

# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

CONNECT. Albania 2026  
An ESAIC–ASAI Collaborative Congress  
6–7 November 2026, Tirana, Albania

CONNECT.Albania is the inaugural edition of the ESAIC collaborative congress model, created to bring high-quality perioperative and intensive care education closer to national and regional communities. Developed in partnership between the European Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care (ESAIC) and the Albanian Society of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists (ASAI), it offers a focused scientific programme delivered by international and local faculty, fostering professional development, knowledge exchange and regional collaboration.

## FRIDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2026

11:30 - 12:00	Room 1: Balsha Hall <b>Opening Ceremony - Welcome Speech</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Saimir KUÇI</b> (ASAI President - CO-Chair CONNECT.Albania)</li><li>• <b>Idit MATOT</b> (ESAIC President)</li><li>• <b>Michel STRUYS</b> (Chair Scientific C<sup>ee</sup> ESAIC - Co-Chair CONNECT.Albania)</li></ul>
12:00 - 12:40	<b>SESSION 1: KEYNOTE LECTURE</b> <b>Critical Care Patient in the Modern Era</b> Moderator: <b>Saimir KUÇI (AL)</b> Speaker: <b>Giovanni LANDONI (IT)</b>
12:40 - 13:00	Warm Albanian Welcome – Main Hall <b>Traditional Albanian folk music</b>
13:00 - 13:30	<b>LUNCH</b>

	Room 1: Balsha Hall	Room 2: Consortium Hall
13:30 - 14:40	<b>SESSION 2: EXPERT FORUM</b> <b>Airway Management</b> Moderator: <b>Carolyn WEININGER (IL)</b>	<b>SESSION 3: EXPERT FORUM</b> <b>Sepsis and Shock</b> Moderator: <b>Krenar LILAJ (AL)</b>
	Presentation 1: <i>What's new in a difficult airway management (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Medita HASHIMI (KS)</b>	Presentation 1: <i>Antibiotic Resistance in the ICU (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Vojislava NESKOVIC (RS)</b>
	Presentation 2: <i>The most common problems and their solutions in pediatric airway management (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Marijana KARISIK (ME)</b>	Presentation 2: <i>Pathophysiology of hemodynamic alterations in septic shock: the role of ventriculoarterial coupling (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Fabio GUARRACINO (IT)</b>
	<b>Discussion (30 min)</b>	<b>Discussion (30 min)</b>
	<b>14:40 - 15:00 COFFEE BREAK</b>	
15:00 - 15:40	<b>SESSION 4: MEET-THE-EXPERT</b> <b>Innovation, Technology &amp; Sustainability</b> Moderator: <b>Agreta GECAJ-GASHI (KS)</b>	
	Presentation (30 min) Speaker: <b>Michel STRUYS (NL)</b>	
	<b>Discussion (10 min)</b>	
15:50 - 17:00	<b>SESSION 5: EXPERT FORUM</b> <b>Regional Anesthesia</b> Moderator: <b>Michel STRUYS (NL)</b>	<b>SESSION 6: EXPERT FORUM</b> <b>Neuroanesthesia and Neurocritical Care</b> Moderator: <b>Federico BILOTTA (IT)</b>
	Presentation 1: <i>Rectus sheath block vs epidural for open abdominal surgery (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Pinelopi KOUKI (GR)</b>	Presentation 1: <i>Patient centered precision care in neuroanesthesia (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Basak CEYDA MEÇO (TR)</b>
	Presentation 2: <i>The pharmacological pitfalls of mixing local anaesthetics (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Michelle CARELLA (BE)</b>	Presentation 2: <i>Beyond brain death - organ donor (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Biljana KUZMANOVSKA (MK)</b>
	<b>Discussion (30 min)</b>	<b>Discussion (30 min)</b>
	<b>19:30 Hotel Plaza: GALA DINNER &amp; NETWORKING EVENING</b>	

## SATURDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2026

	Room 1: Balsha Hall	Room 2: Consortium Hall
08:30 - 09:10	<b>SESSION 7: KEYNOTE LECTURE</b> <b>European Cooperation and Mobility in Anesthesia and ICU</b> Moderator: <b>Saimir KUÇI (AL)</b> Speaker: <b>Idit MATOT (IL)</b>	
09:20 - 10:30	<b>SESSION 8: EXPERT FORUM</b> <b>Respiratory and ARDS Management</b> Moderator: <b>Alma CANI (AL)</b>	<b>SESSION 9: EXPERT FORUM</b> <b>New publications: Obstetric Anesthesia Education &amp; Blood Pressure Outcomes</b> Moderator: <b>Idit MATOT (IL)</b>
	Presentation 1: <i>Monitoring and managing patient's respiratory effort (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Giacomo BELLANI (IT)</b>	Presentation 1: <i>Serious games as a novel medical education tool in obstetric anesthesia (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Carolyn WEININGER (IT)</b>
	Presentation 2: <i>Hemodynamic management in the ICU (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Sasha TRESKATSCH (DE)</b>	Presentation 2: <i>Blood pressure and clinical outcomes (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Bernd SAUGEL (DE)</b>
	<b>Discussion (30 min)</b>	<b>Discussion (30 min)</b>
<b>10:30 - 10:50</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
10:50 - 12:00	Room 1: Balsha Hall <b>SESSION 10: EXPERT FORUM</b> <b>Perioperative Medicine &amp; Patient Safety</b> Moderator: <b>Fabio GUARRACINO (IT)</b>	
	Presentation 1: <i>ERAS Protocols: Optimizing Patient Recovery in Surgical Practice (25 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Krenar Lilaj (AL)</b>	
	Presentation 2: <i>Preoperative Fasting in Adults (25 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Anne Marie Camilleri PODESTA (MT)</b>	
	<b>Discussion (20 min)</b>	
<b>12:00 - 12:30</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	

	<b>Room 1: Balsha Hall</b> <b>SESSION 11: EXPERT FORUM</b> <b>Cardiac Anesthesia</b> Moderator: <b>Valentina AJELLO (IT)</b>	<b>Room 2: Consortium Hall</b> <b>SESSION 12: EXPERT FORUM</b> <b>Hemodynamics and Organ Support</b> Moderator: <b>Alfred IBRAHIMI (AL)</b>
<b>12:30 - 13:40</b>	Presentation 1: <i>Physiopathology-based hemodynamic optimisation in high-risk patients (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Fabio GUARRACINO (IT)</b>	Presentation 1: <i>Extracorporeal support in multi-organ failure (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Visnja IVANCA (HR)</b>
	Presentation 2: <i>Personalized Hemostasis Management in Cardiac Surgery (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Dorela HAXHIADEMI (AL)</b>	Presentation 2: <i>Perioperative right ventricular failure: diagnosis and management (20 min)</i> Speaker: <b>Vedat EJLEZI (FR)</b>
	<b>Discussion (30 min)</b>	<b>Discussion (30 min)</b>
<b>13:50 - 14:15</b>	<b>CLOSING CEREMONY</b>	
	CONNECT. Albania 2026 Best Presentation & Recognition Awards: <b>Michel Struys</b>  Passing the baton from CONNECT. Albania to CONNECT. Malta: <b>Idit MATOT, Saimir KUÇI, Anne Marie CAMILLERI PODESTA</b>	

