



INTERNATIONAL SPINE CONGRESS



OCTOBER 17-18, 2026



TIRANA, ALBANIA



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the *Albanian Society of Neurosurgery, International Spine Society, Albanian Society of Neurotraumatology and Spine Surgery, Spitali Universitar and WFNS-Spine Committee and WFNS - Trauma Committee* it is our great honor to invite you to the International Spine Congress 2026 to be held on 17–18 October 2026 in Tirana, Albania.

Hosted in the vibrant and historic capital of Albania, this landmark event brings together leading minds, surgeons, and specialists dedicated to the advancement of spinal surgery, clinical excellence, and innovation.

The congress program offers a comprehensive scientific experience, featuring expert-led panels, keynote lectures, hands-on courses, and dynamic case discussions that bridge cutting-edge theoretical insights with advanced practical techniques.

We would be delighted to have you join us at this important gathering, where international collaboration, scientific exchange, and the future of spine surgery will be at the forefront.

We look forward to seeing you in Tirana on October 17–18, 2026. Please visit our official website for registration, submission details, and further information: <https://www.albaniaspine.org>

Ast. Prof. Fatos Ollashi

*Conference President / Chair of
the Spine Society*

Prof. Mehmet Zileli

*Honorary Conference President /
Honorary President WFNS Spine
Committee*

Prof. Yahya Güvenç

*Conference Vice President /
Chair of International Spine
Society*



Saturday

October 17, 2026

Time	Topic	Speaker
09:00 - 09:30	Opening Ceremony	
	Rector/Dean of University of Medicine Tirana	
	Ministry of Health	
	Conference President	Fatos Olldashi (Chair of the Spine Society)
	Honorary Conference President	Mehmet Zileli (Honorary President WFNS Spine Committee)
	Conference Vice President	Yahya Güvenç (Chair of International Spine Society)
Keynote Talks		Yahya Guvenc, Francesco Costa
09:30 - 09:45	KT #1: Evolution of modern spine surgery: From open to robotic surgery	Mehmet Zileli
09:45 - 10:00	KT #2: Transition to the modern spine surgery in Albania	Fatos Olldashi
10:00 - 10:15	KT #3: Beyond the Ordinary: Foramen Magnum Meningiomas with Kissing Tumors and Vertebral Artery Encasement: A 38-Case Experience	Mentor Petrela
10:15 - 10:30	KT #4: Spine Endoscopy current place and future	Joseph Cristini
10:30 - 10:45 COFFEE BREAK		
Panel 1: Lumbar Degenerative Spine		Nikolay Peev, Obada Alhalabadi
10:45 - 10:55	Lumbar disc herniation: Surgery vs Conservative care	Kemal Koç
10:55 - 11:05	Lumbar spinal stenosis: Unilateral microsurgical approaches	Ahmet Hilmi Kaya
11:05 - 11:15	Degenerative listesis: Fusion or decompression	Granit Mullaqi
11:15 - 11:25	Lumbar Interbody Cages: Surgical Techniques	Nikolay Peev
11:25 - 11:35	Is Segmental Motion Pain Underdiagnosed in the Balkans? Experience from Sweden and Kosovo	Armend Agolli
11:35 - 11:45	Pros of the contralateral (over-the-top) approach to intra/extraforaminal lumbar disc herniations	Edvin Zekaj
Panel 2: Lumbar Endoscopic Spine		Joseph Cristini, Salim Şentürk
11:45 - 11:55	Endoscopic approaches to Lumbar spinal stenosis	Hakan Sabuncuoğlu
11:55 - 12:05	Endoscopic approaches to Recurrent disc herniations	Salim Şentürk
12:05 - 12:15	Endoscopic approaches to Lumbar disc herniation Targeting the Symptom-Driving Level in Multilevel Lumbar Stenosis Using Unilateral Biportal Endoscopy: A Strategy Reappraisal	Joseph Cristini



12:15 - 12:25	Treatment of lumbar spinal stenosis and disc herniation with unilateral biportal endoscopic technique: clinical experience and results	Péter Banczerowski
12:25 - 12:35	Indications and Limitations of the Transforaminal Endoscopic Approach	Altay Sencer
Panel 3: Cervical Spondylotic Myelopathy & OPLL		Onur Yaman, Granit Mullaqi
12:40 - 12:50	Tailored surgical approach to cervical spondylotic myelopathy	Sait Naderi
12:50 - 13:00	Surgical management of degenerative cervical disc disease	Alexander Caparovski
13:00 - 13:10	Management options for OPLL	Russell J Andrews
13:10 - 13:20	Cervical Alignment and Surgical Outcomes in CSM and OPLL	Osama Arim
13:20 - 13:30	ACDF in degenerative cervical spine disease. Our experience and literature review	Venko Filipce
13:30 - 14:10 LUNCH		
Panel 4: Spine Technology & Innovation		Mehmet Zileli, Pragnesh Bhatt
14:10 - 14:20	Navigation & robotics in Europe vs Balkans	Gabriele Capo
14:20 - 14:30	Cost-effectiveness of advanced spine technology	Nikolay Peev
14:30 - 14:40	AI in imaging & surgical planning	Pragnesh Bhatt
14:40 - 14:50	Conceptual approach to spine surgery	Michael Spyrou
14:50 - 15:00	Interventional endoscopic spinal surgery: Neuroplasty	Skevos Poullas
15:00 - 15:10	Cervical disc arthroplasty for primary and expanded indications	Mehmet C. Berk
15:10 - 15:30 COFFEE BREAK		
Panel 5: Complication Avoidance & Revision Surgery		Artur Xhumari, Kemal Koc
15:30 - 15:40	Management of osteoporotic fractures	Şükrü Çağlar
15:40 - 15:50	Problems of geriatric spine surgery	Güçlühan Güçlü
15:50 - 16:00	Prevention and management of nonunion and pseudoarthrosis	Serdar Kahraman
16:00 - 16:10	Surgical repair of anterior sacral meningoceles	Artur Xhumari
16:10 - 16:20	Adverse events related to peripheral nerves following spine surgery	Lukas Rasulic
16:20 - 16:30	Nerve transfer after spinal cord injury	Ridvan Alimehmeti
16:30 - 16:40	Revision surgery for cervical spine	Ülkün Ünlü Ünsal
16:40 - 16:50	Spine sagittal balance	Admir Mustafa
16:50 - 17:00	Our experience with Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) application in peri-radicular infiltrations	Blerim Zeqiri



Panel 6: Case Discussion		Mehmet Zileli, Numan Karaarslan
17:00 - 17:10	Case 1: Subaxial cervical fractures	Asllan Selaj
17:10 - 17:20	Case 2: TBA	TBA
17:20 - 17:30	Case 3: Beyond the cervical MRI: A case of cubital tunnel syndrome mimicking cervical radiculopathy	Nirian Bendo
17:30 - 17:40	Case 4: Osteoporotic spine fracture and hormonal problems	Esma Gashi
17:40 - 17:50	Case 5: Thoracic osteoid osteoma presenting with progressive myelopathy and sphincter dysfunction: The seventh reported case in literature	Aurora Muca
17:50 - 18:00	Case 6: Risk Stratification and Treatment of Spinal Arachnoid Cysts	Henri Ollidashi
18:00 - 18:10	Case 7: Surgical management of a giant C1-C2 ancient Schwannoma presenting with dysphagia and hemiparesis	Art Deva
18:10 - 18:20	Case 8: Emergency Neurosurgical Management of an Intradural Gunshot Wound with Cerebrospinal Fluid Leak and Retained Bullet	Flamur Hasimi
18:20 - 18:30	Case 9: A 20-Month Multimodal Physiotherapy Rehabilitation Program in a Patient with Complete T7-T8 Spinal Cord Injury (ASIA: A)	Fatjon Hajdari
20:00 - 22:30 Gala Dinner & Networking		
Informal networking with international faculty, Albanian cultural program		

Sunday

October 18, 2026

Time	Topic	Speaker
Panel 7: Spinal Trauma: WFNS Trauma Committee		Francesco Costa, Corrado Laccarino
09:00 - 09:10	Occipitocervical fixation techniques	Şükrü Çağlar
09:10 - 09:20	Surgical management of Upper Cervical fractures	Fatos Ollidashi
09:20 - 09:30	Operative management of subaxial cervical spine lesions	Artid Lame
09:30 - 09:40	Spinal cord injury: a new point of view on the global recommendations	Francesco Costa
09:40 - 09:50	An overview on current evidence on timing for SCI	Corrado Laccarino
09:50 - 10:00	Secondary syringomyelia after spinal trauma	Geldon Fejzo
10:00 - 10:10	360 degrees stabilization of spine	Irgen Hodaj
10:10 - 10:20	Revision surgery after thoracolumbar trauma	Barış Saygılı
10:20 - 11:00 COFFEE BREAK		



Panel 8: Spine Tumors WFNS Spine Committee		Fatos Olldashi, Nikolay Peev
11:00 - 11:10	Management of chordomas of the mobile spine and sacrum	Mehmet Zileli
11:10 - 11:20	Surgical treatment of spine metastases	Fatos Olldashi
11:20 - 11:30		Nikolay Peev
11:30 - 11:40	Spinal cord intradural extramedullary tumors	Francesco Costa
11:40 - 11:50	Caudal spinal ependymoma	Arsen Seferi
11:50 - 12:00	Intraoperative Neurophysiology Monitoring for Intradural Extramedullary Tumours- Is it useful?	Pragnesh Bhatt
12:00 - 12:10	Function preserving surgery for intramedullary spinal astrocytomas	Yahya Güvenç
Panel 9: Spine Tumors		Şükrü Çağlar, Serdar Kahraman
12:10 - 12:20	Vertebral artery releasing for cervical tumor surgery	Kemal Koc
12:20 - 12:30	Objective and subjective methods of measuring outcomes in spinal tumors	Edin Nevzati
12:30 - 12:40	Extent of resection and onco-functional outcomes in spinal glioma	Obada Alhalabadi
12:40 - 12:50	Decision making for spinal metastases surgery	Serdar Kahraman
12:50 - 13:00	Separation surgery: Indications, techniques, and outcomes	Ismail Bozkurt
13:00 - 13:30 LUNCH & WORKSHOP		
Panel 10: Deformity & Pediatric Spine		Ilir Hasani, Ender Ofluoğlu
13:30 - 13:40	Principles of deformity surgery	Süleyman Çaylı
13:40 - 13:50	Surgical planning for deformity cases	Ilir Hasani
13:50 - 14:00	Spinal osteotomy techniques	Numan Karaarslan
14:00 - 14:10	Correction maneuvers in scoliosis	Erkin Sönmez
14:10 - 14:20	Management of congenital scoliosis	Yahya Güvenç
14:20 - 14:30	Management of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis	Onur Yaman
14:30 - 14:40	Surgical indications of adult spinal deformity	Ender Ofluoğlu
Panel 11: Complex Spine		Michael Spyrou, Besnik Elshani
14:40 - 14:50	Hip-Spine Syndrome	Kenan Bayrakçı
14:50 - 15:00	Salvage Surgery for Recurrent Cervical Spinal Metastasis from Thyroid Carcinoma After Refusal of Adjuvant Therapy	Areda Cara
15:00 - 15:10	The Role of Vertebroplasty in the Management of Vertebral Metastases: A Minimally Invasive and Multimodal Approach	Artan Bano



15:10 - 15:20	The Role of Radiotherapy in the Multidisciplinary Management of Spinal Neoplasms: A 10-Year Single-Center Experience	Aurora Aliraj
15:20 - 15:30	Subdural extra-arachnoidal post operative hygroma, case series	Kreshnike Dedushi
15:30 - 15:40	Diagnostic challenges in polytrauma patients with cervical injuries	Taulant Shatri
15:40 - 15:50	Traumatic Dural Rupture Associated with Thoracolumbar Burst Fractures - A Case Series	Taulant Shatri
15:50 - 16:20 COFFEE BREAK		
Free Papers & Best Abstract Award		
16:20 - 16:30	When the next level fails: A case series of adjacent segment disease	Erion Spaho
16:30 - 16:40	Precision spine Oncology for all: Adapting multimodal care of spinal metastases across healthcare systems	Erion Musabelliu, Artur Xhumari
16:40 - 16:50	Vertebral Langerhans cell histiocytosis in children and adolescents: Clinical characteristics, treatment, and outcomes	Neritan Borici Orto
16:50 - 17:00	In-hospital mortality after traumatic cervical ASIA A spinal cord injury: A retrospective cohort study from Albania's National Trauma Referral Center	Sidorela Selmani Albania
17:00 - 17:10	Sacral U-Fracture with spinopelvic dissociation following high-energy trauma: A case report	Ledian Fezollari
17:10 - 17:20	Failed back surgery syndrome: Beyond structural pathology	Fiorela Gorea
17:30 Awards & Closing Remarks		



Friday

Pre-Congress Course

October 16, 2026

Time	Topic	Speaker / Info
Step 1: Spinal Fixation Techniques		Fatos Olldashi, Güçlühan Güçlü, Salim Şentürk
11:00 - 11:05	Welcome & Course Objectives	Fatos Olldashi
11:05 - 11:20	Lumbar Pedicle Screw Fixation: Anatomy, Indications & Surgical Planning	Fatos Olldashi
11:20 - 11:35	Lumbar Pedicle Screw Insertion: Techniques & Step-by-Step Principles	Numan Karaarslan
11:35 - 11:45	Avoiding Complications in Lumbar Pedicle Screw Fixation	Ülkün Ünlü Ünsal
11:45 - 12:00	Cases, Technical Pearls & Discussion Before Hands-On Session	Güçlühan Güçlü Salim Şentürk Irgen Hodaj
12:00 - 12:15	ACDF: Indications, Anatomy & Preoperative Planning	Ismail Bozkurt
12:15 - 12:30	ACDF: Surgical Technique Step-by-Step	Salim Şentürk
12:30 - 12:40	ACDF Complications: Prevention & Management	Osama Arim
12:40 - 12:55	Cases, Technical Pearls & Discussion Before Hands-On Session	Fatos Olldashi Ender Ofloğlu
12:55 - 13:00	Informations for Practical part of the course	Fatos Olldashi
Step 2: Deformity & Pediatric Spine		Süleyman Çaylı, Ender Ofloğlu, Onur Yaman
13:30 - 13:40	Spinal balance and effect on surgical results	Şafak Çine
13:40 - 13:50	Lenke classification for AIS and making decision	Erkin Sönmez
13:50 - 14:00	Adult degenerative scoliosis: Classification and surgical planning	Ender Ofloğlu
14:00 - 14:10	Instrumentation levels for scoliosis	Güçlühan Güçlü
14:10 - 14:20	Osteotomy techniques for spine deformity: Video presentation	Yahya Güvenç
14:20 - 14:30	Correction maneuvers for scoliosis: Video presentation	Onur Yaman
14:30 - 14:40	Congenital scoliosis surgery	Ilir Hasani
14:40 - 14:50	Revision surgery for deformity	Süleyman Çaylı
14:50 - 15:00	Complication prevention in deformity surgery	Barış Saygılı
Case Discussion		Barış Saygılı, Erkin Sönmez, Numan Karaarslan
15:00 - 15:10	Case 1	Osama Arim
15:10 - 15:20	Case 2	Ülkün Ünlü Ünsal
15:20 - 15:30	Case 3	İsmail Bozkurt
15:30 - 15:40	Case 4	Bahadır Topal
15:40 - 15:50	Case 5	Fatih Akbulut
15:50 - 16:00	Case 6	Abdul Mehmet Guliyev
16:00 - 16:10	Case 7	Azat Mustafayev
16:10 - 16:20	Case 8	Mahmut Demirkol
16:30 - 18:00	Hands-on course on models	All Faculty



Lecturers & Speakers

Agolli Armend *Kosovo*
Akbulut Fatih *Türkiye*
Alhalabadi Obada *Germany*
Alimehmeti Ridvan *Albania*
Andrews Russell J. *USA*
Arim Osama *Iraq*
Bano Artan *Albania*
Banczerowski Péter *Hungary*
Bayrakci Kenan *Albania*
Bendo Nirian *Albania*
Berk Mehmet C. *Türkiye*
Bhatt Pragnesh *United Kingdom*
Bozkurt Ismail *Türkiye*
Chaparovski Alexandar *North Macedonia*
Capo Gabriele *Italy*
Costa Francesco *Italy*
Cristini Joseph *France*
Çağlar Şükrü *Türkiye*
Çaylı Süleyman *Türkiye*
Çine H. Şafak *Türkiye*
Demirkol Mahmut *Türkiye*
Deva Art *Kosovo*
Elshani Besnik *Kosovo*
Fezjo Geldon *Albania*
Fezollari Ledian *Albania*
Venko Filipçe *North Macedonia*
Gashi Esma *Albania*
Gashi Xhavit *Kosovo*
Gorea Fiorela *Albania*
Guliyev Abdul Mehmet *Azerbaijan*
Güçlühan Güçlü *Türkiye*
Güvenç Yahya *Türkiye*
Hasani Ilir *North Macedonia*
Hodaj Irgen *Albania*
Kahraman Serdar *Türkiye*

Karaarslan Numan *Türkiye*
Kaya Ahmet Hilmi *Türkiye*
Koç Kemal *Türkiye*
Lame Artid *Albania*
Laccarino Corrado *Italy*
Muca Aurora *Albania*
Molliqaj Granit *Switzerland*
Musabelliu Erion *Albania*
Mustafa Admir *Albania*
Mustafayev Azat *Kazakhstan*
Nevzati Edin *Switzerland*
Neritan Borici *Albania*
Ofluoglu Ender *Türkiye*
Olldashi Fatos *Albania*
Peev Nikolay *United Kingdom*
Petrela Mentor *Albania*
Poullas Skevos *Greece*
Rasulić Lukas *Serbia*
Sabuncuoğlu Hakan *Türkiye*
Saygılı Barış *Türkiye*
Seferi Arsen *Albania*
Selaj Asllan *Albania*
Selmani Sidorela *Albania*
Sencer Altay *Türkiye*
Spaho Erion *Albania*
Spyrou Michael *Cyprus*
Sönmez Erkin *Türkiye*
Şentürk Salim *Türkiye*
Topal Bahadır *Türkiye*
Ünsal Ülkü Ünlü *Türkiye*
Xhumari Artur *Albania*
Yaman Onur *Türkiye*
Zekaj Edvin *Albania*
Zeqiri Blerim *North Macedonia*
Zileli Mehmet *Türkiye*

