



# Colorectal THRIVE 2026



**Main Congress**

**Mon 23.03 - Wed 25.03.2026**

**22 CME credits**

<b>Monday 23.03.2026:</b>		<b>8 CME</b>
08:30 - 08:45	<b>Opening: Welcome to Colorectal THRIVE</b>  Chairperson: Justin Davies, Esther Consten	Michel Adamina, Fribourg / Bern - CH
08:45 - 09:15	<b>The ESCP Lecture</b> So you wanna be a surgeon?  <b>Diverticular disease</b>	Antonino Spinelli, Milano - IT 
09:15 - 09:45	To resect or to expect after diverticulitis - an updated perspective	Ville Sallinen, Helsinki - FN
09:45 - 10:15	Diverticular Disease going rough - how to get out of trouble	Patricia Tejedor, Madrid - SP
10:15 - 10:45	How to get things done in our operating rooms	Paul Barach, Philadelphia - US
10:45 - 11:15	<b>Coffee break</b>	
	Chairperson: Patricia Tejedor, Isacco Montroni	
	<b>Colon cancer</b>	
11:15 - 11:45	<b>The ACPGBI Lecture</b> High-grade dysplasia and early colon cancer: endoscopic removal or surgery + lymphadenectomy	Justin Davies, Cambridge – UK 
11:45 - 12:15	A step-by-step, time-tested teaching model of CME for cancer	Ken Campbell, Dundee - UK
	<b>The DSCRS Lecture:</b>	<b>DSCRS</b> 
12:15 - 12:45	Incidence & management of complex colon cancer	Erik Westreenen, Zwolle - NL
12:45 - 13:15	Long-term oncologic and functional outcomes of transanal transection and single-stapled anastomosis (TTSS)	Antonino Spinelli, Milano - IT
13:15 - 14:30	<b>Lunch break</b>	
	Chairperson: Willem Bemelman, Rebecca Kraus	
	<b>Thinking out of the box</b>	
14:30 - 15:00	Evolution of Practice: Advancing Neuromodulation Pathways for Fecal Incontinence	Graham MacKay, Glasgow - UK Roxane Staiger, Lucerne - CH
15:00 - 15:30	The Extraperitoneal Approach to Left-Sided Colorectal Resections: EXPERTS Procedure	Tarek Hany, Lancashire - UK
	<b>Leadership</b>	
15:30 - 16:00	Strategies for Optimizing Outcomes in Frail and Elderly Colorectal Patients	Isacco Montroni, Milano - IT
16:00 - 16:30	Sustainability in the OR - why it matters and how to do it	Patricia Sylla, New York - US
16:30 - 17:00	<b>Coffee break</b>	

**Monday 23.03.2026:**

**8 CME**

Chairperson: André d'Hoore, Amy Lightner

**Bail out strategies: management of complications**

17:00 - 17:30 How to prevent incisional and stoma site closure hernias Salvador Morales-Conde, Sevilla - SP

17:30 - 18:00 All I wish to have known 10 years ago - Tricks of the Robotic Trade When It Bleeds, Won't Reach, or Won't Move Jim Khan, Portsmouth - UK

**Perspective lecture**

18:00 - 18:30 The Microbiome as a Surgical Partner: Are we ready to Operate Together James Kinross, London - UK

18:30 - 19:00 Real-time surgical guidance: planes recognition and automated warning Salvador Morales-Conde, Sevilla - SP

Chairperson:

19:00 – 20:00 **Honorary lecture**

Sharp as a knife, smart as a surgeon: lessons learned in my surgical life and beyond Willem Bemelman, Amsterdam - CH

Tuesday 24.03.2026		8 CME
Chairperson: Janindra Warusavitarne, Rosa Jiménez-Rodríguez <b>Pearls of practice - Crohn and Colitis</b>		 European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation
08:30 - 09:00	Stepwise management algorithm for perianal and perineal Crohn's disease	Amy Lightner, La Jolla, USA
09:00 - 09:30	Revisional surgery in Crohn and Colitis	Willem Bemelman, Amsterdam - NL
09:30 - 10:00	From early surgery to over-the-valve stricturoplasty: surgical management of Crohn patients	André d'Hoore, Leuven - BE
10:00 - 10:30	The appendix and the colon - can a simple appendectomy save the colon in ulcerative colitis?	Christianne Buskens, Amsterdam - NL
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
Chairperson: Deena Harji, Alberto Arezzo <b>Perspective lecture</b>		
11:00 - 11:30	EUREKA, RESET, and GLOBALRECT - what real-world data tell us in rectal cancer surgery	Esther Consten, Groningen - NL
<b>Rectum cancer</b> <b>The DSCRS Lecture:</b>		
11:30 - 12:00	Neoadjuvant Chemo-Immunotherapy: Radiologic Response vs Surgical Challenge	Brechtje Grotenhuis - NL
12:00 - 12:30	DERECT trial - Tailoring multimodal treatment of rectal cancer: de-escalation, abstention, intensification	Roel Hompes, Amsterdam - NL
12:30 - 13:00	Of the importance of lymphnode and tumor deposits in colorectal cancer - the radiologist view	Gina Brown, London - UK
13:00 - 14:15	<b>Lunch break</b>	
Chairperson: Brechtje Grotenhuis, Paris Tekkis <b>Rectum cancer</b>		
14:15 - 14:45	Transanal TME - time for a revival? Results from the VANTAGE and COLOR III trials	Jurriaan Tuynman, Amsterdam - NL
14:45 - 15:15	Of the importance of lymphnode and tumor deposits in colorectal cancer - the pathologist view	Phil Quirke, Leeds - UK
15:15 - 15:45	Long-term quality of life and functional outcomes following a Watch-and-Wait approach	Stéphanie Breukink, Maastricht - NL
<b>The IRCAD Lecture:</b>		
15:45 - 16:15	How Artificial Intelligence will revolutionize Minimally Invasive Surgery	Jacques Marescaux, Strasbourg - F
16:15 - 16:45	<b>Coffee break</b>	

**Tuesday 24.03.2026**

**8 CME**

Chairperson: Stéphanie Breukink, Ken Campbell

**Leadership**

16:45 - 17:45	Hostage at the table - how to negotiate when it matters most	George Kohlrieser, Basel - CH/US
17:45 - 18:15	Let's talk about sex – how to improve function beyond survival	Jacob Reisman, Amsterdam - NL
18:15 - 18:45	The empty pelvis - how to prevent and manage perineal disasters	Paris Tekkis, London - UK

**Wednesday 25.03.2026**
**6 CME**

Chairperson: Frédéric Ris, Eloy Espin-Basany

**The Times They Are a-Changin**

08:30 – 09:00	Real-time prediction of surgical outcomes – the Future is Now	Guido Beldi, Bern - CH
09:00 - 09:30	Pelvic exenteration revisited: current indications, oncologic results, and functional outcomes	Christos Kontovounisios, Athens - GR
09:30 - 10:00	The Science and Art of decision-making in Surgery	Carly Bisset, Glasgow - UK
10:00 - 10:30	Intact & OPTIMISTIC: The Microbiome and Colorectal Cancer	Phil Quirke, Leeds - UK
10:30 - 11:00	Artificial Intelligence in Colorectal Surgery – risks, benefits, and a map to success	James Kinross, London - UK
11:00 - 11:30	The Pelvic Floor as the Mirror of the Soul	Jacob Reisman, Amsterdam - NL
11:30 - 12:00	<b>Brunch break</b>	

Chairperson: Christianne Buskens, James Kinross

**Perspective lectures**

12:00 - 12:30	Extra-Anatomical and Lateral Lymph Nodes: When and How to Address Them	Deena Harji, Manchester - UK
12:30 - 13:00	Low risk colon cancer - is endoscopic resection enough?	Jurriaan Tuynman, Amsterdam - NL
13:00 - 13:30	NOSE - transanal & transvaginal orifice surgery	Patricia Sylla, New York - USA - NL
13:30 - 14:00	<b>Perspective lectures</b>	
13:30 - 14:00	Endometriosis for the colorectal surgeon	Frédéric Ris, Geneva - CH
14:00 - 14:30	Minimizing anastomotic leak, maximizing early detection, and optimizing repair	Eloy Espin-Basany, Barcelona - SP
14:30 - 15:00	<b>The EAES Lecture:</b> Practical applications of AI to colorectal disease: The CLASSICA and endotheranostics projects	Alberto Arezzo, Torino – IT
15:00	<b>Closure and Farewell</b>	Michel Adamina, Fribourg - CH



Masterclass in Colorectal Surgery			7 CME credits
Sun 22.03.2026	Course director: Georgios Peros		09:00 - 18:00
	Chairperson: Nader Francis, Patricia Tejedor		
09:00 - 09:35	The abdominal wall revisited – robotic incisional and parastomal hernia repair: how I do it		Jonathan Douissard, Geneva - CH
09:35 - 10:10	Handling acute diverticulitis - all you need to know		Rebecca Kraus, Chur - CH
10:10 - 10:45	Surgical leadership - what truly shapes success beyond conventional metrics		Paul Barach, Washington - US
10:45 - 11:05	Coffee break		
	Chairperson: Rebecca Kraus, Isacco Montroni		
11:05 - 11:40	Anastomotic strictures revisited		Rosa Jiménez-Rodríguez, Sevilla - SP
11:40 - 12:15	The ECCO 2026 guidelines for Ulcerative Colitis in clinical practice		Janindra Warusavitarne, London - UK
12:15 - 12:50	The appendix - from easy to crazy (LAMN, NET, and more)		Perparim Limani, Aarau - CH
12:50 - 14:00	Lunch		
	Chairperson: Jim Khan, Deena Harji		
14:00 - 14:35	From Ileus Prevention to Long-Term recovery: Optimizing Functional Outcomes After Colectomy		Isacco Montroni, Milano - IT
14:35 - 15:10	Evidence that Counts: Translating Clinical Trial Data into Tumor Board Practice		Paris Tekkis, London - UK
15:10 - 15:45	Management strategies for the acute abdomen - ischemia, volvulus, and obstruction		Patricia Tejedor, Madrid - SP
15:45 - 16:15	Coffee break		
	Chairperson: Esther Consten, Paris Tekkis		
16:15 - 16:50	Surgical approaches to rectal cancer - LAR, ELAPE, and APR		Deena Harji, Manchester - UK
16:50 - 17:25	Surgical errors, performance, and outcomes: how can we improve our training and life-long practice		Nader Francis, Yeovil - UK
17:25 - 18:00	Robotic Colorectal Surgery - Stepwise to Mastery		Jim Khan, Portsmouth - UK
18:00	Closure		

The Masterclass in Colorectal Surgery is an intensive one-day Course intended to provide in-depth and interactive learning of topics paramount to the safe practice of colorectal surgery. It has been developed with the Chair of the Education Committee of ESCP in collaboration with Janindra Warusavitarne, Lead Consultant Colorectal Surgeon, St. Marks London, Secretary of the Coloproctology Section of UEMS. As such, this Colorectal THRIVE Masterclass is ideally suited to prepare for the UEMS EBSQ Coloproctology Board or to refresh knowledge. The Masterclass in Colorectal Surgery is listed as an university course by the University of Fribourg. The course can be booked independently of the main congress. Non-editable pdf copies of the presentations are included.

<b>Masterclass in Proctology and Pelvic Floor Disorders</b>		<b>7 CME credits</b>
<b>Sun 22.03.2026</b>	<b>Course director: Bruno Roche</b>	<b>09:00 - 18:00</b>
	Chairperson: Guillaume Meurette, Ionel Romain	
09:00 - 09:35	Proctology Foundations: Exam, Ultrasound, and MRI Complementing the Clinical History	Bruno Roche, Geneva - CH
09:35 - 10:10	Specialization and innovation in proctology - from plain hemorrhoids to AIN and cancer	Roxane D. Staiger, Lucerne - CH
10:10 - 10:45	Anorectal fistula - from simple to complex, time-tested and innovative approaches	Rosa Jiménez-Rodríguez, Sevilla - SP
10:45 - 11:05	<b>Coffee break</b>	
	Chairperson: Roxane Staiger, Stéphanie Breukink	
11:05 - 11:40	Laser in proctology: from bleaching and rejuvenation to fistula closure and pilonidal sinus	Ionel Romain, Saxon - CH
11:40 - 12:15	The pelvic floor explained - anatomy, function, and pathophysiology for surgeons	Guillaume Meurette, Geneva - CH
12:15 - 12:50	Obstructed defecation syndrome - conservative and operative approaches	Esther Consten, Groningen – NL
12:50 - 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
	Chairperson: Janindra Warusavitarne, Bruno Roche	
14:00 - 14:35	Transperineal and transvaginal approaches explained	Bruno Roche, Geneva - CH
14:35 - 15:10	The lazy gut - investigations, interventions, and medical treatment	Daniel Pohl, Zürich - CH
15:10 - 15:45	State of the art neuromodulation: of fecal incontinence, slow-transit constipation, LARS, and more - technique and cost-effectiveness	Stéphanie Breukink, Maastricht - NL
15:45 - 16:15	<b>Coffee break</b>	
	Chairperson: Rosa Jiménez-Rodríguez, Mike Chilcott	
16:15 - 16:50	The lazy gut - let's take it out! Words of caution and surgical algorithm	Janindra Warusavitarne, London - UK
16:50 - 17:25	Reoperative pelvic floor surgery - advices and techniques when things go wrong	Guillaume Meurette, Geneva - CH
17:25 - 18:00	Proctology and the human soul: pearls of wisdom to building a therapeutic relationship	Bruno Roche, Geneva - CH
18:00	<b>Closure</b>	

The Masterclass in Proctology and Pelvic Floor Disorders is an intensive one-day Course intended to provide in-depth and interactive learning of topics paramount to the safe practice of colorectal surgery. It has been developed with the Chair of the Education Committee of ESCP in collaboration with Janindra Warusavitarne, Lead Consultant Colorectal Surgeon, St. Marks London, Secretary of the Coloproctology Section of UEMS. As such, this Colorectal THRIVE Masterclass is ideally suited to prepare for the UEMS EBSQ Coloproctology Board or to refresh knowledge. The Masterclass in Proctology and Pelvic Floor Diseases is listed as an university course by the University of Fribourg. The course can be booked independently of the main congress. Non-editable pdf copies of the presentations are included.

## Transanal Transection and Single Stapled Anastomosis Course

**Course Director: Antonino Spinelli    Sunday March 22, 2026 9h00 – 17h00**

**Faculty: Michele Carvello, Georgios Peros, Michel Adamina    7 CME credits**

This advanced course is designed for colorectal surgeons with experience in minimally invasive rectal surgery. It includes hands-on training sessions on a biologic training model to **practice TTSS**.

Guided by an **expert faculty led by Prof. Antonino Spinelli and his Team**, the mastermind behind the development of TTSS, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the **rationale, indications, patient selection, critical steps, and potential pitfalls** of the technique.

Learning objectives will be achieved through:

- **In-depth didactic lectures**
- **Live surgery demonstrations**
- **Hands-on training sessions**

9:00 - 9:10    **Welcome and Introduction**

9:10 - 9:35    **TME: how to do it**

9:35 - 9:55    **Benefit and Pitfall of taTME in the era of TTSS**

9:55 - 10:20    **TTSS: indications and step-by-step description of the technique**

10:20 - 10:40    **Evidence about TTSS | short-term and long-term outcomes**

10:40 - 11:00    Coffee break

11:00 - 13:00    **Deferred live surgery: laparoscopic and roboticTME augmented by TTSS**

13:00 - 14:00    Lunch

14:00 - 17:00    **Hands-on training: transanal transection, purse-string, single-stapled anastomosis in a biological training model**

17:00 - 17:10    Course wrap-up

Participants are encouraged to attend in teams of two surgeons to maximize implementation of TTSS upon returning to their institution. The Transanal Transection and Single Stapled Anastomosis Course is listed as an university course by the University of Fribourg. The course can be booked independently of the main congress. Non-editable pdf copies of the presentations are included.

A maximum of 12 participants is foreseen to maximize learning outcomes and interactions.

## **Leadership Essentials: from innovation to implementation**

**Sunday, March 22 2026 14h00 - 18h00 4 CME credits**

**Course Directors: Paul Barach, Philadelphia - Michel Adamina, Bern**

**Target Audience:** Surgeons, surgical team leaders, hospital management

*A 30-minute reading and self-assessment ahead of the workshop is required to maximize your learning*

### **Workshop objectives**

- Understand systemic organization and its impact on surgical practice and outcomes.
- Understand and develop your leadership skills to drive innovation and implementation.
- Empower surgeons to lead teams effectively.
- Optimize perioperative workflow for efficiency and patient safety.
- Recognize and mitigate burnout; build resilience strategies.

### **14:00 - 14:30 Introduction & Context**

- Welcome and objectives
- Why leadership matters in surgical practice
- Overview of systemic challenges in healthcare

### **14:30 - 15:00 Systemic Organization & Workflow**

- Mapping surgical workflows
- Identifying bottlenecks and inefficiencies
- Strategies for improving coordination and communication

### **15:00 - 15:30 Leadership Essentials for Surgical Teams**

- Identify your leadership style and learn ways to improve your situational leadership
- Building trust and psychological safety in teams
- Appreciate how to assess and improve your decision-making under pressure
- Improve work with multidisciplinary leadership teams, governing boards, and system partners

### **15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break**

### **16:00 - 16:30 Empowerment & Innovation**

- Creating a culture of innovation
- Tools for implementing change in complex systems
- Case studies: successful implementation in surgery

### **16:30 - 17:00 Burnout & Resilience**

- Recognizing signs of burnout in yourself and your team
- Evidence-based resilience strategies
- Peer support and institutional resources

### **17:00 - 18:00 Interactive Session: Leadership in Action**

- Interactive action planning for participants' own institutions
- Key takeaways and resources for continued learning
- Feedback and closing remarks