



MENA SPINE
CONGRESS
2027

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Connecting spine experts, inspiring better care

23-24 JANUARY

RITZ-CARLTON (DIFC), DUBAI, UAE

PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOPS: 22 JANUARY





To Our Distinguished Colleagues and Valued Partners,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 3rd MENA Spine Congress, taking place on 23–24 January 2027, at Ritz-Carlton (DIFC) Dubai, UAE. Following the remarkable success of the 2nd edition of MENA Spine Congress, this year's congress has been thoughtfully elevated to offer an even more impactful and enriching experience. We are proud to convene leading spine surgeons, researchers, and innovators from across the region and beyond, united by a shared commitment to advancing spine care.

The 2027 program features a robust scientific agenda, including state-of-the-art keynote presentations, interactive panel discussions, and immersive hands-on workshops. These sessions are designed to provide practical insights and training in the latest surgical techniques and clinical practices, enabling attendees to translate knowledge into improved patient outcomes.

Complementing the scientific program, our vibrant medical exhibition will showcase cutting-edge technologies, novel devices, and innovative solutions shaping the future of spine care. It is a unique opportunity to engage with industry leaders and discover transformative tools that can elevate your practice.

We invite you to join us in Dubai for an inspiring congress that fosters collaboration, promotes excellence, and drives meaningful progress in the field of spine surgery. We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be an unforgettable event.

Sincerely,



Sameh Abolfotouh
Conference Chairman

SCIENTIFIC & ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



SAMEH ABOLFOTOUH



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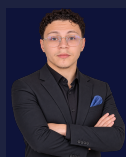
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MENA SPINE
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PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

23 JANUARY 2027

08:00 - 08:30	Opening Ceremony
08:30 - 09:30	Session 1: Global Spine Congress (GSC) Symposium: Current Controversies in Modern Spine Surgery
09:30 - 10:30	Session 2: KOSESS Session (The K-Endo Paradigm: Advanced Strategies and Innovations in Spinal Endoscopy) 
09:30 - 10:30	Global Spine Journal Symposium Parallel Session MSC Theatre 
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 13:00	Session 3: Cervical Spine Session (Stump the Chumps with Dan Riew)
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 16:00	Session 4: Interactive Case Discussions 1/2
15:00 - 16:00	AO Spine Deformity Knowledge Forum Symposium Parallel Session MSC Theatre 
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee Break
16:30 - 17:30	Session 5: Spine Surgery Complications



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PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

24 JANUARY 2027

07:00 - 08:00	Session 6: AO Spine Youth Club Breakfast Symposium	AO SPINE
08:00 - 10:20	Session 7: Adult Spine Deformity Session	
10:20 - 10:50	Coffee Break	
10:50 - 12:50	Session 8: The Everyday Decision Dilemma (Clinical, Ethical, Lifestyle and Financial Decision Dilemmas in Spine Surgery)	
12:50 - 13:50	Lunch	
13:50 - 14:50	Session 9: JBJS Symposium (The 10% Club: Moving from Idea to Impact)	JBJS
14:50 - 15:50	Session 10: AO Spine Symposium: Beyond the Scalpel: Leadership, Innovation, and Legacy in Spine Surgery	AO SPINE
15:50 - 16:20	Coffee Break	
16:20 - 18:20	Session 11: Interactive Case Discussions 2/2	
18:20	Closing Ceremony	



**MENA SPINE
CONGRESS**

PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOPS

22 JANUARY 2027

MORNING WORKSHOPS

09:00 - 13:00

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

14:00 - 17:00



MENA SPINE
CONGRESS

DAY 01 PROGRAM

23 JANUARY 2027

TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
08:00 - 08:30	Opening Ceremony	
08:30 - 09:30	Session 1: Global Spine Congress (GSC) Symposium: Current Controversies in Modern Spine Surgery Moderators: Jeffrey Wang, Juan Emmerich, Sameh Abolfotouh	
08:30 - 08:42	Robotics for Spine Surgery: The Next Generation and into the Future	Patrick Hsieh
08:42 - 08:54	Evidence for Improved Outcomes/Cost Justification for Robotics and Navigation	Jens Chapman
08:54 - 09:06	AI and Modern Spine Surgery	Jeffrey Wang
09:06 - 09:18	Updates on Cervical Arthroplasty: Extending the Indications and the Evidence	Dan Riew
09:18 - 09:30	Discussion	



TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
09:30 - 10:30	Session 2: KOSESS Session (The K-Endo Paradigm: Advanced Strategies and Innovations in Spinal Endoscopy) Moderators: Luke Kim, Ghazwan Hasan, Muhammad Abd-El-Barr	
09:30 - 09:42	Full-Endoscopic Thoracic Discectomy: A Paradigm Shift from Open Surgery	Junseok Bae
09:42 - 09:54	Thermodynamics and Optimal Fluid Management Strategies During Spine Endoscopy	Jinyoung Lee
09:54 - 10:06	Advanced Strategies for the Unstable Lumbar Spine Using Biportal Endoscopy	Cheol-Wung Park
10:06 - 10:18	Navigating Endoscopic Modalities: Strategic Selection and Clinical Advantages of Uniportal vs. Biportal Techniques	Dong-Chan Lee
10:18 - 10:30	Panel Discussion - Q&A	
09:30 - 10:30	Global Spine Journal Symposium Parallel Session MSC Theatre	
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break	



TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
11:00 - 13:00	Session 3: Cervical Spine Session (Stump the Chumps with Dan Riew)	
	Panelists – Cases 1–4	
	Jens Chapman, Tony Tannoury, Luke Kim, Juan Emmerich, Muhammad Abd-El-Barr, Markus Loibl, Abhay Nene, Christian Morgenstern, Abdulaziz Almutair, Salahaddeen Khalifah, Mohamed El-Sharkawi, Sultan Alkalbani, Joseph El Khalil, Dr Sherief Elsayed, Khaled Aneiba, Waleed Hekal, Marcus Head, Nicandro Figueiredo, Mohamed Al Hantoobi, Rami Salameh	
11:00 - 11:15	Case 1	Dan Riew
11:15 - 11:30	Case 2	
11:30 - 11:45	Case 3	
11:45 - 12:00	Case 4	
	Panelists – Cases 5–8	
	Jeffrey Wang, Richard Bransford, Patrick Hsieh, Ali Baaj, Klaus Schnake, Oscar L. Alves, Mitchell Hansen, Bradley Jacobs, Don Moore, Ahmed Shawky, Abdulrazzaq Al-Obaid, Sultan Aldebeyan, Amer Aziz, Mohamed Armouti, Ahmed Al Jahwari, Ahmed Alqatub, Gopal Krishna, Abdelkader Hamad, Sandesh Lakkol, Mohamed Alasha, Imad Hashim, Wael Al-Samak	
12:00 - 12:15	Case 5	Dan Riew
12:15 - 12:30	Case 6	
12:30 - 12:45	Case 7	
12:45 - 13:00	Case 8	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	



TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
14:00 - 16:00	Session 4: Interactive Case Discussions 1/2 Moderators: Tony Tannoury, Fahad Alhelal, Klaus Schnake	
14:00 - 14:10	Case 1: Cage subsidence after ACDF with recurrent radiculopathy: revision ACDF, corpectomy or go posterior?	Dr Sherief Elsayed
14:10 - 14:20	Case 2: Surgical Tips in Adolescent major Scoliosis secondary to spinal Schwannoma	
14:20 - 14:30	Case 3: L4/L5 Anterior/Posterior Pseudoarthrosis	Khaled Aneiba
14:30 - 14:40	Case 4: Decision making in scoliosis with longitudinal limb deficiency	Abdelkader Hamad
14:40 - 14:50	Case 5: Challenging Neuromuscular Scoliosis cases	Waleed Hekal
14:50 - 15:00	Case 6: Optimising clinical and radiological outcome in challenging situations in early onset / syndromic scoliosis	Sandesh Lakkol
15:00 - 15:10	Case 7: Interlaminar Endoscopic Surgery - don't go as medial as you can	Marcus Head
15:10 - 15:20	Case 8: Sacral Chordoma: technical nuances and decision making	Mohamed Alasha
15:20 - 15:30	Case 9: Complex multilevel cervical disc disease: what's the best surgical approach?	Nicandro Figueiredo
15:30 - 15:40	Case 10: Unique case CSF leak after a lumbar discectomy	Imad Hashim
15:40 - 15:50	Case 11: A Typical Spinal Metastasis	Mohamed Al Hantoobi
15:50 - 16:00	Case 12: Challenges in trauma Cases discussion	Wael Al-Samak



TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
15:00 - 16:00	AO Spine Deformity Knowledge Forum Symposium Junctional Disease; PJK to PJF: Predict, Prevent, and Manage Junctional Failure Parallel Session MSC Theatre Moderators: Ahmed Shawky, Sameh Abolfotouh	AO SPINE
15:00 - 15:12	PJK vs. PJF: Definitions, Natural History, and Preoperative Patient Optimization	Sameh Abolfotouh
15:12 - 15:24	Plan the Correction: Individualized Alignment Targets and UIV Selection	Omar Alnori
15:24 - 15:36	Prevent the Failure: Surgical Techniques and Strategies at the Proximal Junction	Sultan Aldebeyan
15:36 - 15:48	When Prevention Fails: Evaluation and Management of Established PJF	Ahmed Shawky
15:48 - 16:00	Expert Debate and Audience Q&A	All Faculty
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30 - 17:30	Session 5: Spine Surgery Complications Moderators: Patrick Hsieh, Jeffrey Wang, Hani Mhaidli	
16:30 - 16:40	Minor and Major Complications – Which complications matter in spine surgery?	Don Moore
16:40 - 16:50	Complications in Cervical Spine Surgery: Anterior vs. Posterior Approaches to the Cervical Spine	Oscar L. Alves
16:50 - 17:00	Management of Vascular and Neurological Complications in Spine Surgery	Patrick Hsieh
17:00 - 17:10	Avoidance and Management of Infections in Spine Surgery	Hani Mhaidli
17:10 - 17:25	Case Presentation & Discussions	Patrick Hsieh
17:25 - 17:30	Discussion	



DAY 02 PROGRAM

24 JANUARY 2027

TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
07:00 - 08:00	Session 6: AO Spine Youth Club Breakfast Symposium	AO SPINE
07:00 - 07:03	Session Opening & Context Setting: Welcome, AO SYC Mission, and Data Flash: Psychological Stressors in Spine Surgery	Maria-Mădălina Ancuța, Aurelis Caridad
07:03 - 07:18	Youth Perspectives: Core Challenges	
07:03 - 07:08	The Imposter Phenomenon in Early-Career Spine Surgery: Overcoming the Internal Critic	Doria Crișmaruc
07:08 - 07:13	Fighting the Invisible Enemy: Identifying & Preventing Burnout Before It Shapes Your Career	Irina Turtureanu
07:13 - 07:18	How to Deal with Your First Complication: Navigating the "Second Victim" Syndrome	Youssef Ahdi Sawiris
07:18 - 07:38	Interactive Panel: The Coping Mechanism Court (Zen vs. Hardcore: Debating Real-Life High-Stress Scenarios) Moderator: Hava-Nur Celik	
	Panelists: Khaled Elsousi, Bandar Alzahrani, Angélica Arce Stanković, Kaushik Simha Haravu Ramprasad, Mehdi Meddeb, Layan Albraik	
07:38 - 07:55	Faculty Reflections & Senior Mentors' Reality Check (Senior Faculty Share Their Early Complications & Career Survival Strategies) Moderators: Helmi Abdalbari & Mohamed Elhassan	
07:55 - 08:00	Closing Remarks & Take-Home Messages	
07:55 - 07:58	The AO SYC 5 Golden Rules of Survival	Yazan Wardeh
07:58 - 08:00	Chair's Final Closing & Photo	Maria-Mădălina Ancuța



TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
08:00 - 10:20	Session 7: Adult Spine Deformity Session Moderator: Jens Chapman	
	Section 1: Risks and Risk Modification of ASD Surgery	
08:00 - 08:05	Case presentation	Jens Chapman
08:05 - 08:15	Selecting the right patient. From risk factors to risk modification	Mitchell Hansen
08:15 - 08:25	Is there an effective nonoperative care program for ASD?	Nikola Jevtić
08:25 - 08:35	Osteoporosis and adult deformity surgery – what to do?	Klaus Schnake
08:35 - 08:45	Discussion & Resolution	ALL
	Section 2: ASD prevention & management	
08:45 - 08:50	Case presentation	Jens Chapman
08:50 - 09:00	Go high or go low? Selecting the best level for ASD prevention	Tony Tannoury
09:00 - 09:10	Does MIS actually lower ASD?	Christian Morgenstern
09:10 - 09:20	Dynamic transition zone management	Muhammad Abd-El-Barr
09:20 - 09:30	Discussion & case resolution	All
	Section 3: Thinking outside of the box	
09:30 - 09:35	Case presentation	Jens Chapman
09:35 - 09:45	Rethinking the concept of major Spine degenerative deformity surgery in adults	Amer Aziz
09:45 - 09:55	Non fusion surgery for ASD	Rudolf Bertagnoli
09:55 - 10:05	Discussion & resolution	All
10:05 - 10:20	Summary ASD: Rapid Fire Session	Moderator to speakers
10:20 - 10:50	Coffee Break	



TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
10:50 - 12:50	Session 8: The Everyday Decision Dilemma (Clinical, Ethical, Lifestyle and Financial Decision Dilemmas in Spine Surgery) Moderators: Richard Bransford, Faisal Konbaz, Nayef Bin Dajim	
10:50 - 11:02	Interbody Fusion in Spine Surgery – How do I know what is the best technique and option? What should my decision-making tree look like?	Tony Tannoury
11:02 - 11:14	Why is the biological evidence for fusion in spine surgery so poor and how do I know what I should use in various scenarios?	Markus Loibl
11:14 - 11:26	Do I always tell the WHOLE truth to patients and their families about what occurred in their surgery or what should not be disclosed?	Dan Riew
11:26 - 11:38	What do I do with demanding patients, ones with unrealistic expectations, and ones I do not like but have real surgical pathology?	Patrick Hsieh
11:38 - 11:50	Mid-Session Discussion & Q&A	
11:50 - 12:02	What should we as spine surgeons know about the cost of our equipment and implants? How do we decide what should and should not be used?	Jens Chapman
12:02 - 12:14	Are enabling technologies worth the cost or are they merely sales ploys?	Ali Baaj
12:14 - 12:26	What do we do with osteoporosis – fix and treat vs treat and fix?	Bradley Jacobs
12:26 - 12:38	How do we balance our lives with work/income and health, hobbies, family, and exercise?	Abhay Nene
12:38 - 12:50	Final Discussion & Wrap-up	
12:50 - 13:50	Lunch	



TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
13:50 - 14:50	Session 9: JBJS Symposium (The 10% Club: Moving from Idea to Impact) Moderators: Mohit Bhandari (Editor-in-Chief, JBJS) & Sameh Abolfotouh (Global Ambassador, JBJS)	
13:50 - 14:05	The Spark: From Clinical Problem to Publishable Idea	Mohit Bhandari
14:05 - 14:20	The Story: From Data to Manuscript That Matters	Jens Chapman
14:20 - 14:35	The Signal: From Peer Review to Lasting Impact	Jeffrey Wang
14:35 - 14:50	The Squad: From Solo Idea to Global Team Science	Mohit Bhandari
14:50 - 15:50	Session 10: AO Spine Symposium: Beyond the Scalpel: Leadership, Innovation, and Legacy in Spine Surgery Moderators: Juan Emmerich, Jeffrey Wang, Muzahem Taha	
14:50 - 15:02	Leading from the Front: Building Sustainable Surgical Cultures and Institutional Impact	Jeffrey Wang
15:02 - 15:14	The Art of Mentorship: Empowering and Training the Next Generation	Manabu Ito
15:14 - 15:26	From Clinical Frustration to Commercial Innovation: The Birth of a New Implant	Richard Bransford
15:26 - 15:38	Surviving the Grind: Career Longevity, Physical Ergonomics, and Sustaining Peak Performance	Juan Emmerich
15:38 - 15:50	Q&A	
15:50 - 16:20	Coffee Break	



TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKERS
16:20 - 18:20	Session 11: Interactive Case Discussions 2/2 Moderators: Tony Tannoury, Oscar L. Alves, Waleed Awwad	
16:20 - 16:30	Case 1: Patient-Tailored Decision-Making	Rami Salameh
16:30 - 16:40	Case 2	Mohamed El-Sharkawi
16:40 - 16:50	Case 3: Correction of sagittal balance	Mohamed Armouti
16:50 - 17:00	Case 4: Pediatric cervical spine kyphosis	Sultan Alkalbani
17:00 - 17:10	Case 5	Ahmed Al Jahwari
17:10 - 17:20	Case 6	Joseph El Khalil
17:20 - 17:30	Case 7: Endoscopic Discectomy for Recurrence of disc herniation after 2 discectomies	Ahmed Alqatub
17:30 - 17:40	Case 8	
17:40 - 17:50	Case 9: When the Construct Fails: A Challenging Cervical Revision	Abdulaziz Almutair
17:50 - 18:00	Case 10: Calcified thoracic disc	Abdulrazzaq Al-Obaid
18:00 - 18:10	Case 11: Neglected Spine Deformities: Case-Based Surgical Approach	Sami Aleissa
18:10 - 18:20	Case 12: Bilateral facet cysts - to fuse or not to fuse	Tarek Sunna
18:20	Closing Ceremony	



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