

PVRI Infection & Pulmonary Vascular Disease Task Force Report 2020

Established in 2019 by combining the Schistosomiasis & HIV Task Forces...

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The Infection and Pulmonary Vascular Disease Task Force was established in 2019 by combining the Schistosomiasis Task Force and HIV Task Force, the legacy Task Forces since the foundation of the PVRI in 2006. It was a natural development to enhance and consolidate the interest in the infection as one of the major causes of pulmonary vascular disease globally. It also consolidated the work with the IPVD (Infection and Pulmonary Vascular Disease) Consortium which was established in 2017 to promote awareness and research collaboration on the role of infection in the pathobiology of pulmonary vascular disease.

There have been several activities which can be summarised as follows during the fourth quarter of 2019 and in 2020. The **1st International Conference on the Infection and Pulmonary Vascular Disease** was organised in Aswan on 21-22 October 2019 in collaboration with the Magdi Yacoub Foundation. The two day meeting discussed the role of various infections on pulmonary vascular disease, including inflammation and immunology of pulmonary arterial hypertension, HIV and schistosomiasis co-infection with pulmonary vascular diseases, and epidemiology of Schistosomiasis, HIV and Tuberculosis in Africa. There was a discussion of the future working plan on the role of Tuberculosis and collecting clinical data in Africa and globally.

The **2nd International Conference on the Infection and Pulmonary Vascular Disease** was organised in Lima on 29 January 2020, as a pre-conference of the 14th PVRI Annual World Congress on Pulmonary Vascular Disease. The aim was to follow up on the outcomes of the first symposium in Aswan, Egypt, and update on the new findings and techniques in the area of inflammation, infection and pulmonary vascular diseases. This included panel discussions on Schistosomiasis and PVD, update on the emerging data on HIV-Schistosomiasis co-infection in PVD and the potential role of microbiota in pulmonary vascular diseases.

The Task Force in collaboration with IPVD Consortium and the Pulmonary Circulation working group of the American Heart Association organised a special session on the global aspects of PVD and infections at the annual meeting of American Heart Association in Philadelphia 2019.



Infection is seen as one of the major causes of PVD.

Another session was planned on the role of double-hit hypothesis on PVD during the Annual American Thoracic Society 14-19 May 2020, but this was cancelled because of Covid-19 pandemic and reorganisation of the ATS meeting to a small virtual meeting.

The Task Force and the IPVD consortium also organised 'On Demand Sessions' during the American Heart Association annual meeting in 16-18 November 2020. The session entitled "Environmental Risk Factors for Pulmonary Hypertension" was broadcasted live on 18 November 2020.

The high impact journal Nature Reviews has commissioned the PVRI Task Force and IPVD to write a comprehensive review article on the role of Covid-19 on a potential complication of the pathobiology of pulmonary vasculature. A select writing group is currently working on this review (and other articles) for possible publication in mid-2021.

The plan for the **3rd International Conference on the Infection and Pulmonary Vascular Disease** is on hold now because of the uncertainty of Covid-19 pandemic. However, the group is currently in continuous communication among its member through various zoom meetings. ■



References

¹ Butrous G, Mathie A. Infection in pulmonary vascular diseases: Would another consortium really be the way to go? *Glob Cardiol Sci Pract*. 2019 Mar 31;2019(1):1. doi: 10.21542/gcsp.2019.1. PMID: 31024943; PMCID: PMC6472696.

