

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

The European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology

ISSUE #47



PRESIDENT'S WORD

September 17, 2026

Dear ESPA Members, Colleagues and Friends,

On September 1st, 27 specialist anaesthetists from 20 centers in Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland began their 2-year Scandinavian fellowship in paediatric anaesthesia. What a privilege, this is. During this week's kick-off meeting, fellows attended lectures, engaged in hands-on workshops, and conceptualized their ideas for a scientific project as required by the curriculum.

This program requires dedication by organizers and fellows alike and will facilitate development of clinical, academic, and collaborative expertise in the care of critically ill children and those requiring anaesthesia for complex surgical procedures.

ESPA supports a common European standard of training and competence in paediatric anaesthesia.

In this newsletter, I am excited to share with you the news about the recently published paper on a proposed paediatric anaesthesia training framework. The article is the result of a broad collaboration by an ESAIC and ESPA Taskforce and represents a first step towards harmonisation of education in paediatric anaesthesia in Europe. ESPA is happy to host and develop this initiative further.

In addition, I will give you an update on the latest developments in the *International Network for Paediatric Locoregional ANaesthesia and Education* (InPlane) project and last-minute information for the upcoming ESPA meeting in Madrid, which promises to be the best-attended conference to date.

Best regards,

Nicola G. Clausen
ESPA President

ESPA CONGRESS 2026 IN MADRID

Less than two weeks to go before we welcome attendees from 61 countries and 46 speakers in Madrid for our annual ESPA meeting. Due to the large number of workshops, problem-based learning sessions, and poster walk sessions, in addition to our main panels, we recommend planning your conference days beforehand.

Our ESPA conference app is now accessible and will help you keep track of what promises to become a busy schedule.

Also, we are delighted about the large number of submitted abstracts. Thank you to all colleagues who have taken the time to submit and thereby contribute to the ESPA conference. A total of 198 abstracts will be displayed during the conference and will be presented by the authors during poster walk sessions. Ten abstracts were chosen by the scientific committee for presentation in the 'Best Abstract' session scheduled for Friday 25th. Also, the best abstracts are available in the app, and we invite you to read through them for a lively discussion.

ESPA CONGRESS 2026 UPDATES

CONGRESS APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Stay connected and make the most of your ESPA 2026 experience with the official Congress App:

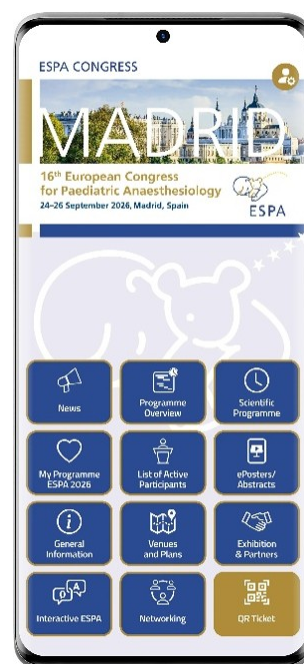
- Browse the full programme
- Build your personalised schedule
- View the list of speakers
- Search abstracts
- Complete the evaluation form and obtain your CME certificate
- Network with fellow participants
- Ask questions to speakers
- And much more...

The ESPA 2026 Congress App will be available on the App Store and Google Play. You can also download it by scanning the QR code below.

Important information for users: Due to Apple and Android requirements, the ESPA 2026 Congress App must be accessed through the gCon app by a T.R.I. provider with the logo below.



1. Download T.R.I. from the App Store or Google Play
2. Enter PIN: 6118
3. Access the ESPA 2026 Congress App.



SOCIAL EVENTS:

We would like to inform you that registration for the [Social Events](#) taking place during the 16th European Congress on Paediatric Anaesthesiology is now open.

Please follow the steps below to secure your spot:

- Log in to your registration profile, available [here](#). (If you have forgotten your password, please send us an email.)
- Select the online form for the Social Programme available in your profile.
- Complete your payment either online immediately or wait for the pro forma invoice, which will be sent to your email.

Opening Ceremony

Date: Thursday, 24 September 2026

Time: 19:15 – 20:45

Place: Hotel Melia Avenida America (congress venue)

Price: Free of charge

Charity Morning Jog

Date: Friday, 25 September 2026

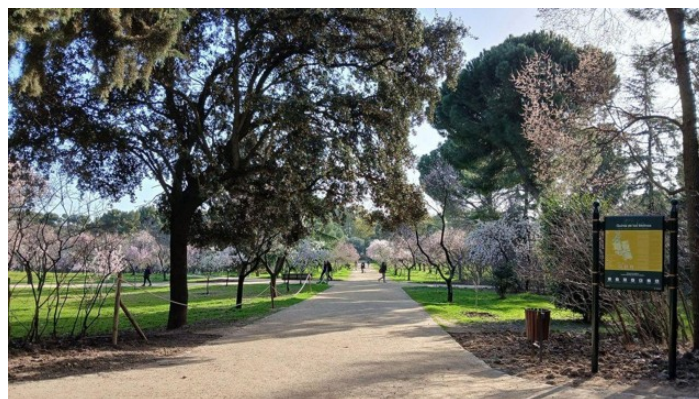
Time: 07:00–08:00

Place: Hotel Meliá Avenida América (congress venue)

Price: 15 EUR

Start your day with a **fresh, energising, and scenic morning jog** through the beautiful **Quinta de los Molinos**, right next to the hotel.

Run. Breathe. Enjoy Madrid!



Gala Evening

Date: Friday, 25 September 2026

Time: 18:45–22:00

Price: 95 EUR

Spanish Evening at Meliá Avenida América We are delighted to invite you to an enjoyable evening at **Meliá Avenida América**, where dinner will take place in a space located right next to the evening poster session. The evening will be served as a **flying buffet**, offering a selection of delicious Spanish specialities, accompanied by music and a relaxed atmosphere.

We look forward to sharing this special Spanish experience with you!

¡Salud y hasta pronto!



CME CREDITS:

The 16th European Congress for Paediatric Anaesthesiology in Madrid has received official accreditation from the **European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®)**.

This prestigious recognition means that our congress has been accredited for a maximum of **18.5 European CME credits (ECMEC®s)**, ensuring that your participation will not only enrich your knowledge but also contribute to your continuing medical education.



PARTNERS OF THE ESPA 16th CONGRESS

We would like to thank all our sponsors and industry partners for their support of the ESPA Congress. Their involvement helps us deliver a dynamic scientific meeting and gives delegates the opportunity to discover the latest developments, products, and solutions in paediatric anaesthesia. We encourage all participants to visit the Exhibition Area, meet our partners, and learn more about the work they do to support our specialty.

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INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR PAEDIATRIC LOCOREGIONAL ANAESTHESIA AND EDUCATION - INPLANE

The International Network for Paediatric Locoregional ANaesthesia and Education (InPlane) project. This initiative has created a groundbreaking, open-access platform designed to support clinicians at every stage of practice in performing regional anaesthesia techniques safely and effectively in children.

The first phase of this initiative was launched in May 2024, following a collaboration between ESPA, RA-UK, and APAGBI, and featured the plan A Blocks on the RA-UK website. Since then, CPAS and SPANZA have joined the project. This led to the creation of the InPlane app. By uniting five leading societies from Europe, the UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, InPlane represents an unprecedented global collaboration, taking paediatric anaesthesia education to a new level with extensive practical educational content, a comprehensive library, and a growing collection of high-quality images for use anytime, anywhere.

Paediatric Plan A blocks are freely available to all users, while members of the collaborating societies will receive exclusive access to advanced Plan B content, which will be launched in the fall of 2026.

At the ESPA Congress 2026, the team will provide the attendees with a workshop as a part of the InPlane Initiative with the intention to explore and to demonstrate practical and accessible guidance that empowers anaesthetists to integrate regional techniques into everyday paediatric care.

As the app evolves and grows, we love to hear from YOU, and we kindly appreciate your input!

We hope to welcome you at the ESPA congress and during the workshops.

Warmest regards, InPlane team



EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR HARMONISED MINIMAL STANDARDS IN PA TRAINING - EPUB AHEAD OF PRINT EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF ANAESTHESIOLOGY

This paper provides the first Europe-wide expert-consensus framework defining the **minimum standards, competencies, training environment, and assessment methods required for specialist training in paediatric anaesthesia**, with the aim of improving patient safety and harmonising education in paediatric anaesthesia across Europe.

The framework covers:

- Duration of training
- Qualifications of supervising trainers and host institutions
- Competency requirements for trainees
- Standardised assessment and skills evaluation tools
- Rather than focusing solely on case numbers, the statement emphasises **competency-based training**, structured supervision, and objective assessment of skills.

- The ultimate goal is to improve the **quality, consistency, and safety of paediatric anaesthesia care across Europe** by ensuring that specialists achieve a common minimum standard irrespective of where they train.

We acknowledge there still is a long way to go – further perspectives and visions for implementation in clinical practices throughout Europe will be presented at the conference.

Clausen, N. G., Brackhahn, M., Budic, I., Buhre, W., Kelecsenyi, A., Oppitz, F., Gonzalez-Pizarro, P., Sabourdin, N., Zielińska, M., & Schindler, E. (2026). Educational framework for harmonised minimal standards in Paediatric Anaesthesia training in Europe based on a modified Delphi approach: On behalf of The European Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care and European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology Taskforce. *European Journal of Anaesthesiology* <https://doi.org/10.1097/EJA.0000000000002450>

ESPA MEMBERSHIP FEES 2026

We kindly remind you to renew your ESPA membership for 2026 to continue enjoying exclusive benefits, including:

- **Special Discount on the 2026 Congress** — Save on registration fees and join us for another outstanding event!
- **Enhanced Access to the Members' Zone** — including the *Pediatric Anesthesia Journal* and an extensive *Video Archive*.

To renew your membership and unlock these advantages, simply click here: [ESPA Membership Platform](#).

Thank you for being a valued member of ESPA. We look forward to sharing another year with you and sincerely appreciate your continued support.

Paediatric, Teenagers and Young Adults Solid Tumours Study Day

This study day will provide an overview of oncological conditions affecting Children and Young People with solid tumours, aiming to provide a greater understanding of treatments within the solid tumour disease groups. Advances in treatment will be explored, as well as discussion surrounding current targeted therapies and their impact on today's practice. The afternoon will aim to address different aspects of solid care and

options, as well as an opportunity to listen to the lived experiences of a patient's family.

This study day would be perfect for medical, nursing and allied health professionals with an interest in caring for Children and Young People with Oncological conditions. No previous experience is necessary, and it would be of interest to healthcare professionals who work with these patients. Information would also be beneficial for parent advocates who have an interest in solid tumours.

Date: Tuesday, 13th October 2026

Venue: The Royal Marsden Education and Conference Centre, Chelsea, Stewart's Grove, London SW3 6JJ

Cost: £150 Standard Rate - **20% Discount: Use Code: RMPAED20**

Register: <https://www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk/ptyasolidt>

Get in touch: Conferenceteam@rmh.nhs.uk

OTHER EVENTS

PROSA 2026,

September 10-11, 2026, Maastricht

May 1-3, 2026, Montreal

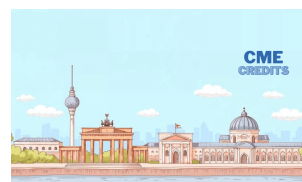
<https://www.prosaconference.com/>



V Euro Anesthesiology and Critical Care Congress, *presented by IARS and SOCCA*

October 19-20, 2026, Berlin

<https://www.euroespa.com/event/v-euro-anesthesiology-and-critical-care-congress/>



2027 Annual Meeting, presented by IARS and SOCCA

April 30-May 2, 2026, Chicago

May 1-3, 2026, Montreal

<https://meetings.iars.org/>



The International Assembly for Pediatric Anesthesiology (IAPA), 2029

April 18-21, 2029, London



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We are here to serve you.

Email us: info@euroespa.com

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