

ICMTB 2026

International Conference on Medicine and Translational Biosciences

4–5 June 2026 | Tirana, Albania

Scientific Program Agenda

DAY 1 - June 4, 2026

Thursday

Theme: Precision Medicine, Clinical Impact & Future Healthcare

Venue: Plaza Hotel Tirana

Opening Plenary

Queen Geraldine Conference Hall

08:30 – 09:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome Address & Opening Ceremony
09:30 – 09:50	KEYNOTE Mentor Petrela, MD, PhD, Chev LH, PU-PH Fr, WANS, IFAANS, Albania <i>Artificial Intelligence - Can Human Create a Mind?</i>
09:50 – 10:20	KEYNOTE Prof. Dr. Felipe Calvo, Cancer Center Universidad de Navarra, Spain <i>Cancer, Precision Medicine, and Social Change</i>
10:30 – 11:00	KEYNOTE Prof Ali M. Ghanem, FRCS (Plast), Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery / Regenerative Medicine, UK <i>Evolution of Aesthetic Practice into Regenerative Longevity Medicine</i>

11:00 – 11:30 | Panel Discussion

Queen Geraldine Conference Hall

11:00 – 11:30	PANEL DISCUSSION Precision Medicine in Practice: From Genomics to the Bedside — Opportunities and Barriers Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Iris Allajbeu Panelists: Prof. Mentor Petrela, Prof. Felipe Calvo; Prof. Ali M. Ghanem; Assoc. Prof. Iris Allajbeu; Prof. Dr. Ilirijana Haxhibeqiri-Karabdić
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11:30 – 12:00 | Coffee Break

12.00 – 14:00 | Parallel Sessions

TRACK 1 Precision Medicine & AI Innovation

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Iris Allajbeu, University of Cambridge / WBU

Co-Chair: Dr. Elvira Kozma, American Hospital / UHC Mother Teresa, Albania

Queen Geraldine Conference Hall 1

12:00 – 12:20	Invited Talk <i>The Future of Breast Cancer Screening: Is AI the Missing Piece?</i> Iris Allajbeu, University of Cambridge / WBU, UK/Albania
12:20 – 12:40	Invited Talk <i>Personalizing Treatment in Women Cancers</i> Ramona Woitek, Danube Private University, Austria
12:40 – 12:55	<i>Clinical Impact of Molecular Testing in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: Insights from the EPROPA Programme in Albania</i> Kleida Mati, American Hospital, Albania
12:55 – 13:05	<i>Advances in Molecular Biomarkers in Melanoma: Implications for Targeted Therapy and Immunotherapy</i> Anisa Cela, American Hospital, Albania
13:05 – 13:20	<i>Genomic Profiling Alters Adjuvant Therapy Decisions in Early Breast Cancer: A single-center experience from Albania</i> Elvisa Kozma, American Hospital / UHC Mother Teresa, Albania
13:20 – 13:35	<i>Mammographic Biomarkers of Cardiovascular Risk in Women: A Narrative Review of Recent Evidence</i> Davide Capra, University of Cambridge, UK
13:35 – 13:50	<i>Integrative Analysis of Genetic Variation in Breast Cancer: A Retrospective Study of the Albanian Cohort</i> Merita Xhetani, University of Tirana / NanoAlb, Albania

TRACK 2 Clinical Medicine, Neurology & Specialties

Chair: Prof. Kita Sallabanda, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain

Co-chair: Prof. Dr. Artur Xhumari, University of Medicine Tirana, Albania

Queen Geraldine Conference Hall 2

12:00 – 12:20	Invited Talk <i>Radiomodulation and Functional Neurosurgery: The New Medicine, the Future</i> Kita Sallabanda, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain
12:20 – 12:40	Invited Talk <i>The Role of Endoscopy in Treating Trigeminal Neuralgia and Craniosynostosis: Clinical Experience</i> Artur Xhumari, UHC Mother Teresa, Tirana, Albania
12:40 – 12:55	<i>TIPIC Syndrome: Atypical Headache and Perivascular Carotid Inflammation</i> Brunilda Zllami, American Hospital 1 / WBU, Tirana, Albania
12:55 – 13:05	<i>The Contribution of Hypercoagulable States to Arterial Ischemic Stroke</i> Vojsava Leka, American Hospital / University of Medicine Tirana, Albania
13:05 – 13:20	<i>The Role of the Cardiologist in Stroke: Insights from Clinical Case Illustrations</i> Indrit Temali, American Hospital / WBU, Albania
13:20 – 13:35	<i>Classification of Glial Tumors: Standards Required in Daily Practice</i> Teona Bushati, American Hospital / University of Medicine / WBU, Albania
13:35 – 13:50	<i>Primary Mucinous Breast Carcinoma with Signet Ring Cell Differentiation Mimicking Metastatic Gastric Carcinoma: A Case Report and Review of Literature</i> Albina Ndoja, Cambridge Clinical Laboratories, Western Balkans University, Albania

TRACK 3 Surgery & Interventional Medicine

Chair: Prof. Dr. Arben Beqiri, University of Medicine Tirana, Albania

Co-Chair: Dr. Stavri Llazo, UHC Mother Teresa, Albania

Jeronim De Rada Hall 1

12:00 – 12:20	Invited Talk <i>Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Endoscopic, Laparoscopic, and Surgical Treatments in Common Bile Duct Stone</i>
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	Arben Beqiri, University of Medicine Tirana, Albania
12:20 – 12:35	<i>Near-Infrared Spectroscopy Monitoring in Carotid Endarterectomy – A foretell for Hypertension Syndrome</i> Stavri Llazo, UHC Mother Teresa, Albania
12:35 – 12:50	<i>Endovascular Repair for Aortic Disease (EVAR/TEVAR)</i> Artan Jahollari, American Hospital, Albania
12:50 – 13:05	<i>Treatment of Varicose Veins: Contemporary Endovenous Techniques versus Conventional Surgery</i> Bledar Hodo, Hygeia International Hospital / WBU, Albania
13:05 – 13:20	<i>ALPPS for Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma: A Translational Perspective on Liver Regeneration and Surgical Strategy</i> Bahadir Celep, Hygeia International Hospital, Albania
13:20 – 13:35	<i>Early Predictors of Complex Regional Pain Syndrome after Distal Radius Fracture: A Prospective Cohort Study</i> Neritan Myderrizi, Regional Hospital Durrës, Albania
13:35 – 13:50	<i>Minimally Invasive Surgical Management of Central Giant Cell Granuloma: A Case Report</i> Xhini Rizaj, Western Balkans University, Albania
13:50 – 14:05	<i>From Cardiac CTA to Coronary Angiography</i> Alket Collaku, WBU, Albania

TRACK 4 Digital Health, AI & Biomedical Innovation

Chair: Prof. Arben Merkoci, ICN2, Spain

Co-chair: Prof. Shyqyri Haxha, Royal Holloway University of London, UK

Jeronim De Rada Hall 2

12:00 – 12:20	Invited Talk <i>Nanobiosensors as Sustainable Point-of-Care Devices for Continuous Health Monitoring</i> Arben Merkoçi, ICN2 / ICREA, Spain
12:20 – 12:40	Invited Talk <i>Microwave Photonics for Biomedical Sensing and Healthcare Technologies</i> Shyqyri Haxha, Royal Holloway University of London, UK
12:40 – 13:00	Invited Talk <i>Wearable and Device-Free Sensing for Healthcare and Assisted Living Applications</i> Vladimir Dyo, Royal Holloway University of London, UK
13:00 – 13:20	Invited Talk <i>3D Printed Preclinical and Clinical Medical Devices: Orthopedic and Ophthalmological Examples</i> Vasif Hasirci, Middle East Technical University, Turkiye
13:20 – 13:40	Invited Talk <i>3D and 4D Printing for Musculoskeletal Tissue Engineering</i> Pinar Yilgor, Ankara University, Turkiye
13:40 – 14:00	Invited Talk <i>Medical Devices: From Past to Future</i> Nesrin Hasirci, METU BIOMATEN / Near East University, Turkiye

14:00 – 15:00 | Lunch Break

15:00 – 17:00 | Afternoon Parallel Sessions

TRACK 1 Public Health & Infectious Diseases

Chair: Prof. Arjan Harxhi, University of Medicine Tirana, Albania

Co-Chair: Dr. Edmond Puca, UHC Mother Teresa, Albania

Queen Geraldine Conference Hall 1

15:00 – 15:20	Invited Talk <i>From Real-World Evidence to Public Health Value: Modelling and Policy Impact in High-Burden Diseases</i> Loreta Kondili, Istituto Superiore di Sanità / UniCamillus, Italy
15:20 – 15:40	Invited Talk <i>Emerging Infectious Diseases - Outbreak Management in a Post-Pandemic Era and the Public Health Response</i> Leidon Shapo, Freelance Consultant, UK
15:40 – 16:00	Invited Talk <i>Sexually Transmitted Infections on the Rise: There is a Need for a New Paradigm for Prevention and Control in Albania</i> Arjan Harxhi, University of Medicine Tirana, Albania
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Tackling AMR at the Source: IPC-Driven Reduction of Antibiotic Use in Resource-Limited MDRO Settings</i> Edmond Puca, UHC Mother Teresa, Albania
16:15 – 16:30	<i>Implementing Low-Dose CT Screening for Lung Cancer in Albania: A Public Health Opportunity</i> Milena Memelli, American Hospital, Albania
16:30 – 16:45	<i>Iron Deficiency in Young Women with Normal Hemoglobin: Is it Always Nutritional?</i> Isrena Alushi, Glatia Med Laboratory, Cambridge Clinical Laboratories, Albania
16:45 – 17:00	<i>Determinants of Insulin Resistance in an Albanian Population: An Integrated Analysis of BMI, HOMA-IR, and Lifestyle Factors</i> Gjena Dura, University of Tirana / Intermedica Medical Laboratory, Albania

TRACK 2 Clinical Practice & Multidisciplinary Care

Chair: Prof. Dr. Monika Fida, University of Medicine Tirana, Albania

Co-Chair: Dr. Indrit Temali, American Hospital / Western Balkans University, Albania

Queen Geraldine Conference Hall 2

15:00 – 15:20	Invited Talk <i>Biologic Therapies in Dermatology: Current Trends and Future Directions</i> Monika Fida, University of Medicine Tirana, Albania
15:20 – 15:40	Invited Talk <i>The Gold Standard: Multidisciplinary Care in Modern Oncology</i> Jemma Arakelyan, LSCCB Hong Kong / ICC Yerevan
15:40 – 15:55	<i>Factors Influencing H. pylori Eradication Therapy: Antibiotic Resistance Patterns and Patient Adherence</i> Lediana Mulla, Salus Hospital, Albania
15:55 – 16:10	<i>Rheumatic Immune-Related Adverse Events in Patients Treated with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors</i> Ilektra Xhafa, American Hospital, Albania
16:10 – 16:25	<i>Prognostic Factors in Epithelial Ovarian Cancer</i> Erid Rama, University of Medicine, Tirana, Albania
16:25 – 16:40	<i>From Isolated Results to Integrated Profiles: The Role of Laboratory Medicine in Precision Health</i> Anisa Daka, Dr. Stefan Gjoni Hospital / WBU, Albania
16:40 – 17:00	Invited Talk <i>Advances in Therapeutic Endoscopy: Bridging Innovation and Clinical Practice</i> Manol Jovani, Florida International University, USA

TRACK 3 Ophthalmology & Advances in Clinical Specialties

Chair: Dr. Emirjona Vajushi, American Hospital, Western Balkans University, Albania

Co-chair: Dr. Teuta Haveri, Hygeia Hospital, Albania

Jeronim De Rada Hall 1

15:00 – 15:20	Invited Talk <i>Growth Rate Symmetry of Large Hypertransmission Defects in AMD Patients with Bilateral HyperTDs</i>
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	Sara Beqiri, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, USA
15:20 – 15:35	<i>Role of OCT Angiography in the Evaluation and Monitoring of Diabetic Retinopathy</i> Stela Ceca, Salus Hospital, Albania
15:35 – 15:50	<i>Low-level Red-light Therapy for Myopia Control: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Randomized and Non-randomized Controlled Studies</i> Muhammad Qasim, University of Minho, Portugal
15:50 – 16:05	<i>Refractive Surgery: Individual Approach for Each Patient</i> Teuta Haveri, Hygeia Eye Center, Albania
16:05 – 16:20	<i>Temporomandibular Joint Disorders Impact on Cervical Spine Parameters</i> Joana Hankollari, University of Medicine, Tirana, Albania
16:20 – 16:35	<i>Extreme Challenges in Retroperitoneal Tumors: A Case Report</i> Ardit Collaku, Hygeia Hospital Tirana, Albania
16:35 – 16:50	<i>Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss: What Is the Optimal Treatment Strategy</i> Emirjona Vajushi, American Hospital / WBU, Tirana, Albania
16:50 – 17:05	<i>Alert At 26 Mg/Dl: A Rare Presentation of Insulinoma in The Pancreatic Uncinate Process</i> Vrenos Hodaj, Erti Ismahili, Barleti University / Western Balkans University, Albania

TRACK 4 Regenerative Medicine, Tissue Engineering & Biomaterials

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Armond Daci, University of Prishtina, Kosovo

Co-chair: Assoc. Prof. Deniz Yucel, Acibadem Mehmet Ali Aydinlar University, Turkiye

Jeronim De Rada Hall 2

15:00 – 15:20	Invited Talk <i>Biomimetic Design Strategies in Vascular Tissue Engineering: Branched Scaffolds and Multilayered Tubular Constructs</i> Deniz Yucel, Acibadem Mehmet Ali Aydinlar University, Turkiye
15:20 – 15:35	<i>Circular Biomaterials for Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine</i> Albana Ndreu Halili, Western Balkans University, Albania
15:35 – 15:50	Invited Talk <i>From Synthetic Design Toward Translational Medicine: Biodegradable Polymeric Nanosponges for Advanced Drug Delivery</i> Gjylije Hoti, University of Turin, Italy
15:50 – 16:05	<i>Imaging-guided Targeting of Extracellular Vesicle–Lipid Nanoparticle Hybrids for Oral RNA Delivery</i> Armond Daci, University of Prishtina, Kosovo
16:05 – 16:20	Invited Talk <i>Single vs Dual Drug Loaded pH-Responsive Polymeric Micelles: Cytotoxic, Apoptotic and Antiangiogenic Evaluation</i> Aysel Kiziltay, Middle East Technical University, Turkiye
16:20 – 16:35	<i>Microbial Adhesion to Dental Surfaces</i> Klemen Bohinc, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
16:35 – 16:50	<i>Raman Microscopic Investigations of the Effects of Water-Soluble Synthetic Polymers on Bacteria at the Single Cell Level</i> Arjana Kaba, Western Balkans University / Rhine-Waal University, Albania/Germany

20:00 | Gala Dinner

DAY 2 - June 5, 2026

Friday

Theme: Foundations & Innovations in Translational Biosciences

Venue: Western Balkans University, Tirana

Morning Plenary

Conference Room A202

09:00 – 09:30	Coffee & Networking
09:30 – 10:00	KEYNOTE Prof. Dr. Peter H. Abrahams, Warwick Medical School, UK <i>From Leonardo da Vinci to AI Medicine: Quo Vadis for Clinical Anatomy and Biological Sciences</i>
10:00 – 10:30	KEYNOTE Prof. Dr. Naomi Low-Beer, Imperial College London / MedEd Solutions Ltd., UK <i>Are We Preparing Medical Graduates for Practice? Designing Programs for a Changing Healthcare Landscape</i>

10:30 – 11:00 | Panel Discussion

Conference Room A202

10:30 – 11:00	PANEL DISCUSSION Bridging the Bench-to-Bedside Gap: Challenges and Future Directions in Translational Biosciences Moderator: Prof. Arben Merkoci Panelists: Dr. Nihal Engin Vrana; Assoc. Prof. Aurel Ymeti; Dr. Gladiola Goranci-Buzhala; Dr. Sean Connell
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11:00 – 11:30 | Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:30 | Morning Parallel Sessions

TRACK AM-1 Translational Medicine & Molecular Research

Chair: Dr. Sean Connell, Biobizkaia, Bilbao, Spain

Co-chair: Dr. Entela Puca, American Hospital / Western Balkans University, Albania

Room A101

11:30 – 11:50	Invited Talk <i>From Mechanism to Drug Target: Structural Insights into Antibiotic Action and Ribosome Biology in Bacteria</i> Sean Connell, Biobizkaia, Bilbao, Spain
11:50 – 12:10	Invited Talk <i>Mitochondria at the Intersection of Oligodendrocyte Life and Death</i> Xhoela Bame, University of Oxford / Dartmouth College, UK/USA
12:10 – 12:25	<i>The Impact of Thyroid Hormones on Mitochondrial Calcium Homeostasis</i> Julian Ostaku, Medical University of Graz, Austria
12:25 – 12:40	<i>Investigating the Premalignant Changes in Thyroid Gland</i> Leart Berdica, University of Tirana / WBU, Albania
12:40 – 12:55	<i>Genetics In Pituitary Neuroendocrine Tumors: First Albanian Case Series of AIP Mutations</i> Tea Shehu, American Hospital / University of Medicine, Albania
12:55 – 13:10	<i>Are we Poisoning our Hormones? The Hidden Role of Endocrine Disruptors in Human Disease</i>

	Entela Puca, American Hospital / WBU, Albania
13:10 – 13:25	<i>The Role of Interstitial Dysbiosis and Alterations in Cross-Feeder Bacteria in the Development of Antibiotic Resistance</i> Blegina Arapi, Western Balkans University, Albania

TRACK 2 Biosensing, Digital Health and AI Applications

Chair: Dr. Vladimir Dyo, Royal Holloway University of London, UK

Co-Chair: Assoc. Prof. Petia Genova-Kalou, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

Room A102

11:30 – 11:50	Invited Talk <i>Point-of-Care Diagnostics for Healthcare and Wellbeing Applications</i> Aurel Ymeti, Western Balkans University, Albania
11:50 – 12:10	Invited Talk <i>Point-of-Care Biosensing Technologies for Health Monitoring in P4 Medicine</i> Rainer Hainberger, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH, Austria
12:10 – 12:25	Matrix Assisted Pulsed Laser Evaporation (MAPPLE) for the Functionalization of SPR Biosensors Petia Genova-Kalou, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria
12:25 – 12:40	<i>Telemedicine Needs in Primary Care in Albania</i> Zejnep Lleshanaku, Western Balkans University, Albania
12:40 – 12:55	<i>The Future of Intensive Care and the Implementation of AI in Monitoring, Treatment and Early Prevention of Complications in Critically Ill Patients</i> Blerim Arapi, Hygeia Hospital / WBU, Albania
12:55 – 13:15	Invited Talk <i>Artificial Intelligence in Modern Radiotherapy: From Treatment Planning to Adaptive, Patient-Centered Personalized Care</i> Xhulia Dosti, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS TRUST, UK
13:15 – 13:30	<i>The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Midwifery Practice: The Role of Digital Innovation and The “Amësia” App in Improving Equitable Maternal Care in Albania</i> Eralda Doci, Mamushe, Albania

TRACK 3 Bioengineering & Translational Therapeutics

Chair: Dr. Nihal Engin Vrana, SPARTHA Medical, France

Co-chair: Dr. Gladiola Goranci-Buzhala, University of Cologne, Germany

Room A103

11:30 – 11:50	Invited Talk <i>Engineering Biointelligent Interfaces: Supramolecular Coatings for Infection Control and Immune Modulation in Medical Implants</i> Nihal Engin Vrana, SPARTHA Medical, France
11:50 – 12:10	Invited Talk <i>Engineering Organoid Microenvironments to Study Cell Fate and Cancer Progression</i> Gladiola Goranci-Buzhala, University of Cologne, Germany
12:10 – 12:25	Invited Talk <i>Gold(I) Complexes as Promising Alternatives to Cisplatin: Cytotoxicity, Reduced Side Effects, and Apoptotic Activity</i> Valbona Hoxha, Lebanon Valley College, USA
12:25 – 12:45	Invited Talk <i>Human Placental Disc ECM as a Wound Dressing and Coating Material for Scaffolds</i> Halime Kenar, Acibadem Mehmet Ali Aydinlar University, Turkiye
12:45 – 13:05	<i>A Study on Bone Marrow Myeloid Skewing and Preserved Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cell Function in Hip Osteoarthritis</i> Ada Tushe, Veneto Institute of Oncology, Padua, Italy

13:05 – 13:20	<i>Quantification of Secondary Neutrons in Proton and Carbon Ion Therapy: A Monte Carlo Approach with AI Perspectives</i> Redona Bedjeti, University of Tetovo, North Macedonia
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TRACK 4 Medical & Healthcare Education, Ethics and Leadership

Chair: Prof. Naomi Low-Beer, Imperial College London / MedEd Solutions Ltd., UK

Co-chair: Dr. Irma Gjana, Western Balkans University, Albania

Conference Room A202

11:30 – 11:50	Invited Talk <i>Building the Evidence Base for Pharmacy Practice: Lessons from the UK and Beyond</i> Ali Hindi, University of Manchester, UK
11:50 – 12:05	<i>From Perception to Experience: A Follow-up Study on the Spiral Curriculum in Medical Education</i> Manjola Collaku, Western Balkans University, Albania
12:05 – 12:20	<i>Evaluating the Effectiveness of Facilitators in Case-Based Learning Sessions at WBU: A Cross-Sectional Mixed-Methods Study</i> Bora Haxhiu, Western Balkans University, Albania
12:20 – 12:35	<i>The influence of Evolving Cultural Expectations on Drug Use: Implications for Quality of Life and Addiction Treatment</i> Sonila Tivari Bitri, American Hospital, Western Balkans University, Albania
12:35 – 12:50	<i>Nootropic Use Among University Students: A Cross-Sectional Survey Study</i> Tea Mastori, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
12:50 – 13:05	<i>European Cohort of Human Rights Practice on Violation of Patient Autonomy as an Ethical Principle in Medicine</i> Eda Çela, Western Balkans University, Albania
13:05 – 13:20	<i>Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults: Everyone's Responsibility</i> Brunilda Zllami, American Hospital, Western Balkans University, Albania
13.20 – 13.35	<i>Leadership Challenges in Developing Tomorrow's Healthcare System: Case of Albania</i> Irma Gjana, Western Balkans University, Albania

TRACK 5 Global Health, Public Health & One Health

Chair: Prof. Loreta Kondili, Istituto Superiore di Sanità / UniCamillus, Italy

Co-chair: Dorina Toci, Institute of Public Health, Albania

Room A203

11:30 – 11:50	Invited Talk <i>Vaccination Strategies and Immunization Program</i> Dorina Toci, Institute of Public Health, Albania
11:50 – 12:10	Invited Talk <i>Next-Generation MVA-Monkeypox Single-Dose Vaccines</i> Arban Domi, GeoVax, USA
12:10 – 12:25	<i>Air Pollution as a Functional Model of Impaired Exchange and Pulmonary Hemodynamics</i> Ornela Çuçi, Western Balkans University, Albania
12:25 – 12:40	<i>Gut Microbiota in Children: Implications for Functional Abdominal Pain and Immune Development</i> Oltiana Petri, Cambridge Clinics Laboratories / Sports University of Tirana, Albania
12:40 – 12:55	<i>Feed-Dairy Food Safety Aspects in Albania</i> Gloria Dimco, Fan S. Noli University / Vetmeduni Vienna collaborators, Albania/Austria
12:55 – 13:10	<i>Veterinary Medicine at the Core of One Health: Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis in Albania</i> Xhelil Koleci, Agricultural University of Tirana / National Reference Laboratory, Albania
13:10 – 13:25	<i>Endocrine Disruptors and Human Health</i> Blertina Dyrmishi, Hygeia Hospital / Western Balkans University, Albania

13:25 – 13:40	<i>Biochemical Markers Integrated for the Diagnosis of Functional Adrenal Tumors</i> Brunilda Mezani, University of Tirana / WBU, Albania
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13:30 – 14:30 | Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:45 | Afternoon Parallel Sessions

TRACK 1 Public Health, Clinical Science & Patient Outcomes

Chair: Prof. Arjan Harxhi, University of Medicine Tirana, Albania
Co-chair: Prof. Dr. Ilirijana Haxhibeqiri-Karabdić, Sarajevo School of Science and Technology, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Conference Room A202

14:30 – 14:50	Invited Talk <i>Minimally Invasive Cardiosurgery</i> Ilirijana Haxhibeqiri-Karabdić, Sarajevo School of Science and Technology, Bosnia and Herzegovina
14:50 – 15:05	<i>Longitudinal Changes in Lipid Profile and Cardiovascular Risk in People Living with HIV Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy</i> Arjana Zerja, Mother Teresa UHC / WBU, Albania
15:05 – 15:20	<i>The effect of anticoagulants' use during pregnancy in women with hereditary thrombophilia on postpartum hemorrhage</i> Adela Shuaipi, University of Tirana, Albania
15:20 – 15:35	<i>Awareness and Management of Perinatal Depression Among Healthcare Providers in Albania</i> Ana Uka, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
15:35 – 15:50	<i>The Impact of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome on Mental Health and Functioning in Adolescents</i> Isida Mandija, University of Medicine Tirana, Albania
15:50 – 16:05	<i>Relationship Between Self-Care Behaviors and Quality of Life in Patients: A Cluster Analysis</i> Edona Gara, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy
16:05 – 16:20	<i>Elderly-Onset Rheumatoid Arthritis In Routine Practice: Pmr-Like Presentation And Age-Tailored CSDMARD Therapy</i> Melisa Uruci, Berat Regional Hospital / WBU, Albania
16:20 – 16:35	<i>From Lifestyle to Cellular Damage: Early Oxidative Stress in Young Adults as an Emerging Health Risk</i> Ilda Babamusta, Cambridge Clinical Laboratories / WBU, Albania
16:35 – 16:50	<i>When Quality Control Fails: Translating Laboratory Errors into Clinical Consequences</i> Adela Serjani, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania

TRACK 2 Students and Young Investigators - Session 1

Chair: Dr. Brunilda Zllami, American Hospital / Western Balkans University, Albania
Co-chair: Dr. Emirjona Vajushi, American Hospital / Western Balkans University, Albania

Room A101

Theme	<i>From Policy to Patient – Integrating Public Health and Clinical Evidence</i>
14:30 – 14:42	<i>Antibiotic Reimbursement as a Policy Lever for Antimicrobial Stewardship: Alignment with WHO AWaRe and Essential Medicines List in Albania</i> Mateo Përgjegji, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
14:42 – 14:54	<i>Vaccine Hesitancy in Young Adults: A University-Based Study</i> Klea Progni, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania

14:54 – 15:06	<i>Low Birth Weight in Albania: A Policy Review of Maternal Health Strategies</i> Medina Hilaj, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
15:06 – 15:18	<i>Microbial Resistance of Acinetobacter Baumannii in Patients after Surgical Intervention in Neurosurgery</i> Elja Sulejmani, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
15:18 – 15:30	<i>Clinical Perspectives on COVID-19 Management: Challenges and Future Preparedness</i> Taulant Arizaj, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
15:30 – 15:42	<i>E-Smoking in the Digital Age: Gateway to Addiction?</i> Emiranda Kaloshi, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
15:42 – 15:54	<i>Exploring Self-Medication with Antibiotics among University Students in Albania</i> Anna Maria Prenga, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
15:54 – 16:06	<i>Silent Aortic Aneurysm Presenting with Left Vocal Cord Paralysis (Ortner's Syndrome)</i> Jera Cenalia, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
16:06 – 16:18	<i>Interpretation of Severe Dysmenorrhea: Endometriosis Under-recognition</i> Dea Bonjaku, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
16:18 – 16:30	<i>Is Death Predictable? ICU Biomarkers Study</i> Flavio Ymeri, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
16:30 – 16:42	<i>Why Pharmacogenomics Remains Underutilized in Clinical Practice</i> Lejla Karaj, Western Balkans University, Albania

TRACK 3 Students and Young Investigators - Session 2

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Aurel Ymeti, Western Balkans University, Albania

Co-Chair: Dr. Aysel Kiziltay, Middle East Technical University, Turkiye

Room A102

Theme	<i>From Mechanisms to Innovation – Shaping the Future of Medicine</i>
14:30 – 14:42	<i>Role of Artificial Intelligence in Minimally Invasive Surgery</i> Amela Gjana, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
14:42 – 14:54	<i>Role of Interventional Radiology in Modern Medicine</i> Azra Gerçek, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
14:54 – 15:06	<i>Digital Biomarkers: Decoding Vital Signs and Gait via WI-FI Sensing</i> Adora Hallunej, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
15:06 – 15:18	<i>Development of a Low-Cost Myoelectric Interface for Rehabilitation</i> Rilinda Ajrulla, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
15:18 – 15:30	<i>Freezing-Assisted SPAAC Optimization for DNA Functionalization of SiNPs in Hybrid Nanoparticle Assembly</i> Anxhela Dida, University of Fribourg, Switzerland / Western Balkans University, Albania
15:30 – 15:42	<i>A Numerical Study on Predictive Gait Control for Trans-Femoral Prosthetic Using Hip Kinematics and Terrain Mapping</i> Dion Janko, Western Balkans University, Albania
15:42 – 15:54	<i>Effects of Intentional Deception on Cognitive Processing Latency: A Biomedical Engineering Approach</i> Azra Zhabjaku, Western Balkans University, Albania
15:54 – 16:06	<i>3D Bioprinted Uterine Tumoroids: A Platform for Personalized Medicine</i> Ebi Dede, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
16:06 – 16:18	<i>Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Pediatric Fracture Detection Through X-rays: A Medical Imaging Approach</i> Polikseni Memo, European University of Tirana, Albania

16:18 – 16:30	<i>Periodontitis and Systemic Disease: How Much More Evidence Do We Need</i> Erida Çela, Western Balkans University, Albania
16:30 – 16:42	<i>Telemedicine in Albania: Current Status, Opportunities and Implementation Challenges</i> Judita Perndrecaj, Albania

TRACK 4 Workshop - Forensic Molecular Diagnostics

Chair: Dr. Retina Çapuni, Western Balkans University / Forensic Center Albania

Room A103

14:30 – 16:30	From Molecular Diagnostics to Justice: DNA Chimerism and False-Negative Paternity Risk after Transplantation (AKKSHI Project) Chair: Dr. Retina Çapuni, Western Balkans University / Forensic Center Albania, Albania
14:30 – 14:45	Introduction and workshop objectives
14:45 – 15:15	Biology of post-transplant DNA chimerism
15:15 – 15:45	STR profiling and false-negative paternity risk
15:45 – 16:05	Clinical and forensic case interpretation
16:05 – 16:25	Ethical and legal implications
16:25 – 16:45	Discussion and recommendations

15:30 – 16:45 | Poster Session & Networking

Poster Presentations (P)

P1	<i>Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction: Novel Therapies</i> Nereida Xhabija, American Hospital / WBU, Albania
P2	<i>Electrochemical Nanosensors for Early Detection of Ca19-9: Translational Perspectives in Pancreatic Cancer Diagnostics</i> Ergi Hoxha, Western Balkans University, Albania
P3	<i>Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) After Breast Cancer: Case Report</i> Juliana Cuni, Albania
P4	<i>The Impact of Animal Welfare Standards on the Mitigation of Antimicrobial Resistance: A One Health Perspective</i> Natalija Atanasova, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, North Macedonia
P5	<i>The Global Burden of Antimicrobial Resistance: A Comprehensive Analysis of Human Health Impacts and Clinical Challenges</i> Natalija Atanasova, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, North Macedonia
P6	<i>Modeling Oxygen Distribution in 3D Bioprinted Uterine Tumoroids: A Complex Systems Approach</i> Inva Kociaj, Western Balkans University, Albania
P7	<i>Sleep, Technology and Academic Performance in University Students: A Cross-Sectional Study</i> Holta Sulaj, Hygeia Hospital Tirana / WBU, Albania
P8	<i>Insulin Resistance and Metabolic Profiling in a Prediabetic Albanian Population: A HOMA-IR Based Analysis</i> Gjena Dura, University of Tirana / Intermedica Medical Laboratory, Albania
P9	<i>Snoring as a Clinical Red Flag: Impact of Sleep and Airway Factors on Fatigue in Children</i> Holta Sulaj, Hygeia Hospital Tirana / WBU

P10	<i>Advancing Telemedicine by Integration of AI, IoT and Smart Digital Monitoring Systems</i> Xhoena Polisi Duro, Fan S. Noli University / WBU, Albania
P11	<i>Impact of Community-based Health Education on Knowledge and Preventive Practices Regarding Infectious Diseases</i> Silvana Gripshi, Western Balkans University, Albania
P12	<i>Impact of Pupil Aperture on Agreement Between Objective and Subjective Refraction</i> Muhamed Qasim, University of Minho, Portugal
P13	<i>Persistent ADHD Symptoms and their Relationship to Age at First Offense and Recidivism in Albanian Inmates</i> Enita Metaj, Albania
P14	<i>Transforming the Landscape of HFpEF: Novel Pharmacological Therapies and Evidence from Recent Clinical Trials</i> Nereida Xhabija, American Hospital / WBU, Albania
P15	<i>The Impact of Antiretroviral Drugs on Bone Density in HIV-positive Patients</i> Genti Mulla, University of Medicine Tirana, Albania
P16	<i>From Brain to Bone. A Digital Morphometric Insight Into Age-related Neurocranial Changes</i> Marinela Bregu, Western Balkans University, Albania
P17	<i>Effectiveness of Huber 360 Training on Static and Dynamic Balance in Healthy Adults: A Pilot Study</i> Imena Ismaili, Western Balkans University, Albania
P18	<i>Acute Pyelonephritis in Pregnancy</i> Areti Pojani, American Hospital / WBU, Tirana, Albania
P19	<i>Integration of Nursing Students Into Clinical Practice: A Literature Review</i> Alketa Dervishi, Western Balkans University / University of Medicine, Albania
P20	<i>Treatment Outcomes and Prognostic Factors in Infective Endocarditis</i> Erti Ismahili, UHC Mother Teresa / University of Medicine Tirana, Albania
P21	<i>The Influence of Mutuality on Self-care Behaviors over time in Patient–Caregiver Dyads with Multiple Chronic Conditions in Low- and Middle-income Countries: A Longitudinal Study of the Mediating Role of Self-efficacy</i> Dasilva Taci, Western Balkans University, Albania
P22	<i>Sinc Functions for K-Space and Z-Space Adaptive Filtering of Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Human Brain</i> Carlo Ciulla, Western Balkans University, Albania
P23	<i>Translational Medicine and Clinical Outcomes in Hematological Malignancies: From Molecular Discovery to Precision Therapy</i> Marsela Shani, Tirana Medical University / Nostra Signora Del Buon Consiglio, Albania
P24	<i>Virtual Reality Learning Practices in Medical Sciences in Albania</i> Ana Uka, Western Balkans University, Albania
P25	<i>Perceived Stress and Burnout Among Nurses in Albania</i> Dorina Ahmetaj, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania
P26	<i>Important Role in Screening and Management of Infectious Syndromes in Pregnancy</i> Esmeralda Meta, UHC Mother Teresa / American Hospital, Albania
P27	<i>Helium Ions in Hadrontherapy: From Simulation to Biology</i> Milos Dordevic, University of Belgrade, Serbia
P28	<i>Targeting Inflammatory Pathways to Enhance Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy Responses: A Preclinical Study</i> Otilija Keta, University of Belgrade, Serbia
P29	<i>Lipoprotein(A): The Underestimated Effect of a Big Contributor to Atherosclerosis</i> Almenda Zaka, American Hospital, Western Balkans University, Albania
P30	<i>Evaluating KAN-Augmented Backbones for Bone Abnormality Detection: A Controlled Study Against A Densenet Baseline</i> Ahmet Talal Sallam, Istanbul Medipol University, Turkiye

16:45 – 17:15 | Closing Ceremony - Awards & Acknowledgments

Conference Room A202