

Joint Meeting			
18th Branislav "BRANO" Radovancevic Heart Failure Forum			
19th forum Innovations and New Treatment Strategies in Heart Failure			
September 27 th -29 th , 2026			
Bernardin Convention Center, Portorož, Slovenia			
SUNDAY, September 27th			
8.30-9.00	Forum Opening Panel: I. Gregoric, S. Frljak, G. Poglajen, G. Zemljič, R. Radovancevic	Welcome address - Congress Chairs	
	Bojan Vrtovec Memorial Plenary Session		9.00-9.30
9.00-9.30	Healthspan-Lifespan Gap Differs Across World Regions	A. Terzic	Rochester, USA
Session 1	Stem Cell, Myocardial Regeneration and Recovery Revisited Moderator: J. Wu Panel: A. Terzic	Presenting Panelists:	9.30-10.30
9.30-9.35	Is Cardiac Regeneration Possible?	G. Torre-Amione	Houston, USA
9.35-9.45	Discussion		
9.45-9.50	Contemporary Approaches to Right Heart Failure	F. Haddad	Stanford, USA
9.50-10.00	Discussion		
10.00-10.05	Stress CT Myocardial Perfusion and Prognosis in Patients with CAD	G. Pompilio	Milan, IT
10.05-10.15	Discussion		
10.15-10.20	LVAD and Stem Cell Combination Therapy for Myocardial Recovery: CellIVAD-Pilot Data	G. Poglajen	Ljubljana, SI
10.20-10.30	Discussion		
10.30-10.45	Coffee Break	10.30-10.45	
Session 2	MCS Management I Moderator: E. Potapov	Presenting Panelists:	10.45-12.00
10.45-10.50	Driveline infection: Some Improvements or Same Old Story	M. Loebe	Lexington, USA
10.50-11.00	Discussion		
11.00-11.05	Right Ventricle and Left Ventricle Reserve and MCS Outcomes	M. Bonios	Athens, GRE
11.05-11.15	Discussion		
11.15-11.20	Microaxial tMCS Pump and Aortic Insufficiency	M. Mihalj	Lahr, GER
11.20-11.30	Discussion		
11.30-11.35	VAD and Pregnancy	J. Vierecke	Buffalo, USA
11.35-11.45	Discussion		
11.45-11.50	Turning-off the Pump: Ethical Issues	P. Mohacsi	Zurich, CH
11.50-12.00	Discussion		
12.00-13.00	Lunch break	12.00-13.00	
Session 3	Moderated Poster Session I Moderators: P. Przybylowski, D. Feldman	12.00-13.00	
Satellite Symposia I			13.00-13.30
Session 4	MCS Management II Moderator: U. Jorde Panel: J. Patel	Presenting Panelists:	13.30-14.45
13.30-13.35	Microaxial tMCS as a Bridge to Durable MCS - Effect on Outcomes	E. Potapov	Berlin, GER
13.35-13.45	Discussion		
13.45-13.50	Readmission Burden in LVAD Patients	K. Wood	Orange, USA
13.50-14.00	Discussion		
14.00-14.05	Rethinking Antithrombotic Therapy in Long-term HM3 LVAD	J. Riebandt	Vienna, AUT
14.05-14.15	Discussion		
14.15-14.20	Lifetime Management of Advanced Heart Failure	M. Kanwar	Chicago, USA
14.20-14.30	Discussion		
14.30-14.35	Current Net Prolongation of Life Concept in d-LVAD Recipients	A. Loforte	Torino, IT
14.35-14.45	Discussion		
14.45-15.00	Coffee Break	14.45-15.00	
Session 5	Net Prolongation of Life – LVAD First or Heart Transplant First Moderator: J. Kirklin	Presenting Panelists:	15.00-16.15
15.00-15.05	Heart Replacement in Patients <50 Years Old- LVAD Should Be First Option	B. Sun	Minneapolis, USA
15.05-15.10	Heart Replacement in Patients <50 Years Old- Heart Transplant Should Be First Option	A. Zuckermann	Vienna, AUT
15.10-15.20	Rebuttal and Questions		
15.20-15.25	Heart Replacement in Patients >50 Years Old- LVAD Should Be First Option	N. Uriel	New York, USA
15.25-15.30	Heart Replacement in Patients >50 Years Old- Heart Transplant Should Be First Option	L. Potena	Bologna, IT
15.30-15.40	Rebuttal and Questions		
15.40-15.45	Current Net Prolongation of Life Concept in End-stage Heart Failure - LVAD's Limitations	F. Pagani	Ann Arbor, USA
15.45-15.50	Current Net Prolongation of Life Concept in End-stage Heart Failure - Patient's Drawbacks	U. Jorde	New York, USA
15.50-16.05	Discussion		
16.05-16.15	What do we agree on?	Moderators	
Satellite Symposia II			16.15-16.45
Session 6	Novel Approaches in MCS Moderator: E. Rame	Presenting Panelists:	16.45-18.00
16.45-16.50	Net Prolongation of Life – Great Concept but What is the Ideal Device	V. Jeevanandam	Chicago, USA
16.50-17.00	Discussion		
17.00-17.05	New LVAD Prospective	J. Long	Oklahoma City, USA
17.05-17.15	Discussion		
17.15-17.20	Minimally Invasive RVAD Technique	I. Hartyanszky	Budapest, HUN
17.20-17.30	Discussion		
17.30-17.35	Histological Factors to Predict Myocardial Recovery after LVAD Support	A. Segura	Houston, USA
17.35-17.45	Discussion		
17.45-17.50	LVAD Implantation and Right Heart Failure: Intraoperative Air Management	M. Akay	Houston, USA
17.50-18.00	Discussion		
MONDAY, September 28th			
Session 7	Panel Discussion: Challenges of Regional Heart Transplant/MCS Programs Moderator: A. Zuckermann	8.00-9.00	
Panel: I. Knežević (Ljubljana, SI), H. Gašparović (Zagreb, CRO), P. Vuković (Belgrade, SRB), S. Putnik (Belgrade, SRB), L. Velicki (Novi Sad, SRB), V. Papestiev (Skopje, MK), N. Granov (Sarajevo, BiH), M. Borčić (Belgrade, SRB), B. Biočina (Zagreb, CRO), Z. Sutlić (Zagreb, CRO)			
Satellite Symposia III			9.00-10.00
10.00-10.15	Coffee Break	10.00-10.15	
Session 8	Acute Heart Failure I Moderator: B. Kar Panel: T. Pintar	Presenting Panelists:	10.15-11.15
10.15-10.20	ECPR: Optimal Strategies	A. El-Banayosy	Oklahoma City, USA
10.20-10.30	Panel Discussion		
10.30-10.35	IABP Should be/is Still First Line in Cardiogenic Shock - Pro	S. Joseph	Philadelphia, USA
10.35-10.45	Panel Discussion		
10.45-10.50	IABP Should be/is Still First Line in Cardiogenic Shock - Con	B. Meyns	Leuven, BEL
10.50-11.00	Panel Discussion		
11.00-11.05	HM6, MCS Therapy for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Complicated by Cardiogenic Shock	A. Koliopoulou	Athens, GRE
11.05-11.15	Panel Discussion		
Session 9	Acute Heart Failure II Moderator: A. El-Banayosy Panel: S. Music	Presenting Panelists:	11.15-12.15
11.15-11.20	Implementing Drugs in Cardiogenic Shock	D. Feldman	Buffalo, USA
11.20-11.30	Panel Discussion		
11.30-11.35	Microaxial Flow Pump Implantation: Management	Z. John	Houston, USA
11.35-11.45	Panel Discussion		
11.45-11.50	Durable MCS Support in RHF Shock	E. Molina	Atlanta, USA
11.50-12.00	Panel Discussion		
12.00-12.05	Pitfalls of the SCAI Classification for Cardiogenic Shock	M. Guglin	New Brunswick, USA
12.05-12.15	Panel Discussion		
12.15-13.15	Lunch Break	12.15-13.15	
Session 10	Moderated Poster Session II Moderators: M. Johnson, U. Jorde	12.15-13.15	
Satellite Symposia IV			13.15-13.45
	Symposium: Novel Technologies Chairs: J. Long, E. Rame, G. Wieselthaler	Presenting Panelists:	13.45-15.00
13.45-14.00	Abbott	TBA	
14.00-14.15	J&J Abiomed	TBA	
14.15-14.30	Paragonix	TBA	
14.30-14.45	CareDx	TBA	
14.45-15.00	Discussion		
15.00-15.15	Coffee Break	15.00-15.15	
Session 11	Heart Transplantation Updates I Moderator: M. Johnson Panel: N. Uriel	Presenting Panelists:	15.15-16.15
15.15-15.20	Beating Heart Transplant Outcomes	G. Couper	Boston, USA
15.20-15.30	Discussion		
15.30-15.35	Cell-Free DNA to Identify Wait-List Patients at Risk of Status Progression	M. Pham	San Francisco, USA
15.35-15.45	Discussion		
15.45-15.50	Monitoring After Heart Transplant: Are We Ready for a New Gold Standard? Yes	G. Sayer	New York, USA
15.50-16.00	Discussion		
16.00-16.05	Monitoring After Heart Transplant: Are We Ready for a New Gold Standard? No	M. Zucker	Philadelphia, USA
16.05-16.15	Discussion		
David Taylor Memorial Lecture			16.15-16.45
16.15-16.45	What Would David Ask Today? Rethinking the Future of Heart Transplantation	A. Zuckermann	Vienna, AUT
Satellite Symposia V			16.45-17.30
Session 12	Heart Transplantation Updates II Moderator: A. Zuckermann	Presenting Panelists:	17.30-18.45
17.30-17.35	Heart Transplant Rejection: New Treatment Solutions on Horizon	J. Kobashigawa	Los Angeles, USA
17.35-17.45	Discussion		
17.45-17.50	Extracorporeal Photopheresis as an Adjunctive Therapy for Organ Rejection	B. Sax	Budapest, HUN
17.50-18.00	Discussion		
18.00-18.05	Optimized Donor Heart Transportation	S. Silvestry	Weston, USA
18.05-18.15	Discussion		
18.15-18.20	Re-Transplantation and the Time Interval from Primary Transplantation	M. Johnson	Madison, USA
18.20-18.30	Discussion		
18.30-18.35	PCSK9i for Cardiac Allograft Vasculopathy After Heart Transplant	V. Melenovsky	Prague, CZ
18.35-18.45	Discussion		
TUESDAY, September 29th			
Session 13	Hot Topic in Heart Failure I Moderator: G. Torre-Amione Panelist: M. Nedeljkovic	Presenting Panelists:	8.00-9.30
8.00-8.05	Levosimendan Dosing Regimen in Heart Failure	E. Fabris	Trieste, IT
8.05-8.15	Discussion		
8.15-8.20	New Options for Anticoagulation in Patient on LVAD Support	A. Bracey	Houston, USA
8.20-8.30	Discussion		
8.30-8.35	Restoration of Flow vs. Restoration of Tissue Health in MCS-Associated Limb Ischemia	D. Pham	Chicago, USA
8.35-8.45	Discussion		
8.45-8.50	Baroreflex Activations Therapy in Heart Failure	N. Uriel	New York, USA
8.50-9.00	Discussion		
9.00-9.05	Life After Cancer: Choosing Between LVAD and Transplant	J. Diez	Houston, USA
9.05-9.15	Discussion		
9.15-9.20	Artificial Intelligence and Changes in HF Management	E. Najjar	Stockholm, SWE
9.20-9.30	Discussion		
Satellite Symposia VI			9.30-10.00
10.00-10.15	Coffee Break	10.00-10.15	
Session 14	Interventions and Heart Failure Management Moderator: B. Kar Panelist: M. Jelenc, J. Kšela	Presenting Panelists:	10.15-11.45
10.15-10.20	Multi Valve Percutaneous Interventions in Heart Failure Patients	M. Bunc	Ljubljana, SI
10.20-10.30	Discussion		
10.30-10.35	Interventional Mitral & Tricuspid Valve Replacement in Heart Failure	A. Zirlik	Graz, AUT
10.35-10.45	Discussion		
10.45-10.50	Nothing New Under the Sun: Antegrade TAVR	J. Baranowski	Linköping, SWE
10.50-11.00	Panel Discussion		
11.00-11.05	Percutaneous Ventricular Restoration System	U. Jorde	New York, USA
11.05-11.15	Discussion		
11.15-11.20	Cardiac Microcurrent Therapy in Chronic Heart Failure	E. Rame	Philadelphia, USA
11.20-11.30	Discussion		
11.30-11.35	RELIEVE-HF: Interatrial Shunting in HFrEF	S. Shoukat	Houston, USA
11.35-11.45	Panel Discussion		
Satellite Symposia VII			11.45-13.30
Session 15	Hot Topic in Heart Failure II Moderator: B. Sun Panelist: T. Demirozu, S. Borovic	Presenting Panelists:	13.30-15.00
13.30-13.35	Surviving Cardiogenic Shock: A Multidisciplinary Approach Across the Continuum of Care	A. Bernhardt	Hamburg, GER
13.35-13.45	Discussion		
13.45-13.50	BiVAD: Still Only a Bail-out Therapy or a New Frontier in Biventricular Failure?	I. Knezevič	Ljubljana, SI
13.50-14.00	Discussion		
14.00-14.05	Why is the Artificial Heart Not Utilized More?	F. Arabia	Phoenix, USA
14.05-14.15	Discussion		
14.15-14.20	Total Artificial Heart Development	O.H. Frazier	Houston, USA
14.20-14.30	Discussion		
14.30-14.35	Obesity and Heart Failure	J. Butler	Dallas, USA
14.35-14.45	Discussion		
14.45-14.50	Photon Counting CT: the New Tool in Diagnosis of Heart Failure and Cardiac Vasculopathy	P. Przybylowski	Zabrze, POL
14.50-15.00	Discussion		
Meeting Adjournment & lunch			15.00-16.00
MONDAY, September 28th PARALLEL SESSION			
International ECMO and VAD Workshop for Perfusionists and Allied Health Professionals Chairs: T. Myers, I. Banjac, M. Clark			Presenting Panelists:
8.00-8.10	LAVA ECMO – Case Report	I. Banjac	Houston, USA
8.10-8.20	Nitric Oxide through ECMO: A New Beginning in Cardiopulmonary Support	J. Osario	Houston, USA
8.20-8.30	Different Paradigms of ECMO Use in Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery	R. Mrkonjic	Zagreb, CRO
8.30-8.40	Percutaneous Transcaval AngioVac on ECMO Device - Case Report	G. Potocki	Split, CRO
8.40-8.50	Combined Percutaneous Mechanical Support in Cardiogenic Shock – Case Report	R. Novak	Ljubljana, SI
8.50-9.00	Discussion		
9.00-9.15	Break		
9.15-9.25	Driveline Infection - LVAD Coordinator Role	S. Kulic	Belgrade, SRB
9.25-9.35	TAVR in Severe Aortic Insufficiency -PA Role	G. Duggan	Houston, USA
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