



A Link with Life

Co-sponsored by:



# SNEHA

## SUICIDE UPDATE 2026

**DATES:**  
26<sup>TH</sup>-28<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2026

**VENUE:**  
TAJ COROMANDEL



<https://snehasuicideupdate2026.com/>



**REGISTER NOW**



**40**  
YEARS OF



A Link with Life

**JOIN US FOR A LANDMARK NATIONAL EVENT  
DEDICATED TO SUICIDE PREVENTION,  
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS,  
AND COMPASSIONATE CARE**

## **AS WE CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF SNEHA'S JOURNEY**

Since 1986, SNEHA has been a trusted space for individuals in emotional distress. This event is a tribute to every volunteer, listener, partner, and person impacted over the past 40 years. We stand as a Link with Life and invite you to be part of this legacy.

### **CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

- Scientific Sessions by Eminent Speakers
- Panel Discussions on Policy, Media & Mental Health
- Pre-conference Workshops
- Commemorative 40-Year Celebration of SNEHA
- Interactive Exhibitions & Partner Booths

### **WHY ATTEND?**

- Engage with leading experts in suicide prevention and mental health.
- Participate in cutting-edge workshops and training sessions.



## FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

SNEHA is an NGO established in 1986 specifically to work in the field of suicide prevention. SNEHA is run by volunteers and provides emotional support to the distressed, depressed and suicidal, 365 days a year.

SNEHA is involved in creating awareness about suicide prevention at the local and national levels and also actively engaged in community-based interventions to prevent suicides, both in urban and rural areas.

SNEHA completes 40 years of service in 2026. This milestone is not just a marker of time, but a reflection of four decades of unwavering commitment, tireless service, and collective impact.

SNEHA has successfully conducted multiple conferences, including suicide updates in the years 2016 and 2019, which were hugely appreciated by mental health professionals.

SNEHA is happy to announce the next edition of the Suicide Update, scheduled from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 at Hotel Taj Coromandel, Chennai. This programme is conducted under the aegis of the Indian Psychiatric Society, International Association for Suicide Prevention and National Human Rights Commission.

This suicide update will be conducted by leading researchers, clinicians and experts on suicide from around the world and India. It aims to provide participants an insight into the current research on suicide and its prevention. It will enhance the knowledge and skills of all mental health professionals. A pre-conference workshop is also scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2026.

We look forward to your active participation and valuable contributions in making SNEHA Suicide Update 2026 a grand success.

**Dr. Lakshmi Vijayakumar**  
Founder Trustee



## FACULTY



**PROF. ANN JOHN**

Prof. Public Health and Psychiatry  
Swansea University  
Chair, National Advisory Group  
on Suicide and Self harm prevention  
Welsh Government



**PROF. DIANA E CLARKE**

Director of Research and Senior  
Research Statistician/Epidemiologist  
American Psychiatric Association  
Assistant Professor  
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Johns Hopkins Bloomberg  
School of Public Health



**PROF. ANNETTE ERLANGSEN**

Adjunct Professor  
Johns Hopkins University  
Honorary Associate Professor  
Australian National University  
Danish Research Institute for  
Suicide Prevention



**PROF. DIEGO DE LEO**

Director Emeritus  
WHO Collaborating Centre for  
Research and Training in Suicide Prevention  
Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry  
Griffith University, Brisbane  
Director, Slovene Centre  
for Suicide Research



**PROF. BRIAN L MISHARA**

Director and Founder, Centre for Research  
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Ethical Issues and End-of-Life Practices  
(CRISE) Professor of Psychology  
University of Quebec à Montréal



**PROF. DINESH BHUGRA**

Professor of Mental Health &  
Cultural Diversity,  
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King's College London

## FACULTY



**PROF. GIL ZALSMAN**

Prof of Psychiatry, Tel Aviv University  
Past CEO, Geha Mental Health Center, Israel  
Past president of the IASR  
Co-chair of child psychiatry  
network of ECNP



**PROF. GUSTAVO TURECKI**

Chair, Department of Psychiatry  
McGill University  
Director, McGill Group  
For Suicide Studies



**PROF. GIN S MALHI**

Head, Academic Department  
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CADE Clinic  
University of Sydney



**PROF. HELEN HERRMAN**

Professor Emerita of Psychiatry  
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University of Melbourne



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Orygen Centre for Youth Mental Health  
Melbourne School of Psychological  
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Perelman School of Medicine  
University of Pennsylvania



**PROF. J JOHN MANN**

Paul Janssen Professor of Translational  
Neuroscience in Psychiatry and Radiology  
Director, Molecular Imaging and  
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Dept. of Psychiatry  
Co-Director, Columbia Center  
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Columbia University / New York State  
Psychiatric Institute



**PROF. MERETE NORDENTOFT**

Chief Psychiatrist  
Psychiatric Center Copenhagen  
Professor, University of Copenhagen



**PROF. KEITH HAWTON**

Emeritus Director and  
Professor of Psychiatry  
Centre for Suicide Research  
University of Oxford



**PROF. MORTON M SILVERMAN**

Adjunct Assistant Professor  
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Medical College of Wisconsin

# FACULTY



**PROF. PAUL YIP**

Director, HKJC Centre for  
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Associate Dean (Research)  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
The University of Hong Kong



**DR. SOUMITRA PATHARE**

Director, Centre for  
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Indian Law Society (ILS), Pune



**PROF. PRABHA S CHANDRA**

Senior Professor  
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National Institute of Mental Health and  
Neurosciences (NIMHANS)



**DR. SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN**

Chair - MSSR Foundation  
Chennai



**MS. RAMYA KANNAN**

Health editor and Chief of Bureau  
Chennai, Tamil Nadu, The Hindu



**DR. M SURESH KUMAR**

Consultant Psychiatrist  
Chennai



**PROF. RORY O'CONNOR**

Professor of Health Psychology  
Director, Suicidal Behaviour Research  
Laboratory School of Health & Wellbeing  
University of Glasgow



**PROF. THOMAS  
NIEDERKROTENTHALER**

Professor, Public Mental Health Unit  
University of Vienna  
Founder Chairman, Wiener Werkstaette  
for Suicide Research

## FACULTY



**MS. VANDA SCOTT**  
Special Invitee  
International Association  
for Suicide Prevention (IASP)



**PROF. VLADIMIR CARLI**  
Head, Research Units  
National Centre of Suicide Prevention  
Karolinska Institute



**PROF. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN  
GANESAN**  
Professor of Psychiatry  
National Institute of Mental Health and  
Neurosciences (NIMHANS)



**MS. WENDY ORCHARD**  
Chief Executive Officer  
International Association  
for Suicide Prevention (IASP)



**PROF. VIKRAM PATEL**  
Paul Farmer Professor and Chair  
Department of Global Health and Social  
Medicine, Harvard Medical School  
Co-Founder, Sangath



**PROF. YOGESH DWIVEDI**  
Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry  
Elesabeth Ridgely Shook  
Endowed Chair for Psychiatric Research  
University of Alabama  
at Birmingham



**PROF. YUNYU XIAO**  
Assistant Professor, Department of  
Population Health Sciences  
Health Informatics and  
Artificial Intelligence and in Psychiatry  
Weill Cornell Medicine, Cornell University

# SUICIDE UPDATE 2026 PROGRAMME

**25<sup>TH</sup> FEBURARY 2026 - PRE CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

**FACULTY:**

**International Coordinators:** Vanda Scott and Wendy Orchard

**National Coordinators:** Professor Anish V Cherian and Dr Vikas Menon

**Gatekeeper Training:** Professor Brian Mishara

**Panel Lead:** Professor Jo Robinson

TIME	TOPIC	VENUE
9.30 am - 11.30 am	Gatekeeper Training Pt 1	Clive Dupleix Hall, Taj Coromandel
11.30 am - 12.30 pm	Suicidal Behaviour in Women and Girls Panel	
12.30 pm - 13.30 pm	Lunch	
13.30 pm - 14.30 pm	Priority Settings for Suicide Prevention Session	
14.30 pm - 16.30 pm	Gatekeeper Training Pt 2	



## DAY 1 - 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBURARY 2026 - CONFERENCE

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
08.30 am - 09.00 am	<b>Registration</b>		
9.00 am - 10.30 am	Prof. Jo Robinson	A global overview of suicide and suicide prevention	President IASP
	Dr. Soumya Swaminathan	Climate change and Suicide	MSSRF Foundation
	Prof. Vikram Patel	Social determinants of suicide	Harvard University
10.30 am - 11.00 am	<b>Tea Break</b>		
11.00 am - 12.30 pm	Prof. J John Mann	Neural Mechanisms Underlying Stress Responses Leading to Suicidal Behavior	Columbia University
	Prof. Gustavo Turecki	New Insights on the molecular and cellular basis of depression and suicide	McGill University
	Prof. Yogesh Dwivedi	Non-coding RNAs: New players in the pathobiology of depression and suicide	The University of Alabama
12.30 pm - 01.30 pm	<b>Lunch</b>		
01.30 pm - 03.00 pm	Prof. Merete Nordentoft	Suicide and Psychosis	University of Copenhagen
	Prof. Gin S Malhi	Suicide and Mood disorders	University of Sydney
	Prof. Maria A Oquendo	Suicidal behavior in persons with no diagnosis	University of Pennsylvania



## DAY 1 - 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBURARY 2026 - CONFERENCE

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
03.00 pm - 03.30 pm	<b>Tea Break</b>		
03.30 pm - 05.00 pm	Dr. M Suresh Kumar	Suicide and Addiction	Consultant Psychiatrist, Chennai
	Prof. Rory O'Connor	Psychology and suicide risk	University of Glasgow
	Prof. Brian L Mishara	Suicide as a way of coping: Building hope to prevent suicide	University of Quebec Montreal
06.00 pm - 07.30 pm	SNEHA 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Function		
	<b>Guest of Honor</b> - Justice V Ramasubramanian, Chairman National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India		
07.30 pm	<b>Dinner</b>		

## DAY 2 - 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBURARY 2026 - CONFERENCE

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
09.00 am - 10.30 am	Prof. Dinesh Bhugra	Suicide among medical students	Kings College, London
	Prof. Prabha S Chandra	Beyond Depression: Understanding the Pathways to Maternal Suicide	National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)
	Prof. Gil Zalsman	Suicide in young people	University of Tel Aviv
10.30 am - 11.00 am	<b>Tea Break</b>		
11.00 am - 12.30 pm	Prof. Annette Erlangsen	Suicide and Medical Illness	Danish Research Institute for Suicide Prevention
	Prof. Diego De Leo	Suicide in the elderly	University of Primorska
	Prof. Morton M Silverman	Assessment of suicide	Medical College of Wisconsin

## DAY 2 - 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBURARY 2026 - CONFERENCE

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
12.30 pm - 01.30 pm	<b>Lunch</b>		
1.30 pm - 03.00 pm	Prof. Paul Yip	Social Media and Suicide	HKJC Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention
	Prof. Jane Pirkis	Public health interventions - I	University of Oxford
	Prof. Keith Hawton	Public health interventions - II	Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
03.00 pm - 04.00 pm	Prof. Ann John	Clinical Contacts Prior to Suicide: Patterns, Pitfalls, and Prevention	Swansea University Medical School
	Prof. Vladimir Carli	Scalable clinical interventions	Karolinska Institute
04.00 pm - 04.30 pm	<b>Tea Break</b>		
04.30 pm - 06.00 pm	Prof. Thomas Niederkrotenthaler	Media and suicide overview	University of Vienna
	Prof. Gregory Armstrong	Indian Perspective	University of Melbourne
	MS. Ramya Kannan	Journalist Perspective	The Hindu
07.00 pm	<b>Conference Dinner</b>		

## DAY 3 - 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBURARY 2026 - CONFERENCE

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
09.00 am - 10.30 am	Dr. Soumitra Pathare	Community intervention in suicide prevention	Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy (CMHLP)
	Dr. Diana E Clarke	Cultural Assessment and Suicide	American Psychiatric Association (APA)
	Prof. Venkatasubramanian Ganesan	Pharmacotherapy & Neuromodulation for suicidal behaviour	National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)

## DAY 3 - 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBURARY 2026 - CONFERENCE

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
10.30 am - 11.00 am	<b>Tea Break</b>		
11.00 am - 12.30 pm	Prof. Helen Herrman	Coercion and suicide in mental health care	University of Melbourne
	Asst. Prof. Yunyu Xiao	Risk Pathways to Suicidal Behavior in Youth	Weill Cornell Medicine, Cornell University
	SNEHA	SAS and Chat	
12.30 pm to 01.30 pm <b>Valedictory</b>	Chief Guest - Shri. Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Former Governor of West Bengal, Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi  Guest of Honour- Dr. Darez Ahamed, IAS, Government of Tamilnadu		
1.30 pm	<b>Lunch</b>		

### IASP Partnerships for Life Global Initiative to Prevent Suicide Pre-Conference Workshop

The Global Initiative to Prevent Suicide aims to supporting the development of a comprehensive, strategic approach to suicide prevention. This Partnerships for Life workshop will focus on gatekeeper training and regional topic related themes.

#### The workshop objectives include:

- Promoting learning from research on best practice and effective interventions in relation to the implementation of suicide prevention programmes, the exchange of knowledge and information about the key priorities and promoting effective suicide prevention action through peer learning, mentorship and collaboration.
- Gatekeeper training.
- This workshop will include a panel focussed on Suicide and its prevention in Women & Girls.

#### The learning objectives include:

- Knowledge on depression and early identification of suicidal behaviour, to perform crisis intervention, and to inform bereaved relatives.
- Understanding of regional topic related themes within suicide prevention.

# ABSTRACT

## POSTERS

- We invite abstracts for poster presentation which can be submitted only online.
- Abstract deadline for poster presentation is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.
- Best posters will be awarded.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Abstract submissions will be accepted only through the online portal.
- The content must be the original work of the author and should not be plagiarized
- Abstracts must demonstrate a sound scientific methodology, with clear results or outcomes.
- The work should have expected scientific merit and relevance.
- The presenting author must be listed as the primary author.
- Display Format: 42" LCD screen (landscape orientation)
- Aspect Ratio: 16:9
- File Format: PowerPoint (.PPT)
- File Size: 5-10 MB
- Number of Slides: One (1) only
- Not Allowed: Animations, videos, or sound
- Content Structure: Introduction, Aim, Methods, Results, Conclusion, Acknowledgements
- Posters should be brief, self-explanatory, and well-organized.



## FEE STRUCTURE FOR SUICIDE UPDATE (26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY - 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026)

Registration	Upto 30 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2025	Upto 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2026	From 01 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2026
Practitioners	₹ 8,850	₹ 11,800	₹ 14,750
Students / Volunteers	₹ 5,900	₹ 8,850	₹ 10,620
International delegate	\$ 225	\$ 250	\$ 300
Accompanying persons	₹ 5,900	₹ 8,850	₹ 10,620

Registration for the accompanying person can be done only through delegate registration. Please note that accompanying persons are not eligible for kit bags and certificates.

## PRE- CONFERENCE WORKSHOP (25<sup>th</sup> February, 2026)

Please note that conference registration is mandatory to attend the workshop. Pre-conference Workshop participation is complimentary only for registered conference delegates. So kindly confirm your slots when you register.

Registration for participation in the workshop is open to volunteers, professionals, and crisis-line workers. Participation is limited to 75 only.

### **Cancellation Policy**

All cancellation requests must be submitted in writing to the Conference Secretariat via email at: [info@snehasuicideupdate2026.com](mailto:info@snehasuicideupdate2026.com)

Refunds will be processed as per the following schedule:

- Up to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2025: 75% of the registration fee will be refunded
- Up to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2025: 50% of the registration fee will be refunded
- From 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2025 onwards: No refund will be provided
- All refunds will be processed within 15 days after the conclusion of the conference, in accordance with the above policy.



## CONTACT

### Registration Contact

**Mr. TAMILAN**

+91 73387 42151

Time (9 AM - 6 PM IST)

### Other Queries

**Ms RATHI**

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Time (9 AM - 6 PM IST)

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## CO-SPONSORED BY



## PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZER



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