FOCUS: VALVE 2026

17th Course for Minimally Invasive Heart Valve Surgery

SEPTEMBER 13 - 16, 2026

INNSBRUCK - AUSTRIA

3D LIVE SURGERIES - WORKSHOPS - WETLABS

MEDIZINISCHE UNIVERSITÄT INNSBRUCK

ECS CLUB ENDOSCOPIC CARDIAC SURGEONS

tirol kliniken universitätskliniken innsbruck

www.focusvalve.org

GEISTER®

ValveGate™ Classic coated scissors

ROBUST (TC)

STRONG SCISSORS FOR CALCIFIED TISSUE

34-7830.TC

34-7835.TC

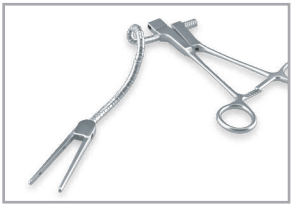
34-7840.TC

34-7842.TC

VALVEGATE™

SOFT TISSUE RETRACTOR

FLEXIBLE CLAMP



GEISTER MEDIZINTECHNIK GMBH
Föhrenstraße 2 | D-78532 Tuttlingen
www.**geister**.com

GEISTER® supports the

ECS CLUB ENDOSCOPIC CARDIAC SURGEONS

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
Medical University Innsbruck
Department of Cardiac Surgery
Anichstr. 35, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria
Contact: Gabriele Wagner
Phone: + 43 512 504 22501
E-Mail: gabriele.wagner@tirol-kliniken.at

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
Phone: +43 1 536 63 - 34, -62, -15

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

www.focusvalve.org

Printed in Austria by: ROBIDRUCK, 1200 Vienna – www.robidruck.co.at

FACULTY

Alfieri Ottavio, IT

Andreas Martin, AT

Bauer Axel, AT

Benussi Stefano, IT

Berrebi Alain, FR

Bleiziffer Sabine, DE

Bonaros Nikolaos, AT

Bonatti Johannes, US

Borger Michael, DE

Castella Manuel, ES

Cerny Stepan, CZ

Conradi Lenard, DE

D'Onofrio Augusto, IT

De Paulis Ruggiero, IT

Delgado Victoria, ES

Di Eusanio Marco, IT

Doenst Torsten, DE

Doll Nicolas, DE

Dreyfus Gilles, FR

Dzemali Omer, CH

Färber Gloria, DE

Girdauskas Evaldas, DE

Gollmann-Tepeköylü Can, AT

Grabenwöger Martin, AT

Grimm Michael, AT

Hausleiter Jörg, DE

Heuts Samuel, NL

Hochhold Christoph, AT

Höfer Daniel, AT

Holfeld Johannes, AT

Kempfert Jörg, DE

Kofler Markus, DE

Lakew Fitsum, DE

Liebold Andreas, DE

Marin-Cuartas Mateo, DE

Martini Judith, AT

Milojevic Milan, RS

Mittermayr Markus, AT

Modi Paul, UK

Müller Ludwig, AT

Myers Patrick, CH

Orsorio Emilio, AT

Palmen Meindert, NL

Pereda Daniel, ES

Perier Patrick, FR

Pitsis Antonios, GR

Pomar Jose-Luis, ES

Putzer Gabriel, AT

Quintana Eduard, ES

Reichenspurner Hermann, DE

Schachner Thomas, AT

Siepe Matthias, CH

Solinas Marco, IT

Suwalski Piotr, PL

Treede Hendrik, DE

Vojacek Jan, CZ

Wiedemann Dominik, AT

Winter-Pölzl Leo, AT

Zannis Konstantinos, FR

Zierer Andreas, 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	Surgeon	Echocardiography analyst (Whiteboard)
Marin-Cuartas M	*Borger M*	*Berrebi A*

- Case 1: Complex posterior leaflet pathology
- Case 2: Valve analysis with an unexpected finding

BLOCK 2: Bileaflet prolapse *(Team Paris)*

Case presenter	Surgeon	Echocardiography analyst (Whiteboard)
tba	*Zannis K*	*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	Surgeon	Echocardiography analyst (Whiteboard)
Winter-Pölzl L	*Bonaros N*	*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 — *Borger M*
- Aortic: Evolut Low risk 7-years results — *Doenst T*
- Aortic: COMMENCE 10-years results — *Bleiziffer S*
- Mitral primary MR: PRIMARY, REPAIR-MR, Mitra-HR — *Heuts S*
- Mitral secondary MR: REFORM-MR — Girdauskas E

18:00 **End of day 1**

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Precision in motion: Shaping the future of endoscopic valve surgery

DAY 2 | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

08:30 – 08:35 **Welcome and opening**

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

08:50 – 09:00 **Case presentations**
tba

09:00 – 12:00 **Live surgery block 1 (Case presentation from the OR)**
Moderation: Pomar J-L
Panel: Zimpfer D, Wiedemann D, De Paulis R, Färber G
Echo from the OR: *tba*
Whiteboard: Delgado V

Live surgery 1: Transaxillary AVR using a tissue valve
Surgeon: *Di Eusanio M*
Learning points: Patient placement, transaxillary access, valve exposure and replacement

Live surgery 2: 3D endoscopic double valve procedure (AVR+MVR)
Surgeon: *Pitsis A*
Learning points: Incision, port placement, mitral and aortic valve expossure, 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 — *D'Onofrio A*
- Endoaortic balloon – safe and effective use — *Liebold A*
- Surgical AF ablation – From tools to lines — *Castella M*
- The water test – How to read it right — *Müller L*

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch break**

13:00 – 14:00 **Robotics**
Chair: Dreyfus G, Kempfert J

- New developments after 5 generations of robots — *Bonatti J*
- Robotic setting for mitral repair — *Palmen M*
- The STS Expert consensus pathway for robotic cardiac surgery training — *Cerny S*

14:0 – 14:30 **Keynote lecture:**
Anterior leaflet prolapse: Still difficult – or just poorly understood?

Dreyfus G

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

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 **Aortic valve: Are we thinking enough in lifetimes, not procedures? The challenge of lifetime management**
Myers P

08:50 – 09:05 **The Ross Procedure: Reclaiming the aortic valve**
Vojacek J

09:05 – 12:00 **Live surgery block 3 (Case presentation from the OR)**
Moderation: Reichenspurner H Echo from the OR: tba
Panel: Zierer A, Schachner T, Palmen M, Treede H *Whiteboard: Berrebi A*

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 (connected 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, identation

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) *Bauer A*
- PFA ablation *Orsorio E*
- New clamps for ablation *Gollmann-Tepeköylü C*
- 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 — Echo from the OR: tba
Panel: Andreas M, Castella M, Quintana E, Di Eusanio M — *Whiteboard: Berrebi A*

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, tipps 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 — *Conradi L*
- Forget the tricuspid — *Quintana E*

Young patient with cardiomyopathy 37% EF and secondary ventricular MR
- TEER with new generation devices — *Hausleiter J*
- Surgery with subvalvular techniques — *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)** *Tutors: tba*	***seminar room 2***
14:00 – 18:00	**Endoscopic mitral valve repair wetlab on porcine hearts (Group 2)** *Tutors: tba*	***seminar room 2***
08:30 – 16:30	**Real-life simulation of MICS AVR / MVR and TAVI-explantation** *Tutors: tba*	***seminar room 3***

90 minutes & 4-5 participants per group – available timeslots:
Group 1: 08:30 – 10:00 Group 3: 13:00 – 14:30
Group 2: 10:30 – 12:00 Group 4: 15:00 – 16:30

08:30 – 16:30	**Hands-on Afib and LAA occlusion training** *Tutors: tba*	***seminar room 1***

90 minutes & 4-5 participants per group – available timeslots:
Group 1: 08:30 – 10:00 Group 3: 13:00 – 14:30
Group 2: 10:30 – 12:00 Group 4: 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.

INNSBRUCK | AUSTRIA
SEPTEMBER 13 – 16, 2026

FOCUS: VALVE 2026

17th Course for Minimally Invasive Heart Valve Surgery

With the kind support of:

PLATINUM SPONSOR

Edwards

BRONZE SPONSORS

AtriCure

NOVOMED

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

CORCYM
WE TAKE LIFE TO HEART

The better way to operate™
GEISTER

SCANLAN

SERAG WIESSNER