



13th Balkan Congress of NUCLEAR MEDICINE

23-25 APRIL 2026

Sofia, Bulgaria



SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM MAIN PLENARY HALL

23 APRIL / THURSDAY

13:00 19:00 **REGISTRATION**

		lecturer	moderator
14:30	15:30	Current status of Bulgarian Nuclear medicine - review and discussion (in Bulgarian)	
14:30	14:50	Pavel Bochev	Pavel Bochev
14:50	15:10	Valeria Hadzhiiska	
15:10	15:30	Ana Zagorska	
15:30	17:30	WORKSHOP: Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy	
15:30	15:45	Lidia Chavdarova	Mariela Vasileva, Lidia Chavdarova
15:45	16:00	Valeria Hadzhiiska	
16:00	16:15	Pavel Bochev	
16:15	16:30	Ana Zagorska	
16:30	16:45	Mariela Vasileva	
16:45	17:15	Practicals	
17:15	17:30	Discussion	

17:30 17:45 **Coffee Break**

17:45	18:15	State of the Art Molecular Imaging Solutions	Christian Brückner	
18:15	19:15	Current approaches in NETs treatment. News from ENETS 26 177Lu – where is its place in the treatment puzzle of GEP NETs?	Vera Megdanova Pavel Bochev	Zheliazko Arabadzhiev
19:30 Official Opening and Networking Meeting				
24 APRIL / FRIDAY				
			lecturer	moderator
8:00	9:30	Plenary Session I - Thyroid		
8:00	8:20	Follow up vs treatment in early PTC	Rumen Pandev	Savvas Frangos, Pavel Bochev
8:20	8:40	Are micro-metastases indication for RAI?	John Koutsikos	
8:40	9:00	Personalized approach in thyroid cancer in the age of AI: worth & values	Ana Ugrinska	
9:00	9:20	ATA 2025: Is There Added Value?	Savvas Frangos	
9:20	9:30	Discussion		
9:30 10:00 Coffee Break				
			lecturer	moderator
10:00	11:00	Plenary Session II Theranostics		
10:00	10:20	PSMA Theranostics in Prostate Cancer	Alexis Vrachimis EANM	Pavel Bochev, Alexis Vrachimis, Luisa Roldaopereira, Hossain Jadvar
10:20	10:40	From Pathway to Practice: Theranostics Readiness	Luisa Roldaopereira EANM	
10:40	11:00	Challenges and Unsettled Issues with the Clinical Practice of LuPSMA Radiopharmaceutical Therapy	Hossein Jadvar	
11:00	12:30	Interdisciplinary session I Prostate Cancer		
11:00	11:15	PSMA PET/MRI Triple Fusion Biopsy of Prostate Cancer - View of the Urologist	Alexander Timev	Pavel Bochev, Alexis Vrachimis, Luisa Roldaopereira, Hossein Jadvar, Valeria Hadzhiiska, Alexander Timev, Dorotheya Ivanova, Miroslav Nikolov
11:15	11:30	Radiosurgery in Prostate Cancer	Dorotheya Ivanova	
11:30	11:45	Treatment Pathways in mCRPC	Miroslav Nikolov	
11:45	12:25	Two clinical cases for Board Discussion	Georgi Gaydarov Yavor Gramatikov	
12:25	12:30	Discussion		
12:30 13:00 Lunch Break				

			lecturer	moderator
13:00	13:30	TheraMAX SPECT/CT: clinical benefits for theranostic imaging	Sandor Barna	
13:30	14:00	Cancer imaging in the era of immunotherapy and multimodality treatment	Pavel Bochev	
14:00	15:30	Interdisciplinary session II: Melanoma		
14:00	14:20	Nuclear Medicine in Melanoma Imaging	Raluca Mittitelu	Lidia Chavdarova, Raluca Mittitelu
14:20	14:40	Clinical experience in melanoma early staging - showing the viewpoint of the onco-surgeon	Venelin Georgiev	
14:40	15:00	PET/CT in favour of important therapeutic decisions - case series	Iva Gavrilova	
15:00	15:20	18F-FDG- PET/CT in Malignant Melanoma - Sharing Insights From Clinical Practice - Case Series	Lidia Chavdarova	
15:20	15:30	Discussion		
15:30	16:30	Clinical Nuclear Medicine I: Haematology		
15:30	15:45	18F-FDG-PET/CT in Paediatric Hodgkin Lymphoma (PHL) - contemporary perspectives and "the difficult case" experience	Lidia Chavdarova	Lidia Chavdarova, Sofia Koukouraki
15:45	16:00	Castleman disease	Nikolina Novoselska	
16:00	16:15	How PET/CT changed the paradigm in multiple myeloma care	Elena Piperkova	
16:15	16:30	Deauville X - beyond obvious	Pavel Bochev	
16:30	17:00	Long-term benefits with Xtandi in mHSPC	Viktor Nenov	
17:00	17:15	New Diagnostic Perspective in Alzheimer Disease	Valeria Hadzhiiska	
17:15	17:30	Cardiac Amyloidosis- The Nuclear Point of View	Gabriela Mateva	Pavel Bochev
17:30	17:45	Coffee Break		
17:45	19:15	Plenary session III - Theranostic approaches in Neuroendocrine Tumors		
17:45	18:05	Radiolnuclide Diagnostic Imaging of NETs: Challenges and Future Directions	Sonya Sergieva	Murat Fani Bozkurt, Sonya Sergieva
18:05	18:35	PRRT: Current status and Future Expectations	Murat Fani Bozkurt	
18:35	19:05	Alpha-Emitter Theranostics in Oncology: From Targeted Therapy To Tandem Approaches	Masha Maharaj	
19:05	19:15	First Clinical Experience with ¹⁷⁷ Lu-DOTATATE Therapy in Patients with Advanced Neuroendocrine Tumors in Bulgaria	Teodor Sofiyanski	

25 APRIL / SATURDAY

		lecturer	moderator
8:00	9:40	Clinical Nuclear Medicine II: The Balkan Perspective	
8:00	8:20	PET/CT Imaging of Gastric Tumors: Current Practice and Future Perspectives Sonya Sergieva	Ana Ugrinska, Ioannis Asteriadis
8:20	8:40	Challenges in establishing radionuclide therapy department Tanja Makazlieva	
8:40	8:55	[¹⁷⁷ Lu]Lu-PSMA-I&T Therapy for Metastatic Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer: A Single-Centre Clinical Experience at the University Clinical Center of the Republic of Srpska Dragi Stanimirović	
8:55	9:10	Clinical Implementation and Guideline Compliance of ¹⁷⁷ Lu-DOTATOC PRRT at the University Clinical Center of Republika Srpska: A Retrospective Analysis Dragana Milaković	
9:10	9:25	Bone scan in primary bone tumors Nevena Manevska	
9:25	9:40	PET/CT in Breast cancer Milica Stojiljkovic	
9:40	10:00	Coffee Break	
		lecturer	moderator
10:00	11:00	Plenary session IV: Breast Cancer	
10:00	10:20	The role of PET-CT in breast cancer Ömer Ugur	Elena Piperkova, Nalan Alan, Ömer Ugur
10:20	10:40	FAPI imaging in breast cancer, with particular emphasis on lobular carcinoma. Nalan Alan	
10:40	11:00	Metabolic-hybrid SPECT/CT Sentinel lymph nodes (SLN) mapping, Scintimammography (SMG) and PET/CT staging for treatment tailoring in Breast Cancer Elena Piperkova	
11:00	12:30	Interdisciplinary session III: Breast Cancer	
11:00	11:20	Surgery in breast cancer - when less is more Valkan Ivanov	Asia Konsulova, Elena Piperkova, Nalan Alan, Ömer Ugur, Valkan Ivanov, Tsvetomir Karagetchev
11:20	11:40	Neoadjuvant Treatment Response Evaluation in Breast Cancer - The Viewpoint of Medical Oncologist Asia Konsulova	
11:40	12:00	MRI in Neoadjuvant Treatment Response Evaluation Tsvetomir Karagetchev	
12:00	12:30	Two Clinical cases for Board Discussion Maria Mihaylova Elena Raycheva	
12:30	13:00	Lunch Break	

			lecturer	moderator
13:00	14:00	The Future Of Nuclear Medicine in Bulgaria	Ivaylo Batinkov	
		MIM: A new solution for theranostics and dosimetry	Effrosyni Xenidou	
14:00	15:15	Clinical Nuclear Medicine: The Balkan perspective		
14:00	14:15	Prostate cancer imaging and therapy	Vladimir Vucomanovic	Gabriela Mateva, Stefani Veneva
14:15	14:30	Analyzing the Utility of [68Ga]Ga-PSMA-11 PET/CT and mpMRI in the Initial Diagnosis of Prostate Cancer and Establishing an SUVmax Cutoff Value to Discriminate it from Benign Prostate Diseases: A Prospective Single-Center Study	Yavor Gramatikov	
14:30	15:00	The prognostic role of early (interim) [18F] FDG PET/CT during neoadjuvant therapy in breast cancer	Elena Raycheva	
15:00	15:15	Examination of NK cell function in patients with tumors using radioactive isotopes: Our experiences	Vladimir Jurisic	
15:15	15:30	Coffee Break		
15:30	17:30	Plenary session V: Infection Inflammation and Infiltrative Diseases		
15:30	16:00	Imaging infection - SPECT or PET?	John Buscombe	John Buscombe, Olivier Gheysens, Ioannis Iakovou, Zhivka Dancheva
16:00	16:20	Nuclear imaging of cardiac amyloidosis	Olivier Gheysens, EANM	
16:20	16:35	PET/CT in valvular endocarditis	Gabriela Mateva	
16:35	16:55	PET/CT in CARDIOVASCULAR IMPLANTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE (CIED) ENDOCARDITIS	Merkourios Vogiatzis	
16:55	17:15	PET/CT IN SARCOIDOSIS	Olga Bourogianni	
17:15	17:30	FDG-PET/CT in Vasculitis: Practical Insights	Zhivka Dancheva	
17:30	18:00	PSMA PET in prostate cancer: a lasting clinical tool	Theodoros Pipikos, Jasmin Bektic	
18:00	19:30	IAEA, EANM, WFNMB activities within the Balkans - reviews and discussion	Savvas Frangos, Pavel Bochev	
		Presentation of a Survey on Nuclear medicine activities within the Balkans (conducted and presented by IAEA)	Savvas Frangos, Pavel Bochev	
		WFNMB activities on the Balkans	Savvas Frangos	
19:30	Award Ceremony and Closing			

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM HALL 2

24 APRIL / FRIDAY

		lecturer	moderator
8:00	9:30	Oncology (Breast, PSMA-PET, Theranostics)	
8:00	8:10	FDG-Avid Bone Metastases in Lobular Breast Cancer: Are CA 15-3 and CEA the Clues?	Katja Petrović
8:10	8:20	Hybrid SPECT/CT sentinel lymph node imaging in post-neoadjuvant breast cancer patients	Maria Mihaylova
8:20	8:30	Rare metastases and second primary malignancies in breast cancer: diagnostic challenges in 18F-FDG PET/CT	Mihaela Ilcheva
8:30	8:40	Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy: Diagnostic Accuracy and Clinical Impact in Early-Stage Cancer	Eleonora Hristova
8:40	8:50	Added value of 68Ga PSMA PET in patients with adenoid cystic carcinoma – preliminary results	Nikolina Novoselska
8:50	9:00	Metabolic therapy with 177Lu-PSMA in patients with metastatic, castration-resistant prostate cancer – first results from Bulgaria	Elena Popova
9:00	9:10	Determining the Optimal Imaging Day for Post-Treatment Lu-177- DOTATATE SPECT/CT Studies	John Koutsikos
9:10	9:20	Multidisciplinary experience from the design to the implementation of a theranostic department	Ana Zagorska
9:20	9:30	Discussion	
Nikolina Novoselska, John Koutsikos			
9:30	10:00	Coffee Break	
		lecturer	moderator
10:00	10:30	Discussion	
10:30	11:30	Radiochemistry and translational medicine	
10:30	10:39	Development of a Targeted Micelle System Containing Thymoquinone and Doxorubicin and Investigation of Its In Vitro Cytotoxic Effects	Nur Su Şanlı
10:39	10:48	Radiolabeling and In Vitro Evaluation of Functionalized PEG-PCL Polymeric Micelles for Nuclear Medicine Applications	Rüya Özgeniş
10:48	10:57	Investigation of the Radiolabeling Potential of Metformin with 99mTc	Azranur Arkaş
10:57	11:06	Innovative approach for in vivo pretargeting by click reactions	Gergana Simeonova
11:06	11:15	[18F]SiPSMA – first clinic production in Bulgaria	Temenuga Trifonova
11:15	11:24	Radiometal Production for PET Imaging and Theranostics at Radiopharmaceutical Research Centre	Andrei Necsoiu
11:24	11:30	Discussion	

11:30	12:30	Physics and Instrumentation		
11:30	11:38	Artificial Intelligence–Based 18F-FDG PET/CT Radiomics for Mediastinal Lymph Node Staging in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Systematic Review	Alessia Rosain	Ana Zagorska, Nikolaos Papandrianos
11:38	11:46	An Explainable Fuzzy Cognitive Map–Extreme Learning Machine Framework with Natural Language Reasoning for Nuclear Medicine Decision Support	Nikolaos Papandrianos	
11:46	11:54	Establishment of diagnostic reference levels for the most common diagnostic nuclear medicine procedures for adult patients in the Russian Federation	Larisa C. Chipiga	
11:54	12:02	Doses of pregnant patients from diagnostic nuclear medicine procedures in the Russian Federation	Aleksandr V. Vodovатов	
12:02	12:10	Precautions for certain categories of individuals in contact with a patient after radionuclide therapy	Larisa C. Chipiga	
12:10	12:18	Experimental Characterization of Spatial Resolution and Edge Effects in thePEM-IFUNAM System	Karol Fabiana Goyes Acosta	
12:18	12:26	Non-Attenuation Corrected PET Images in the Evaluation of Equivocal Findings	Boris Dimitrov	
12:26	12:30	Discussion		
12:30	13:00	Lunch Break		
			lecturer	moderator
13:00	14:00	Discussion		
14:00	15:00	Case Reports Session I		
14:00	14:10	Penile metastasis of prostate cancer detected on PSMA PET/CT: a case report	Milica Kotur	Milica Stojiljkovic, Mihaela Ilcheva, Yavor Gramatikov
14:10	14:20	FDG-avid para-iliac lymph node in differentiated thyroid carcinoma – a diagnostic pitfall	Milica Kotur	
14:20	14:30	Atypical Metastatic Presentation of Endometrial Carcinoma Detected by 18F-FDG PET/CT: A Case Report	Tanya Nachova	
14:30	14:40	Beyond Conventional Spread: [18F]FDG PET/CT Findings in Pulmonary Sarcomatoid Carcinoma	Jasmin Monibi	
14:40	14:50	Occult breast cancer - case reports	Dushica Todorova-Stefanovski	
14:50	15:00	Discussion		
15:00	16:00	Cardiology		
15:00	15:10	Explainable Machine Learning–Based Early Prognosis of Coronary Artery Disease in Nuclear Medicine Using Lifestyle and Medical History Data	Agorastos-Dimitrios Samaras	

15:10	15:20	The Impact of Cardiovascular Risk Factors, Physical Activity, and Erectile Dysfunction on the Severity of Ischemic Coronary Artery Disease: An MPI SPECT-CT Study	Ionuț-Gabriel Ilinoiu	Gabriela Mateva, Pinelopi Karampina, Dilyana Mikova
15:20	15:30	^{99m} Tc-PYP in the nonbiopsy diagnosis of hereditary transthyretin cardiac amyloidosis associated with a rare transthyretin gene mutation: a case report	Dilyana Mikova	
15:30	15:40	Detection of Transthyretin Cardiac Amyloidosis Using Tc- ^{99m} DPD/HDP Scintigraphy: Three Years of Experience in a Private Diagnostic Center	Pinelopi Karampina	
15:40	15:50	Incidental myocardial uptake of Tc ^{99m} HDP/DPD in bone scintigraphy of patients with Ca prostate in a Private Medical Diagnostic Center	Pinelopi Karampina	
15:50	16:00	Different myocardial ¹⁸ F-FDG uptake patterns in primary staging and follow-up PET/CTs of oncological patients	Katerina Nikolova	
16:00	17:30	Inflammation & Infection		
16:00	16:15	Clinical efficacy of radiosynoviorthesis (RSO) in large upper-limb joints in systemic arthritis	Ioannis Iakovou	Georgi Gaydarov, Preslava Ilieva-Gabarska
16:15	16:30	Incidental Intense ¹⁸ F-FDG Uptake in the Upper Abdomen Mimicking Malignancy During PET/CT Evaluation of Pulmonary Nodules: A Diagnostic Challenge	Lenka Grujičić	
16:30	16:45	The Role of ¹⁸ F-FDG PET/CT in the Diagnostic Workup of Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis: A Case Report	Kristina Madzharova	
16:45	17:00	Beyond the Heart: ¹⁸ F-FDG PET/CT Reveals Extracardiac Complications in Infective Endocarditis	Preslava Ilieva-Gabarska	
17:00	17:15	Quantitative Bone SPECT/CT in Diabetic Foot Osteomyelitis: Diagnostic Performance within-Patient Lesion–Contralateral Separation and Associations with Inflammatory Burden	Hülya Peker	
17:15	17:30	Discussion		

25 APRIL / SATURDAY

		lecturer	moderator
8:00	9:30	Oncology II (Lung, GIT, Lymphoma, H&N, malignant melanoma)	
8:00	8:10	18F-FDG PET/CT for Postoperative Surveillance in Resectable Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Single-Center Experience Ivaylo Stankov	Elena Rabineva, Alexandru-Stefan Militaru, Teodor Sofiyanski
8:10	8:20	Semiquantitative 18F-FDG-PET/CT parameters in the differentiation between squamous cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma of the lungs Mihail Zaharinov	
8:20	8:30	18F-FDG PET/CT therapy response assessment in patients with non-small cell lung cancer treated with immune checkpoint inhibitors Elena Popova	
8:30	8:40	68Ga-FAPI PET/CT in primary hepatic tumors - initial experience Gabriela Mateva	
8:40	8:50	The Importance of Molecular Imaging in Staging and Follow-Up of Colorectal Cancer Alexandru-Stefan Militaru	
8:50	9:00	Hidden risk of breast implants: the role of 18F-FDG PET/CT in implant-associated lymphoma Gergana Karapetkova	
9:00	9:10	Dual-Time-Point [18F]FDG PET/CT in Cervical Lymph Node Evaluation in Head and Neck Malignancies: A Prospective Study Stefani Veneva	
9:10	9:20	Unmasking Hidden Lymphatic Pathways in Cutaneous Melanoma: The Added Value of Lymphoscintigraphy and SPECT/CT Nikolina Bozhinovska Kolovchevska	
9:20	9:30	Discussion	
9:30	10:00	Coffee Break	
		lecturer	moderator
10:00	11:30	Technologist Session (in Bulgarian)	
10:00	10:15	Ga-68 PET изследвания - практически аспекти за рентгеновите лаборанти Елица Иванова	Marin Marinov, Claudiu Pestean
10:15	10:30	SPECT/CT изследване на гастричното изпразване - практически алгоритъм на рентгеновия лаборант Бойко Божинов	
10:30	10:45	PET/CT IN SARCOIDOSIS Йорданка Цанова	
10:45	11:00	От пациента до образа: миокардна перфузионна сцинтиграфия - практичен поглед на рентгеновия лаборант Марин Маринов	
11:00	11:15	Тераностична процедура с 153Sm-EDTMP (Quadramet) за диагностика и терапия на метастатична костна болест - колаборативен протокол за нуклеарно-медицински рентгенови лаборанти и медицински сестри Калин Гигов, Николета Ласкова	
11:15	11:30	Patient preparation for a [18F]FDG PET/CT Brain imaging – the role of radiologic technologist Gjorgjija Anchevski	
11:30	12:30	Case Reports Session II	

11:30	11:37	When Müllerian tissue strikes back - [18F]FDG PET/CT in a rare male Müllerian-type adenocarcinoma: a case report	Horia Negău	Maria Miruna Matei, Sofiya Chausheva, Petya Nikolova
11:37	11:44	Improved Detection of Skeletal Metastasis with 18F-NaF PET/CT in Breast Cancer: A Case Report	Nikolina Bozhinovska Kolovchevska	
11:44	11:51	Melanoma as "The Great Imitator":18F-FDG PET/CT in a Rare Testicular Metastasis and Immunotherapy-Related Toxicity Monitoring	Elena Rabineva	
11:51	11:58	Orbital bone lesion of unknown primary origin in dedifferentiated prostate carcinoma	Petya Nikolova	
11:58	12:05	68Ga-PSMA PET/CT Detects a Rare Case of Breast Metastasis from Prostate Cancer	Georgi Gaydarov	
12:05	12:12	Seen on [18F]FDG PET-CT: Central Nervous System Dissemination in a patient with metachronous neoplasia	Maria Miruna Matei	
12:12	12:19	The Diagnostic Impact of 68Ga-DOTA-TATE PET/CT in Advanced Pediatric Neuroblastoma: Added Value Beyond Conventional Imaging- A Case Report	Sofiya Chausheva	
12:19	12:26	18F-FDG PET/CT in a 20-Week Pregnant Patient with Cervical Cancer	Fatma Arzu Görtan	
12:26	12:30	Discussion		
12:30	13:00	Lunch Break		
			lecturer	moderator
13:00	13:30	Discussion		
13:30	14:30	Inspired by EANM		Pavel Bochev, Valeria Hadzhiiska
14:30	15:30	Discussion		
15:30	17:00	Parathyroid and Conventional Nuclear Medicine		
15:30	15:40	Diagnostic value of bone scintigraphy in initial staging in prostate cancer according to the EAU risk groups	Katja Petrović	
15:40	15:50	Correlation of ultrasound and scintigraphy findings in patients with enlarged parathyroid glands	Milan Bozinovic	
15:50	16:00	Tc-99m Sestamibi SPECT Localization Pitfall: Intrathyroid Parathyroid Adenoma Confirmed by PTH Washout	Bojana Stoilovska Rizova	

16:00	16:10	Diagnosis of Bone Metastases Using Hybrid SPECT/CT and Bone Metabolism Markers in Patients with Prostate Cancer	Nikola Georgiev	Mihaela Ilcheva, Sukanta Barai
16:10	16:20	Laboratory Characteristics of Patients with Graves-Basedow Disease After Achieving Disease Remission Using Different Therapeutic Approaches	Zerina Avdić	
16:20	16:30	Technetium-99m mercaptoacetyltriglycine ([99mTc]Tc-MAG3)-based quantitative parameters for post-transplantation acute tubular necrosis: Preliminary results	Natchanon Jaikamwang	
16:30	16:40	Role of Carbon-11-Choline Positron Emission Tomography (PET) for localisation of parathyroid adenoma in guiding focused Parathyroidectomy in patients with inconclusive first line imaging	Sukanta Barai	
16:40	16:50	Systemic inflammatory markers in patients with Hashimoto's thyroiditis	Vesna Ignjatovic	
16:50	17:00	Discussion		
17:00	17:20	Securing the Supply Chain for Growing Ac-225 Interest and Rising Lu-177 Demand	Hamid Hamzeiy	
17:20	17:50	E-Poster Session		
		Physiological 18F-FDG Uptake in a Sentinel Axillary Lymph Node Caused by Paravenous Injection at the cubital fossa: An Educational E-Poster Case	Jelena Perić, Danijel Šerčić, Ivana Žagar	
		Rare Coexistence of Intrathyroid Parathyroid Carcinoma and Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma in Patient with Graves' Disease	Bojan Janevski, Darja Madevska, Filip Nikolovski, Sinisa Stojanoski, Daniela Pop Gjorceva	
		Positive SLNB as therapy-changing decision point in Melanoma Patients	Eleonora Hristova, Petya Tuschieva, Monika Zaneva	
		Apparent response without therapy: non-interchangeability of Ga-68 DOTA-TOC and Ga-68 DOTA-TATE in MEN1 mimicking disease regression during follow-up - clinical case	Karolina Verbanova	
19:30	Award Ceremony and Closing			