



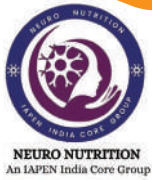
# NATIONAL CONFERENCE **ASCEND**2026

Amrita Scientific Conference on Evidence Based Nutrition and Dysphagia Care

***Nourish to Swallow***



A Block, Amritheshwari Hall, Amrita Hospital, Kochi, India



## About the Conference

**ASCEND 2026** – Amrita Scientific Conference on Evidence-Based Nutrition and Dysphagia Care is a multi-disciplinary academic conference organized by the Department of Clinical Nutrition and the Department of Deglutology (Head and Neck Surgery), Amrita Hospital. Scheduled from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2026, the conference aims to bring together healthcare professionals, researchers, academicians, and students to explore the latest advancements in clinical nutrition, dysphagia management, and evidence-based patient care.

The conference will commence with a pre-conference workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2026, offering hands-on learning and practical insights into the relationship between food, brain function, behaviour, and mental well-being. The main scientific conference will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August 2026 at Amrita Hospital, featuring expert lectures, scientific discussions, research presentations, and multidisciplinary knowledge exchange.

**ASCEND 2026** provides a unique platform to connect, learn, collaborate, and contribute towards advancing holistic, patient-centered approaches in nutrition and dysphagia care.

## Conference Highlights

- Pre-Conference Workshop: **“NutriPsyCle – Food, Brain & Behaviour”** – A Workshop on Nutritional Psychology
- Expert Talks by Doctors, Deglutologists, and Dietitians
- Scientific Sessions focusing on:
  1. Oncology
  2. Paediatrics
  3. Geriatrics
- Interactive Case Study Discussions
- Multidisciplinary Learning & Networking Opportunities

## Important Dates

Deadline for Abstract Submission- 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026  
Confirmation of Oral / Poster Presentation - 05<sup>th</sup> August 2026

## WHO CAN ATTEND

- Clinical Nutritionists / Dietitians • Physiotherapists • Oncologists • ENT Surgeons • Nurses
- Students & Researchers • Speech Language Pathologist • Gastroenterologists

**All Professional Interested in Nutrition and Dysphagia Care**

 <https://www.amrita.edu/events/ascend-2026/>



## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

### Patrons

**Dr Prem Nair**  
Provost and Group Medical Director,  
Amrita Hospitals

**Dr Gireesh Kumar K P**  
Principal, School of Medicine  
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

**Dr Subramania Iyer**  
Professor and Head  
Department of Head & Neck Surgery

**Mr. M.V.Thampi**  
Chief Program Administrator  
Amrita Centre for Allied Health Sciences

### Scientific Committee

**Dr Krishna Kumar Thankappan**  
Clinical Professor  
Department of Head & Neck Surgery

**Dr Tejal Patel**  
Assistant Professor  
Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology

### Organizing Chairperson

**Dr. Nivedita Pavithran**  
Additional Professor & Head  
Department of Clinical Nutrition

**Arya C J**  
Chief Deglutologist  
Department of Head & Neck Surgery



### Organizing Committee Members

**Akshara S**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Clinical Nutrition

**Shilpa K M**  
Senior Deglutologist  
Department of Head & Neck Surgery

**Sreedevi E V**  
Consultant Deglutologist & PhD Scholar  
Department of Head & Neck Surgery

## REGISTRATION DETAILS

	Registration fee	Registration Link
Students	1000/-	
Professionals	3000/-	

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR ORAL & POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- Submit the abstracts for oral and poster presentation Online
- Abstract to be sent to [nourishtoswallow@gmail.com](mailto:nourishtoswallow@gmail.com)

Abstract submission  
guidelines



## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

**PRE- CONFERENCE WORKSHOP - 14/08/2026 (2.00-5.00 PM)-  
NutriPsyCle – Food, Brain & Behaviour----- Dr Sripriya Shaji**

### CONFERENCE DAY-1 (15/08/2026)

Time	Topic	Speakers
8.00 AM - 9.00 AM	<b>Registration</b>	
9.00 AM - 10.00 AM	Dysphagia and Nutrition : Current Landscape, unmet needs and Future Directions	Dr Jayanthi Pavithran
		Dr Subramaniya Iyer
		Dr Priya Vijayakumar
10.00 AM - 10.15 AM	<b>High Tea</b>	
10-15 AM - 11.00 AM	<b>INAGURATION</b>	
11.00 AM - 11:30 AM	Incorporating Dysphagia and Diet in Pre and Post Surgical Oncology Patients	Dr Krishnakumar Thankappan
11:30 AM-11:50 AM	Radiation Induced Dysphagia in Head and Neck Cancer	Dr Pushpaja K. U
11.50 AM -12.10 PM	Nourishing Oncology patients Enterally: Evidence Based Strategies for Clinical Practice	Dr Krishna Mohandas
12.10 PM - 12.30 PM	The role of Parenteral Nutrition in Cancer	Mr. Shivshankar Timmanpyati
12.30 PM -1.00 PM	Panel Discussion Dr Tejal Patel -Moderator	Dr Krishnakumar Thankappan, Ms Krishna Mohandas, Ms. Mini N, Dr Pushpaja K. U.
12.00 PM - 1.00 PM	<b>Parallel Session - Oral presentations</b>	
1.00 PM - 2.00 PM	<b>Lunch</b>	
2.00 PM - 2.40 PM	Keynote talk : Dysphagia and Nutrition in Geriatric Care : Challenges, Comprehensive Assessment, and Management Strategies	Dr Jayakumar R Menon
2:40 PM - 3.00 PM	MIND Diet and Feeding Challenges in Neurodegenerative Disorders: Emerging Evidence and Clinical Implications	Dr Mala Manral
3.00 PM - 3.15 PM	Impact of Posture in Swallowing	Dr Ravi Sankaran
3.15 PM - 3.30 PM	Aging Esophagus : Pathophysiology, Dysphagia and Nutritional Consequences	Dr Shine Sadasivan
3.30 PM - 4.00 PM	Case Discussion + Panel Discussion Dr Divyamol K Sasidharan - Moderator	Dr Jayakumar R Menon, Dr Mala Manral, Dr.Ravi Sankaran, Dr Shine Sadasivan, Ms. Sreedevi E V
2.00 PM - 4.00 PM	<b>Parallel Session- Poster presentations</b>	
High Tea		



## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

### CONFERENCE DAY - 2 (16/08/2026)

Time	Topic	Speakers
9.00 AM - 9.45 AM	Parenteral Nutrition In Pediatrics	Dr R. Bhanu Vikraman Pillai
9.45 AM - 10.05 AM	Nutrition In Pediatric ICU	Dr Sajith Kesavan
10:05 AM - 10:25 AM	The First 100 Days : Why Nutrition May Matter More Than Any Drug We Prescribe	Dr Perraju Bendapudi
10.25 AM - 10.45 AM	Gut Brain Axis - A Master Regulator of Holistic Health	Dr K.E. Elizabeth
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	<b>Tea Break</b>	
11.00 AM - 11.30 AM	Case Presentation	Dr Lekha Sreedharan
11.30 AM - 12.00 PM	Panel Discussion Moderator- Ms Arya C J	Dr Perraju Bendapudi Dr K.E. Elizabeth Dr Sajith Kesavan Dr Lekha Sreedharan Ms Shilpa K M
12.00 PM -12.30 PM	<b>VALEDICTORY FUNCTION AND AWARDS</b>	
12.30 PM Onwards	<b>Lunch</b>	

### CONTACT DETAILS

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