Dear STS Members and Colleagues,

On behalf of the scientific and organizing committee, it gives us great pleasure to invite you to SAPH2018, the 11th Annual Conference of the Saudi Association for Pulmonary Hypertension which will be held at The St. Regis, Dubai, UAE on 5-7 April 2018.

SAPH2018 aims to create a platform for regional medical professionals to engage in exchange of knowledge and expertise on the latest and best practice methods in pulmonary hypertension.

As a continuation of successful collaboration between the Saudi Association for Pulmonary Hypertension (SAPH) and the Pulmonary Vascular Research Institute (PVRI), it has been proven that it is highly successful and also helped in introducing physicians in the Middle East and North African countries to the world experts in the field of Pulmonary Hypertension and to the most advanced development in understanding and managing Pulmonary Hypertension.

The scientific committee is planning a comprehensive Scientific Program covering all aspects of Pulmonary Vascular Diseases in both Adult & Children, from the basics of Pathobiology and Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, Classification and Management to the most advanced development in Therapies and Interventional Modalities. The program will be covered by the internationally recognized leaders in the field of Pulmonary Hypertension.

The conference will be complemented by an exhibition to showcase and meet the leaders in the industry.

We look forward to welcoming you to SAPH2018 in the vibrant city of Dubai.

With my best regards,

Abdullah M. Aldalaan, MD
Chairman, The 11th Annual Conference of the Saudi Association for Pulmonary Hypertension (SAPH2018)
President, Saudi Association for Pulmonary Hypertension
Consultant Pulmonologist & Intensivist
King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Dubai - the exotic jewel of the United Arab Emirates. Bordering deserts and beaches, Dubai provides stark contrasts, from intriguing Islamic culture to the ultra-modern, high-tech metropolis of the 21st century. The city is a magnificent expression of an incredible vision and an uncompromising statement of success and opportunity.

Dubai has something for everyone, from vacationers seeking a relaxing break away from the pressures of work, to business travelers looking for a new exciting experience. The emirate is an international conference, exhibition and leisure destination. Lying on the calm, blue waters of the southern Gulf and flanked by the majestic desert, Dubai offers year-round sunshine and five-star luxury along with the adventure of a unique Arabian experience.

Dubai is a class destination with all the modern amenities of the western world. It is a fascinating emirate with beautiful buildings, excellent restaurants and nightlife as well as white sandy beaches, culture and history that you can feel as you visit the souks, shopping malls, museums and historic buildings and sites.

Climate
Dubai has a sub-tropical, arid climate. Sunny, blue skies can be expected most of the year. Rainfall is infrequent and irregular, falling mainly in winter. Temperatures range from a low of about 10.5°C /50°F to a high of 48°C/118.4°F. The mean daily maximum is 24 °C/75.2 °F in January rising to 41°C/105.8 °F in July.

Clothing
Lightweight summer clothing is suitable for most of the year, but sweaters or jackets may be needed for the winter months, especially in the evenings. Compared with certain parts of the Middle East, Dubai has a very relaxed dress code. However, care should be taken not to give offense by wearing clothing which may be considered revealing, for example low-cut dresses, very short skirts, or tight shirt or top in public.

At the pool or on the beaches, trunks, swimsuits and bikinis are quite acceptable. Good quality sunglasses are advised, and photo chromatic lenses for those who wear spectacles. Hats, or some protection for the head, are advisable when in direct sunlight.

Culture & Lifestyle
Dubai’s culture is firmly rooted in the Islamic traditions of Arabia. Courtesy and hospitality are among the most highly prized of virtues, and the visitor is sure to be charmed by the genuine warmth and friendliness of the people.

Dubai society is marked by a high degree of tolerance for different lifestyles. Foreigners are free to practice their own religion, alcohol is served in hotels and, provided reasonable discretion is shown, the dress code is liberal. Women face no discrimination and may drive and walk around unescorted.

Despite rapid economic development in recent years, Dubai remains close to its heritage. Local citizens dress in traditional robes and headdress. Arab culture and folklore find expression in poetry, dancing, songs and traditional art. Weddings and other celebrations are colorful occasions of feasting and music. Traditional sports such as falconry, camel racing and dhow racing at sea continue to thrive.

Language & Religion
The official language is Arabic but English is widely spoken and understood. Both languages are commonly used in business and commerce.

Islam is the official religion of the UAE and there are a large number of mosques throughout the city. Other religions are respected and Dubai has two Christian churches, St Mary’s (Roman Catholic) and Holy Trinity (inter-denominational).

Photography
Normal tourist photography is allowed, however it is considered offensive to photograph Muslim women. It is also courteous to request permission before photographing men.

Currency
The monetary unit is the dirham which is divided into 100 fils. The dirta ry Fund. It has been held constant against the US dollar since the end of 1980 at a mid- rate of approximately US$1 = Dh3.67.
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References:
1. Galiuto, A et al. Future Cardiol 6:159-6, 2010
2. PAH is monotherapy or in combination with ERA
3. CTEPH is resistant or persistent/occurring after surgery

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Saudi Thoracic Society
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Saudi Thoracic Society (STS) is a scientific foundation and a leading resource for improvement of lung health in Saudi Arabia. Its mission is to promote the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of chest diseases through leadership, education, research, and communication. STS was established in 2002 and it is affiliated with King Saud University in Riyadh.

The specific aims of the Society are:

- Promoting and coordinating activities in the field of respiratory medicine.
- Fostering research activities in the field of respiratory medicine.
- Organizing and coordinating regular national and regional meetings.
- Publishing a newsletter and a journal of international repute.
- Publishing and updating clinical practice guidelines in the field of respiratory medicine.

You are invited to become a member of the Joint STS-ERS Membership. You will be a valuable member of our mailing list and it is important to keep you informed on relevant updates, articles, news and announcements.

To Register, kindly visit our website (www.saudithoracic.com)
COMMITTEE

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Chairman Department of Medicine
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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

DAY 1 - THURSDAY, 05 APRIL 2018

EVENING SESSION

17:00 - 18:00  REGISTRATION
18:00 - 18:30  OPENING CEREMONY AND WELCOME NOTES
   Abdullah Aldalaan - KSA | Hussam Sakhiha - KSA

18:30 - 20:00  SESSION 1: KEYNOTE / INTRODUCTORY
Chairpersons: Majdy Idrees - KSA | Saleh Aldammas - KSA
19:00 - 19:30  PH: Historical Perspectives and Landmarks
   Nazzareno Galiè - Italy
19:30 - 20:00  The Year in Review
   Abdullah Aldalaan - KSA
20:00 - 20:15  Q & A Panel Discussion

20:15 DINNER

DAY 2 - FRIDAY, 06 APRIL 2018

MORNING SESSION

07:30 - 08:30  REGISTRATION

08:30 - 08:50  SESSION 2: INSIGHTS FROM THE 6TH WORLD PH SYMPOSIUM
Chairpersons: Gérald Simonneau - France | Abdulghafour Gari - KSA
08:30 - 08:50  PAH Pathobiology: Recent Advances and Insights
   Luke Howard - UK
08:50 - 09:10  Hemodynamics: Definitions and Challenges
   Gérald Simonneau - France
09:10 - 09:30  The Right Ventricle in PH
   Irene Lang - Austria
09:30 - 09:50  The Broad Spectrum of Pulmonary Hypertension: Is Current Clinical
   Classification Sufficient?
   Olivier Sitbon - France
09:50 - 10:00  Q & A Panel Discussion

10:00 - 10:30 COFFEE BREAK

DAY 2 - FRIDAY, 06 APRIL 2018

MORNING SESSION

10:30 - 12:00  SESSION 3: INSIGHTS FROM THE 6TH WORLD PH SYMPOSIUM
Chairpersons: Nazzareno Galiè - Italy | Eid Alqurashi - KSA
10:30 - 10:50  PAH Risk Stratification and Treatment: An Update
   Nazzareno Galiè - Italy
10:50 - 11:10  PH in Left Heart Disease
   Jean-Luc Vachiéry - Belgium
11:10 - 11:30  PH in Lung Disease
   Paul Hassoun - USA
11:30 - 11:50  A Brief Visit to PH WHO Group V
   Bader Alghamdi - KSA
11:50 - 12:00  Q & A Panel Discussion

12:00 - 12:10: Abstract
   Identification of Novel Regulators of Right Ventricle Hypertrophic Remodeling with
   Implications for Pulmonary Hypertension
   Imd Al Ghouleh- UPMC, Pittsburgh, USA

12:10 - 13:30 LUNCH BREAK

DAY 2 - FRIDAY, 06 APRIL 2018

AFTERNOON SESSION

13:30 - 15:00  SESSION 4: PAH TREATMENT AND SPECIFIC FEATURES
Chairpersons: Olivier Sitbon - France | Hatem Qutub - KSA
13:30 - 13:50  Genetics in PAH from Lab to Bedside
   Joanna Pepke-Zaba - UK
13:50 - 14:10  Treatment of PAH Associated with Connective Tissue Disease
   Seham Alrashidi - KSA
14:10 - 14:30  Treatment of PAH Associated with Porto-Pulmonary Hypertension
   Alessandra Manes - Italy
14:30 - 14:50  New Treatments for PAH; What is on the Horizon?
   Olivier Sitbon - France
SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

DAY 2 - FRIDAY, 06 APRIL 2018
AFTERNOON SESSION

15:30 - 17:30
SESSION 5: DEBATES

Chairpersons: Mostafa Elshazly - Egypt | Nasser Al Busaidi - Oman

15:30 - 16:00
Use of Inhaled Prostacyclin
- Pro: Hossein Ardeschir Ghofrani - Germany
- Cons: Olivier Sitbon - France

16:00 - 16:30
Role of Oral Vs Parenteral Prostacyclin Therapy in PAH (Functional Class III)
- Pro: Jean-Luc Vachiery - Belgium
- Cons: Luke Howard - UK

16:30 - 17:00
Switching Therapy Within the Same Pathway: Any Evidence?
- Pro: Gérald Simonneau - France
- Cons: Nazzareno Galiè - Italy

17:00 - 17:30
Q & A Panel Discussion

17:30 - 17:40: Abstract
Inhaled PLGA Particles of Rosiglitazone, oral antidiabetic, and SNAP, Nitric oxide donor as a promising targeted therapy for PAH.
Ahmed A. Alobaida - Texas Tech University Hea, Amarillo, USA

19:30 - 22:00 GALA DINNER

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

DAY 3 - SATURDAY, 07 APRIL 2018
MORNING SESSION

08:00 - 10:00
SESSION 6: CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE / PH IN PEDIATRICS

Chairpersons: Omar Al Tamimi - KSA | Maha Al Dabbagh - KSA

08:00 - 08:50
Burden of CHD Associated PAH in the Region
- Sarfraz Saleemi - KSA

08:50 - 09:10
To Close or Not to Close; A Critical Decision
- Bassem N Mora - UAE

09:10 - 09:30
CHD-PAH Medical Treatment; How Different from Other PAH Forms?
- Paul Hassoun - USA

09:30 - 09:50
Update on Medical Therapy for PAH in Pediatrics
- Hanaa Banjar - KSA

09:50 - 10:00
Q & A Panel Discussion

10:00 - 10:30 COFFEE BREAK

DAY 3 - SATURDAY, 07 APRIL 2018
MORNING SESSION

10:30 - 12:00
SESSION 7: CTEPH

Chairpersons: Ayman Farghaly - Egypt | Manal Alhazmi - KSA

10:30 - 10:50
Can we Prevent CTEPH After Acute PE?
- Hussam Sakkijha - KSA

10:50 - 11:10
Diagnostic Modalities for CTEPH
- Mashael Alrujab - KSA

11:10 - 11:30
Update on PBA, Decision, Complications and Outcome
- Alessandra Manes - Italy

11:30 - 11:50
CTEPH Medical Therapy: Who, When and with What?
- Hossein Ardeschir Ghofrani - Germany

11:50 - 12:00
Q & A Panel Discussion

12:00 CLOSING REMARKS - Abdullah Aidalaan - KSA

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Hanaa Banjar, MD, FRCP C
Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Pediatric Pulmonology, Alfaisal University
Consultant Pediatric Pulmonology, Department of Pediatrics
King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Dr. Hanaa Banjar is a Professor of Pediatrics at Alfaisal University, Riyadh. She is also a consultant pediatric Pulmonology and the Director of the Pediatric Pulmonary fellowship program at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and research Center, Riyadh. She is also the acting chairman of the clinical Research Committee of the hospital. Dr. Banjar received her Residency in Pediatrics from the University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and her Pulmonary Fellowship from McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

As an expert in pediatric pulmonary medicine, especially in cystic fibrosis, Pulmonary Hypertension, and Non-CF Bronchiectasis, Dr. Hanaa serves as a reviewer for a number of leading pediatric and pulmonary journals. She also serves as the principle investigator of the on-going cystic Fibrosis registry of up to 400 patients and the principle investigator of 25 original research projects and co-investigator of another 7 projects. She has presented her research at numerous national and international meetings and has authored 65 journal articles, and 65 abstracts. Dr. Hanaa served as Chairman and a faculty member of many national educational initiatives related to cystic fibrosis and Pulmonary Hypertension.

Dr. Banjar is certified by the Royal College of Physician and Surgeon of Canada, with subspecialty certification in pediatrics and Pediatric Pulmonology. She is affiliated with a number of national and international professional organizations, including the Pulmonary Vascular Research Institute (PVRI), University of Kent, UK, and an active member for the Saudi Pulmonary Hypertension association. She is an active member for Cystic Fibrosis and pulmonary hypertension awareness programs and authored 10 booklets with Arabic translation that have been used all over the world.

Abdullah M. Alldaalan, MD
Chairman, the 11th Annual Conference of Saudi Association for Pulmonary Hypertension (SAPH2018)
President, Saudi Association for Pulmonary Hypertension
Consultant Pulmonologist & Intensivist
Department of Medicine
King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Dr. Abdullah M. Alldaalan graduated from King Saud University in Riyadh.

He received his residency training at Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina, USA, and completed his fellowship training in Pulmonary and Critical Care at University of Virginia, USA. He obtained American Board of Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care Medicine. Since then, he has been practicing as a Pulmonologist and Intensivist at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center (KFSH & RC) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

He established the following at King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre:
- Lung Transplant Program, in 2003 (the first and only one among the Arab countries)
- Pulmonary Hypertension Treatment Program, the only program in the area which provides comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic protocols for patients with pulmonary hypertension, which includes all available internationally recognized medical interventions in this field, and which has become a reference center in the whole area for both education and treatment.

His areas of interest are Lung Transplantation and Pulmonary Hypertension. However, he runs inpatient and outpatient Pulmonary Services at KFSh & RC which covers a wide range of pulmonary diseases.

For 4 years from 2010 to 2014, he served as Section Head of the Pulmonary Medicine, Department of Medicine. In addition to his clinical responsibilities, he is also the Director of Ambulatory Care Services.

He is a Board Member of the Saudi Thoracic Society. He held several Scientific Committee positions and has participated in several research publications. He is also currently the President of Saudi Association for Pulmonary Hypertension (SAPH).

Bader Alghamdi, MD
Consultant, Pulmonary Medicine and Pulmonary Hypertension
Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program, KAMC-Jeddah
Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine and Pulmonary, KSAU-HS
Department of Medicine, Division of Respiratory Medicine
King Abdulaziz Medical City KAMC-Jeddah
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Dr. Alghamdi attended medical school at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah. Following this he completed his residency training at King Abdulaziz medical city (KAMC)-Jeddah in Internal medicine program. Then, he completed his fellowship at Queen’s University –Kingston- Canada in pulmonary medicine, pulmonary hypertension and clinical cardiology. Currently, he is a consultant in pulmonary medicine and pulmonary hypertension at KAMC-Jeddah, Director of internal medicine residency program at KAMC-Jeddah and Assistant Professor in internal medicine and Pulmonary in King Saud bin Abdulaziz for Health since (KSAU-HS)- Jeddah.

Prof. Nazzareno Galliè, MD
Professor of Cardiology.
Director of Cardiology Specialization School
Head, Pulmonary Hypertension Center, Department of Experimental, Diagnostic and Specialty Medicine,
University of Bologna
Bologna, Italy

Nazzareno Galliè, MD, heads the Pulmonary Hypertension Centre at the Institute of Cardiology and is Associate Professor of Cardiology at the Medical Faculty of the University of Bologna, Italy. He also teaches at the Postgraduate Medical Schools of Cardiology, Pulmonary Diseases and Rheumatology at the University of Bologna. He is Director of the International Master Degree in Pulmonary Vascular Diseases of the University of Bologna. He has authored 107 scientific publications indexed in PubMed on heart failure, heart transplantation and pulmonary hypertension (Impact Factor = 792).

Professor Galliè is a Scholar of the Italian Society of Cardiology, Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology (FESC), and Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP), UK.

He is past-Chairman of the working group on pulmonary circulation of the European Society of Cardiology and of the joint task force of the European Society of Cardiology and the European Respiratory Society for the guidelines on pulmonary hypertension.

Hossein Ardeschir Ghofrani, MD
Professor, Pulmonary Vascular Research, Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany
Head, Pulmonary Hypertension Division, Pulmonary Vascular Research Institute
University Hospital in Giessen
Giessen, Germany

Hossein A. Ghofrani received his medical degree from the Medical School at Giessen University in Germany. He is Professor for Internal Medicine at University Hospital Giessen and Marburg GmbH. He currently is Head of the Pulmonary Hypertension Division, Department of Internal Medicine, at Giessen. He also leads a collaborative group on Cardiopulmonary Vascular System research. In addition he is Director of Pneumology at the Kerckhoff Heart and Lung Center in Bad Nauheim, Germany.

Professor Ghofrani has participated in the therapeutic development of surfactant for the treatment of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS); prostanooids, PDE inhibitors, combination therapies, and soluble guanylate cyclase activators and stimulators for pulmonary hypertension; endothelin antagonists for chronic lung disease and pulmonary hypertension; and tyrosine kinase inhibitors for pulmonary vascular diseases. He has received four awards for investigations in pulmonary vascular science and is a reviewer for several medical scientific journals including the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, European Respiratory Journal, Circulation, and Lancet.
Dr. Paul M. Hassoun is a professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His areas of clinical expertise include pulmonary disease and critical care medicine. Dr. Hassoun serves as the director of the Pulmonary Hypertension Program. He earned his M.D. from Faculty of Medicine Lariborsiere. He completed his residency at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and performed a fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital and at New England Medical Center Hospitals. Dr. Hassoun’s research interests include acute lung injury, regulation and role of xanthine oxidase in lung injury, and molecular determinants of pulmonary hypertension.

He was recognized by the Department of Medicine with a Levine Excellence in Mentoring Award in 2008. He is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American Heart Association, the American Thoracic Society and the European Respiratory Society.

Luke Howard, MA, MB, BChir, DPhil, FRCP
Consultant Respiratory Physician
Imperial College Healthcare, NHS Trust, London
London, United Kingdom

Dr. Luke Howard DPhil FRCP is a consultant respiratory physician who specialises in cardiopulmonary medicine and exercise physiology. He specialises in diseases of the pulmonary circulation, in particular pulmonary hypertension and pulmonary embolism, and through his interest in exercise physiology has specific expertise in unexplained breathlessness. He works in close collaboration with his colleagues in cardiology, rheumatology and haematology to provide a comprehensive assessment of conditions leading to exercise limitation.

He consults for patients and athletes alike and has close links with the GB Rowing Team. He undertook his undergraduate training at the University of Oxford where he also completed his doctorate in altitude physiology and then his clinical training at the University of Cambridge, qualifying in 1996. He trained in London and Cambridge, being appointed to the National Pulmonary Hypertension Service at Hammersmith Hospital in 2006 as a consultant with an honorary senior lecturer position at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London. His research interests include iron physiology, cardiopulmonary haemodynamics, exercise physiology, pulmonary embolism and remote patient monitoring.

Prof. Irene Marthe Lang, MD
Clinical Cardiologist and Professor of Vascular Biology
Medical University of Vienna
Wien, Austria

Irene Marthe Lang is a senior staff member at the Department of Cardiology, and Deputy Chair of the Department, at the Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria. Irene Lang carried out her medical education and residency at the University of Vienna, before taking on a 5-year postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of California, CA, USA, which included a joint appointment with the Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA.

She has been Professor of Vascular Biology at the Medical University of Vienna since 2004, where she leads a clinical and experimental group in vascular medicine focussing on pulmonary vascular biology and right ventricular function. Irene Lang directs an outpatient unit for pulmonary vascular disease at the Medical University of Vienna. Irene Lang is an active interventional and structural cardiologist, recently very active as balloon pulmonary angioplasty interventionist, and an active researcher.

Alessandra Manes, MD
Center of Diagnosis and Therapy of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension
Department of Experimental, Diagnostic and Specialty Medicine – DIMES
Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna
Bologna, Italy

Alessandra Manes received her medical degree with the academic honour cum laude at the University of Bologna (UdB) in 1996. She specialised in Cardiology, also graduating cum laude, in 2000 and she earned her PhD in 2003 (Medical Faculty of the UdB). She is a staff member of the Institute of Cardiology of the UdB and serves as the coordinator of the Pulmonary Hypertension Centre. Dr. Manes teaches at the International Master’s Degree Program on pulmonary vascular diseases at the UdB.

She has authored more than 200 scientific publications on pulmonary hypertension and heart failure, and received the “Francois Benerot Award” as “Promising Young Investigator in Pulmonary Vascular Sciences” of the European Respiratory Society in 1999. She has been included in the faculty of the World Symposium of Pulmonary Hypertension in 2003, 2008 and 2013.

Bassem N Mora, MD
Consultant Physician, Congenital Cardiac Surgery
Cardiac Sciences Institute
Sheikh Khalifa Medical City/Cleveland Clinic
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Bassem N Mora is a practicing cardiothoracic surgeon with US Board Certification in Congenital Cardiac Surgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery, and General Surgery. He also holds Canadian Board Certification in Cardiac Surgery. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Society of Thoracic Surgeons, Royal College of Surgeons of Canada, American College of Cardiology and European Association of Cardiothoracic Surgery. He holds a Master’s degree in Business Administration from Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri, USA.

Dr. Mora completed his cardiothoracic surgical training at Harvard Medical School in 2002, at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Children’s Hospital. He has been a staff cardiac surgeon at Boston Children’s Hospital, University of Chicago, Children’s National Medical Center and Mayo Clinic, in the United States, as well as at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates where he is a Consultant Physician in Pediatric and Adult Congenital Cardiac Surgery. Dr. Mora’s scope of practice includes all aspects of congenital cardiac surgery including neonates, infants, children, and adults with congenital heart disease.
Seham Alrashidi, MD
Program Director of Internal Medicine Residency Program, Member of Mortality and Morbidity Committee
Senior Resident, PSMMC
Trainee, King Khalid University Hospital (KKUH)
King Saud University, Riyadh
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Dr. Seham Alrashidi is a Program Director of Internal Medicine Residency Program PSMMC. She attained her Bachelor Degree of Medicine and Surgery at College of Medicine in King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She has also worked as Senior Registrar in RMH covering 3 clinics per week and day care unit for Biologic treatment, Inpatient care, referrals and on-calls. Dr. Seham Alrashidi was also Member of Educational Committee for Saudi training program board in internal medicine 2007-2009. She also participated as an active speaker in numerous conferences including the 1st PSMMC Medical Ethical conference, Rheumatology club meeting and delivered her speech on “Fifth Acute Medicine Symposium” RMH, April 2005. She has also received several awards including “Best Resident of Medicine Department” at RMH Annual Awards Ceremony (2003) and also MSD director appreciation letter (2017).

Mashaal Alrujaib, MD
Consultant Radiologist and Associate Professor, Alfaisal University
Radiology Department, King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Dr. Mashaal Alrujaib is a graduate of Dammam University medical school. She is also the graduate of McGill University Radiology Residency program in 2010.

Dr. Alrujaib completed her fellowship training in Ottawa University and Toronto University end of 2013. Dr. Alrujaib is currently a Cardiothoracic Consultant Radiologist at King Faisal Specialist Hospital (KFSH&RC)- Riyadh. She is the director of quality in the Department of Radiology and Director of Cardiothoracic fellowship at KFSH&RC.

Dr. Alrujaib has special interests including:

- Lung Cancer
- Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension
- Congenital Heart Disease
- Quality Assurance in Cardiothoracic Imaging

Hussam Sakkijha, MD
Chairman, Scientific Committee
Consultant, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine
King Fahad Medical City, Riyadh
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Dr. Sakkijha is a consultant pulmonologist, intensivist and a sleep physician at King Fahad Medical City in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He is also in charge of pulmonary hypertension program at the same center. He is the co-chair of CTEPH taskforce in the SAPH and contributed extensively to the PH services in the region. He has many publications in the field and a Co-author of the Saudi Guidelines of the management of PH.

Olivier Sitbon, MD, PhD
Professor of Respiratory Medicine, South Paris University
French Referral Centre for Pulmonary Hypertension, Department of Respiratory and Intensive Care Medicine, Bicêtre University Hospital, Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France

Olivier Sitbon, MD, PhD. is Professor of Respiratory Medicine at the South Paris University and a consultant at the French Referral Centre for Pulmonary Hypertension, Department of Respiratory and Intensive Care Medicine, Bicêtre University Hospital in Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France.

He also leads the team “Medical and surgical therapeutic innovation in PAH” of the INSERM Research Unit “Pulmonary Hypertension: Pathophysiology and Innovative Therapies”. Professor Sitbon has conducted extensive research in PAH and he is the scientific head of the French Registry of patients with pulmonary hypertension. His investigational activities include clinical studies on factors associated with PAH, prognostic factors, risk stratification and treatment goals in PAH, and the development of new strategies for the treatment of PAH.

He co-chairs the “Trials Design and New Therapies for PAH” task force at the 6th World PH Symposium in 2018. He has authored more than 270 peer-reviewed articles on PH and related topics in New England Journal of Medicine, Circulation, Journal of the American College of Cardiology, American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, European Respiratory Journal and Chest, amongst other scientific journals.

Sarfraz Saleemi, MD
Consultant, Pulmonary Medicine
King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre
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Dr. Saleemi is a consultant pulmonologist at King Faisal Specialist hospital & Research Center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He is the deputy head of the pulmonary hypertension program in the hospital and a special SAPH member. He contributed significantly to the promotion of the pulmonary vascular disease in Saudi Arabia. His area of interest is related to CTEPH and porto-pulmonary hypertension and published extensively in this area.

Prof. Gérard Simonneau, MD
Professor of Pulmonology
Head, Department of Pulmonary Disease and Intensive Care, Hospital Antoine Béclère-Clamart - University Paris XI.
Paris, France

Professor Gérald Simonneau is today Emeritus Professor at the Paris-Sud University, France, and Senior Consultant at the National Reference Centre for Pulmonary Vascular Disease in Bicêtre and Marie Lannelongue University Hospitals, France.

He has published widely in the fields of pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary vascular diseases and pneumology, in peer-reviewed Journals including New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, Annals of Internal Medicine, and Circulation.

He has been President of the working group on pulmonary circulation of the European Society of Cardiology and has received the PAH research award of the European Respiratory Society in 2011. Lastly, he was named among the World’s Most Influential Scientific Minds in the field of Clinical Medicine (Thomson Reuters) in 2014 and 2015 and 2016.
Jean-Luc Vachiery is Clinical Professor of Cardiology and Director of the Pulmonary Vascular Diseases and heart Failure Clinic at the Hôpital Erasme – Cliniques Universitaires de Bruxelles, Belgium. He received his board certification in Internal Medicine in 1992 and in Cardiology in 1995. Robert Naeije has stimulated his interest in the right ventricle and pulmonary circulation in the late 1980’s. Since then, Jean-Luc Vachiery has authored several articles, book chapter and participated in many collaborative research projects. This led to the creation of a clinical unit dedicated to patient management and clinical research in pulmonary hypertension and heart failure in 2008.

Joanna Pepke-Zaba, PhD, FRCP, graduated from Warsaw University School of Medicine in Poland before undertaking a fellowship in respiratory physiology at Papworth and Addenbrooke’s Hospitals, University of Cambridge, which resulted in a PhD. She is the lead physician and Director of the National Pulmonary Vascular Diseases Unit at Papworth Hospital. She is member of Pulmonary Hypertension Clinical Reference Group and previously chaired the National Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) Centres Committee for the UK and Ireland.

Her main research has concentrated on the translational programmes in the field of pulmonary hypertension with specific interest into Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension and idiopathic Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension. Has published over 100 papers in the field of PH and serves on various educational and scientific international committees. She is committed to training in respiratory medicine and was reappointed as Recognised Teacher by the Clinical School of the University of Cambridge. She has been Honorary Senior Visiting Fellow of the University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine since 2011.
TOPICS:
- Updated Strategy on Diagnosis and Management of Asthma and COPD
- Current understanding of Interstitial Lung Disease
- Updates on Sleep Medicine
- Lung Infections
- Some other selected topics in Pulmonary Medicine

TARGET AUDIENCE:
- Adult/ Pediatric Pulmonologists
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- Internists
- Fellows in Training
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Identification of Novel Regulators of Right Ventricle Hypertrophic Remodeling with Implications for Pulmonary Hypertension

Patricia Riva, Alexander Hoyt, Stephanie Mutchler, Mohammad Alhamayed, Jian Hu, Jeffrey Baust, Imad Al Ghouleh

Abstract Content: Introduction and Hypothesis:
The molecular mechanisms underlying right ventricle (RV) hypertrophic remodeling (both adaptive and maladaptive) in response to sustained pressure overload, such as that experienced during pulmonary hypertension (PH), are inadequately understood. Our previous work demonstrating a role for the cytosolic Nox organizer protein p47phox in pressure overload-induced RV hypertrophy and our recent publication on a direct interaction between p47phox and the ERM binding cytoskeletal protein Nherf1 lead us to hypothesize that Nherf1 is a regulator of RV cardiomyocyte hypertrophic responses.

Methods and Results:
Cardiomyocyte-derived H9C2 cells and RV rat neonatal cardiomyocytes isolated from 1-day-old pup hearts (RV-NRNCM) were subjected to neurohumoral hypertrophic stimulation using angiotensin II (AngII, 1 & 10 μM). RV pressure overload was induced in mice by pulmonary artery banding (PAH: 3wk). AngII treatment resulted in H9C2 and RV-NRNCM hypertrophy and induced Nherf1 protein expression. The AngII-induced hypertrophy was attenuated by Nherf1 gene knockdown using siRNA. Moreover, Co-IP studies revealed an Nherf1-p47phox association in H9C2 cells that is enhanced by pro-hypertrophic AngII-treatment.

Sequential loss of function strategies educated by novel in silico gene network analyses of PH gene intersected with cardiomyopathy gene networks, combined with a careful consideration of our previous findings and the literature, identified potential involvement of Hippo pathway transcriptional co-activators Yap/Taz, the water-channel aquaporin1 (Aqp1) and apoptosis signal-regulating kinase 1 (Ask1) in this pathway. In vitro, co-IP studies revealed an Nherf1-Yap association and interruption of Aqp1 or Ask1 reduced AngII-induced cardiomyocyte cellular hypertrophy. In vivo, PAH induced an increase in Nherf1 expression and association with p47phox.

Conclusion:
The present study supports a new role for Nherf1 in mediating pro-hypertrophic cellular responses in cardiomyocytes and implicates a network of molecular targets previously not connected to either the RV or Nherf1. These data identify potential therapeutic targets for RV dysfunction in PH and shed light on novel molecular mechanisms previously untested in the pressure overloaded right heart.

Inhaled PLGA Particles of Rosiglitazone, oral anti-diabetic, and SNAP, Nitric oxide donor as a promising targeted therapy for PAH.

Ahmed A. Elabbar, Taisim Alhail, Fakhru Ahsan

Abstract Content: Purpose:
Persisterone proliferator-activated receptor-y (PPAR-y) is an oral anti-diabetic. A series of recent studies point to the involvement of PPAR-y in the development of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). Pulmonary arterial endothelial (PAECs) and smooth muscle cells (PASMCs) and fibroblasts of the pulmonary arteries/arterioles are known to be intricately intertwined in the development and progression of the disease. Although PPAR-y is profusely expressed in healthy PAECs and PASMCs, its expression in PAECs and PASMCs, collected from PAH-affected patients and animal models, declines dramatically. Indeed, the levels of PPARy drops significantly in the plexiform lesions of human subjects with PAH. Further, the erasure of PPAR-y from PAECs and PASMCs elicits spontaneous PAH, activation PPAR-y is reported to slow PAH development.

In the other hand, Inhalated nitric oxide (NO) has been used as a selective pulmonary vasodilator, but it has very short half-life (few seconds), requires continuous infusion, and it can lead to acute rebound pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). SNAP is a NO donor that induce vasodilatation longer than inhaled NO and other nitroso compounds, however SNAP has a half-life of 4-6 h in aqueous media and ~1 h in the presence of cells. Thus, we aim to formulate inhalable poly (lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA) particles of SNAP to prolong the release of the drug and produce pulmonary specific vasodilation that can be used in the treatment of PAH. Because of PPARy's role in PAH pathogenesis, rosiglitazone, a PPARy agonist, appears to have beneficial effects in PAH. Published studies suggest that rosiglitazone mediated activation of PPAR-y slows PASMC proliferation by modulating cell growth and apoptosis. In this study, we investigated the underlying mechanisms by which rosiglitazone and SNAP may act on PAECs and PASMCs and assessed the feasibility of PLGA inhalable particulate formulations of rosiglitazone and SNAP in the treatment of PAH and pulmonary arterial remodeling.

Methods and Results:
When we treated diseased PASMCs and PAECs with 100 μM and 10 μM of rosiglitazone under both normoxic and hypoxic condition for 24 and 48 hrs. The expression of eNOS increased but that of ET-1 decreased. The same treatment increased the expression of PPARy in both PAECs and PASMCs but decreased NOX-4 expression only in PASMCs. Same set of cells treated with various concentration of SNAP for 6 h and measure cGMP level and phosphorylation of myosin phosphatase targeting protein (p-MYPT). An increase in cGMP and decrease in p-MYPT was observed. Similar treatment with SNAP p PAEC and normal EC did not attenuate p-MYPT or endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS) expression, suggest that SNAP does not requires functional eNOS system but activates soluble guanylyl cyclase in PAH-SMC.
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Agnes Kohl, MPharmSc
Head of Business Development
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