

Supporting Organizations



2nd Emirates International Thoracic Surgery Congress

Pre-Congress Workshop | 23 April 2026

Congress | 24-25 April 2026

Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche, UAE

in Compliance with the Mecomed
Code of Ethical Business Practice



Welcome Message



Dr. Puja G. Khaitan



Dr. Mariam Al Marashda

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to extend our warm invitation for you to attend the "2nd Emirates International Thoracic Surgery Congress" which is scheduled to take place on **24-25 April 2026**, at **Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche, UAE**. Please mark these dates as we would be honored to have you participate.

We are thrilled to welcome renowned thoracic surgeons, medical professionals, researchers, and industry experts from around the world to this event. The congress will serve as a platform for sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, and fostering collaborations in the field of thoracic surgery.

Over the course of two enlightening days, you will have the opportunity to engage in some of the most insightful scientific sessions, witness cutting-edge surgical techniques, and explore the latest advancements in thoracic surgery.

Beyond the enriching educational program, the conference will provide a conducive environment for networking and building connections with peers and colleagues. The interactions and collaborations forged during this gathering will undoubtedly contribute to the advancement of thoracic surgery and patient care.

We are confident that the 2nd Emirates International Thoracic Surgery Congress 2026 will be a dynamic and enriching environment for learning, where latest studies, trials, and research will be shared. It is our genuine pleasure to welcome you to this exceptional congress, which promises to provide a cherished personal and professional experience.

We eagerly await your confirmation of attendance and active participation in this momentous event.

This is an event not to be missed!

Warm Regards,

Dr. Puja G. Khaitan
Founder and Congress Chair
Consultant, Thoracic Surgery
Shaikh Shakhboub Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dr. Mariam Almarashda
Congress Chair
Consultant, Thoracic Surgery
Sh. Tahnoon Bin Mohammed Medical City
Tawam Hospital, Al Ain UAE

Organizing Committee



Dr. Andres Obeso
Staff Physician, Thoracic Surgery,
Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute,
Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. James Douglas Aitchison
Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon,
King's College Hospital London,
Dubai, UAE



**Dr. Taj Mohammed Fiyaz
Chowdhry**
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon,
Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Prof. Khaldoon Abo Dakka
Cardiothoracic Surgeon,
Prime Hospital, Dubai, UAE

Advisory Board



Dr. Brandon Stiles
Chief, Divisions of Thoracic Surgery &
Surgical Oncology, Associate Director,
Surgical Oncology, Montefiore Einstein
Comprehensive Cancer Center, USA



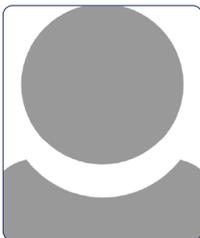
Dr. Joel Dunning
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon
James Cook University Hospital, UK



Prof. Shyam Kolvekar
Consultant cardiothoracic surgeon,
Barts Heart Centre
(St. Bartholomew's Hospital),
UK



Dr. Isabelle Schmitt-Opitz
Director of Department of Thoracic Surgery,
University Hospital Zurich
Department of Thoracic Surgery,
University Hospital Zurich,
Switzerland



Dr. Cecilia Pompili
Honorary Consultant Thoracic Surgeon,
Hull University Teaching Hospitals, NHS Trust
Associate Professor in Psychosocial Oncology,
University of Hull, University of York, UK
Visiting Associate Professor, Patient Centred
Outcomes Research, University of Leeds, UK

Learning Objectives

- Discuss and evaluate latest clinical trials and practice-changing guidelines in thoracic surgery.
- Share novel advancements in thoracic surgical techniques, especially integration of artificial intelligence and adoption of new digital platforms that are revolutionizing the field.
- Engage and together develop strategies to optimize patient outcomes and mitigate complications.
- Develop strategies on how to further advance research and take ideas from bench to market.
- Engage in evolutionary discussions and debates on controversial topics in thoracic surgery.

Target Audience

The Emirates International Thoracic Surgery Congress is designed for a wide range of professionals involved in thoracic surgery and related fields including:

- Cardiothoracic Surgeons
- Pulmonologists
- Gastroenterologists
- Medical Oncologists
- Radiation Oncologists
- Intensivists
- Pathologists
- Anesthesiologists
- Surgical Residents and Fellows
- Medical Students
- Respiratory Therapists
- Nurses and Allied Healthcare Professionals
- Researchers and Scientists
- Industry Professionals

Program Highlights

- Benign and malignant lung and Esophageal disorders
- Airway disease
- Chest wall tumors and defects
- Pleural diseases
- Foregut and diaphragmatic pathology
- Mediastinal pathology
- Innovation, simulation, education in the field

Speakers



Dr. Isabelle Schmitt-Opitz
Director of Department of Thoracic Surgery,
University Hospital Zurich
Department of Thoracic Surgery,
University Hospital Zurich,
Switzerland



Dr. Deepthi Silymon
DNB, MRCP,
Medical Oncology Specialty Certificate (UK),
ECMO, Consultant Medical Oncologist
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Prof. Akif Turna
MD, PhD, FETCS
Professor of Thoracic Surgery
Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty
Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa,
Turkey



Dr. Antonio Ramos
President, De La Salle Medical
and Health Sciences Institute,
Philippines



Dr. Aydah Alawadhi
Consultant Medical Oncologist,
Chair of Haematology & Oncology Division
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Aneez Ahmed
Thoracic Surgeon
Mount Elizabeth Novena Hospital
Head of the Service of Thoracic Surgery,
Department of General Surgery
Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH),
Singapore



Dr. Sangeetha Ponnusamy
MBBS, MRCP, FRCP, FRCR
Consultant Radiation Oncologist
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Puja Khaitan
Founder and Congress Chair
Consultant, Thoracic Surgery
Shaikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Joel Dunning
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon
James Cook University Hospital, UK



Dr. Ali Zamir Khan
MS, FRCS, FRCS(CTH), FEBTS, MBA:
Thoracic Surgery
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon
Blackpool Victoria Hospital, UK



Dr. Balasubramoniam
Surgical Director,
Heart & Lung Transplant Program
Yashoda Hospitals, Hyderabad
India



Dr. Hasan Batirel
M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Thoracic Surgery,
Department of Thoracic Surgery
Marmara University Faculty of Medicine,
Turkey

Speakers



Dr. Sidhu Gangadharan
Chief, Thoracic Surgery and
Interventional Pulmonology
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,
Harvard Medical School, USA



Dr. Eugenio Pompeo
Associate Professor of Thoracic Surgery
Tor Vergata University of Rome, Italy



Dr. Yara Jalbout
Consultant, Anesthesiology
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Prof. Rajinder Parshad
MS,DNB,FACS, Thoracic and Foregut Surgery
Professor of Surgery
AIIMS, Delhi, India



Dr. Almutadha Mula Kh
DNB, MRCP, Medical Oncology
Specialty Certificate (UK), ECMO
Consultant Medical Oncologist
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City,
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Abhishek Jain
MBBS, MS, Mch. (Onco Surgery)
Consultant Breast & Minimally Invasive and
Robotic Thoracic Oncosurgeon
Uniportal 3D VATS Lung Surgery Specialist
Marengo CIMS Hospital, India



Dr. Richard van Hillegersberg
Thoracic Surgeon
UMC Utrecht, the Netherlands



Dr. Prriya Eshpuniyani
Senior Consultant Thoracic Surgeon
and Surgical Oncologist
Asian Cancer Institute (ACI),
Cumballa Hill Hospital
Precision Superspeciality Clinic
& Diagnostics, India



Dr. Abdulmajid Ali
MBChB, FRCS Glas, MSc.
Consultant General, Upper GI
& Metabolic Surgeon
Sheikh Tahnoon Medical City, UAE



Dr. Abdulla Al Hassani
Head of Gastroenterology
Zayed Military Hospital, UAE



Dr. Sridhar Rathinam
FRCSEd(CSiG); FRCSEd(CTh)
General Thoracic Surgery
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon,
Head of Service & Honorary Senior Lecturer
University Hospitals Leicester
Glenfield Hospital,
University Hospitals Leicester, UK



Dr. Wenlin Wang
Chief Surgeon
Guangdong Second Provincial
General Hospital, China

Speakers



Dr. John Edwards
MB ChB PhD FRCS(C/Th)
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals,
NHS Foundation Trust, UK



Prof. Dr. Hentati Abdessalam
MD, Thoracic Surgeon
Head of the Department of Thoracic Surgery
Professor, University Hospital of Sfax, Tunisia



Dr. Jethin Rafique
MD, FRCP (UK)
Consultant and Chair of
Department – Pulmonology
Sheikh Shakhboub Medical City, A
bu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Rajiv Santosham
MBBS, MS, MCh
Consultant Thoracic Surgeon
Santosham Chest Hospital
Chennai, India



Dr. Arvind Kohli
MCh (CTVS) – General Thoracic Surgery
Medical Director, SVMM Hospital,
Ambphalla, Jammu, India



Dr. Shyam Kolvekar
MBBS, MS, MCh, FRCPS, FRCS, FRCSCTh
Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon
St. Bartholomew's Hospital
London, UK



Dr. Saleh Abu Daff
MBBS, MRCS, SB-GS, ABGS
Consultant General-Thoracic Surgeon
King Fahad Medical City–
King Salman Heart Center, KSA



Dr. Benedict Dharmaraj
MD (UKM), M.Surg (UKM)
Fellowship in Thoracic Surgery (Malaysia)
Consultant Thoracic and General Surgeon
Hospital Kuala Lumpur & Beacon Hospital
Malaysia



Prof. Baste Jean Marc
MD, PhD, Full Professor of
Cardio-Thoracic Surgery
University Hospital of Rouen,
Normandy, France

Scientific Program

Day 1 | Friday, 24th April 2026

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
07:30 - 08:30	Registration	
08:30 - 08:35	Welcome and Introduction	Master of Ceremony
08:30 - 08:35	Keynote Lecture: TBA	Dr. Isabelle Schmitt-Opitz, Switzerland
SESSION 1: Lung Cancer Session Chairs:		
09:05 - 09:20	Neoadjuvant Therapy and Consolidation Therapy	Dr. Deepthi Silymon, UAE
09:20 - 09:35	Uniportal VATS/RATS Segmentectomy and Challenges	Dr. Akif Turna, Turkey
09:35 - 09:50	Role of Surgery in Stage IV NSCLC/ Oligometastatic Disease	Dr. Antonio Ramos, Philippines
09:50 - 10:05	Management of Neuroendocrine Lung Cancer: Updates and Beyond	Dr. Aydah Alawadhi, UAE
10:05 - 10:20	Surgery vs. SBRT: Is it till a debate?	Dr. Sangeetha Ponnusamy, UAE
10:20 - 10:50	OFFICIAL INAUGURATION	
10:50 - 11:05	COFFEE BREAK Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	
11:05 - 11:25	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM 1	Dr. Ilias Bouabdallah, France
SESSION 2: Early and Novel Diagnostics; Benign Disease Session Chairs:		
11:25 - 11:40	Screening/ ctDNA	Dr. Jethin Rafique, UAE
11:40 - 11:55	Management of Tb and MDT-Tb: Latest Updates	Dr. Rajiv Santosham, India
11:55 - 12:10	Aspergillosis and Mucormycosis	Dr. Arvind Kohli, India
12:10 - 12:25	Decortication and Recurrent Empyema after Decortication	Dr. RS Reddy, India
12:25 - 13:30	LUNCH BREAK Exhibition Visit & Networking	
Oral Presentations 1 Session Chairs:		
13:30 - 13:40	Surgical Career Sustainability: A Kinematic Comparison of Surgeon Ergonomics and Postural Risk in Robotic (RATS) versus Video-Assisted (VATS) Lobectomy	Prof. Ahmed G Elkhoully, Egypt
13:40 - 13:50	Simple Versus Complex Segmentectomy via Uniportal Video-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery: Short-term Outcomes and Survival	Dr. Mamdoh Al-Ameri, Sweden
13:50 - 14:00	Preoperative DCF or CRT for Resectable Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma: Single Center Results based on a European Population	Dr. Parvin Akhmedov, Russia
14:00 - 14:30	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM 2	
SESSION 3: Artificial Intelligence, Innovation and Simulation Session Chairs:		
14:30 - 14:45	Redefining thoracic surgery with AI integration	Dr. Puja Khaitan, UAE
14:45 - 15:00	Beyond the Operative Field: Leveraging CTSNet and other Digital Platforms in the Digital Era	Dr. Joel Dunning, UK
15:00 - 15:15	Outcomes research and registries: Driving evidence-based care	Dr. Cecilia Pompili, UK
15:15 - 15:30	Innovation & Simulation Strategy in Thoracic Surgery & Education	Dr. Sanghoon Jheon, Korea
15:30 - 15:45	From Table to the Market!	Dr. Ali Zamir Khan, UK
15:45 - 16:00	COFFEE BREAK Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	
Oral Presentations 2 Session Chairs:		
16:00 - 16:10	Beyond Biopsy: Feasibility of Rapidly Introducing Nodule Marking and Resection in an Early Robotic-Assisted Bronchoscopy Program	Mr. Huzaifa Ahmad, UK
16:10 - 16:20	Different Robotic Approaches for Thymectomy in Patients with Myasthenia Gravis: A Video-Based Analysis	Prof. Ramkaran Chaudhary, India
16:20 - 16:30	Intraoperative Hemodynamic Collapse During VATS Right Lower Lobectomy for Infected Pulmonary Sequestration: A Salvage Strategy for an Unexpected Vascular Sequence Pitfall	Dr. Khaldoon Dakka, UAE
16:30	End of Day 1	

Scientific Program

Day 2 | Saturday, 25th April 2026

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08:30 - 08:55	Registration	
08:55 - 09:00	Welcome and Introduction	Master of Ceremony
SESSION 4: Tracheal and Airway Disease		
Session Chairs:		
09:00 - 09:15	Complex Airway Surgery and Reconstruction	Dr. Balasubramoniam, India
09:15 - 09:30	Management of trachea-esophageal fistula	Dr. Hasan Batirel, Turkey
09:30 - 09:45	Management of Tracheobronchomalacia: Stent vs. Mesh Plication	Dr. Sidhu Gangadharan, USA
09:45 - 10:00	Advances in Sleeve Resection	Dr. Aneez Ahmed, Singapore
10:00 - 10:15	Tubeless Awake Surgeries: Pearls and Pitfalls	Dr. Eugenio Pompeo, Italy
10:15 - 10:30	Airway Management Strategies in Non-Intubated Thoracic Surgery	Dr. Yara Jalbout, UAE
10:30 - 10:40	BEST POSTER & CASE PRESENTATION AWARD	
10:40 - 10:55	COFFEE BREAK Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	
SESSION 5: Benign and Malignant Esophagus		
Session Chairs:		
10:55 - 11:10	Surgery for Esophageal Dysmotility Disorders	Dr. Rajendra Parshad, India
11:10 - 11:25	Changes in Perioperative Regimens: New Horizon	Dr. Almutadha Mula Kh, UAE
11:25 - 11:40	Role of Extensive Lymphadenectomy for Esophageal Cancer	Dr. Abhishek Jain, India
11:40 - 11:55	RAMIE: Challenges and Pitfalls	Dr. Richard van Hillegersberg, Netherlands
11:55 - 12:10	Anastomotic Leaks: How to Avoid and Manage?	Dr. Priya Eshpuniyani, India
12:10 - 12:40	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM 3	
12:40 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK Exhibition Visit & Networking	
SESSION 6: Foregut, Diaphragmatic, Chest Wall Pathology		
Session Chairs:		
14:00 - 14:15	Recurrent Hiatal Hernia and Para-Esophageal Hernia	Dr. Abdulmajid Ali, UAE
14:15 - 14:30	Endosurgery/ Minimally invasive options to treat GERD: Linx Device and TIF- Are they really better than anti-reflux operations?	Dr. Abdulla Al Hassani, UAE
14:30 - 15:00	Diaphragmatic Eventration vs. Paralysis; Pacing	Dr. Sridhar Rathinam, UK
15:00 - 15:15	Noyel Wang, Wung & Wenlin Techniques for the Management of Pectus Defects	Dr. Wenlin Wang, China
15:15 - 15:30	Chest Wall Trauma: Surgical Management of Sternal and Rib Fractures	Dr. John Edwards, UK
15:30 - 16:00	Surgical Management of Chest Wall Tumors	Dr. Hentati Abdessalam, Tunisia
16:00 - 16:15	COFFEE BREAK Exhibition Visit & Networking Poster Viewing	
SESSION 7: Mediastinal Tumors, Mesothelioma, TOS		
Session Chairs:		
16:15 - 16:30	Debate: Myasthenia Gravis & Role of Thymectomy	Dr. Shyam Kolvekar, UK
16:30 - 16:45	Frontline Challenges: Anterior and Posterior Mediastinal Tumors	Dr. Saleh Abu Daff, Saudi
16:45 - 17:00	Mesothelioma & Stage IV Thymoma: Role of Surgery and HITHOC	Dr. Benedict Dharmaraj, Singapore
17:00 - 17:15	Thoracic outlet syndrome: Cervical Rib and First Rib Resection	Dr. Jean Marc Baste, France
17:15	Adjourn	

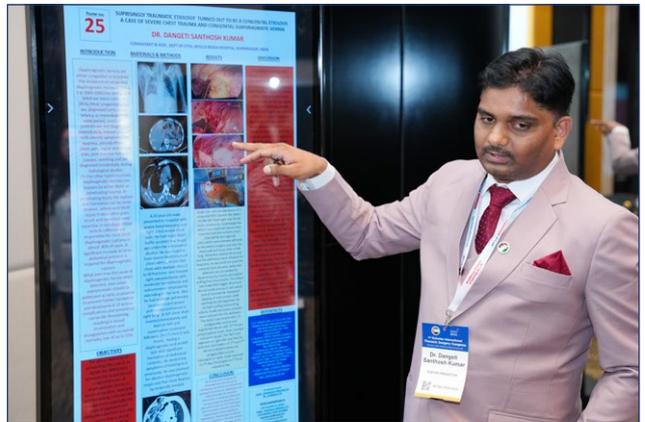
Conference Glimpse 2025



A glimpse into the 1st Emirates International Thoracic Surgery Congress – an inspiring gathering of thoracic surgeons and healthcare experts dedicated to advancing excellence in thoracic surgery.



Conference Glimpse 2025



How to Register

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I do not want my address to appear on the delegates list.

Registration Fees

Please select the conference that is relevant to your speciality.

*Additional 5% VAT will be Applicable on all Fees

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<input type="checkbox"/> Doctors	USD 300	AED 1100
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<input type="checkbox"/> Residents & Students	USD 100	AED 365

A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of your registration form. Please note that full payment must be received prior to the event. Payment can be made via Online / Credit card / Cheque/Bank drafts in AED. All payment should be in favour of Mena Conference

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Cancellation / Substitution Policy

If you are unable to attend, a substitute delegate will be very welcome in your place. If this is not suitable, a 20% administration fee will apply. Registrations cancelled less than two weeks before the event are non refundable.

Event Venue



S O F I T E L
HOTELS & RESORTS

Sofitel Hotel
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Supporting Organizations



2nd Emirates International Thoracic Surgery Congress

Save the Date

24-25 April 2026

Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche, UAE

For registration and further information, please contact

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