

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.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs	Saimir KUCI (AL) ASAI President	Michel STRUYS (NL) Chair Scientific Committee ESAIC
Members	Fabio GUARRACINO (IT) Alfred IBRAHIMI (AL)	Agreta GECAJ-GASHI (KS) Anne Marie CAMILLERI PODESTA (MT)

FRIDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2026

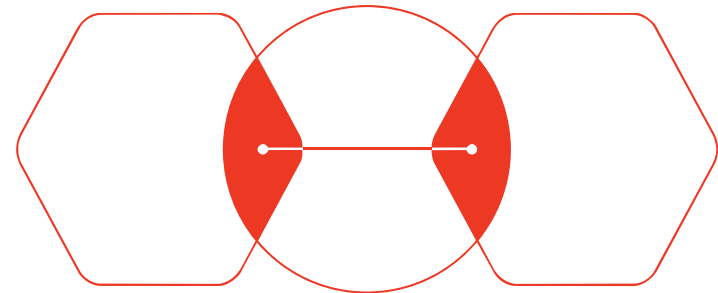
11:30 - 12:00	Room 1: Balsha Hall Opening Ceremony Welcome Speech Saimir KUCI (ASAI President - Co-Chair CONNECT.Albania) Idit MATOT (ESAIC President) Michel STRUYS (Chair Scientific C ^{ee} ESAIC - Co-Chair CONNECT.Albania)
12:00 - 12:40	SESSION 1: KEYNOTE LECTURE Critical Care Patient in the Modern 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 Neuroanesthesia and Neurocritical Care Moderator: Federico BILOTTA (IT)
	Presentation 1: <i>What's new in a difficult airway management (20 min)</i> Speaker: Medita HASHIMI (KS)	Presentation 1: <i>Patient centered precision care in neuroanesthesia (20 min)</i> Speaker: Basak CEYDA MEÇO (TR)
	Presentation 2: <i>The most common problems and their solutions in pediatric airway management (20 min)</i> Speaker: Marijana KARISIK (ME)	Presentation 2: <i>Beyond brain death - organ donor (20 min)</i> Speaker: Biljana KUZMANOVSKA (MK)
	Discussion (30 min)	Discussion (30 min)
14:40 - 15:00	COFFEE BREAK	
15:00 - 15:40	SESSION 4: EXPERT FORUM 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 Sepsis and Shock Moderator: Krenar LILAJ (AL)
	Presentation 1: <i>Rectus sheath block vs epidural for open abdominal surgery. (20 min)</i> Speaker: Pinelopi KOUKI (GR)	Presentation 1: <i>Antibiotic Resistance in the ICU (20 min)</i> Speaker: Vojislava NESKOVIC (RS)
	Presentation 2: <i>The pharmacological pitfalls of mixing local anaesthetics (20 min)</i> Speaker: Michelle CARELLA (BE)	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)
19:30	Sky Tower Club & Restaurant 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 The 35 Years Crossroads - Expand your world or watch it shrink Moderator: Saimir KUCI (AL) Speaker: Idit MATOT (IL)	
09:20 - 10:30	SESSION 8: EXPERT FORUM Cardiac Anesthesia Moderator: Valentina AJELLO (IT)	SESSION 9: EXPERT FORUM New publications: Obstetric Anesthesia Education & Blood Pressure Outcomes Moderator: Barak COHEN (IL)
	Presentation 1: <i>Physiopathology-based hemodynamic optimisation in high-risk patients (20 min)</i> Speaker: Fabio GUARRACINO (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>Personalized Hemostasis Management in Cardiac Surgery (20 min)</i> Speaker: Dorela HAXHIADEMI (AL)	Presentation 2: <i>Blood pressure and clinical outcomes (20 min)</i> Speaker: Wolfgang BUHRE (NL)
	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 Respiratory and ARDS Management Moderator: Alma CANI (AL)	SESSION 12: EXPERT FORUM Hemodynamics and Organ Support Moderator: Alfred IBRAHIMI (AL)
12:30 - 13:40	Presentation 1: <i>Monitoring and managing patient's respiratory effort (20 min)</i> Speaker: Giacomo BELLANI (IT)	Presentation 1: <i>Extracorporeal support in multi-organ failure (20 min)</i> Speaker: Visnja IVANCA (HR)
	Presentation 2: <i>Hemodynamic management in the ICU (20 min)</i> Speaker: Sascha TRESKATSCH (DE)	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	



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