



# Provisional Agenda: War Surgery Congress 2025

**Date:** 13.09.2025

**Location:** Waffenplatz Kloten-Bülach - Lufingerstrasse 19, 8302 Kloten ZH

## Schedule Overview

### Morning Block: Lectures

Time	Topic	Speakers	Room
[09:00 - 09:10]	Welcome and Presentation of the ASMD Organization	ASMD President + Congress Team	Main Hall
[09:10 - 09:40]	“Characteristics of Surgery in Armed Conflict: How is it Different?”	Dr. med. François Irmay	
[09:45 - 10:15]	“Patient Care and Transport on the Front Lines” *	*Ukrainian medical military association (to be confirmed)	
[10:15 - 10:35]	“(Vascular) Surgery in Low Resource Environments”	Dr. med. Peter Nussbaumer	
[10:35 - 11:00]	Coffee Break		
[11:00 - 11:20]	Core concepts: Traumatology	Dr. med. Jaad Malhouly	
[11:25 - 11:45]	Core concepts: Anesthesia	Dr. med. Stefan Müller	
[11:50 - 12:10]	Core concepts: Neurosurgery	Prof. Dr. med. Ralf A. Kockro	
[12:15 - 12:35]	Core concepts: Burn Surgery	Prof. Dr. med. Bong-Sung Kim	

[12:35 - 13:30]	<b>Lunch</b>	Main Hall
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### Afternoon Block: Lectures

Time	Topic	Speakers	Room
[13:30 - 16:30]	<b>Vascular Surgery</b>	Dr. med. Peter Nussbaumer	Room A
	<b>Traumatology</b>	Dr. med. Jaad Malhouly	Room B
	<b>Anesthesia/Prehospital</b>	Dipl RS HF, Angelo Urso	Room C



	<b>Neurosurgery</b>	Prof. Dr. med. Ralf A. Kockro	Room D
	<b>Burn Surgery</b>	Prof. Dr. med. Bong-Sung Kim	Room E
[16:50 - 17:00]	<b>Closing Ceremony</b>	ASMD Congress Team	Main Hall

## Detailed Plan

Lectures	
[09:10 - 09:40]	<p><b>Keynote Lecture – Characteristics of Surgery in Armed Conflict: How is it Different?</b>  <u>Dr François Irmay</u>, Former Chief Surgeon, ICRC</p> <p>Drawing on his extensive field experience as a senior general surgeon and former Chief Surgeon of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Dr François Irmay will explore the defining characteristics of surgical care in war zones. Based on missions across multiple conflict settings, his presentation will examine how resource limitations, ethical dilemmas, and the burden of civilian trauma shape surgical priorities and techniques in armed conflict. He will also reflect on the ICRC's medical mandate, the practicalities of humanitarian deployments, and the critical skills required of war surgeons. A unique opportunity to learn from one of the most seasoned experts in conflict surgery.</p>
[09:45 - 10:15]	<p><b>“Patient Care and Transport from the Front Lines *”</b>  <i>Ukrainian medical military association (to be confirmed)</i></p> <p>This session explores how patient transportation from the front lines to safety have dramatically changed and have had to adapt to new conflict situations and dangers.</p>
[10:15 - 10:35]	<p><b>“(Vascular) Surgery in Low Resource Environments”</b>  <u>Dr. med. Peter Nussbaumer</u>, General and vascular surgeon, President of AN-NYA Foundation</p> <p>Based on three decades of humanitarian surgical work in various countries, this lecture explores the challenges of managing surgical cases (including vascular trauma) in low-resource settings. While vascular surgery is vital, patients often arrive too late for revascularization - shifting the focus toward damage control, amputation, and wound care. Drawing on missions with the ICRC, MSF, and AN-NYA Foundation, the talk offers practical field strategies and reflects on the mindset, adaptability, and priorities essential for effective surgery under extreme conditions.</p>
[11:00 - 11:20]	<p><b>Focus Block: Traumatology</b>  <u>Dr. med. Jaad Malhouly</u>, CHUV Lausanne</p> <p>This talk covers the principles of trauma care in military contexts, with a focus on extremity injuries, amputations, and bone stabilization. Dr. Malhouly discusses surgical decision-making and preparation for high-impact trauma.</p>



## Lectures

[11:25 - 11:45]

**Focus Block: Anaesthesia**

Dr. med. Stefan M. Müller, Stadtspital Zürich Triemli

This session highlights the pivotal role of anaesthesia in war surgery, especially in austere or resource-limited settings. Participants are introduced to field-adapted anaesthesia protocols and trauma care concepts based on ATLS/PHTLS principles.

[11:50 - 12:10]

**Focus Block: Neurosurgery**

Prof. Dr. med. Ralf A. Kockro, Klinik Hirslanden Zürich

In this presentation participants gain insights into cranial injuries in combat. The session covers injury patterns, surgical management strategies and equipment used in field neurosurgery.

[12:15 - 12:35]

**Focus Block: Burn Surgery**

Prof. Dr. med. Bong-Sung Kim, Universitätsspital Zürich

This session provides an overview of burn injury management in armed conflict. Participants learn about classification, prehospital management, wound debridement and the principles of surgical coverage using skin grafts and other techniques.



## Workshops

[13:30 - 16:30]

### **WORKSHOP: Anaesthesia/Prehospital** [20 participants]

Angelo Urso, *Dipl. Rettungssanitäter HF, Schutz und Rettung Zürich*

This workshop highlights the essential role of anaesthesia and prehospital patient management in austere surgical environments. Core concepts from PHTLS, ATLS and TCCC are reviewed and reinforced through hands-on repetition of key practical procedures. This session concludes with a final scenario-based exercise, where participants apply what they've learned in a simulated emergency setting.

### **WORKSHOP: Trauma Surgery - External Fixation and Field Amputation** [15 participants]

Dr. med. Jaad Malhouly, *CHUV Lausanne*  
*With the support of MEDECO-CH*

This hands-on orthopedic workshop focuses on two essential skills in war and disaster surgery: external fixation of long bone fractures and field amputation. Participants will first learn to apply modular external fixation systems on synthetic bone models, using material provided by MEDECO-CH. The second part simulates damage control surgery in austere environments, with participants practicing guillotine-style lower limb amputations on animal models (porcine limbs). Emphasis is placed on rapid decision-making, proper technique, and post-operative considerations in low-resource or battlefield settings.

### **WORKSHOP: Vascular Surgery** [15 participants]

Dr. med. Peter Nussbaumer, *General and vascular surgeon, President of AN-NYA Foundation*  
*With the support of Medtronic*

This hands-on workshop teaches the fundamental techniques of vascular surgery relevant to low-resource settings. Participants will practice vessel clamping, repair and anastomosis on synthetic models provided by Medtronic. The focus lies on safe handling, effective suture techniques, and decision-making under pressure. No prior vascular experience required.

### **WORKSHOP: Neurosurgery - Decompressive Hemicraniectomy on 3D Skull Models** [15 participants]

Prof. Dr. med. Ralf A. Kockro, *Klinik Hirslanden Zürich*  
*With the support of B. Braun*

This practical workshop introduces participants to the core principles and technical steps of decompressive hemicraniectomy, a life-saving procedure in traumatic brain injury. Using anatomically accurate 3D-printed skull models, participants will directly perform burr holes, craniotomy cuts, and bone flap removal under expert supervision. The session focuses on developing surgical confidence and understanding spatial anatomy in austere or combat settings. Instruments and technical support are kindly provided by B. Braun.



## Workshops

**WORKSHOP: Burn Surgery** [15 participants]

Prof. Dr. med. Bong-Sung Kim, Universitätsspital Zürich

This workshop covers the fundamental principles in the management of burn injuries. In this hands-on session, participants will learn to assess and classify burn wounds, perform surgical debridement and apply different techniques for wound coverage, including skin grafting.