

INVITATION

Conférence donnée dans le cadre de la procédure de titularisation

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Lundi 1^{er} avril 2019 à 14h00

Auditoire 001 (PER17)

Faculté des sciences et de médecine de l'Université de Fribourg

High-Altitude Medicine: Important for Trekkers and Mountaineers, Essential for Progress in Medicine

High altitude associated hypoxia triggers a series of cardiovascular adjustments that if exaggerated, may cause life-threatening high-altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE) in predisposed subjects. HAPE-prone individuals are characterized by exaggerated pulmonary hypertension which is related to pulmonary endothelial and epithelial dysfunction and sympathetic overactivation. While paramount in the development of HAPE, exaggerated pulmonary hypertension is not always sufficient to trigger HAPE and additional mechanisms play a role. Among them, we identified right-to-left shunting across a PFO and a defective alveolar transepithelial sodium transport.

Studies of high-altitude populations and in particular of maladapted subgroups, may provide important insight into underlying mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of hypoxemia-related disease states in general. In collaboration with Bolivian researchers, we have investigated (mal)adaptation patterns of high-altitude dwellers. Our observations underline a key role in perinatal programming of vascular dysfunction.

Through examples, I will try to illustrate that the ultimate goal of many high-altitude researchers is not only to understand physiologic (mal)adaptation to hypoxia for the benefit of the millions exposing themselves to high altitude, but to think beyond this and imagine how the knowledge gained from field research at high altitude may contribute to the progress of everyday medical practice.

Fribourg, le 1^{er} mars 2019

Prof. Ch. Bochet, Doyen et
Président de la Commission de titularisation