

# 45<sup>th</sup> WESTERN ANAESTHESIA SYMPOSIUM 2026



Annual Scientific Meeting of the Western Anaesthesia Society of Ireland in Collaboration with the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland and University of Galway Anaesthesiology & Critical Care



## GLASSON LAKEHOUSE HOTEL, WESTMEATH

APRIL 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2026

[www.anaesthesiawest.com](http://www.anaesthesiawest.com)

### “A MODERN EXPERIENCED BASED PRACTICE OF ANAESTHESIOLOGY”

**You have asked for it – a completely new type of meeting – fewer lectures, more interaction. This year we are premiering the “Metasession” where common questions and controversies will be addressed by an expert panel “In Conversation.” Plus the usual workshops, posters, case presentations and, of course, it wouldn’t be WAS without the controversies: “So you think you know about...”**

Hosted by Western Anaesthesiology Society In Conjunction With Portlincula and Roscommon Hospitals and Approved for CME by the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland

# PROGRAMME

Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> 2026

**Morning Workshops 09.00-13.00 (require additional registration)**

**Regional Anaesthesia Masterclass (Consultants Only)**

**Facilitators: John McDonnell & Niall Cribben (plus faculty)**

**Airway Workshop**

**Facilitators: Ciara Hanley & Brian Harte (plus faculty)**

**1.00 “Poster” Presentations - Trainees**

**Facilitator: Colm Keane**

Research and audit studies are presented by a variety of trainees and students.

**2.30 – 4.00 Regional Anaesthesia Metasession**

The team will discuss current hot topics in regional anaesthesia, how they approach common and uncommon nerve blocks. There will be discussions about chest wall and abdominal blocks; additives and whether or not they are valuable; ideal block duration; compartment syndromes; anticoagulants and blocks; LAST – is it the dose, the volume or the location that is the main problem;

**Facilitator: John McDonnell**

**METASESSION TEAM**

**Vicentes Roques (Murcia, Spain)**

**Roman Zuecher (Basel, Switzerland)**

**John McDonnell (GUH)**

**Niall Cribben (RUH, GUH)**

**4.00 – 4.30 Coffee**

**4.30 – 6.00 Airway Management Metasession**

**Facilitator: Craig Lyons**

## **METASESSION TEAM**

The team will discuss airway strategy, videolaryngoscopy performance, how and when to do awake intubation, VAFI, airway surgery, the use of HFO amongst other things...

**Craig Lyons** (GUH)

**Alaistair McNarry** (Edinburgy, Scotland)

**Tony Hennessy** (Cork)

**6.15 NAP 8 Quick Overview Aoife Driscoll** (Cork)

**6.30 – 7.15 Plenary Lecture and Interview**

**Dr. Alistair McNarry** – President of the Difficult Airway Society

Facilitator: Dr Michael Callaghan, UHG

**7.30 Barbecue**

## **Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**08.00 Case Presentation Competition (trainees)**

**Facilitators: Mike Scully & Martina Melvin**

These are clinical cases that are presented by anaesthesia trainees that illustrates clinical conundrums in anaesthesiology and critical care.

**09.15 – 10.45 University of Galway Session**

**Moderators: Prof. John Laffey & Prof. John McDonnell**

**Prof. Vincenzo Russotto**, University of Turin

“The Physiologically Difficult Airway)

**Vicentes Roques** (Murcia, Spain) – “AI is coming to Regional Anaesthesia”

**10.45 – 11.15 Coffee**

### **11.15- 12.30 SYT Session “So You Think You Know About.....”**

This Hi-Impact session will contain 4 talks about issues relating to anaesthesia and critical care that most of us THINK we understand, but once you peel away the layers we....probably don't.

**Michael O'Connor** (Univ. Chicago) “...Large Language Models” 

**Lua Rahmani** (Toronto)– “TCI Propofol....do we have any idea what we are targeting?”

**Mai O'Sullivan** (GUH) – “You think that Simulation Training is a waste of resources?”

**Leo Kevin** (GUH) – “Adjuncts to Pain Management in the Operating Room – are we deceiving ourselves?”

**Pat Neligan** (GUH) “Preoxygenation – are you doing it all wrong?”

### **12.30 – 13.15 Plenary Lecture**

**Michael O'Connor** (University of Chicago) – “Understanding Medical Accidents: What Have We Learned and Failed to Learn Over 20 Years?”

### **13.15 Lunch in the Main Restaurant and Coffee in Exhibit Hall**

### **14.30 – 16.00 Intravenous Anaesthesia Metasession**

#### **Facilitator: Dr Lua Rahmani (Toronto)**

The team will discuss a range of topics that are current or controversial in Intravenous Anaesthesia. The current role of propofol and whether we are overdosing our patients; propofol vs remimazolam; the use or underuse of ketamine; do we need BIS or equivalent during TIVA? Is there any benefit to “modern” TCI models (Schnider/Eleveld) – and what is the story in elderly, obese and ICU patients? Is TIVA “green”? TIVA in paediatrics, radiology, and ICU; the role of dexmedetomidine, lidocaine, magnesium and all of those other “adjuncts” etc. Is “opioid free anaesthesia” a meaningful advance or just cheap hype?

#### **The METASESSION TEAM:**

**Lua Rahmani** (Toronto)

**Eoin Young** (Cambridge)

**Jacinta McGinley** (Crumlin)

### **20.00 Gala Dinner in the Restaurant (ticketed)**

Join us to celebrate another great year in our specialty and in our region. Hosted by Dr Mark Ross, President of WAS.

**Registration:** [EVENTBRITE](#)

### **Social and Other Activities**

Outdoor heated swimming pool on site

Gym on each floor

Hot tubs

18 Hole Golf Course

Driving Range

Paddle Boarding

Kayaking

Row Boats (including motorised ones)



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**SCAN QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION**

**There are lots of hotels and guesthouses in the region**