

*Conference Theme*

## **ADVANCING SCIENCE AND CARE: UNIFIED STRATEGIES FOR HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE**

This year's theme reflects our commitment to bridging cutting-edge research with holistic patient care. The conference will bring together global experts, researchers, clinicians, patients, caregivers, and policymakers to advance the understanding, treatment, and care of Huntington's Disease (HD).

This two-day program will include key topics like genetic research breakthroughs, therapeutic advancements, neuroprotective strategies, and patient-centered care.

Discussions will also involve policymakers and healthcare professionals, focusing on developing national strategies for accessible treatments and sustainable healthcare models for HD.

Join us in this mission to create a better tomorrow for the Huntington's Disease community.

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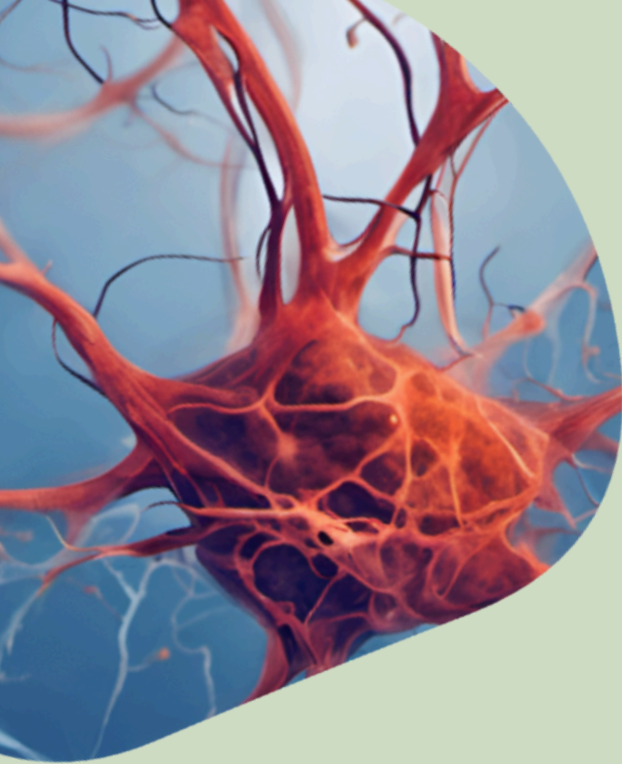
Huntington Disease  
Society India

## **2ND EDITION: HDSI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025**

**23 - 24 August**

**Audi 2, Convention Centre,  
NIMHANS**





## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Advances in HD research, clinical care, and patient support
- Proposals to policymakers and government representatives on multidisciplinary care clinics
- Discussions on the importance of early interventions to delay disease onset
- Focus on mental health support for HD patients and caregivers
- Personal stories shared by patients and caregivers throughout the sessions

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Researchers, Clinicians, Pharma companies, Patients and Caregivers, Government Officials & Policymakers, anyone who is interested.

## POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

Submissions closed

- Poster presentations will be made in the afternoon

## EXHIBITION STALLS

If you are interested in exhibiting at the conference, please contact us at [Conference2025@HDSI.in](mailto:Conference2025@HDSI.in) with the subject line "HDSI Conference Stall" by June 15, 2025.

## REGISTRATION & TRAVEL SUPPORT

- Patients and caregivers are welcome to attend for free
- Patients and Caregivers for financial support for travel to the conference, please contact us on: +919664870409, +917861895670, +917861895644
- For students – Rs 500
- For researchers and clinicians from India – Rs 1500
- For researchers and clinicians from outside India – Rs 5,000



**REGISTER NOW**

## OUR COLLABORATORS



 **Huntington's Disease Society of America**

# HDSI CONFERENCE SESSIONS

## Day 1 - 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025

08:30 – 09:30 am :- Ground floor, Registrations and Coffee at venue

### 09:30 – 10:15 am :- **Mechanisms of Huntington protein transmission in the brain via two proteins**

Dr. Srinivasa Subramaniam, Florida Atlantic University, USA  
Chair: Dr. Biju Vishwanath, NIMHANS

### 10:15 – 10:40 am :- **Lamp lighting and Inauguration**

Guests of honour:

- Dr. Vijay Raghavan – Former Principal Secretary, Department of Biotechnology; Former PSA to the PM
- Dr. Pratima Murthy – Director, NIMHANS
- Dr. Suvarna Alladi – HoD Neurology, NIMHANS
- Dr. Jagadisha Thirthalli – HoD Psychiatry, NIMHANS

Opening remarks – Venkateswara Rao Koushik, Chairman, Huntington's Disease Society, India

### **10:40 -11:00 am Q&A with Media**

*(Session times include 5 minutes of Q&A)*

### 11:00 – 11:25 am :- **Understanding HD**

Dr. Vikram Holla, Dept of Neurology, NIMHANS  
Dr Meera Purushottam - Molecular Genetics Lab, NIMHANS

### 11:25 – 11:50 am :- **Tracking HD in India - Efforts and Importance**

Dr. Monika Pahuja, ICMR ; Dr Meera Purushottam, NIMHANS

## Sign up on the HD Registry

### 11:55 – 12:40 pm :- **From adversity to strength – stories of hop and courage**

Paramjit Oberoi, caregiver to 3 generations of HD patients  
Rashmi E, caregiver

### 12:45 – 1:05 pm :- **Repurposing medicines - Is it worth testing Glipizide, a low-cost anti-diabetic drug, to treat HD**

Dr. Surajit Sarkar, Department of Genetics, University of Delhi

### 1:05 – 2:15 pm :- **Lunch and Poster Presentations**

### 2:20 – 3:05 pm :- **Genetic counseling and the family planning dilemma**

Dr. Meenakshi Bhat - Centre for Human Genetics, Bangalore  
Samvit Katti – Secretary, Huntington Disease Society India (HDSI)

Chair: Bhavna Mehra, HDSI

### 3:10– 3:40 pm :- **Living with HD – Overcoming challenges and a Wishlist for a better life**

Archana, Noyon and Sankesh - HD heroes (Introduction by Samvit Katti, HDSI)

### 3:45 - 4:15 pm :- **Therapeutic Choreography based on Odissi dance style for Chorea**

Daksha Mashruwala and students

### 4:15-4:45 pm :- **Coffee Break**

## Launching the HD podcast on Spotify

4:45 - 5:30 pm :- **Advocacy - Why it matters and examples from around the world**

Phylis Foxworth from Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA) and Michaela Winkelmann from International Huntington's Association (IHA) share their strategies

6:30 - 7:00 pm :- **Cultural program**

7:00 - 8:00 pm :- **Dinner at NIMHANS**

## Day 2 - 24 August 2025

*(Session times include 5 minutes of Q&A)*

### ***The Biology of HD - Research talks***

Chairs: Dr Sheeba Vasu, JNCASR and Dr Sanjeev Jain

09:45 am - 10:10 am :- **Targeting mutant Huntingtin phosphorylation as therapy for HD**

Dr. Ravi Vijayvargia, Dept of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, M.S. University of Baroda

10:15 - 10:40 am :- **Organelle crosstalk linked to HD Pathology**

Dr. Shuvadeep Maity, Dept of Biological Sciences, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani - Hyderabad

10:45 - 11:10 am :- **Insights on the neuroprotective effects on vitamin D3 in an experimental mouse model**

Dr Pragya Komal, dept of Biological Sciences, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani - Hyderabad

11:15 - 12:00 pm :- **Types of Drug and Clinical trials for HD and rare disease**

Taslimarif Saiyed, Director, Center for Cellular and Molecular platforms, C-CAMP at NCBS

Chair: Dr Sanjeev Jain, HDSI

### ***Patient management and care***

Chair: Dr Biju Vishwanth, NIMHANS

12:05 - 12:40 pm :- **Managing HD at home and other approaches, followed by Q&A**

Dr. Prasanna Menon, Dr Menon's Palliative Care, Mumbai

12:45 - 1:55 pm :- **Lunch and Poster Presentations**

2:00 - 02:40 pm :- **A practical guide to living better with HD**

Dr Arvind Sharma - Neurologist, Zydus Hospital, Ahmedabad

Dr BK Yamini - Dept of Speech Pathology and Audiology, NIMHANS

Dr Sheeba Vasu - JNCASR

Present patient stories and tips to improve daily life for patients and caregivers based on clinical experience and research.

2:45 - 3:25 pm :- **Mental & emotional wellbeing for patients and caregivers**

Dr Sanjeev Jain, Psychiatrist, NIMHANS, HDSI

Dr Adesh Agarwal, AIIMS Deoghar, Jharkhand

3:30 – 3:55 pm :- **Yoga for strength and balance, breathing and wellbeing**

Demonstrations by Dr Hemant Bhargav, HOD, Dept of Integrative Medicine, NIMHANS  
Dr. Selva Ganapathy, Gait Lab at NIMHANS

4:00 - 4:45 pm :- **Juvenile HD - finding a future and finding strength in numbers through outreach**

Perspectives from Jenna Heilman, Huntington Disease Youth Organization (HDYO) and Paramjit Oberoi, UK, founder of the charity Sheenam's Wish

4:50 – 5:00 pm :- **Concluding remarks and Vote of Thanks**  
Bhavna Mehra - Vice Chair, HDSI

**Thank you to all our sponsors for standing  
with HDSI in our journey to support  
Huntington's families.  
Your generosity brings hope and healing.**