



Combat & Disaster Medicine Symposium 2026

(preliminary programme - subject to change)

Date: 31.10.2026

Location: Cantonal Military Base Bern, Papiermühlestrasse 13 + 15, 3000 Bern 22, Switzerland

[From 08:00]	Registration & Exhibition Opening	<i>location to be announced</i>
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Morning Programme: Lectures			
[08:30 - 08:35]	Welcome Address	Executive Board of ASMD	Auditorium
[08:35 - 08:50] Discussion after presentation: 3 minutes	Official Greeting by the Chief of the Swiss Armed Forces	Lieutenant General Benedikt Roos	
[08:53 - 09:08] Discussion after presentation: 3 minutes	TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED	Major General Andreas Stettbacher	
[09:11 - 09:31] Discussion after presentation: 4 minutes	Strategic Horizons: Geopolitics in an Era of Permanent Disruption	Dr. Remo Reginold	
[09:35 - 09:55] Discussion after presentation: 4 minutes	Conflict in Medicine in the 21st Century: New Challenges and What Has Changed?	Dr. Enrique Steiger, MD	
[10:00 - 10:30]	Coffee Break & Exhibition Visit		
[10:30 - 10:50] Discussion after presentation: 1 minutes	Coordinating Care in Crisis - Experiences from a Real Mission	Dr. Richard Steffen, MD	
[10:51 - 11:11] Discussion after presentation: 1 minutes	Staged Management of Severe Burns: Principles of Damage Control (to be confirmed)	Prof. Dr. Patrick Duhamel, MD	
[11:12 - 11:32] Discussion after presentation: 1 minutes	TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED	Prof. Dr. Bong-Sung Kim, MD	
[11:33 - 11:48] Discussion after presentation: 2 minutes	Connected Care in the Field: The Future of Medical Response	KARL STORZ AG	
[11:50 - 12:20]	When Systems Are Tested: Lessons from a Major Fire Disaster	Dr. Richard Steffen, MD, Prof. Dr. Patrick Duhamel, MD (to be confirmed), Prof. Dr. Bong-Sung Kim, MD	



[12:20 - 13:30]	Lunch Break & Exhibition Visit	<i>location to be announced</i>
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Afternoon Programm: Workshops			
[13:30 - 15:00]	War Casualty Triage Simulation - Workshop	Prof. Dr. Paul Balandraud, MD	<i>location to be announced</i>
[13:30 - 16:30]	TCCC - Workshop	Staff Adjutant Manuel Müntener (to be confirmed)	<i>location to be announced</i>
	Trauma Surgery - Workshop	Dr. Arnaud Meylan, MD	<i>location to be announced</i>
	Vascular Surgery - Workshop	Dr. Matteo Bernasconi, MD	<i>location to be announced</i>
	Neurosurgery - Workshop	PD Dr. Michel Röthlisberger, MD, PD Dr. Julien Hämmerli, MD	<i>location to be announced</i>
	Burn Surgery - Workshop	Prof. Dr. Bong-Sung Kim, MD	<i>location to be announced</i>
[16:35 - 16:45]	Closing Ceremony	Executive Board of ASMD	Auditorium
[16:50 - 18:00]	Networking Reception		<i>location to be announced</i>



Lecture & Workshop Description

Lectures	
[08:35 - 08:50]	Official Greeting by the Chief of the Swiss Armed Forces <i>Lieutenant General Benedikt Roos (Chief of the Swiss Armed Forces)</i>
[08:53 - 09:08]	Topic to be announced <i>Major General Andreas Stettbacher (Surgeon General of the Swiss Armed Forces)</i>
[09:11 - 09:31]	Strategic Horizons: Geopolitics in an Era of Permanent Disruption <i>Dr. Remo Reginold (Political Advisor and President of Swiss Institute for Global Affairs)</i> The global strategic environment is undergoing profound transformation. Traditional assumptions about stability, alliances, security, and economic interdependence are increasingly challenged by geopolitical fragmentation, technological competition, hybrid influence operations, and shifting power centres. Yet one central question remains: Is the world truly becoming more unpredictable?
[09:35 - 09:55]	Conflict in Medicine in the 21st Century: New Challenges — What Has Changed? <i>Dr. Enrique Steiger, MD (Co-Founder of Clinic Utoquai, Switzerland), board certified in plastic and reconstructive surgery, and general surgery & traumatology</i> This presentation will examine the evolving challenges faced by healthcare professionals in conflict-affected settings. It will highlight key developments in modern conflicts and their implications for patient care, healthcare delivery, and humanitarian medical response. <i>(final description pending)</i>
[10:30 - 10:50]	Coordinating Care in Crises - Experiences from a real Mission <i>Dr. Richard Steffen, MD (Head of Anaesthesia, Pain Therapy and Intensive Care Clinic, Hôpital du Valais, Switzerland), board certified in Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine</i> This lecture shares a personal first-hand experiences in leading a major emergency response during a mass casualty incident. It discusses the critical first minutes, the establishment of command structures, and the coordination between partner organizations under extreme pressure. Focusing on real-life challenges and key decision points, it will demonstrate why patient care and transport were established so quickly and coordinated. Finally, the talk highlights practical lessons for adequate preparation for future disaster and combat medicine scenarios.
[10:51 - 11:11]	Staged Management of Severe Burns: Principles of Damage Control <i>Prof. Dr. Patrik Duhamel, MD (Hôpital d'Instruction des Armées Percy, France), board-certified in plastic and reconstructive surgery</i>



Lectures

	This lecture will explore the staged management of severe burn injuries, with a focus on damage control principles in complex settings. It will highlight key strategies from initial stabilization to definitive surgical care, including considerations relevant to mass casualty and combat environments.
[11:12 - 11:32]	TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED <i>Prof Dr. Bong-Sung Kim, MD (Director of the Center for Severe Burn Injuries at the Department of Plastic Surgery and Hand Surgery, University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland), board certified in plastic and reconstructive surgery</i>
[11:33 - 11:48]	Connected Care in the Field: The Future of Medical Response KARL STORZ AG Connected Care in the Field is transforming emergency and remote medical response through real-time connectivity, telemedicine, and advanced communication technologies. By combining secure comms channels, mobile diagnostics, and AI-supported decision tools, medical teams can collaborate instantly with specialists anywhere in the world. Satellite networks such as Starlink enable reliable high-speed internet even in disaster zones, rural regions, or areas without existing infrastructure, ensuring uninterrupted telemedicine support. This allows paramedics, military medics, and humanitarian responders to transmit live patient data, conduct remote consultations, and improve treatment decisions directly in the field. The future of connected care will deliver faster response times, greater operational efficiency, and significantly improved patient outcomes in critical environments.
[11:50 - 12:20]	When Systems Are Tested: Lessons from a Major Fire Disaster <i>Dr. Richard Steffen, MD, Prof. Dr. Patrick Duhamel, MD (to be confirmed), Prof. Dr. Bong-Sung Kim, MD</i> Using a major fire disaster as a case study, the speakers discuss critical decision points, interagency collaboration, resource limitations, and system vulnerabilities. The session highlights practical lessons for improving preparedness, resilience, and integrated response in future disaster and combat medicine scenarios.



Workshops

[13:30 - 15:00]

War Casualty Triage Simulation - Workshop

Prof. Dr. Paul Balandraud, MD (Head of the Department of General and Digestive Surgery Sainte-Anne Military Teaching Hospital, Toulon, France ; Chair of Military Surgery Val-de-Grâce Military Teaching Hospital School, Paris, France), board-certified in surgery (subspecialty in visceral surgery)

This workshop consists of a war casualty triage exercise in the form of a role-playing scenario that simulates the management of a mass casualty influx in a field surgical unit. Participants must make treatment decisions and justify them to each other.

Experience Level: Suitable for anyone (physicians and medical students) interested in war casualty triage, including paramedics. No prior experience is required.

[13:30 - 16:30]

TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care)

- Staff Adjutant Manuel Müntener (Swiss Armed Forces; to be confirmed)

This hands-on workshop combines concise theoretical teaching with practical skill development, focusing on key TCCC concepts, specific interventions, and realistic scenario-based exercises. Participants will engage in demonstrations, guided intervention practice, and immersive simulation training using role players and full gear to reinforce decision-making and casualty management in high-pressure environments.

Experience Level: Suitable for anyone with an interest in Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC). No prior experience is required.

Trauma Surgery

- Dr. Arnaud Meylan, MD (Deputy Senior Consultant at the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology, Ensemble Hospitalier de la Côte, Switzerland)

This hands-on workshop focuses on two essential skills in war and disaster surgery: external fixation of long bone fractures and field amputation. Participants will first learn to apply modular external fixation systems on synthetic bone models. The second part simulates damage control surgery in austere environments, with participants practicing guillotine-style lower limb amputations on animal models (porcine limbs). Emphasis is placed on rapid decision-making, proper technique, and post-operative considerations in low-resource or battlefield settings.

Experience level: Recommended for junior surgical residents and medical students in the Master's programme with an interest in trauma surgery.

Vascular Surgery

- Dr. Matteo Bernasconi, MD (Lead Consultant at the Department of Visceral Surgery, Ente Ospedaliero Cantonale, Ticino, Switzerland) - board certified in surgery (subspecialty in vascular surgery, and general surgery & traumatology)



Workshops

This 3-hour course introduces the fundamentals of vascular surgical suturing. It combines a brief theoretical session with hands-on practice. Participants will perform key techniques including direct suturing, patch angioplasty, and vascular anastomosis. The course is designed to build precision, confidence, and familiarity with essential skills used in vascular surgery.

Experience Level: Recommended for junior surgical residents and final-year medical students with an interest in vascular surgery and prior experience in basic suturing techniques

Neurosurgery

- PD Dr. Michel Röthlisberger, MD (Senior Consultant at the Department of Neurosurgery, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland), board certified in neurosurgery
- PD Dr. Julien Haemmerli, MD (Senior Consultant at the Department of Neurosurgery, Kantonsspital Winterthur, Switzerland), board certified in neurosurgery

This practical workshop introduces participants to the core principles and technical steps of main procedures and a simulation:

- Learn how to do correct head placement for a brain surgery, the fundamental rules and practical training.
- Intracranial Pressure captor placement on a 3D-printed skull model.
- decompressive hemicraniectomy, a life-saving procedure in traumatic brain injury. Using anatomically accurate 3D-printed skull models, participants will directly perform burr holes, craniotomy cuts, and bone flap removal under expert supervision. The session focuses on developing surgical confidence and understanding spatial anatomy in austere or combat settings.
- Basic training of spinal endoscopic procedure using an advanced technology simulation.

Experience level: Recommended for junior neurosurgical residents and final-year medical students with a strong interest in neurosurgery.

Burn Surgery

- Prof. Dr. Bong-Sung Kim, MD (Director of the Center for Severe Burn Injuries at the Department of Plastic Surgery and Hand Surgery, University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland), board certified in plastic and reconstructive surgery)

This workshop introduces the fundamental principles of burn injury management. Following a theoretical overview and demonstration, participants will engage in a hands-on session where they will learn how to assess and classify burn wounds, perform surgical debridement and apply various wound coverage techniques, including skin grafting.

Experience level: Recommended for junior surgical residents and medical students in the Master's programme with a strong interest in general and burn surgery.