



# 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>                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                           | Chairperson: Justin Davies, Brechtje Grotenhuis                                                                           | Michel Adamina, Fribourg & Bern - CH                                                                                                                                                           |
| 08:30 - 08:45             | <b>Opening: Welcome to Colorectal THRIVE</b>                                                                              | Raphael Bonvin, Fribourg - CH                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 08:45 - 09:15             | How to get things done in our operating rooms                                                                             | Paul Barach, Philadelphia - US                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                           | <b>Diverticular disease</b>                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 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             | <b>The ESCP Lecture</b><br>So you wanna be a surgeon?                                                                     | Antonino Spinelli, Milano - IT<br> <b>European Society of COLOPROCTOLOGY</b>                                |
| 10:45 - 11:15             | <b>Coffee break</b>                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                           | Chairperson: Esther Consten, Isacco Montroni                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                           | <b>Colon cancer</b>                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 11:15 - 11:45             | <b>The ACPGBI Lecture</b><br>High-grade dysplasia and early colon cancer: endoscopic removal or surgery + lymphadenectomy | Justin Davies, Cambridge – UK<br> <b>The Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain &amp; Ireland</b> |
| 11:45 - 12:15             | A step-by-step, time-tested teaching model of CME for cancer                                                              | Ken Campbell, Dundee - UK<br> <b>DSCRS</b>                                                                |
|                           | <b>The DSCRS Lecture:</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, Patricia Tejedor                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                           | <b>Thinking out of the box</b>                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 14:30 - 15:00             | Evolution of Practice: Advancing Neuromodulation Pathways for Fecal Incontinence                                          | Graham MacKay, Glasgow - UK<br>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             | All I wish to have known - Tricks of the Robotic Trade When It Bleeds, Won't Reach, or Won't Move                         | Jim Khan, Portsmouth - UK                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 16:00 - 16:30             | The Microbiome as a Surgical Partner: Are we ready to Operate Together                                                    | James Kinross, London - UK                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 16:30 - 17:00             | <b>Coffee break</b>                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                |

| <b>Monday 23.03.2026:</b> |                                                                                      | <b>8 CME</b>                         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                           | Chairperson: André d'Hoore, Amy Lightner                                             |                                      |
|                           | <b>Bail out strategies: management of complications</b>                              |                                      |
| 17:00 - 17:30             | How to prevent incisional and stoma site closure hernias                             | Salvador Morales-Conde, Sevilla - SP |
| 17:30 - 18:00             | Strategies for Optimizing Outcomes in Frail and Elderly Colorectal Patients          | Isacco Montroni, Milano - IT         |
| 18:00 - 18:30             | Real-time surgical guidance: planes recognition and automated warning                | Salvador Morales-Conde, Sevilla - SP |
| 18:30 - 19:30             | <b>THRIVE Honorary Lecture</b>                                                       |                                      |
|                           | Sharp as a knife, smart as a surgeon: lessons learned in my surgical life and beyond | Willem Bemelman, Amsterdam - NL      |
| 19:30 - 20:00             | <b>Welcome Reception</b>                                                             | <b>Exhibition Hall</b>               |

| Tuesday 24.03.2026                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                          | 8 CME                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Chairperson: Georgios Peros, Carly Bisset</p> <p><b>Pearls of practice - Crohn and Colitis</b></p> |                                                                                                                                          |  <p>European<br/>Crohn's and Colitis<br/>Organisation</p> |
| 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>                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                              |
| <p>Chairperson: Roel Hompes, Paris Tekkis</p> <p><b>Rectum cancer</b></p>                             |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                              |
| 11:00 - 11:30                                                                                         | Long-term quality of life and functional outcomes following a Watch-and-Wait approach                                                    | Stéphanie Breukink, Maastricht - NL                                                                                                          |
| 11:30 - 12:00                                                                                         | EUREKA, RESET, and GLOBALRECT - what real-world data tell us in rectal cancer surgery                                                    | Esther Consten, Groningen - NL                                                                                                               |
| 12:00 - 12:30                                                                                         | <p><b>The DSCRS Lecture:</b></p> <p>Lessons learned from Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy in CRC - clinical response and surgical challenge</p> | <p><b>DSCRS</b> </p> <p>Brechtje Grotenhuis - NL</p>    |
| 12:30 - 13:00                                                                                         | DERECT trial - Tailoring multimodal treatment of rectal cancer: de-escalation, abstention, intensification                               | Jurriaan Tuynman, Amsterdam - NL                                                                                                             |
| 13:00 - 14:15                                                                                         | <b>Lunch break</b>                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                              |
| <p>Chairperson: Jurriaan Tuynman, Ken Campbell</p> <p><b>Rectum cancer</b></p>                        |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                              |
| 14:15 - 14:45                                                                                         | Transanal TME - time for a revival? Results from the VANTAGE and COLOR III trials                                                        | Roel Hompes, Amsterdam - NL                                                                                                                  |
| 14:45 - 15:15                                                                                         | Of the importance of lymphnode and tumor deposits in colorectal cancer - the radiologist view                                            | Gina Brown, London - UK                                                                                                                      |
| 15:15 - 15:45                                                                                         | Of the importance of lymphnode and tumor deposits in colorectal cancer - the pathologist view                                            | Phil Quirke, Leeds - UK                                                                                                                      |
| 15:45 - 16:15                                                                                         | <p><b>The IRCAD Lecture:</b></p> <p>How Artificial Intelligence will revolutionize Minimally Invasive Surgery</p>                        | <p>Jacques Marescaux, Strasbourg - F</p>                |
| 16:15 - 16:45                                                                                         | <b>Coffee break</b>                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                              |

**Tuesday 24.03.2026**

**8 CME**

Chairperson: Christos Kontovounisios, Alberto Arezzo

**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        |

| <b>Wednesday 25.03.2026</b>                  |                                                                                                                            | <b>6 CME</b>                         |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Chairperson: Frédéric Ris, Eloy Espin-Basany |                                                                                                                            |                                      |
| <b>The Times They Are a-Changin</b>          |                                                                                                                            |                                      |
| 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 & OPTIMISTICCC: 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                                | Sustainability in the OR - why it matters and how to do it                                                                 | Patricia Sylla, New York - USA - NL  |
| 11:30 - 12:00                                | <b>Brunch break</b>                                                                                                        |                                      |
| Chairperson: Ioannis Galanis, James Kinross  |                                                                                                                            |                                      |
| <b>Perspective lectures</b>                  |                                                                                                                            |                                      |
| 12:00 - 12:30                                | Extra-Anatomical and Lateral Lymph Nodes: When and How to Address Them                                                     | Christos Kontovounisios, Athens - GR |
| 12:30 - 13:00                                | Low risk colon cancer - is endoscopic resection enough?                                                                    | Jurriaan Tuynman, Amsterdam - NL     |
| 13:00 - 13:30                                | The Pelvic Floor as the Mirror of the Soul                                                                                 | Jacob Reisman, Amsterdam - 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><br>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: Andreas Kohler, Bern                                                                                         | 09:00 - 18:00                   |
|                                   | Chairperson: Isacco Montroni, 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: Nader Francis, Perparim Limani                                                                                   |                                 |
| 11:05 - 11:40                     | From Ileus Prevention to Long-Term recovery: Optimizing Functional Outcomes After Colectomy                                   | Isacco Montroni, Milano - IT    |
| 11:40 - 12:15                     | The appendix - from easy to crazy (LAMN, NET, and more)                                                                       | Perparim Limani, Aarau - CH     |
| 12:15 - 12:50                     | Management strategies for the acute abdomen - ischemia, volvulus, and obstruction                                             | Patricia Tejedor, Madrid - SP   |
| 12:50 - 14:00                     | Lunch                                                                                                                         |                                 |
|                                   | Chairperson: Rebecca Kraus, Jim Khan,                                                                                         |                                 |
| 14:00 - 14:35                     | Evidence that Counts: Translating Clinical Trial Data into Tumor Board Practice                                               | Paris Tekkis, London - UK       |
| 14:35 - 15:10                     | Resect to Cure Crohn's disease? Let the data speak !                                                                          | Jérémie Lefèvre, Paris - FR     |
| 15:10 - 15:45                     | The ECCO 2026 guidelines for Ulcerative Colitis in clinical practice                                                          | Jérémie Lefèvre, Paris - FR     |
|                                   |  European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation |                                 |
| 15:45 - 16:15                     | Coffee break                                                                                                                  |                                 |
|                                   | Chairperson: Esther Consten, Jérémie Lefèvre                                                                                  |                                 |
| 16:15 - 16:50                     | Surgical errors, performance, and outcomes: how can we improve our training and life-long practice                            | Nader Francis, Yeovil - UK      |
| 16:50 - 17:25                     | Surgical approaches to rectal cancer - LAR, ELAPE, and APR                                                                    | Paris Tekkis, London - 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, Geneva</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                                                     | Oddeke van Ruler, Carlijn Witjes, Rotterdam - NL |
| 10:45 - 11:05                                               | <b>Coffee break</b>                                                                                                                   |                                                  |
|                                                             | Chairperson: Oddeke van Ruler, Bruno Roche                                                                                            |                                                  |
| 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                                               | State of the art neuromodulation: of fecal incontinence, slow-transit constipation, LARS, and more - technique and cost-effectiveness | Stéphanie Breukink, Maastricht - NL              |
| 12:50 - 14:00                                               | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                          |                                                  |
|                                                             | Chairperson: Carlijn Witjes, Stéphanie Breukink                                                                                       |                                                  |
| 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                                               | Obstructed defecation syndrome - conservative and operative approaches                                                                | Esther Consten, Groningen - NL                   |
| 15:45 - 16:15                                               | <b>Coffee break</b>                                                                                                                   |                                                  |
|                                                             | Chairperson: Roxane Staiger, Daniel Pohl                                                                                              |                                                  |
| 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 biologic 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.

## **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