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: *What's new in a difficult airway management (20 min)* Speaker: **Medita HASHIMI (KS)**	Presentation 1: *Patient centered precision care in neuroanesthesia (20 min)* Speaker: **Basak CEYDA MEÇO (TR)**
	Presentation 2: *The most common problems and their solutions in pediatric airway management (20 min)* Speaker: **Marijana KARISIK (ME)**	Presentation 2: *Beyond brain death - organ donor (20 min)* 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: *Rectus sheath block vs epidural for open abdominal surgery. (20 min)* Speaker: **Pinelopi KOUKI (GR)**	Presentation 1: *Antibiotic Resistance in the ICU (20 min)* Speaker: **Vojislava NESKOVIC (RS)**
	Presentation 2: *The pharmacological pitfalls of mixing local anaesthetics (20 min)* Speaker: **Michelle CARELLA (BE)**	Presentation 2: *Pathophysiology of hemodynamic alterations in septic shock: the role of ventriculoarterial coupling (20 min)* Speaker: **Fabio GUARRACINO (IT)**
	Discussion (30 min)	**Discussion (30 min)**

SATURDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2026

	Room 1: Balsha Hall	Room 2: Consortium Hall
08:30 - 09:10	**SESSION 7: KEYNOTE LECTURE** **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: *Physiopathology-based hemodynamic optimisation in high-risk patients (20 min)* Speaker: **Fabio GUARRACINO (IT)**	Presentation 1: *Serious games as a novel medical education tool in obstetric anesthesia (20 min)* Speaker: **Carolyn WEINIGER (IL)**
	Presentation 2: *Personalized Hemostasis Management in Cardiac Surgery (20 min)* Speaker: **Dorela HAXHIADEMI (AL)**	Presentation 2: *Blood pressure and clinical outcomes (20 min)* 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: *ERAS Protocols: Optimizing Patient Recovery in Surgical Practice (25 min)* Speaker: **Krenar LILAJ (AL)**	
	Presentation 2: *Preoperative Fasting in Adults (25 min)* Speaker: **Anne Marie Camilleri PODESTA (MT)**	
	Discussion (20 min)	
12:00 - 12:30	**LUNCH**	

	Room 1: Balsha Hall	Room 2: Consortium Hall
12:30 - 13:40	**SESSION 11: EXPERT FORUM** **Respiratory and ARDS Management** Moderator: **Alma CANI (AL)**	**SESSION 12: EXPERT FORUM** **Hemodynamics and Organ Support** Moderator: **Alfred IBRAHIMI (AL)**
	Presentation 1: *Monitoring and managing patient's respiratory effort (20 min)* Speaker**: Giacomo BELLANI (IT)**	Presentation 1: *Extracorporeal support in multi-organ failure (20 min)* Speaker: **Visnja IVANCA (HR)**
	Presentation 2: *Hemodynamic management in the ICU (20 min)* Speaker: **Sascha TRESKATSCH (DE)**	Presentation 2: *Perioperative right ventricular failure: diagnosis and management. (20 min)* 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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