

PVRI Pre-Clinical & Molecular Science Report 2018

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The PVRI 2018 World Congress was held in Singapore in January. As every year the PVRI Pre-Clinical & Molecular Science Task Force held a one-day Pre-Congress meeting. This year it brought together basic scientists and clinicians to discuss *“How to improve preclinical studies in PAH: Focus on reproducibility and research translation”*. Soni Savai Pullamsetti, Max Plank Institute Germany; Duncan Stewart, OHRI Ottawa, Canada and Sebastien Bonnet, IUCPQ Quebec, Canada, were the organisers’

The way that pre-clinical basic research experiments are carried out and reported often leads to biased opinions and failure to report negative data, which can affect the transition of the basic research into clinical trials. This may hinder progress in pulmonary hypertension, as pre-clinical research is necessary to inform clinical trials.

The symposium focused on identifying how we can enhance the rigour of our published data such that it is reproducible, robust, and transparent. This would further support PAH pre-clinical research.

The symposium also provided discussion on how to:

- Use human PAH samples
- Better exploit cell culture data, and
- Use PAH animal models

and provided example of successful pre-clinical studies that led to clinical trials.

With an attendance of over 50 delegates and a total of 12 invited worldwide speakers, the meeting was very successful and led to numerous interesting discussions and challenging questions, especially from young investigators.

This hot topic has led several Task Force members to work together in conceiving PAH pre-clinical research method recommendations, some of which have recently been published - Provencher et al Circulation Research 2018 - and will be further published by the Manoj Lalu group, a dynamic young assistant professor in Ottawa, currently working on designing multicentre pre-clinical trials in PAH.

