2026 PH Scientific Sessions Program

(subject to change)

Friday, September 25, 2026, 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

All times are shown in Pacific time. Compare your time zone here.

In person: Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel
Zoom option also available

This program is co-developed by the Pulmonary Hypertension Association of Canada and the Canadian Thoracic Society and is planned to achieve scientific integrity, objectivity, and balance.

Friday, September 25 Scientific Sessions

	7:00 – 8:00 AM	**Breakfast, registration & networking**
	8:00 – 8:15 AM	***Welcome, land acknowledgement & introduction*** Jamie Myrah, PHA Canada
Session Chair:		
45	8:15 – 9:00 AM	***Keynote: The role of inflammation in pulmonary arterial hypertension*** Dr. Stephen Archer & Dr. Patricia Lima, Queen's University At the end of this session, participants will be able to: 1. Describe the characteristics of inflammation in RVF associated with PAH. 2. Describe the pivotal role of the NLRP3 inflammasome in the sterile inflammation triggered by damage-associated molecular patterns (DAMPs) in RVF within PAH. 3. Explain why targeting inflammation presents a significant alternative for therapy in PAH.
30	9:00 – 9:30 AM	***Exploring integrin a5B1 as a Potential Therapeutic Target for PAH*** Sarah-Eve Lemay, MSc, Laval University At the end of this session, participants will be able to: 1. Describe the contribution of integrin α5β1 signaling to pulmonary vascular and right ventricular remodeling in pulmonary arterial hypertension. 2. Evaluate the evidence supporting integrin α5β1 as a therapeutic target in experimental models and human tissues. 3. Discuss the translational potential and future clinical applications of integrin α5β1-targeted therapies in pulmonary arterial hypertension
30	9:30 – 10:00 AM	***Endothelial senescence as a therapeutic target in PAH*** Dr. Duncan Stewart, Ottawa Heart Institute At the end of this session, participants will be able to: 1. Describe the biology of cellular senescence. 2. Discuss the role of endothelial cell senescence in the pathogenesis of pulmonary arterial hypertension. 3. Analyze the potential of senolytic therapy in pulmonary arterial hypertension.
	10:00 – 10:30 AM	**Refreshment break** Visit our exhibitors!

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Session Chair:

30	10:30 – 11:00 AM	***Spotting CTEPH*** Dr. Micheal McInnis, University of Toronto At the end of this session, participants will be able to: 1. Identify the key radiologic findings of CTEPH and mimics. 2. Describe the relationship between imaging findings and choice of therapy. 3. Apply imaging signs to predict patient outcome after intervention.
30	11:00 – 11:30 AM	***The hemodynamics and pulmonary vascular physiology of Group 4 PH*** Dr. Susanna Mak, University of Toronto At the end of this session, participants will be able to: 1. Describe pulsatile and resistive pulmonary vascular afterload. 2. Identify the role of provocative hemodynamic testing in the assessment of chronic thromboembolic pulmonary vascular disease.
30	11:30 – 12:00 PM	***Pulmonary vascular recruitment during exercise*** Dr. Jason Weatherald, University of Alberta At the end of this session, participants will be able to: 1. Compare different techniques for measuring pulmonary vascular recruitment. 2. Describe pulmonary vascular recruitment during exercise in health and pulmonary vascular disease. 3. Discuss the effects of therapies on pulmonary vascular recruitment.
	12:00 – 1:00 PM	**Lunch break**

Session Chair:

45	1:00 – 1:45 PM	***Keynote: Disentangling the central, peripheral and hematological mechanisms of benefit from sotatercept*** Dr. Yogesh Reddy, MBBS, MSc, Mayo Clinic At the end of this session, participants will be able to: 1. Identify the cardiac determinants of exercise improvement after sotatercept. 2. Describe the hematological mechanisms of physiological alteration after sotatercept. 3. Interpret peripheral mechanisms of benefit after sotatercept.
30	1:45 – 2:15 PM	***Looking further into pulmonary vascular structure and function with quantitative lung imaging*** Stephen Wright, PhD, University of British Columbia At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

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		1. Describe how computed tomography can be used to assess distal pulmonary vascular structure 2. Describe how magnetic resonance imaging can be used to assess distal pulmonary vascular function
30	2:15 – 2:45 PM	***Seeing the right heart: AI-derived RV function and PH screening from standard echocardiography*** Dr. Tyler Pitre, University of Toronto At the end of this session, participants will be able to: 1. Explain why right ventricular function, not left ventricular ejection fraction, governs survival in pulmonary hypertension, and why current echo AI overlooks the chamber that matters most. 2. Describe a deep learning pipeline that segments all four chambers and derives RV function from a standard apical four-chamber clip, without proprietary speckle-tracking software. 3. Benchmark the model's RVEF estimates against 3D-echo reference standards and its geometry-only PH detection against Doppler-based tools, with an honest account of where the approach delivers and where it falls short, function, not afterload. 4. Map the path to clinical use: external validation, calibration, and integration with right-heart catheterization.
	2:45 – 3:15 PM	**Refreshment break** Visit our exhibitors!
Session Chair:		
15	3:15 – 3:30 PM	***Critical contribution of cardiac myofibroblasts in right ventricular failure and the role of UCP2 SNPs in the predisposition to RV decompensation in PAH*** Yongneng Zhang, MBBS, PHD, University of Alberta At the end of this session, participants will be able to: 1. Explain the importance of myofibroblast activation as key drivers of RV failure in PAH. 2. Explain how reduced UCP2 expression and UCP2 genetic variants (SNPs) contribute to RV maladaptation through metabolic reprogramming and fibroblast activation. 3. Discuss the translational implications of targeting cardiac myofibroblasts and UCP2-mediated metabolic pathways as potential therapeutic strategies and biomarkers for RV failure in PAH.
15	3:30 – 3:45 PM	***Targeting cancer-like endothelial cell growth in PAH using CAR-NK cell immunotherapy*** Elmira Safaie Qamsari, MSc, Medical Immunologist, PhD Candidate At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

		1. Describe endothelial cell (EC) heterogeneity in the development of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). 2. Explain how a novel marker of a growth-dysregulated EC population may provide a potential therapeutic target for PAH. 3. Discuss the potential of CAR-T cell immunotherapy as a strategy to reverse PAH.
30	3:45 – 4:15 PM	***The nexus between the vasculature and fibrosis – innovations in Group 3 PH*** Dr. Nathan Hambly, McMaster University At the end of this session, participants will be able to: 1. Recognize the intimate association between the pulmonary vasculature and parenchyma 2. Discuss the prognostic importance of pulmonary hypertension in the setting of pulmonary fibrosis 3. Describe the evolving treatment paradigm in the setting of Group 3 PH
30	4:15 – 4:45 PM	***Update on portopulmonary hypertension*** Dr. Rhea Varughese, MD MSc FRCPC, University of Alberta At the end of this session, participants will be able to: 1. Diagnose portopulmonary hypertension. 2. Describe current therapies for portopulmonary hypertension. 3. Discuss potential future therapies for portopulmonary hypertension.
	4:45 – 5:00 PM	***Closing remarks*** Jamie Myrah

View all speaker biographies on our website: https://www.phacanada.ca/speakerslist

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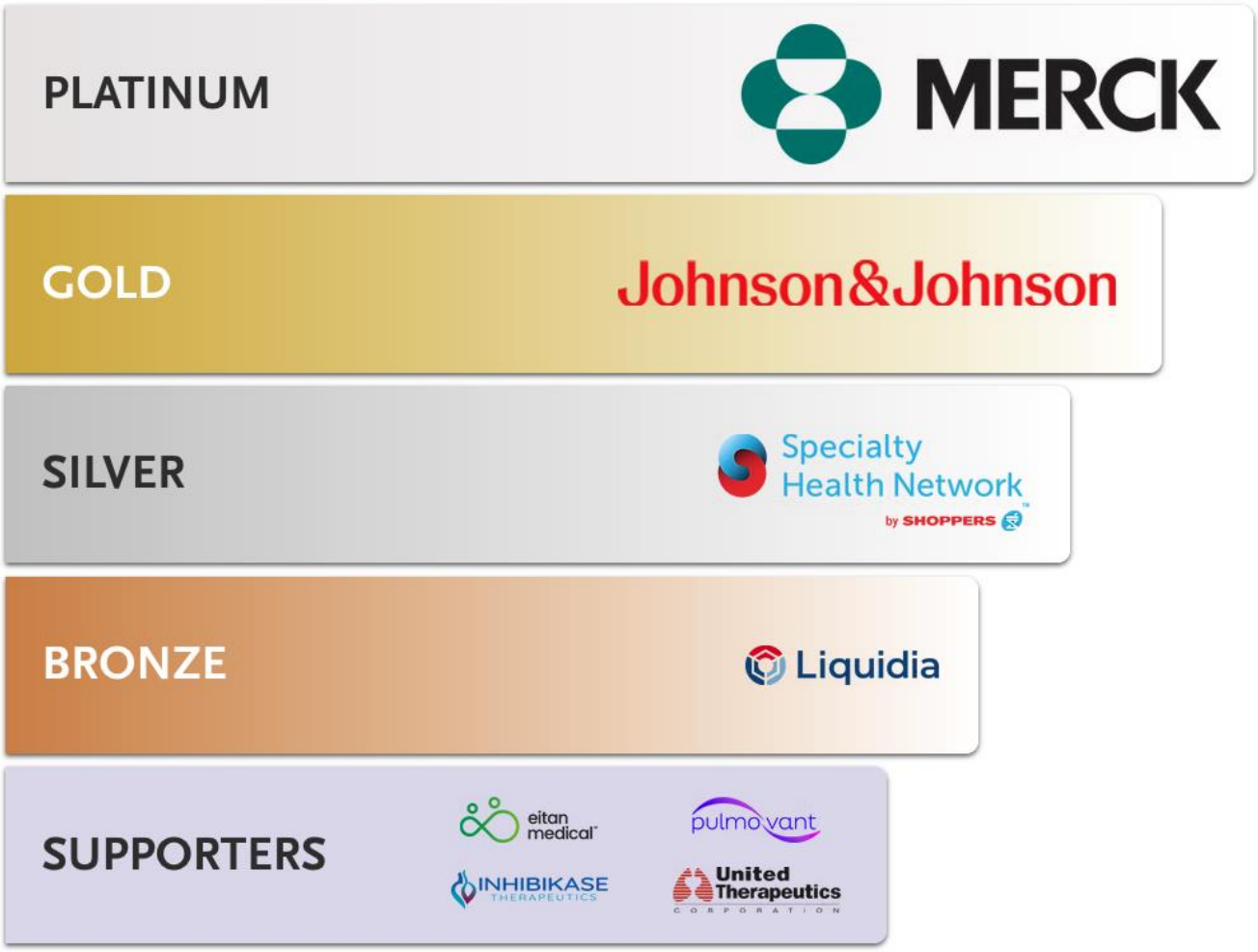

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