaler and Arpana Vibhuti	**PARALLEL SESSION 9** IPVD Session Venue : Dhauladhar Hall, Fortune Park Moksha Chairs : Ghazwan Butrous and Navneet Dhillon
11:20-11:40 AM	**SONI PULLAMSETTI / PRAKASH CHELLADURAI, INDIA** Decoding the Epigenomic and Chromatin Architecture of Pulmonary Vascular Disease	**PRASHANT BOBHATE, INDIA** Pulmonary Hypertension Amid Infectious Burden: Clinical Challenges in India
11:40-11:45 AM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION

11:45-12:05 PM	**MANVENDRA K SINGH, SINGAPORE** Hippo Signaling mediators Yap/Taz in pulmonary inflammation and fibrosis	**PEDROSO NHASSENGO, MOZAMBIQUE** Post-tuberculosis lung disease: Lung Impairment after successful TB treatment
12:05-12:10 PM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION
12:10 -12:30 PM	**NIRUPAMA TREHANPATI, INDIA** EpCAM-Targeted Doxorubicin-Loaded Bacterial Outer Membrane Vesicles for Effective HCC Treatment	**PETER NYASULU, SOUTH AFRICA** Perspectives on Epidemiological Determinants of Infection-Associated Pulmonary Hypertension (HIV-PH) in Low- and Middle-Income Countries
12:30-12:35 PM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION
12:35–12:55 PM	**SHINE KUMAR, INDIA** Circulating endothelial cells in congenital heart disease without pulmonary hypertension in children	**NAVNEET DHILLON, USA** From ROS to HIF-1alpha: Pseudohypoxia in HIV-associated pulmonary vascular remodeling
12:55–01:00 PM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION
1:00–2:00 PM	**LUNCH**	

PARALLEL PANEL SESSIONS

	PARALLEL PANEL SESSION 10 Community and Family Medicine Venue : Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha Chairs : Ashok Puranik, Milap Sharma and Forhad A Zaman	**PARALLEL PANEL SESSION 11** Breath and Hypoxia Venue : Dhauladhar Hall, Fortune Park Moksha Chairs : Akshay Anand, Varun Malhotra and Rajat Subhra Das
2:00-3:15 PM	**ASHOK PURANIK, INDIA** **MILAP SHARMA, INDIA** **FORHAD ZAMAN, INDIA** **ANINDITA MAHANTA, INDIA** **SAMARENDRA BURMAN, INDIA** **SATHEEH G, INDIA** **HIMASHREE BHATTACHARYA, INDIA** **Panel Discussion** From Base Camp to Classroom- The Current status & Future Prospects in High Altitude Medicine	**AKSHAY ANAND, INDIA** **PRAMOD AVTI, INDIA** **VARUN MALHOTRA, INDIA** **MOHD YUNUS, INDIA** **RAGINI SHRIVASTAVA, INDIA** **ATUL GUPTA, INDIA** **Panel Discussion** Can Sudarshan Kriya Yoga and advance meditation techniques facilitate acclimatization at high altitude? Breath, Brain, and Calm: Scientific Insights into Guided Yogic Meditation. Hypoxia and Pulmonary Vascular Disease: Clinical Implications, Early Detection, and Emerging Therapies.
3:15-03:40 PM	**TEA/COFFEE BREAK**	

PLENARY SESSION 12 (ONLINE)
Decoding the Brain's Inner GPS
Venue : Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha
Chairs : Qadar Pasha and Max Gassmann

3:40–4:25 PM	**M-B MOSER, NORWAY** Spatial maps in the entorhinal cortex and their origin

SESSION 13 : POSTER SESSION - 4:30 TO 5:30 PM

Venue : Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha
Chairs : Linda E Keyes, Julian Colleen, Balachandar AV, Shine Kumar, Garima Gupta

8:00 PM ONWARDS	**GALA DINNER**

DAY 4: MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026

SESSION 14
Heart and Pulmonary Circulation : Responses to Hypoxia
Venue : Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha
Chairs : Kübler Wolfgang and Kumaravelu J

9:00-9:20 AM	**DINENDER SINGLA, USA** RNA-Seq Analysis Reveals Adaptive Pathophysiological Mechanisms in Ponatinib-Induced Cardiotoxicity
9:20-9:25 AM	DISCUSSION
9:25-9:45 AM	**RAMAKRISHNAN S, INDIA** Challenges in the management of PH in India
9:45-9:50 AM	DISCUSSION
9:50-10:10 AM	**ANDREA OLSCHEWSKI, GERMANY** Role of Ion Channels in the Pulmonary Circulation
10:10-10:15 AM	DISCUSSION
10:15-10:35 AM	**KUMARAVELU J, INDIA** Restoration of KIF1C expression enhances cardiac regeneration and function in the non-regenerative heart
10:35-10:40 AM	DISCUSSION

10:40-11:00 AM	**RADHIKA GANGARAJU, USA** Thrombotic, inflammatory, and HIF-regulated genes and thrombosis risk in polycythemia vera and essential thrombocythemia	
11:00-11:05 AM	DISCUSSION	
11:05—11:15 AM	**TEA/COFFEE**	
	PARALLEL SESSION 15 Cardiorespiratory Responses to Hypoxia : From Clinic to cellular insights Venue : Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha Chairs : Dinender Singla and Kashif Hanif	**PARALLEL SESSION 16** Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension : Challenges and Advancements Venue : Dhauladhar Hall, Fortune Park Moksha Chairs : Prashant Bobhate and Shine Kumar
11:15-11:35 AM	**VISHAL BANSAL, INDIA** Cardiorespiratory Characteristics in high altitude natives with COPD	**SNEHAL KULKARNI, INDIA** Pulmonary hypertension in adults with congenital heart disease
11:35-11:40 AM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION
11:40-12:00 PM	**SONAM SPALGAIS, INDIA** Respiratory Allergic disease in high altitude landers	**NEERAJ AWASTHY, INDIA** Interventions in pulmonary arterial hypertension
12:00-12:05 PM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION
12:05–12:25 PM	**STANZEN RABYANG, INDIA** Clinical Insights into High-Altitude Illnesses: Risk Factors, Clinical Phenotypes, Thrombotic States and Potential Genetic Determinants	**ANWESHA MUKHERJEE, INDIA** Pregnancy in PAH, how do I manage it?
12:25–12:30 PM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION
12:30–12:50 PM	**KRITI KAUSHIK, INDIA** Beyond the Genome with Multiomics: Unlocking deeper biology for transforming human genetics	**SWETA MOHANTY, INDIA** Imaging in PAH
12:50–12:55 PM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION

12:55–1:10 PM	**SONAM SPALZIN, INDIA** TBA	**NIHARIKA KORI, INDIA** Role of digital stethoscope and AI in the evaluation of patients with PAH
1:10–1:15 PM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION

01:15–2:00 PM **LUNCH**

SESSION 17
Young Investigator Session
Venue : Pine & Peak Hall, Fortune Park Moksha
Chairs : Rahul Kumar, Julian Aragones, Dinender Singla and Amit Prahakar

2:00-2:20 PM	**RAUSHNI CHOUDHARY, INDIA** Cell-Free DNA fragmentomics reveals pathophysiological response to hypoxia at high altitude
2:20-2:40 PM	**REFAT PARVEEN, INDIA** Exploring the resolution of inflammation in pulmonary Hypertension
2:40-3:00 PM	**KANIKA SINGH, INDIA** Respiratory Microbiome Signatures in High Altitude Pulmonary Edema
3:00-3:20 PM	**THEMMAYO HONGRAY, INDIA** Intervention with quercetin in the prevention of cytotoxic edema in the brain of rats under hypobaric hypoxia - a molecular approach
3:20-3:40 PM	**SWATI KUMARI, INDIA** Remote ischemic conditioning confers protection against diesel exhaust-induced pulmonary fibrosis in an experimental mouse model
3:40-4:00 PM	**TBA**

4:00 PM ONWARDS **TEA/COFFEE**

4:30 PM ONWARDS **AWARDS AND VALEDICTION**

7: 30 PM ONWARDS **DINNER AND NETWORKING**

DAY 5: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

9:00-12:00 PM	**HHS GENERAL BODY MEETING** **HHS ELECTION & DECLARATION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

BON VOYAGE WITH AN ENRICHED EXPERIENCE

WE MEET AT THE NEXT HYPOXIA MEETING IN 2028