

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 Anesthesiologists 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 Opening Ceremony Welcome Speech Saimir KUCI (ASAI President - Co-Chair CONNECT.Albania) Idit MATOT (ESAIC President) Michel STRUYS (Chair Scientific C ^{ee} ESAIC - Co-Chair CONNECT.Albania)
12:00 - 12:40	SESSION 1: KEYNOTE LECTURE Critical Care Patient in the Modern Era Moderator: Saimir KUCI (AL) Speaker: Giovanni LANDONI (IT)
12:40 - 13:00	Warm Albanian Welcome – Main Hall Traditional Albanian folk music
13:00 - 13:30	LUNCH

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

SATURDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2026

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

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

