

# THE HEART FAILURE CONFLUX

Virtual Conference of Scientists and Clinicians caring Heart Failure held on feb 5-7,2021

## Organizing Team



**Patron**  
Prof. Dr. K Jayakumar  
Director SCTIMST



**Org Chairman**  
Prof. Dr. CC Kartha  
President, IACS India



**Org Secretary**  
Prof. Dr. Harikrishnan S  
President, HFAI

## Keynote Address / Messages

**DAY 1**  
5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021



**Prof. Chandrabhas Narayana**  
Director  
Rajiv Gandhi Centre  
for Biotechnology,  
Thiruvananthapuram

**DAY 2**  
6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021



**Prof. Balram Bhargava**  
Secretary DHR,  
Director General  
Indian Council of  
Medical Research,  
New Delhi

**DAY 3**  
7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021



**Prof. Ashutosh Sharma**  
Secretary  
Department of  
Science & Technology  
Govt. of India

## INTERNATIONAL FACULTY



**Sakthivel Sadayappan**  
University of Cincinnati, USA



**Kiran Musunuru**  
Perelman School of Medicine  
University of Pennsylvania, USA



**Anureet Kaur Shah**  
California State University,  
USA



**Sanjiv Dhingra**  
University of  
Manitoba, Canada





## Heart Failure Conflux held on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 2021.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) supported Centre of Excellence in Heart Failure at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), along with the Heart Failure Association of India (HFAI), and the Indian Section of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences (IACS) organised a virtual conference “The Heart Failure Conflux” on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The conference brought together delegates from disciplines including clinicians, scientists, biomedical engineers, early career researchers and students from all over India to dwell on the major research areas of Heart Failure. Keynote addresses focused on the burden of heart failure, need for interdisciplinary research to advance heart failure care and potential novel solutions to address the key challenges in management of heart failure in India. Prof. Chandrabhas Narayana, Director of RGC, Prof. Dr. Jayakumar K., Director of SCTIMST and Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary DST, Govt of India were the keynote speakers. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Jayakumar said, “Heart failure is emerging as a major public health problem with societal impact. Concerted effort from scientists from diverse field are required to address the challenged posed by HF in India”.

Eminent bio-medical researchers and faculty from major institutes abroad and within India delivered talk on specific topics. There were participation from IITs, CCMB Hyderabad, IGIB New Delhi, RGCB Trivandrum, InStem Bengaluru, AIIMS New Delhi and PGI Chandigarh. In the conference, they discussed key topics related to heart failure genetics, transcriptomics, cell signalling, systems biology, cardiac regeneration, gene editing, pharmacogenomics, genetic counselling, chemotherapy, impact of COVID-19 and bio-banking in heart failure.

The conference concluded with a brainstorming session where inputs from national experts in this field were discussed to bring out a consensus document on “How to integrate clinical and basic research in Heart Failure in India”. The experts stressed the need for acquiring community-based long-term data of heart failure patients, analyse it using bioinformatic tools and artificial intelligence and in the development of affordable devices like point-of-care diagnostics (POCs), high-end pacemakers and Cardiac Support devices-LVADs (Type of artificial heart) in heart failure patients. The experts encouraged public-private partnerships in finding novel discoveries and translating them into day-to-day use for managing heart failure.

Prof. Harikrishnan, the principal investigator of the centre of excellence in heart failure at STIMST, explained the future vision of the centre and extended invitation to other delegates to collaborate with the multidisciplinary team to advance HF care in India. Dr. Meenakshi Sharma of ICMR recommended building a multi-disciplinary task force on heart failure science at ICMR with mutual support and collaboration from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Science and Technology institutes. The experts recommended the need for specific task forces that could look into population studies, innovative research in proteomics and genomics and the development of low cost devices for management of heart failure.

\*\*\*\*\*