

Personal Information

Poornima Mahavadi, PD. Dr. rer.nat. habil.

Date of Birth: 10. May 1982, Married, two children

Nationality: German

Gender: Female

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Current Academic Positions

- **Head:** Translational Research Group 'Alveolar Epithelial Damage and Mesenchymal Activation in ILDs', Dept. of Internal Medicine, Justus-Liebig University (JLU) Giessen, Germany (from 2022)
- **Junior PI:** German Center for Lung Research (DZL), Universities of Giessen & Marburg Lung Center (from 2016)
- **Faculty Member:** Graduate Program in Molecular Biology & Medicine of the Lung (MBML; from 2015)
- **Faculty Member:** Giessen Graduate Centre for Life Sciences (GGL; from 2023)

Education

2022 – Venia Legendi (Habilitation), Experimental Pneumology, JLU Giessen

2009 – PhD (magna cum laude), Faculty of Natural Sciences, JLU Giessen

2004 – MSc, Biobased Materials, FH Reutlingen, Germany

2002 – BSc, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India

Leadership, Teaching & Mentoring

- Coordinator & PI of BMBF project PRECIOUS_PCLS for antifibrotic drug testing in patient-derived lung slices
- Secured and managed >€2M competitive research funding (BMBF, DFG, Emil von Behring Foundation);
- Lecturer: surfactant biology, preclinical fibrosis models, autophagy & lysosomal stress
- Advanced didactic training in university level teaching ('Hochschuldidaktik')
- Mentor of 5 doctoral students, 4 medical students, 2 masters students, and 2 postdocs

Citation Record

Total citations: 14,921

H-index overall: 27;

H-index since 2021: 21

(Source: Google Scholar, 25th March, 2026)

Awards & Recognition

- Elected chair of Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) on Lung Development, Injury & Repair (2017)
- Von Behring-Röntgen Young Scientist Award (2015)
- ERS (European Respiratory Society) young scientist scholarship (2013)
- 1st Poster Prize, ICLAF (International Colloquium for Airway & Lung Fibrosis, 2006)
- >40 invited talks in national and international conferences

Key Skills & Expertise

- Preclinical models of ILD and pulmonary fibrosis: precision-cut lung slices (PCLS), alveolospheres / alveolar organoids and animal models
- *In vitro* and *ex vivo* pharmacology: assay development, therapeutic screening, mechanism of action studies, biomarker discovery
- Target identification and validation in fibrotic and respiratory diseases
- Expertise in epithelial stress, surfactant biology, autophagy, ER stress, and lysosomal dysfunction
- Principal scientist in industry collaborations for drug development (Rein Therapeutics, Texas, USA; Pieris GmbH, Munich, Germany)
- Active member of European IPF Registry (eurIPFreg) and RARE-ILD-Network

Commissions of Trust & Institutional Responsibilities

- **Academic Editor:** Scientific Reports, PLOS ONE
- **Reviewer:** Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft / German Research Council (DFG)
- **Reviewer:** Aging Cell, Scientific Reports, Respiratory research, PLOS ONE, Canadian Respiratory Journal, American Journal of Physiology-Lung Cellular & Molecular Physiology, Journal of Cell Science, Molecular Medicine, The FASEB Journal, BMC Pulmonary Medicine, American Journal of Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology, European Respiratory Journal.
- **International external reviewer** for grants of Centre for Interdisciplinary research in animal health (CIISA), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Lisbon.
- **Project leader** for biological safety (BSL-1 & 2) facilities, JLU Giessen

Languages

English:	Professional
German:	Advanced
Hindi:	Professional
Telugu:	Mother tongue

Top 10 Publications (of > 45 peer reviewed)

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=mahavadi+p&sort=date>

1. Katariya BB, ____, **Mahavadi P**. Targeting fused in sarcoma (FUS): A novel antisense strategy for treating idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. *In Press: Nature Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy*, 11(1):70, 2026. (IF: 52.2)
2. **Mahavadi P**, Korfei M, ____, Guenther A. RAAS antagonists dampen the SARS-CoV-2 infection in ex-vivo cultured human precision-cut lung slices. Accepted: *Respiratory Research*, 27(1):28, 2026. (IF: 5.0)
3. Neiens V, ____, **Mahavadi P**, ____, Pavlidou M. Inhaled CTGF/CCN2 inhibitor for pulmonary fibrosis. *Nature Communications*, 16(1):3251, 2025. (IF: 15.7)
4. Wasnick R, ____, **Mahavadi P**, ____, Guenther A. Notch1 induces defective epithelial surfactant processing and pulmonary fibrosis. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*, 207(3):283-299, 2023. (IF: 19.4)
5. Chillappagari S, Guenther A, **Mahavadi P**. Therapeutic induction of Bcl2-associated athanogene 3-mediated autophagy in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. *Clin and Transl Med.*, 12(7):e935, 2022. (IF: 6.8)
6. Knoell J, ____, **Mahavadi PI**. PACS2-TRPV1 axis in ER-mitochondrial tethering and fibrosis. *Cell Mol Life Sci*, 79(3):151, 2022. (IF: 6.2)
7. Kesireddy VS, ____, **Mahavadi P**. Susceptibility of microtubule - associated protein 1 light chain 3 β (MAP1LC3B/LC3B) knockout mice to lung injury and fibrosis. *FASEB J.*, (11):12392-12408, 2019. (IF: 4.5)
8. **Mahavadi P**, ____, Guenther A. Regulation of macroautophagy in amiodarone induced pulmonary fibrosis. *J Pathol Clin Research*, 1(4): 252-63, 2015. (IF: 3.7)
9. **Mahavadi P**, ____, Guenther A. Epithelial stress and apoptosis in Hermansky-Pudlak syndrome interstitial pneumonia. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*, 182(2):207-19, 2010. (IF: 19.4)
10. Korfei M, ____, **Mahavadi P**, ____, Guenther A. Epithelial ER stress and apoptosis in IPF. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*, 178(8):838-46, 2008. (IF: 19.4)

Book Chapters as Corresponding Author

1. **Mahavadi P**, Korfei M, Guenther A. Chapter 17: Lungs. Second Edition, Autophagy in Health and Disease. 2021. Edited by Beverly A. Rothermel, Abhinav Diwan. Elsevier Inc., ISBN: 978-0-12-822003-0