



# WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF SURYOYE (WMAS)

سٺا هٺوٺا باٺكلا وٺ اٺسهٺا  
Huyodo Suryoyo Tibeloyo di Osyuto

*presents*

## 3rd WORLD MEDICAL CONFERENCE 29 Sep - 1 Oct 2023 · Herne-Germany



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# PREAMBLE

## **Shlomo osye rhime w habrone myaqre, Dear Distinguished Colleagues and Friends,**

We are very happy and proud to welcome you to the 3rd Medical Congress by our World Medical Association of Suryoye (WMAS) in Ruhr-Area in Herne/Germany, from 29 Sept to 1 Oct, 2023.

WMAS is an international platform for scientific, professional and social exchange of the Suryoye community, working and studying in all fields of medical care and research. Our aim is to connect medical professionals and thus better serve people from our Suryoye community all over the world.

With our regular medical conferences we pursue to extend and strengthen our network, to promote the Aramaic (Suryoyo, Syriac, Surayt) language as medical and scientific language and to provide medical education and empowerment of our Suryoye community.

WMAS is proud to gather Suryoye doctors and scientists from different countries at this congress, and they will give oral presentations about different medical and scientific topics. A special highlight will be a panel discussion about end-of-life medicine with experts from different medical fields together with His Eminence Mor Philoxenos Mattias Nayis, the Archbishop of the Syriac Orthodox Church in Germany.

We are very happy to have you with us as friends, colleagues and as professionals.

On behalf of the WMAS Board bshayno w bshlomo,



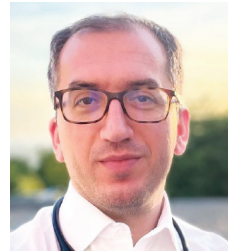
**Prof. Dr. Dr. Fuat Oduncu**  
WMAS President



**Prof. Dr. Metin Senkal**  
Conference President



**Ilona George**  
General Secretary



**Dr. Jakob Hanna**  
Treasurer

## WMAS FOUNDING BOARD (2017, Munich, Germany)



*(From left: Dr. Farid Abdo, Dr. Jakob Hanna, Prof. Dr. Metin Senkal, Prof. Dr. Dr. Fuat S. Oduncu, Dr. Isabella Karat, Ilona George, Prof. Dr. Hana Algül, Dr. Fuat Celebioglu, not on the Picture: Dr. Mathias Bargello)*

President	Prof. Dr. Dr. Fuat S. Oduncu	(Germany)
Vice President:	Prof. Dr. Hana Algül	(Germany)
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Board Members:	Dr. Farid Abdo	(Netherlands)
Board Members:	Dr. Mathias Bargello	(Germany)

## **Friday, 29.09.2023 Congress Center St. Anna Hospital, Herne**

- 16.30 - 18.00 **Registration**
- 18.00 - 20.00 **Opening Ceremony (Moderation: Lilian Altas)**  
**Prof. Dr. Dr. Fuat Oduncu, MA, EMB, MBA**  
WMAS President  
**Prof. Dr. Metin Senkal**  
Conference President  
**Dr. Hans Willmes**  
Chairman St. Elisabeth Group – Katholische Kliniken Rhein-Ruhr  
**Prof. Dr. Andrea Tannapfel**  
Dean of Medical Faculty of Ruhr-University Bochum  
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Mayor of the City of Herne  
**Dean Xuroyo Samuel Gümüs**  
St. Petrus and Paul Church, Herne  
**His Eminence Mor Philoxenos Mattias Nayis**  
Archbishop of the Syriac Orthodox Church in Germany  
**Key Note Lecture**  
“The Physician as Scholar and Saint –  
Reflections on the Role of Medicine in the Syriac Culture”  
(**Prof. Dr. Shabo Talay**, Dean of Department of History and Cultural Studies,  
Free University of Berlin)
- 20.00 - 22.00 **Come Together**

## **Saturday, 30.09.2023 Congress Center St. Anna Hospital, Herne**

- 08.00 - 08.10 **Welcome & Opening by WMAS President and Congress President**
- 08.10 - 09.30 **Session 1: General and Interdisciplinary Medicine**  
(Chair: *Ilona George, Memmingen*)
- 08.10 - 08.30 **ANCA Vasculitis**  
(*Dr. Saban Elitok, Potsdam*)
- 08.30 - 08.50 **Hepatitis B – Prevention and Treatment**  
(*Dr. Hedro Lahdo, Wiesbaden*)

# PROGRAM

- 08.50 - 09.10 **The Role of General Practitioner in Modern Health Prevention**  
*(Dr. Aydin Melke, Schwaigern)*
- 09.10 - 09.30 **Evolving of Anesthesiology in Qamishli**  
*(Dr. Fouad Roham, Vienna)*
- 09.30 - 09.50 **Update Ophtalmology for Interdisciplinary Medicine**  
*(Prof. Dr. Stefan Sacu, Vienna)*
- 09.50 - 10.20 **Coffee Break**
- 10.20 - 11.40 **Session 2: New Developments in Surgical Medicine**  
*(Chair: Prof. Dr. Hana Algül, Munich)*
- 10.20 - 10.40 **Advances in Peri- and Postoperative Management of Spine Surgery**  
*(PD Dr. Lisa Özel, Düsseldorf)*
- 10.40 - 11.00 **Back Pain – Precise Diagnosis & Treatment**  
*(Dr. Sina Finkenstädt, Zürich)*
- 11.00 - 11.20 **Robotic Surgery in Urology - A new era**  
*(Dr. Isabella Karat, Winnenden)*
- 11.20 - 11.40 **Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery**  
*(Dr. Mathias Bargello, Heidelberg)*
- 11.40 - 12.40 **Session 3: Music, Education and Literature in Medicine**  
*(Chair: Dr. Saban Elitok, Potsdam)*
- 11.40 - 12.00 **Music in Medicine**  
*(Osyo Abrohom Lahdo MD, Wiesbaden)*
- 12.00 - 12.20 **Aramean Studies as an Interdisciplinary Research Field Using the Example of Syriac Medical History**  
*(Zeki Bilgic M.A., Heidelberg)*
- 12.20 - 12.40 **How can doctors empower language and culture through Rinyo?**  
*(Dr. Robby Edo, Chicago)*
- 12.40 - 13.40 **Lunch**
- 13.40 - 14.20 **Session 4: Free Research Papers by Young Scholars**  
*(Chair: Dr. Sina Finkenstädt M.P.H., Zürich)*
- 13.40 - 14.00 **Senescence in T cells**  
*(Dr. Antonios Chamoun, Wiesbaden)*
- 14.00 - 14.20 **Hemifacial Spasm**  
*(David Aktan M.D., Liège)*

# PROGRAM

- 14.20 - 15.40 **Session 5: Key Note Lecture:  
Personalized Medicine in Hematology and Oncology**  
*(Chair: Prof. Dr. Metin Senkal, Witten)*
- 14.20 - 15.00 **Personalized Medicine in Gastrointestinal Oncology**  
*(Prof. Dr. Hana Algül, Munich)*
- 15.00- 15.40 **Personalized Hematology and Oncology in Practice**  
*(Prof. Dr. Dr. Fuat Oduncu, Munich)*
- 15.40 - 16.10 **Coffee Break**
- 16.10 - 17.00 **Session 6: Panel Discussion: End-of-Life Care**  
*(Moderation: Dr. Jakob Hanna, Heidelberg)*
- Spiritual Care in End-of-Life**  
*(Mor Philoxenos Mattias Nayis, Warburg)*
- Intensive Care in End-of-Life**  
*(Dr. Farid Abdo, Nijmegen)*
- Palliative Care and Ethical Aspects**  
*(Prof. Dr. Dr. F. Oduncu, Munich)*
- 17.00 - 18.00 **WMAS General Assembly and Board Elections (Members only)**
- 19.00 - 01.00 **Social Event & Conference Dinner (Revierpark Gysenberg)**  
**Singer Yusuf Saliba**  
**WMAS Awards**

## **Sunday, 01.10.2023 St. Petrus & Paul Church, Herne**

- 09.00 - 11.00 **Holy Mass – Qurobo Alohoyo**
- 11.00 - 12.00 **Common Breakfast/Qroten (Gemeindesaal)**
- 12.00 - 13.00 **General Lecture for the Community – Turgomo Gawonoyo**  
*Sudden Cardiac Death – Shalyuth Lebo Men Shel (Dr. Jakob Hanna, Heidelberg)*
- 13.00 **Farewell & Closing - Huthomo**

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION & ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Please register for the conference and gala dinner through the society's website:

**Please submit your abstract to:**

[www.wmas-osye.com](http://www.wmas-osye.com)

Abstract deadline: 20. Sep, 2023

[info@wmas-osye.com](mailto:info@wmas-osye.com)

## CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

The conference language is officially Suryoyo (Aramaic, Syriac, Surayt), since it is one of WMAS' utmost goals to strengthen and establish the Suryoyo language as medical and scientific language. However, English is also welcome if the Suryoyo language skills are not sufficient.

## CME CREDITS

The Medical Association of Westfalen-Lippe will reward your participation with **12 CME** Credits.

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE & WMAS AWARDS

### Scientific Committee:

Prof. Dr. Hana Algül, Prof. Dr. Dr. Fuat Oduncu, Prof. Dr. Metin Senkal

### WMAS-Awards:

The Scientific Committee will select participants to honor them with the WMAS Awards (categories: life-time achievement, best presentation, young scholars)

## FEES

### FEES FOR CONFERENCE & GALA DINNER (all inc.)

Professionals, Non-Members	150,00 €
Professionals, Members	100,00 €
Students	25,00 €

### FEES FOR GALA DINNER ONLY

Gala Dinner (Menu, incl. all drinks)	75,00 €
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## CONFERENCE VENUE - LOCATION

### St. Anna Hospital

Kongresszentrum  
Hospitalstraße 19  
D-44649 Herne  
GERMANY

## CONFERENCE DINNER EVENING - LOCATION

### Revierpark Gysenberg

Olli's Restaurant  
Am Revierpark 40  
44627 Herne

## ACCOMMODATION

We recommend the following hotel which is close to the Conference and Gala Dinner Venues

### PARKHOTEL HERNE (4\*)

- Homepage: [www.parkhotel-herne.de](http://www.parkhotel-herne.de)
- Single room incl. breakfast 103 €, Double room incl. breakfast 128 €
- Address: Schaeferstrasse 109, D-44623 Herne, Tel: +49 2323 955-0

### Please Note:

- 44 Rooms have been pre-reserved for WMAS participants
- Free-of-charge cancelling up to 6 weeks before Conference starts
- Room Booking under reference „WMAS-Kongress“

### B&B HOTEL BOCHUM HERNE

Regenkamp 14  
44265 Herne  
Phone: +49 2323-94680





## **Intensive Care in End-of-Life**

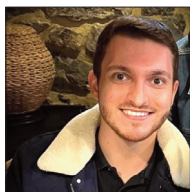
Dr. Farid Abdo (Nijmegen, Netherlands)

The intensive care unit (ICU) faces several specific dilemmas. ICU care is expensive, labor-intensive, and there are limitations in terms of available funds and personnel. At the same time, technological advancements continue to expand treatment possibilities. Medical equipment can sustain patients' lives for extended periods.

The possibilities in the ICU are, in principle, endless: almost every patient can be kept alive for an extended period with the use of medical equipment, even if there is (virtually) no chance of discharge or long-term survival. As a result, most patients only pass away after a decision has been made to limit the treatment provided, such as discontinuing artificial ventilation or hemodynamic support. However, a poor prognosis, both in the ICU and afterward, is often not 100% certain.

Furthermore, ICU treatment can be very burdensome for the patient. Patients have varying preferences regarding undergoing such treatment, as well as different opinions about what constitutes an acceptable quality of life in case of survival.

In addition, ICU personell is confronted with patients with different cultural backgrounds with differences in accepting medical decisions to discontinue life-sustaining treatments such as artifical ventilation or hemodynamic support. Not only cultural background plays a role in such decisions, but especially religion. For instance, people from a Muslim background have difficulty accepting withdrawal of life sustaining treatment irrespective of the prognosis compared to people from Christian background. For Suryoye families facing such decisions, the question is whether our religion or the cultural background of the Middle-East where we grew up plays a larger role in such decisions.



## Hemifacial Spasm

David Aktan M.D. (Liège, Belgium)

Hemifacial spasm (HFS) is one of the various movement disorders affecting the face and is characterised by subtle or sustained contractions of muscles innervated by the seventh cranial nerve. The contractions may persist during sleep and are sometimes exacerbated by stress or mastication. Depending on the area involved, the result might be dysarthria, vision impairment, tinnitus, social discomfort, etc.

There are various clinical situations where diagnosing HFS is not as easy as generally considered, particularly due to phenomenological overlaps with other movement disorders. The differential diagnosis with other movement disorders such as blepharospasm, post-facial palsy (synkinesis), motor tics and functional spasm, is mainly based on clinical observation of the pattern of muscle contractions. For instance, the other Babinski sign (simultaneous raise of the eyebrow and eye occlusion, due to the contractions of orbicularis oculi and frontalis muscles) has a good specificity for HFS and help to distinguish HFS from blepharospasm.

Nevertheless, the aetiological diagnosis might be substantially improved by specific imaging investigations such as brain MRI, or electromyography. An organized approach is essential as some causes might be serious and/or treatable, as HFS can be secondary to tumoral, vascular or inflammatory lesions in the pathway of the facial nerve.

Therapeutic options for primary HFS include botulinum toxin injections and microvascular decompression in the root-exit zone of the 7th nerve in the brainstem, and often imply thorough clinical and paraclinical investigations prior to their execution.



## **Personalized Medicine in Gastrointestinal Oncology**

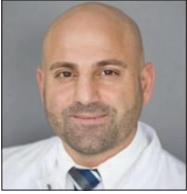
Prof. Dr. Hana Algül (Munich, Germany)

In cancer diagnostics and therapy, the concept of individualized cancer treatment as an example for Personalized Medicine is already being implemented in patient care.

Molecular information helps to identify suitable drugs and therapy strategies or to predict possible resistance to a therapy. Using various complex novel tools including genomic analysis and artificial intelligence (AI) tailored concepts are developed to identify specific cancer vulnerabilities that can be specifically exploited.

The individualized assessment of possible treatment options for each patient is carried out by specialists from various disciplines in interdisciplinary case conferences, the so-called Molecular Tumor Boards.

Exemplified with Gastrointestinal Oncology a broad overview is given on current progresses in this field which will help to gain deeper insight into the new era of cancer medicine.



## **Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery**

Dr. Mathias Bargello (Heidelberg, Germany)

Plastic surgery is a surgical specialty involving the restoration, reconstruction or alteration of the human body. It can be divided into two main categories: reconstructive surgery and cosmetic surgery.

Reconstructive surgery includes craniofacial surgery, hand surgery, microsurgery, and the treatment of burns. While reconstructive surgery aims to reconstruct a part of the body or improve its functioning, cosmetic (or aesthetic) surgery aims at improving the appearance of it.



## **Aramean Studies as an Interdisciplinary Research Field Using the Example of Syriac Medical History**

Zeki Bilgic M.A. (Heidelberg, Germany)

The Aramaen Studies are institutionally affiliated with the Semitic Studies at the University of Heidelberg. They include, among other disciplines, the sociology, political science and history of the Arameans, the last of which of course also includes the history of medicine.

This lecture will first introduce the interdisciplinary research center with its current projects and then explain how projects within medical history which are part of the intellectual and cultural history of the Arameans, could find their place in it.

Finally, I will present what makes this unique interdisciplinary research center at a university possible.



## **Senescence in T cells**

Dr. Antonios Chamoun (Mainz, Germany)

Cellular senescence is a fundamental biological process that is associated with cellular aging and leads to an irreversible lessening of proliferation. The cells of the immune system such as T cells, which play a central role in anti-tumor immunity, are also affected by senescence. This condition is characterized by distinctive changes in phenotype, metabolism and cytotoxic capacity. This likewise leads to a reduced anti-tumor response of the T cells.

As already mentioned, senescent T cells exhibit changes in their phenotype. Among other aspects, they show increased expression of CD57 or KLRG-1 while at the same time reduced expression of co-stimulatory molecules such as CD28. An important mechanism associated with senescence continues to be telomere shortening.

Regarding metabolism, senescent T cells have an increased tendency to glycolysis, while mitochondrial function is impaired. The fact that senescent T cells have reduced antigen-specific killing plays a particularly important role in the context of tumor detection.

All of the characteristics described are responsible for the fact that suboptimal immune surveillance occurs, which leads to an increased susceptibility to malignant diseases or infections.

There is therefore a major effort in immunotherapy research to develop strategies that can reverse the senescence of T cells, such as blocking inhibitory receptors and other therapeutic approaches.



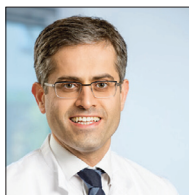
## **How Can Coctors Empower Language and Culture Through Rinyo?**

Dr. Robby Edo (Chicago, USA)

Rinyo is a Chicago based non-profit, established in 2012. Rinyo specializes in creating content with the intent in assisting the preservation of the Syriac language and culture. Doing so via content creation such as videos and books. Also conducting and assisting with summer camps and other on the ground activities. It supports through fundraising activities, language and church operated schools. It works with over 30 local and international businesses to ensure this work.

Such content has impacts on mental health throughout the homeland and diaspora. In the homeland, supporting football teams increases moral, happiness, and team building amongst adolescents and young adults. Distracts from the day-to-day stress and sadness. Videos and books have a positive impact on children. In the diaspora, impact can be seen in new immigrants and our brothers and sisters born in the west. For new immigrants, it gives them a sense of home while in a strange land. For the ones born in the west, it gives a sense of pride and encourages that we can overcome and rebuild and connect to the homeland.

I welcome you to join our efforts. Strengthening our language and having a positive impact on our people across the globe.



## **ANCA Vasculitis**

Dr. Saban Elitok (Potsdam, Germany)

ANCA vasculitis is an autoimmune disease characterized by the presence of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA) in the blood. These antibodies target and damage small blood vessels, leading to inflammation and organ damage. Commonly affected organs include the kidneys, lungs, and skin. Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial to prevent irreversible organ damage. Treatment often involves immunosuppressive medications to halt the body's immune attack on its own vessels. A better understanding of the pathophysiology led to a much broader therapeutic armamentarium in the last decade.

This talk will give an overview of the symptoms, the diagnosis, the pathophysiology and the therapy of ANCA vasculitis.





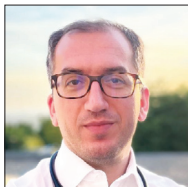
## **Back Pain – Precise Diagnosis and Treatment**

Dr. Sina Finkenstädt M.P.H. (Zurich, Switzerland)

Back pain is one of the most common reasons people seek medical care. Together with cardiovascular diseases, back pain is among the largest cost drivers of the healthcare system in industrial countries. Finding the causes of back pain is often not easy. After a thorough medical history and clinical examination of the patient by a specialist, the exact structural cause of pain can often be identified with the help of modern imaging.

Critical for further diagnostics and treatment are symptoms like radiating pain or abnormal sensations along a nerve pathway or one of the “red flags” such as weakness ( $\leq 3$  degrees of muscle strength) or bladder and bowel dysfunction. In these cases, the underlying cause is usually a compression of nerve structures caused by an acute-on-chronic pathomechanism attributed to degenerative changes of the intervertebral discs, ligaments (Ligg. flava) and bones (retrospodylophytes and uncovertebral arthrosis). In addition, the presence of facet joint arthrosis which is often associated with segmental microinstability worsens nerve compression while standing that can be easily quantified with functional radiographs.

In the presence of “red flags” or in case of ineffective conservative treatment, which usually includes lifestyle modification, physiotherapy, medical therapy, spinal infiltrations as well as interdisciplinary treatment (rheumatology, neurology, etc.), surgery may be necessary. The use of robotic systems in spine surgery is relatively new. Computer-assisted surgical navigation and robotic-guided spine surgery aim to improve screw placement accuracy. Long-term benefits are subject to further studies.

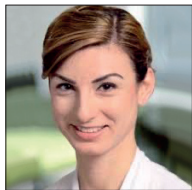


## **Sudden Cardiac Death – Shalyuth Lebo Men Shel**

Dr. Jakob Hanna (Heidelberg, Germany)

The reasons for sudden cardiac death are usually existing heart diseases that cause cardiac arrhythmias and coronary artery disease. In adults, coronary artery disease is particularly common. In younger people, inflammation of the heart muscle or genetic diseases are usually reasons for cardiovascular arrest.

In this presentation, frequency, risk factors, symptoms and preventive means will be explained in aramaic language.



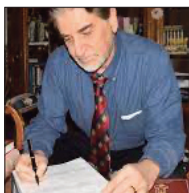
## **Robotic Surgery in Urology - A New Era**

Dr. Isabella Karat (Winnenden, Germany)

Robotic surgery is an operation method, which is established since the late 1980s. The best known system is the daVinci®-System by Intuitive Surgical Inc., established in the 2000s.

As a master-slave-system it helps the surgeon to do laparoscopic operations.

Prostatectomy is the first urologic operation done with the daVinci®-System. Since then more urological operations and more operations in other surgery i.e. gynecology, thoracic surgery and general surgery are done with this system.



## Music in Medicine

Osyo Abrohom Lahdo, MD (Wiesbaden, Germany)

Die Musik wird heutzutage in der Behandlung vieler Krankheiten (z.B. psychische Erkrankungen, Krebs, etc.) angewendet. Die Rolle der Musik und ihre Wirkung auf die Seele und Körper wurde auch schon in der Antike erkannt. Unsere Vorfahren in Mesopotamien haben die Rolle der Musik früh erkannt und in vielen Bereichen angewendet, so z.B. bei psychischen Krankheiten, aber auch zu vielen anderen Anlässen wie Trauer, Feier, Zauber, Zeremonien und sogar im Krieg.

Sie haben als Christen die Musik in prächtiger Form in der Kirche eingeführt mit acht Tonarten, verschiedenen Rhythmen und je nach Anlass mit zahlreichen von Melodien und Texten. Live-Beispiele aus der syrisch-orthodoxen Kirche kann man auch vorführen.

## Osyutho w Musiqa

I Musiqa ketla macebdonutho rabtho cali Nafsho. Ma zabne qamoye hul ucdö. A abohotho Suryoye db-Bethnahrin meqem me Mshiho methhashahhe bi Musiqa ax Darmono li Nafsho u lu fagro. U tub ba felce hrene: ax hage, hashe, u hatta ba Qrobe.

U betther me Mshiho macbarre I Musiqa li Cito ba 8 Maqamat cam Rekne u kaile mshahelfe I-foth i Munasabe.

Mathle mosiqoye mi cito kibi dobeno alxu.



## **Hepatitis B – Prevention and Treatment**

Dr. Hedro Lahdo (Wiesbaden, Germany)

About 296 million people worldwide are infected with hepatitis B, including almost 6 million children under the age of 5 years. Hepatitis B contributes to an estimated 820,000 deaths every year. 25% of infections progress to liver cancer.

An efficient vaccine exists. However, the vaccination rate is still to be improved. Without vaccination, 90% of infants will progress to chronic HBV infection.

Several efficient drugs for chronic hepatitis B infections are available, among which tenofovir and entecavir are the most widely used. Antiviral treatment yields viral suppression, reduction of progression to liver cancer and mortality.

However, cure is rather the exception. Therefore, research is continuing to address the goal of virus elimination.



## **The Role of Family Doctor/General Practitioner in Modern Health Prevention**

Dr. Aydin Melke (Schwaigern, Germany)

1. Introduction
2. Duties of the family doctor
3. Challenges in general medicine
4. The importance of the doctor-patient relationship
5. The future of general medicine and family doctor's practising
6. Conclusion
7. Questions/Remarks



## **Personalized Hematology and Oncology in Practice**

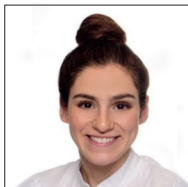
Prof. Dr. Dr. Fuat Oduncu (Munich, Germany)

Modern diagnostics and treatment in hematology and oncology is characterized by promoting highly individualized and personalized approaches. Why? The more personalized the approach the higher the efficacy and the less the adverse events.

Hence, not only the type of disease, but rather the patient's/individual's/person's pathological and especially molecularbiological features and characteristics of his/her underlying disease determine the therapeutic pathway.

What is more, this approach becomes highly relevant for patients especially with late-stage, i.e. extensive and relapsed hematological and solid cancers. In this situation, the so-called standard-of-care has already been exhausted, and the doctor together with his/her patient are hoping to identify some drugable genetic alterations to overcome the lack of effective therapeutical options. Otherwise, many of these patients and their relatives are facing the last period of their lives and the impending death. Therefore, these patients need also to be embedded in a holistic concept of palliative care to address not only their physical symptoms, but also their psychological, social and spiritual needs and sufferings.

Here, I will present some clinical cases of patients to illustrate how patients can benefit from this new approach in modern medicine in general, and in modern hematology and oncology in particular.



## Advances in Peri- and Postoperative Management of Spine Surgery

PD Dr. Lisa Özel (Düsseldorf, Germany)

**Background:** Patients with back pain are increasing, presenting daily challenges in clinical practice. Due to medical progress and the expansion of indications, the demand for spinal interventions, especially spinal fusions, is growing worldwide. Spinal fusions are invasive and painful procedures, thus predisposing to a prolonged recovery period and the need for an intensive postoperative pain management to avoid complications like chronic pain and postoperative opioid dependence.

At the same time, increasingly aging, multimorbid patients require a complex and high demanding treatment. Despite these developments, outcomes after spinal fusion procedures have surprisingly improved in recent years, which is certainly multifactorial, yet the establishment of multimodal therapy approaches have significantly led to this phenomenon. In these terms, benefits of regional analgesia techniques for spine surgery are rapidly being described in the literature and clinical practice. The most important advantages of these techniques are the simple, mostly ultrasound-guided execution, the effective pain-relieving effect, and the fact that they can be applied in a variety of ways.

**Methods:** Assessing data through epidemiological databank analysis, retrospective as well as prospective study designs.

**Results:** Several important benefits may be associated with the so-called erector spinae plane (ESP)-block as the currently most popular regional pain block for spine surgery, including low pain scores and opioid consumption as well as a reduced length of hospital stay.

**Conclusion:** The ESP-procedure leads to promising results in terms of improved patient outcomes in addition to effective, analgesic effects.



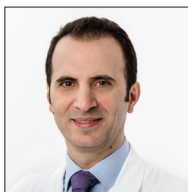


## **Evolving of Anesthesiology in Qamishli**

Dr. Fouad Roham (Vienna, Austria)

The evolving and implementation of the discipline of anesthesiology in Qamishli was crucial for the medical care of Qamishli. Thus, surgical interventions could now take place. The introduction of the new discipline of anesthesiology significantly contributed to the development of other medical disciplines depending on anesthesia, and hence to a significant improvement of the medical care of the inhabitants in the region.

However, the people of Qamishli were confronted with big technical, material and personnel challenges.



## **Update Ophthalmology for Interdisciplinary Medicine**

Prof Dr. Stefan Sacu (Vienna, Austria)

The technical achievements in modern times have enabled an unstoppable diagnostic and therapeutic development in ophthalmology. The ophthalmologic diagnostic methods bring valuable information not only in ophthalmology but also in systemic diseases. Thus, the retinal and optic nerv scans, which are performed contactless, can make the initial diagnosis and monitoring at the highest quality and reliability possible in diabetes, arterial hypertension, coronary heart disease, as well as diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, ear, nose and throat, neurology (i.e multiple sclerosis, brain tumors, Alzheimer's disease and dementia), in dermatological, hematological and other cancers. In ophthalmology, previously unthinkable treatments in the area of genetic diseases (such as retinitis pigmentosa), degenerative changes (such as macular degeneration), cataract surgeries with implantation of trifocal intraocular lenses, and corneal transplantation with artificial layers are now being used in the routine. The aim of this presentation is to provide an update on developments in ophthalmology that will aid interdisciplinary active colleagues.



## **The Physician as Scholar and Saint – Reflections on the Role of Medicine in the Syriac Culture**

Prof. Dr. Shabo Talay (Berlin, Germany)

In Syriac-Christian culture, physicians were always held in high regard. They were often both scholars and theologians and occupied high positions in the church. Some were later even declared saints and are still being venerated today. One of these saints is Mar Asya/Mor Osyo ("Saint Physician"), after whom a number of churches and monasteries are named.

Alongside the officially recognised healing practices, people believed (and still believe to some extent) in the effectiveness of amulets and incantations, most of which were written by clergymen to aid the diseased. These texts make up their own genre and are an important part of Syriac literature.

This lecture will shed light on the correlation between traditional medicine and popular beliefs in the pre-modern culture of the Arameans/Assyrians. In this context, the terminology used to describe aspects of medicine will be discussed, as well as how people dealt with the diseases themselves.

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