

FOCUS: VALVE 2026

17th Course for Minimally Invasive Heart Valve Surgery

SEPTEMBER 13 - 16, 2026

INNSBRUCK - AUSTRIA



3D LIVE SURGERIES - WORKSHOPS - WETLABS



www.focusvalve.org

FOCUS: VALVE 2026

17th Course for Minimally Invasive Heart Valve Surgery

- DATE:** September 13 – 16, 2026
- VENUE:** LKI / Universitätskliniken
Chirurgie – Building No. 8
Anichstr., Entrance Innerkoflerstr.
6020 Innsbruck, AUSTRIA
- COURSE DIRECTORS:** Nikolaos Bonaros, Michael Grimm, Daniel Höfer
- SENIOR DIRECTOR:** Ludwig Müller
- SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY:** Can Gollmann-Tepeköylü
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- CO DIRECTORS:** Ottavio Alfieri, Patrick Perier, Jose Luis Pomar
- FOCUS VALVE PARTNERS:** ECS – Endoscopic Cardiac Surgeons Club
www.ecsclub.org
- CONGRESS ORGANIZER:** MAW – International Exhibitions and Advertising
Medizinische Ausstellungs- & Werbegesellschaft
Contact: Barbara Horak, David Grünseis, Aylin Ilhan
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ONLINE REGISTRATION: <https://registration.maw.co.at/valve26>



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FACULTY

Alfieri Ottavio, IT	Gollmann-Tepeköylü Can, AT	Osorio Emilio, AT
Andreas Martin, AT	Grabenwöger Martin, AT	Palmen Meindert, NL
Bauer Axel, AT	Grimm Michael, AT	Pereda Daniel, ES
Benussi Stefano, IT	Hausleiter Jörg, DE	Perier Patrick, FR
Berrebi Alain, FR	Heuts Samuel, NL	Pitsis Antonios, GR
Bleiziffer Sabine, DE	Hochhold Christoph, AT	Pomar Jose-Luis, ES
Bonaros Nikolaos, AT	Höfer Daniel, AT	Putzer Gabriel, AT
Bonatti Johannes, US	Holfeld Johannes, AT	Reichenspurner Hermann, DE
Borger Michael, DE	Jeppsson Anders, SE	Reinstadler Sebastian, AT
Castella Manuel, ES	Kempfert Jörg, DE	Schachner Thomas, AT
Cerny Stepan, CZ	Kofidis Theodoros, GR	Siepe Matthias, CH
D'Onofrio Augusto, IT	Kofler Markus, DE	Solinas Marco, IT
De Paulis Ruggiero, IT	Lakew Fitsum, DE	Suwalski Piotr, PL
Delgado Victoria, ES	Liebold Andreas, DE	Treede Hendrik, DE
Di Eusanio Marco, IT	Marin-Cuartas Mateo, DE	Vojacek Jan, CZ
Doll Nicolas, DE	Martini Judith, AT	Wiedemann Dominik, AT
Dreyfus Gilles, FR	Milojevic Milan, RS	Winter-Pölzl Leo, AT
Dzemali Omer, CH	Mittermayr Markus, AT	Zannis Konstantinos, FR
Färber Gloria, DE	Modi Paul, UK	Zierer Andreas, AT
Girdauskas Evaldas, DE	Müller Ludwig, AT	Zimpfer Daniel, AT

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Precision in motion: Shaping the future of endoscopic valve surgery

DAY 1 | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

10:00 – 12:00

Pre-meeting session: Next-generation MIC surgeons
Moderation: Höfer D

13:10 – 14:30

Session 1: Case-based learning: Aortic valve
Minimally invasive aortic valve surgery: How far should we push it?
Moderation: Gollmann-Tepeköylü C, Perier P

One case presenter and one surgeon from the same team present and comment on cases on a dialogue format. The case presenter shows the echo findings, the surgeon comments on the technique of repair. A Commentator provides theoretical knowledge on basic definitions

BLOCK 1: Transaxillary AVR (Team Ancona)	Case presenter tba	Surgeon Di Eusanio M	Echocardiography analyst (Whiteboard) Delgado V
	• Case 1: Transaxillary AVR with axillary cannulation • Case 2: Transaxillary root replacement		
BLOCK 2: Aortic stenosis + HOCM (Team Mainz)	Case presenter tba	Surgeon Treede H	Echocardiography analyst (Whiteboard) Delgado V
	• Case 1: Minimally invasive AVR with septal myectomy • Case 2: Minimally invasive AVR, septal myectomy and mitral valve treatment		
BLOCK 3: Aortic stenosis and small aortic annulus (Team Berlin)	Case presenter tba	Surgeon Kempfert J	Echocardiography analyst (Whiteboard) Delgado V
	• Case 1: Endoscopic root enlargement • Case 2: Endoscopic Y-annular enlargement		

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Precision in motion: Shaping the future of endoscopic valve surgery

DAY 1 | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

14:30 – 16:00

Session 2: Mitral valve repair: Decision-making in challenging cases
Moderation: Kempfert J, Gollmann-Tepeköylü C

BLOCK 1: Complex mitral repair (Team Leipzig)	Case presenter Marin-Cuartas M	Surgeon Borger M	Echocardiography analyst (Whiteboard) Berrebi A
	• Case 1: Complex posterior leaflet pathology • Case 2: Valve analysis with an unexpected finding		
BLOCK 2: Bileaflet prolapse (Team Paris)	Case presenter tba	Surgeon Zannis K	Echocardiography analyst (Whiteboard) Berrebi A
	• Case 1: A case solved with a single ring • Case 2: OMG: I have to re-clamp!		
BLOCK 3: Anterior leaflet (Team Innsbruck)	Case presenter Winter-Pölzl L	Surgeon Bonaros N	Echocardiography analyst (Whiteboard) Berrebi A
	• Case 1: The fate of a repaired A2 prolapse • Case 2: An unusual A3 prolapse		

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00

Session 3: Practice changing trials every cardiac surgeon must know 2025–2026
Moderation: Marin-Cuartas M, Färber G

- Endpoints matter: From composite outcomes to clinical reality
 - Aortic: Evolut Low risk 7-years results
 - Aortic: COMMENCE 10-years results
 - Mitral primary MR: PRIMARY, REPAIR-MR, Mitra-HR
 - Mitral secondary MR: REFORM-MR
- Borger M

Jeppsson A

Bleiziffer S

Gollmann-Tepeköylü C

Girdauskas E

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Precision in motion: Shaping the future of endoscopic valve surgery

DAY 2 | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

08:15 – 08:35	Welcome and opening	
08:35 – 08:50	The Ross procedure: Reclaiming the aortic valve <i>Vojacek J</i>	
08:50 – 09:05	Focus Valve-in-Valve <i>Bauer A</i>	
09:05 – 12:00	Live surgery block 1 (Case presentation from the OR) <i>Moderation: Pomar J-L</i> <i>Panel: Zimpfer D, Wiedemann D, De Paulis R, Delgado V</i>	Echo from the OR: <i>tba</i> Whiteboard: <i>Färber G</i>
	Live surgery 1: Transaxillary AVR using a tissue valve Surgeon: <i>Di Eusanio M</i> Learning points: Patient placement, transaxillary access, valve exposure and replacement	
	Live surgery 2: 3D endoscopic double valve procedure (AVR+MVR) Surgeon: <i>Pitsis A</i> Learning points: Incision, port placement, mitral and aortic valve exposure, automated suturing	
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break	
	Presentations block: Endoscopic valve surgery: Core techniques for daily practice • Cannulation and cardioplegia – Getting the setup right <i>D'Onofrio A</i> • Endoaortic balloon – safe and effective use <i>Liebold A</i> • Surgical AF ablation – From tools to lines <i>Castella M</i> • The water test – How to read it right <i>Müller L</i>	
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break	
13:00 – 14:00	Robotics <i>Chair: Dreyfus G, Kempfert J</i>	
	• New developments after 5 generations of robots <i>Bonatti J</i> • Robotic setting for mitral repair <i>Palmen M</i> • The STS Expert consensus pathway for robotic cardiac surgery training <i>Cerny S</i>	
14:00 – 14:30	Keynote lecture: Anterior leaflet prolapse: Still difficult – or just poorly understood?	
	<i>Dreyfus G</i>	

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Precision in motion: Shaping the future of endoscopic valve surgery

DAY 2 | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

14:30 – 18:00	Live surgery block 2 (Case presentation from the OR) <i>Moderation: Perier P</i> <i>Panel: Holfeld J, Grabenwöger M, Siepe M, Delgado V</i> Live surgery 3: Mini-Bentall using a tissue valve conduit Surgeon: <i>Grimm M</i> Learning points: Patient placement, root exposure, safe coronary buttons re-implantation Live surgery 4: 3D endoscopic repair in Barlow's disease Surgeon: <i>Höfer D</i> Learning points: Port placement, preparatory steps, Barlow's repair	Echo from the OR: tba Whiteboard: <i>Borger M</i>
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16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
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Presentations block: Advanced endoscopic valve surgery - Mitral annular disjunction – A roadmap for surgeons - Premeasured loops – Sizing and getting it right - Beating heart tricuspid repair – A step-by-step approach - Bileaflet prolapse – How to make it simple	<i>De Paulis R</i> <i>Kofler M</i> <i>Siepe M</i> <i>Solinas M</i>
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18:00	End of day 2
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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Precision in motion: Shaping the future of endoscopic valve surgery

DAY 3 | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

08:30–08:35 ICU update Surgeon on duty

08:35–08:50 The beginnings of endoscopic valve surgery – Breaking the sternotomy barrier
Perier P

08:50–09:00 Case presentations from the OR

09:00–12:00 Live surgery block 3
Moderation: Reichenspurner H Echo from the OR: tba
Panel: Zierer A, Schachner T, Palmen M, Berrebi A Whiteboard: Treede H

- Live surgery 5:** 3D endoscopic repair for PML prolapse
Surgeon: Lakew F
Learning points: Port placement, the snail-technique for repair
- Live surgery 6:** Robotic mitral repair
Surgeon: Pereda D (*broadcasted live from Barcelona*)
Learning points: Port placement, valve exposure, robotic repair using free-hand chords
- Live surgery 7:** 3D endoscopic repair in complex anatomy
Surgeons: Gollmann-Tepeköylü C, Bonaros N
Learning points: Step-by-step valve repair using pre-measured loops, identification

10:00–10:30 Coffee break

- Presentations block: Master course in endoscopic valve surgery**
- My best trick to address major annular calcifications Benussi S
 - My best tricks for redos in fibrillating heart Dzemali O
 - My best tricks for a mini-MVR in patients with hostile thorax Modi P
 - My best tricks for endoscopic mitral repair and biatrial ablation Suwalski P

12:00–13:00 Lunchbreak

13:00–14:30 Atrial fibrillation: From stepchild to spotlight
Moderation: Castella M, Benussi S

- How to detect silent AF (watches, ECG, ILR) Reinstadler S
- PFA ablation Osorio E
- New clamps for ablation Heuts S
- Anticoagulation after valve surgery: Are we overtreating or taking risks? Milojevic M

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Precision in motion: Shaping the future of endoscopic valve surgery

DAY 3 | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

14:30 – 18:00

Live surgery block 4 (Case presentation from the OR)

Moderation: Alfieri O

Panel: Andreas M, Castella M, Dahle G, Di Eusanio M, Berrebi A

Echo from the OR: tba

Whiteboard: Andreas M

Live surgery 8: Mini-mitral with concomitant endocardial ablation and LAA clipping

Surgeon: Doll N

Learning points: Access for MVR+Afib treatment, anatomy of ablation lines, safe LAA occlusion

Live surgery 9: Endoscopic mitral and tricuspid repair in atrial secondary pathology

Surgeon: Girdauskas E

Learning points: Cannulation strategies, ring selection for atrial secondary MR/TR, tips for tethering

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee break

Debate session:

Part 1: Let's argue with facts: 5 slides to convince me

Patient with primary MR, mild TR, annulus 40

- Do the tricuspid
- Forget the tricuspid

*Conradi L
Kofidis T*

Young patient with cardiomyopathy 37% EF and secondary ventricular MR

- TEER with new generation devices
- Surgery with subvalvular techniques

*Hausleiter J
Färber G*

Part 2: Let's be honest...

Moderation: Gollmann-Tepeköylü C

Panel: Perier P, Pomar J-L, Alfieri O, Dreyfus G, Grimm M

Topic 1: Endoscopic valve surgery: Star surgeon or many players?

Elite technique or daily practice? (Live Poll)

Topic 2: Posterior leaflet repair 2035: the majority of surgeons will do... (Live poll)

Mini

Robotic

Transaxillary

Topic 3: The aortic valve will come back... (Live poll)

Only without sternotomy

It doesn't matter

18:00

End of day 3

HANDS ON WORKSHOPS

DAY 4 | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

09:00 – 13:00	Endoscopic mitral valve repair wetlab on porcine hearts (Group 1) <i>Tutors: tba</i>	<i>seminar room 2</i>
14:00 – 18:00	Endoscopic mitral valve repair wetlab on porcine hearts (Group 2) <i>Tutors: tba</i>	<i>seminar room 2</i>
08:30 – 16:30	Real-life simulation of MICS AVR / MVR and TAVI-explantation <i>Tutors: tba</i>	<i>seminar room 3</i>
	90 minutes & 4-5 participants per group – available timeslots: <u>Group 1:</u> 08:30 – 10:00 <u>Group 3:</u> 13:00 – 14:30 <u>Group 2:</u> 10:30 – 12:00 <u>Group 4:</u> 15:00 – 16:30	
08:30 – 16:30	Hands-on Afib and LAA occlusion training <i>Tutors: tba</i>	<i>seminar room 1</i>
	90 minutes & 4-5 participants per group – available timeslots: <u>Group 1:</u> 08:30 – 10:00 <u>Group 3:</u> 13:00 – 14:30 <u>Group 2:</u> 10:30 – 12:00 <u>Group 4:</u> 15:00 – 16:30	

REGISTRATION FEES 2026	before August 15	after August 15
DAY 1: Focus Valve Training Course	EUR 800	EUR 1 000
DAY 4: Endoscopic mitral valve repair wetlab on porcine hearts	EUR 400	EUR 500
DAY 4: Real-life simulation of MICS AVR / MVR and TAVI-explantation	EUR 100	EUR 100
DAY 4: Hands-on Afib and LAA occlusion training	EUR 100	EUR 100
DAY 2: Meet & Greet – Social Evening September 24, 2026, Time: 19:30 Location: tba	EUR 70	EUR 70

 Looking for special offers? Find them on the next page!

REGISTRATION



ONLINE REGISTRATION: <https://registration.maw.co.at/valve26>

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

For residents and nursing staff

Enjoy a 50% discount on the Focus Valve Training Course and all workshops.

For medical students

Register for just EUR 50 for the Focus Valve Training Course and/or the Wednesday workshops. (Until August 31, 2026. EUR 100 thereafter.)

Combo discount – Simulation trainings

Participate in both the

Real-life simulation of MICS AVR / MVR and TAVI-explantation workshop and the
Hands-on Afib and LAA occlusion training

and receive a EUR 50 discount.

(Combined price: EUR 150)

Team / Group registration

Bring your team to Focus Valve and save up to 50% on registration and workshop fees!

Here's how it works:

1. The first team member registers online via: <https://registration.maw.co.at/valve26>
2. After registering, they will receive a team code by email.
3. Share the code to register up to 5 team members.

Team discount breakdown:

- 2nd team member – 30% discount
- 3rd to 5th team members – 50% discount each

Note: The team discount applies to a maximum of 5 members per team.

TRAVEL & HOTEL INFORMATION

Travel via Vienna

You can reach Innsbruck either via Vienna or Munich.

There are direct flights available between Vienna and Innsbruck (flight duration approx. 45 minutes).

Additionally, high-speed trains from Vienna Airport to Innsbruck Central Station are available (travel time approx. 4 hours and 15 minutes). From Innsbruck Central Station, the hotels we recommend are generally within a few minutes' walking distance.

Travel via Munich

If you're planning to travel between Munich and Innsbruck, here are the best options:

1. Lufthansa Express Bus (Direct and Non-stop)

You can travel directly between Munich Airport and Innsbruck Airport on the Lufthansa Express Bus.

The bus service operates daily and offers the following schedules:

From Munich Airport (Bus Stop 17) to Innsbruck Airport:

10:25 AM – 12:55 PM
3:00 PM – 5:30 PM
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
9:30 PM – 11:55 PM

From Innsbruck Airport to Munich Airport (Bus Stop 17):

6:30 AM – 9:15 AM
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM
6:15 PM – 8:45 PM

You may use the Lufthansa Express Bus even if you're not flying with Lufthansa, as long as you have a valid ticket purchased online. However, please note that if your flight (not part of the Lufthansa group) is delayed, your bus ticket may become invalid.

For more details and ticket bookings, visit the [Lufthansa Express Bus website](#).

2. FlixBus (Direct, but with 4 Stops)

FlixBus offers several daily connections between Munich and Innsbruck, though it is not a non-stop service. The route includes 4 stops along the way.

Buses depart from Munich Airport Terminal 2 (Stops 21 and 22) and arrive at Innsbruck Hauptbahnhof (Main Railway Station).

When booking your FlixBus ticket, be sure to select Innsbruck Hauptbahnhof as your destination. The recommended hotels are a short walk from the main railway station, which is also close to the city center and the University Hospital.

For schedules and ticket booking, visit the [FlixBus website](#).

3. ÖBB (Austrian Federal Railways)

Another option is to travel by train with ÖBB (Austrian Federal Railways). This route requires at least one transfer, typically at Munich Ost station.

For detailed schedules and ticket bookings, visit the [ÖBB website](#).

RECOMMENDEND HOTELS

Hotels within walking distance to the venue (and the main train station) can be found online on our [hotel list](#).

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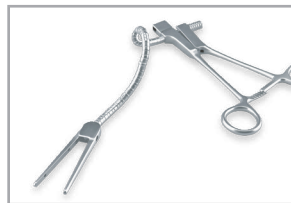
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