

BIOSPINE 9

International Congress on
Biotechnologies for Spinal Surgery
Innovation, Exchange and Visions
for Spinal Medicine

ADVANCED SCIENCE FORUM

CALL FOR ABSTRACT
until February 15, 2026
www.biospine-summit.org

MAY 20–22, 2026
BERLIN

Langenbeck-Virchow-Haus

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Wednesday | May 20, 2026

CLINICAL CHALLENGES AND GLOBAL BURDEN

12:00 – 12:05 **Opening Remarks**
Hans-Jörg Meisel, Germany

12:05 – 12:25 **Quick-Fire Session I**
tbd

The Prevalence and Repair of Painful Lumbar

Degenerate Intervertebral Discs

Chair: Michael DePalma, USA

12:30 – 12:35 **Introduction of agenda and faculty**
Michael DePalma, USA

12:35 – 12:45 **Prevalence and clinical predictor variables of
discogenic low back pain (LBP) from global data**
Michael DePalma, USA

12:45 – 13:10 **Pathophysiology of discogenic LBP**
James Iatridis, USA (proposed)

13:10 – 13:20 **Imaging features of discogenic LBP**
DePalma or Doug Beall, USA

13:20 – 13:40 **Cell-based Strategies for disc repair
and LBP reduction – A biology perspective**
Christine Le Maître, UK (proposed)

13:40 – 14:00 **Strategies for disc repair and LBP reduction –
Biomaterials**
Conor Buckley, Ireland (proposed)

14:00 – 14:15 **How to develop regulated disc repair
technologies: regulatory affairs update**
Scott Bruder, USA

14:15 – 14:35 **Panel discussion regarding ideal disc repair strategy**
Panel of faculty moderated by DePalma

14:35 – 14:55 **Break | Exhibition | Networking | Coffee**

Disc Regeneration – Innovative Approaches and Strategies

Chair: Eun Cho, South Korea

14:55 – 15:10 **Regeneration Strategies for Degenerative Discs**
Doug Beall and Tim Ganey, USA

15:15 – 15:30 **Next-Generation Disc Regeneration:
Molecular, Cellular and Translational Advances**
tbd

15:35 – 15:55 **Break | Exhibition | Networking | Coffee**

Protein-Binding Platforms for Targeted Bone Regeneration

sponsored session

Chair: tbd

15:55 – 16:20 **Theradaptive Technology
(Protein-Binding Platforms)**
Frank Vizesi and Luis Alvarez, USA (proposed)

16:25 – 16:40 **Break | Exhibition | Networking | Coffee**

Cell Therapy – Cellular Approaches to Restore Spinal Function

Chair: tbd

16:40 – 16:55 **The iPSpine Project**
Marianna Tryfonidou, The Netherlands (proposed)

17:00 – 17:15 **ReSpine and Stem Cell Therapy**
Luca Ambrosio and Gianluca Vadalà, Italy

17:20 – 17:35 **Clinical Translation of Stem Cell-Based Therapies
for Degenerative Disc Disease**
Inbo Han, South Korea

Infection and Antimicrobial Resistance in Spine Surgery

Chair: tbd

17:40 – 17:55 **AMR and Infection in Spinal Tumor Surgery
(Clinical Incidence, Risk Factors and
Outcome Implications)**
Jeremy Reynolds, Oxford University (proposed)

17:55 – 18:10 **Spinal Infection in Clinical Practice
(Current Challenges, Diagnostics and
Treatment Strategies)**
Toon Boselie, Maastricht UMC (proposed)

18:10 – 18:25 **Material and Implant Technologies to Curb
Antimicrobial Resistance in Spine Surgery
(From Engineering Concepts to Clinical Translation)**
Chris Arts, Technical University Eindhoven and
Maastricht UMC

18:35 – 20:30 **Evening Get-Together –
Reception in the exhibition area**

Thursday | May 21, 2026

INNOVATION IN PRACTICE

08:30 – 8:35 **Opening Remarks**
tbd

8:35 – 8:55 **Quick-Fire Session II**
tbd

Endoscopic and Minimally Invasive Techniques

sponsored session

Chair: Roger Härtl, USA

9:00 – 9:20 **Results from RIWOspine**
Christoph Siepe, Germany (proposed)

9:25 – 9:45 **tbd**
tbd

9:50 – 10:15 **Live Demonstration:
Endoscopic Surgery Simulation**
Christoph Siepe, Germany (proposed)

10:20 – 10:40 **Break | Exhibition | Networking | Coffee**

Sustainability and Digital Transformation in Surgical Practice – Insights from the DigiMedTrans Initiative

Chair: tbd

10:40 – 10:50 **Rethinking Surgical Sustainability:
The DigiMedTrans Model for Trauma Care**
Philipp Kobbe, Germany

10:50 – 10:55 **Q&A | Discussion**

Perspectives from the Berlin Spine Society

Chair: tbd

11:00 – 11:10 **Mission, Current Initiatives and Future Directions**
Matthias Pumberger and Patrick Schuss, Germany

11:15 – 11:30 **Break | Exhibition | Networking | Coffee**

Annulus Repair Technologies – USA vs. EU

sponsored session

Chair: Keith Valentine, USA

11:30 – 11:50 **Annular Closure Techniques: Clinical Evidence
and Emerging Approaches (Barricaid®)**
Claudius Thomé, Austria (proposed)

11:55 – 12:15 **Emerging Annular Closure Technologies in Europe:
The ACE Device and Beyond**
tbd

12:20 – 13:15 **Lunch Break | Exhibition | Networking**

Imaging of the Intervertebral Disc

Chair: Siegfried Tranig, Austria and

Vladimir Juras, Austria (proposed)

13:15 – 13:30 **Advanced Imaging of the Intervertebral Disc –
State of the Art**
tbd

13:35 – 13:50 **Molecular Imaging of the disc through Magnetic
Resonance Spectroscopy in T2 relaxometry**
Pushpa Thippeswamy, India (proposed)

13:55 – 14:10 **Beyond Qualitative and
Conventional Quantitative Imaging:
Radiomics of Intervertebral Discs**
Veronika Janacova, Austria (proposed)

14:15 – 14:30 **AdvaT2 Mapping of Intervertebral Disc:
Quantifying Biochemical Integrity and
Forecasting Degeneration**
Marcus Raudner, Austria (proposed)

14:35 – 14:50 **Break | Exhibition | Networking | Coffee**

Global Perspectives in Spine Surgery and Translational Challenges

Keynote speaker: Shanmuganathan Rajasekaran, India

Chair: Gianluca Vadalà, Italy (proposed)

14:55 – 15:40 **Global Spine Surgery –
Current Perspectives and Future Challenges**
Shanmuganathan Rajasekaran, India

15:40 – 15:55 **Choosing Discs Suitable for
Regenerative Therapies –
Do We Have a Choice?**
Shanmuganathan Rajasekaran, India

15:55 – 16:10 **Break | Exhibition | Networking | Coffee**

Biomaterials for Spinal Fusion –

Innovations and Long-Term Evidence

sponsored session

Chair: Hans-Jörg Meisel, Germany

16:10 – 16:30 **Kuros BioSciences –
Innovations in Biomaterials for Enhanced Fusion**
tbd

16:35 – 16:50 **CG Bio – Recombinant BMP-2:
Long-Term Outcomes and Clinical Best Practices**
tbd

16:55 – 17:15 **Cerapedics Inc – i-FACTOR®**
tbd

Artificial Intelligence and Data in Spine Care

sponsored session

Chair: Lutz Lehmann, Germany (proposed)

- 17:20 – 17:35 **AI Talk 1 – Predictive Tools | Diagnostics**
tbd
- 17:40 – 17:55 **AI Talk 2 – Surgical Planning | Data Platforms**
tbd
- 18:00 – 18:15 **Mini Panel | Joint Discussion**
tbd
- 18:20 – 18:30 **Break | Exhibition | Networking | Coffee**

Data Banking in Spine Care:

From Evidence Generation to Clinical Impact

Chair: tbd

- 18:30 – 18:45 **Computational Approaches to Unlock Value from Spine Data**
Fabio Galbusera, Switzerland
- 18:50 – 19:05 **Building and Using Spine Registries for Quality Assurance and Research**
Emin Aghayev, Switzerland
- 19:10 – 19:25 **Therapy Recommendation in Osteoporotic Spine Fractures – Optimization of the OF-Score**
Philipp Schenk, Germany
- 19:30 – 20:00 **Break | Transition Time**
- 20:00 – 22:30 **Community Evening Event**

Friday | May 22, 2026

TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSLATION

- 8:30 – 8:35 **Opening**
tbd
- 8:35 – 9:15 **Quick-Fire Session III**
via call for abstracts

AI and Navigation Technologies

Chair: tbd

- 9:15 – 9:25 **AI-based Multimodal Diagnostics Platform**
Julius Gerstmeyer, Germany (confirmed)
- 9:30 – 9:40 **Navigation by Body Projection (Live-Demo)**
James Wu, USA (proposed)
- 9:45 – 9:55 **Predictive Spine Surgery with Avisor**
Yabin Wu, Switzerland (proposed)
- 10:00 – 10:10 **Surgical Robotics Integration – DIH-HERO Case**
Jorge Presa, Spain (proposed)
- 10:15 – 10:35 **Break | Exhibition | Networking | Coffee**

Clinical Outcomes –

Evidence and Innovation in Spine Surgery (Panel Discussion)

Chair: Zorica Buser, USA

- 10:35 – 11:10 **Panel Discussion: Clinical Value of Bone Grafts and Disc Biologics – Beyond the Standard**
Panelists: invited faculty (tbd)

Biomechanics – Extreme Cervical Spine Challenges:

From High-G Mechanics to Quantitative Radiology

Chair: Ramona Ritzmann, Switzerland (confirmed)

- 11:15 – 11:30 **Quantitative Cervical Spine Imaging**
Gabriele Armbrrecht, Germany (proposed)
- 11:35 – 11:50 **Cervical Spine in Extreme Environments**
Kirsten Albracht oder René Lingscheid, Germany (proposed)
- 11:55 – 12:10 **Break | Exhibition | Networking | Coffee**

AO Spine Symposium – Lumbar Disc Herniation Symposium

Chair: Hans-Jörg Meisel, Germany and Gianluca Vadalà, Italy

- 12:10 – 12:16 **When and How Disc Herniation Reabsorbs**
Joshua Li, USA (proposed)
- 12:17 – 12:23 **Can We Predict Reabsorption with MRI?**
Zorica Buser, USA (proposed)
- 12:24 – 12:30 **Upcoming Biomarkers for Lumbar Disc Herniation**
Sibylle Grad, Switzerland (proposed)
- 12:31 – 12:37 **Will AI Help Predict Outcomes and Optimal Timing for Surgery?**
Luca Ambrosio, Italy (proposed)
- 12:38 – 12:44 **Worldwide Survey on Management of Lumbar Disc Herniation**
Stipe Čorluka, Croatia (proposed)
- 12:45 – 12:51 **Discectomy vs. Sequestrectomy – Are We Making the Right Choice?**
Gianluca Vadalà, Italy (proposed)
- 12:52 – 12:58 **Effectiveness of Annulus Fibrosus Repair Techniques**
Claudius Thomé, Austria (proposed)
- 12:59 – 13:05 **Will Endoscopy and UBE Replace Microdiscectomy?**
Samuel Cho, USA (proposed)
- 13:06 – 13:25 **Q&A | Joint Discussion**
All Speakers
- 13:25 – 13:35 **Official Closing Remarks**
- 13:35 – 14:15 **Wrap-Up Lunch**
Gianluca Vadalà, Italy (proposed)

KEY FEATURES

- 3-day scientific forum with 200+ participants
- World-renowned faculty and keynote lectures
- Hands-on and live demonstration formats
- Two evening networking events
- Dedicated sessions for young scientists and start-ups

SCIENTIFIC LEADS

Hans Jörg Meisel, MD, PhD

Former Director,
Center of Neurosciences
BG Klinikum Bergmannstrost Halle,
Germany

Gianluca Vadalà, MD, PhD

Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma
Roma, Italy

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Mauro Alini, Davos, Switzerland
Luca Ambrosio, Rome, Italy
Zorica Buser, New York, USA
Jérôme Guicheux, Nantes, France
Roger Härtl, New York, USA
Hans Jörg Meisel, Halle, Germany
Matthias Pumberger, Berlin, Germany
Daisuke Sakai, Kanagawa, Japan
Dino Samartzis, Chicago, USA
Patrick Schuss, Berlin, Germany
Claudius Thomé, Innsbruck, Austria
Marianna Tryfonidou,
Utrecht, Netherlands
Gianluca Vadalà, Rome, Italy
Peter Vajkoczy, Berlin, Germany
Hans-Joachim Wilke, Ulm, Germany
Karin Wuertz-Kozak, Rochester, USA

FACULTY

Emin Aghayev, Zurich, Switzerland
Kirsten Albracht, Cologne, Germany
Luis Alvarez, San Diego, USA
Luca Ambrosio, Rome, Italy
Gabriele Armbrecht, Berlin, Germany
Chris Arts, Technical University
Eindhoven and Maastricht UMC
Doug Beall, Texas, USA
Toon Boselie, Maastricht UMC
Scott Bruder, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Conor T. Buckley, Dublin, Ireland
Zorica Buser, New York, USA
Eun Cho, Seoul, South Korea
Samuel Cho, New York, USA
Stipe Ćorluka, Zagreb, Croatia
Michael DePalma,
Richmond, Virginia, USA
Fabio Galbusera, Zurich, Switzerland
Tim Ganey, Atlanta, USA
Julius Gerstmeier, Bochum, Germany
Sibylle Grad, Davos, Switzerland
Inbo Han, Seoul, South Korea
Roger Härtl, New York, USA
James Iatridis, New York, USA
Veronika Janacova, Vienna, Austria
Vladimir Juras, Vienna, Austria
Philipp Kobbe, Halle, Germany
Christine Le Maitre, Sheffield, UK
Lutz Lehmann, Munich, Germany
Joshua Li, Charlottesville, USA
René Lingscheid, Cologne, Germany
Hans-Jörg Meisel, Halle, Germany
Jorge Presa, San Sebastián, Spain
Matthias Pumberger, Berlin, Germany
Shanmuganathan Rajasekaran,
Coimbatore, India
Marcus Raudner, Vienna, Austria
Jeremy Reynolds, Oxford University
Ramona Ritzmann, Zizers, Switzerland
Philipp Schenk, Germany
Patrick Schuss, Berlin, Germany
Christoph Siepe, Munich, Germany
Pushpa Thippeswamy, Coimbatore, India
Claudius Thomé, Innsbruck, Austria
Siegfried Trattnig, Vienna, Austria
Marianna Tryfonidou,
Utrecht, Netherlands
Gianluca Vadalà, Rome, Italy
Keith Valentine, Woburn, USA
Frank Vizesi, San Diego, USA
Yabin Wu, Davos, Switzerland

LANGUAGE

The official congress language is English.

VENUE

Langenbeck-Virchow-Haus

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ORGANISER

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