



Global Virtual Symposium On Leishmaniasis & Trypanosomiasis

Join the meeting: To be updated

Meeting ID: To be updated; Passcode: To be updated

Thursday April 23, 2026 • Virtual

Time zone: Eastern Time

08:30–08:35 Welcome and Introduction to LeishSymposium-2026

Session Chair: Sreenivas Gannavaram, *Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), FDA, MD, USA*

08:35–09:05 **Hira L. Nakhasi**, *Center for Biologics Research and Evaluation (CBER), FDA, MD, USA*
Advancement in *Leishmania* Vaccine Development and its role in Global Elimination of *Leishmaniasis*

09:05–09:35 **Shyam Sundar**, *Banaras Hindu University, India*
Post-Kala-Azar Dermal Leishmaniasis - Threat to VL Elimination in the Indian Subcontinent, Diagnosis, and Treatment

09:35–10:05 **Mitali Chatterjee**, *Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research, India*
Molecular monitoring of Post kala azar Dermal Leishmaniasis

10:05–10:35 **Abhay Satoskar**, *The Ohio State University, OH, USA*
Rebirth of Leishmanin antigen Skin Test (LST) for Surveillance and Assessing Vaccine Immunogenicity

10:35–10:45 Discussions

10:45–10:55 Break

10:55–11:25 **Sara Zimmer**, *University of Minnesota Medical School, MN, USA*
Leishmania Mitochondrial Gene Expression is Linked to Host Survival

11:25–11:55 **Alex Córdoba-Aguilar**, *National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico*
Chagas Control: Experiences from Field Conditions

11:55–12:25 **Sima Rafati**, *Pasteur Institute of Iran, Iran*
Extracellular Vesicles of *Leishmania tarentolae* as a Potential Tool for Vaccine Development and Immunotherapy

12:25–12:35 Discussions

12:35–12:45 Break

Session Chair: Pedro Amado Cecilio, *National Institutes of Health, MD, USA*

12:45–13:15 **Marcelo Santos da Silva**, *University of São Paulo, Brazil*
Perturbations in the Inositol Pyrophosphate Pathway Impair Telomere Length Homeostasis in *Leishmania*

- 13:15-13:45 **Sigrid Roberts**, *Pacific University, OR, USA*
Decoding Polyamine Metabolism in *Leishmania*: Functions and Vulnerabilities
- 13:45-14:15 **Nicola Baker**, *University of York, United Kingdom*
A pH-Dependent Signalling Pathway Involving HDK1 Controls the Differentiation Fate of *Leishmania*
- 14:15-14:45 **Carolina Catta-Preta**, *University of São Paulo (ICB-USP), Brazil*
Exploring Mechanisms of Sexual Reproduction and Genetic Exchange in *Leishmania*
- 14:45-15:15 **Phillip Yates**, *Oregon Health & Science University, OR, USA*
Genome-Scale Inducible Overexpression and RNAi Library Screens in *Leishmania* Species
- 15:15-15:45 **Mayke Alencar**, *University of São Paulo, Brazil*
Energy Metabolism Mathematical Models of Lifecycle Stages of Parasites
- 15:45-16:15 **Delphine Autheman**, *University of York, United Kingdom*
Advancing Vaccine Discovery for Animal African Trypanosomiasis
- 16:15-16:45 **Herbert Leonel de Matos Guedes**, *Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil*
Adipose-Derived Extracellular Vesicles Mitigate Experimental Cutaneous Leishmaniasis Through an IL-10-Dependent Mechanism

Future Directions

- 16:45-17:00 **Emerging Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities in *Leishmania* and *Trypanosoma* Research and Control**

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- 17:00 **Summary, Feed back and Closing Remarks**
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