

Program of the 9th Swiss Hernia Days 2026 (22nd – 23rd October 2026)

Thursday 22.10.2026

8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome (Philipp Kirchhoff, Henry Hoffmann)
9:15 – 10:15	<i>Session 1 – Challenging Cases</i> Interparietal hernias – Sandra Widjaja Kaufmann (Switzerland) Infraxyphoidal hernias - Hector Valenzuela (Mexico) The 2 nd recurrence – Walter Brunner (Switzerland)
10:15 – 11:15	<i>Session 2 – Swiss Young Surgeons Session</i> Suture repairs in inguinal hernias – when and how? – Andreas Koch (Germany) IPOM – not dead yet? – Salvador Morales Conde (Spain) Open ventral hernia repairs in the area of MIS – David Chen (USA)
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 – 12:45	<i>Session 3 – New kids on the block</i> Semitendinosus Tendon as hernia mesh – Fabian Helfritz (Germany) Modifications of TAR: Madrid approach and more – Miguel Garcia Urena (Spain) Mesh Suture – Greg Dumanian (USA)
12:45 – 13:15	Lunch break
13:15 – 14:00	Lunch Symposium - tba
14:00 – 14:30	Keynote lecture How long can you hold your breath – <i>Anna von Boetticher (Germany)</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee Break
15:00 – 15:45	<i>Grand Round – Taking care of ourselves</i> Input talk – Burnout plus physical wear and tear, a surgical pandemic? – David Sanders (UK)

15:45 – 16:00 Who is the biggest Hernia Nerd? Quiz
Moderation: Philipp Kirchhoff

16:00 – 17:00 *Session 5 - When the shit hits the fan*

Case 1 – Marta Wójcik (Poland)
Case 2 – Jonathan Douissard (Switzerland)
Case 3 – Guido Woeste (Germany)

19:00 Networking Event

Friday 24.10.2025

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:30 Deferred Life Surgery

Single Port Robotic Hernia Repair – Lana Fourie (Switzerland)
PeTEP – Hector Valenzuela (Mexico)
Inguinal mesh removal and neurectomy – David Chen (USA)

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00 Session 6 – Specialization and Quality in Hernia Surgery

The UEMS Abdominal Wall Surgery - Mette Willaume (Denmark)
The more the better? Caseload and quality in hernia surgery – Guido Woeste (Germany)
Where is robotics adding quality in hernia surgery? – Lukas Gantner (Switzerland)

12:00 – 13:00 Session 7 - The conundrum of diastasis recti

The role of physiotherapy – Katarina Woxnerud (Sweden)
Surgery – when and how? – Fernando Ferreira (Portugal)
How to address the body image – David Ross (UK)

13:00 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 14:00 Lunch Symposium

13:30 – 14:30 Session 8 – AI in surgery

Deep learning in medicine – Jonathan Douissard (Switzerland)
Legal aspects of AI in medicine – Marc-Olivier Sauvaign (Switzerland)
Implication of AI in surgery – David Sanders (UK)

14:30 – 15:15 *Coffee break*
14:30 – 15:00 SAHC Annual Meeting (Members only)

15:15 – 16:15 *Championsleague*
Moderation: Philipp Kirchhoff

Team Switzerland: Jan Kukleta, Lana Fourie
Team Europe: Mette Willaume, Guido Woeste
Team Overseas: Hector Valenzuela, David Chen

Case 1 – Johannes Toti (Switzerland)
Case 2 - Moritz Sparn (Switzerland)
Case 3 – Lisa-Marie Schupp (Switzerland)

16:15 – 16:30 Best Video Award

16:30 – 16:45 Announcement winner “Industry Rally”