



10th D-A-CH-Symposium (Germany – Austria – Switzerland)

Adults with Congenital Heart Defects (ACHD)

Diagnostics and therapy: Update 2026

March 20 and 21, 2026
VIENNA – DoubleTree Hotel



Program

Dear Colleagues,

We cordially invite you to the **10th German-language D-A-CH Symposium on ACHD Care** in Vienna. Adults with congenital heart defects (ACHD) represent a steadily growing patient group that presents new medical, technical, and psychosocial challenges. The symposium will focus on **practical advances in diagnostics and therapy, interdisciplinary care concepts, and idea exchange between leading ACHD experts** from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

We look forward to welcoming you soon to an interesting and varied program.

With best regards,
Your Organizing Committee

Program overview

- History and epidemiology of ACHD care in the D-A-CH region
- New multimodal imaging techniques
- Heart Failure in EMAH
- Pulmonary Hypertension
- Arrhythmias: ablation, devices, or both?
- Interventional innovations
- New surgical approaches
- Special psychosocial aspects in EMAH
- ACHD: Pregnancy, sports, and obesity
- Technological Advances in ACHD Care

Scientific Program

Day 1 – Friday, March 20, 2026

Registration from 8:00 a.m.

08:45 – 09:00 a.m. **Opening and welcome addresses**
Organizing Committee

Session 1 **ACHD Care in the D-A-CH Region – Status Quo & Perspectives**

Chair: Harald GABRIEL (Vienna), Daniel TOBLER (Basel),
Oktay TUTAREL (Berlin)

09:00 – 09:20 **Change in the ACHD Care landscape in
German-speaking countries**
Ulrike BAUER (Berlin)

09:20 – 09:40 **Coping Strategies with Rising Patient Numbers**
Gerhard DILLER (Münster)

09:40 – 10:00 **Strengthening Patient Education and Personal Responsibility**
Daniel TOBLER (Basel) & Ramona Hämmerli (Zurich)

10:00 – 10:20 **Care from the Perspective of Those Who Are Affected**
Representatives of self-help groups from the D-A-CH regions

10:20 – 10:50 **Coffee break**

Session 2 **Imaging in EMAH – Innovations in Diagnosis & Therapy Planning**

Chair: Barbara WICHERT-SCHMITT (Linz), Dietrich BEITZKE (Vienna)

10:50 – 11:10 **Echocardiography – From the Segmental Approach to
Advanced Applications**
Erwin OECHSLIN (Toronto)

11:10 – 11:30 **MRI in the Assessment of Congenital Heart Defects**
Victoria LORENZEN (Berlin)

11:30 – 11:50 **CT in ACHD: More Than Just a Planning Tool**
Dietrich Beitzke (Vienna)

11:50 – 12:10 **The Large Right Ventricle and Its Evaluation**
Barbara WICHERT-SCHMITT (Linz)

12:10 – 12:30 **AI-Supported Image Analysis – Potential and Limitations**
Gerhard DILLER (Münster)

12:30 p.m.– 1:30 p.m. **Lunch break**

Scientific Program

Day 1 – Friday, March 20, 2026

Keynote Lecture

Chair: Erwin OECHSLIN (Toronto), Gerhard DILLER (Münster)

1:30 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. **Care for Adults with Congenital Heart Disease:
What Have We Achieved and What Challenges Do We Face?**
Prof. Dr. Helmut BAUMGARTNER

Session 3 Heart Failure in EMAH – Modern Therapeutic Approaches

Chair: Barbara WICHERT-SCHMITT (Linz),
Matthias GREUTMANN (Zuerich)

2:10 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Heart Failure in EMAH: Causes, Frequency, and Diagnosis**
Lore SCHRUTKA (Vienna)

2:30 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. **Guideline-Compliant Drug Therapy – Effectiveness and
Limitations**
Oktay TUTAREL (Berlin)

2:50 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. **CRT to ICD – Technical Options in ACHD**
Karim SALEH (Linz)

3:10 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Cardiac Support & Transplantation:
Treatment Options in the End Stage**
Bruno SANTOS LOPES (Zuerich)

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Coffee break**

Session 4 Rookies Meet the Experts! – Interactive Case Study Session

Chair: Javier RUPERTI (Basel), Lore SCHRUTKA (Vienna)

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Four interactive case discussions**

5:00 p.m. **End of Day 1**

5:30 p.m. **Come together with snacks on site**

Scientific Program

Day 2 – Saturday, March 21, 2026

08:30 – 09:00 **Arrival & Coffee**

Session 5 **Complex Challenges in ACHD Management**

Chair: Eva SAMES-DOLZER (Linz), Gerhard DILLER (Münster)

09:00 – 09:20 **Reoperations and Reinterventions for Complex Defects**
Matthias GREUTMANN (Zurich)

09:20 – 09:40 **Pulmonary Hypertension in ACHD: Current Therapeutic Options**
Oktay TUTAREL (Berlin)

09:40 – 10:00 **Intensive Care for Critically Ill ACHD Patients**
Robert ZILBERSZAC (Vienna)

10:00 – 10:20 **The Fate of the Fontan Circulation and Its Management**
Lore SCHRUTKA (Vienna)

10:20 – 10:50 **Coffee break**

Session 6 **Intervention, Surgery & Rhythm – New Developments**

Chair: Oktay TUTAREL (Berlin), Peter MURIN (Vienna)

10:50 – 11:10 **Catheter-Based Valve Therapies for ACHD**
Peter KRAMER (Berlin)

11:10 – 11:30 **Valve Surgery in Transition**
Daniel ZIMPFER (Vienna)

11:30 – 11:50 **Acute Management of Cardiac Rhythm Disorders**
Gabriele HESSLING (Munich)

11:50 – 12:10 **Ablation strategies for ACHD arrhythmias**
Stefan KURATH-KOLLER (Graz)

12:10 p.m. – 1:10 p.m. Lunch break

Scientific Program

Day 2 – Saturday, March 21, 2026

Session 7

ACHD & Real Life – Holistic Care

Chair: Javier RUPERTI (Basel), Daniel TOBLER (Basel)

1:10 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Exercise & Sport for ACHD – Individually Tailored**
Michael HUNTGEBURTH (Munich)

1:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. **Obesity: An Underestimated Risk Factor in ACHD**
Javier RUPERTI (Basel)

1:50 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. **Pregnancy in ACHD: Interdisciplinary Care**
Barbara WICHERT-SCHMITT (Linz)

2:10 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Mental Health, Quality of Life, and Palliative Care:
Support Throughout Life**
Harald GABRIEL & Rosemarie SIGMUND (Vienna)

2:30 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. **Closing Remarks & Outlook**

General Information

Organizer:

Arbeitsgruppe (working group) für angeborene und erworbene Herzfehler der Österreichischen Kardiologischen Gesellschaft (ÖKG), Referat für Sportmedizin der Wiener Ärztekammer

Scientific Organization:

A: Gabriel Harald, Schrutka Lore, Wichert-Schmitt Barbara

CH: Greutmann Matthias, Tobler Daniel, Ruperti Javier

D: Diller Gerhard, Tutarel Oktay

Congress Venue:

DoubleTree Hotel Wien Schönbrunn, Schlossallee 8, 1140 Wien

Medical Exhibition | Registration:



Medizinische Ausstellungs- und Werbegesellschaft

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Registration Fees:

Doctors: € 420,-

Day-Ticket (only friday or saturday): € 300,-

Doctors in training: € 240,-

Day-Ticket (only friday or saturday): € 180,-

Nursing staff: € 240,-

Day-Ticket (only friday or saturday): € 180,-

Medical students: € 60,-

Day-Ticket (only friday or saturday): € 60,-

Incl. 20% VAT

Online registration:
registration.maw.co.at/kardiodach26