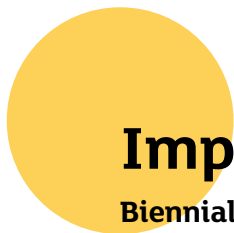


PROGRAM

Improving Outcomes

**Biennial Meeting of the AEPC
Neurodevelopmental and Psycho-
social Care Working Group**

Auditorium B, University Children's Hospital Zurich
15th – 17th of April 2026



Improving Outcomes

**Biennial Meeting of the AEPC Neurodevelopmental
and Psychosocial Care Working Group**

August-Forel-Strasse 51, 8008 Zürich
Auditorium B
15th – 17th of April 2026

**Join us to explore innovative interventions supporting
children with congenital heart disease.**

Children with congenital heart disease (CHD) are at increased risk for neurodevelopmental issues, particularly in executive functioning—critical for academic success and overall well-being. Despite growing recognition of these difficulties, effective, targeted interventions remain limited.

This conference will explore promising strategies to support neurodevelopmental, behavioral and mental health outcomes—we will examine interventions being implemented in the population of children with CHD but also those that have been successfully implemented in other populations, covering a wide range of ages and approaches.

Sessions will cover both conceptual frameworks and practical approaches to complex interventions, with insights from researchers, clinicians, and stakeholders.

Learn. Connect. Translate.

Programm

Wednesday April 15th Preconference workshop

Place and Time: Research building Course rooms: 14.00-17.00

- 1) **From Concept to Care: Developing and Testing an Intervention for Children with CHD:**

Alenka Schmid and team

 [registration](#)

- 2) **Nursing intervention: family centered care for cardiac patients:**

Chantal Etter and team

 [registration](#)

- 3) **Prenatal mental health screening:**

Johanna Calderon and Julie Deninotti

 [registration](#)

- 4) **Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement:**

ECHDO (European congenital heart disease organization) and Cornelia Hagmann

 [registration](#)

Thursday April 16th

Early life: opportunities and challenges

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08.30 | Registration | 13.30 | Poster Pitches |
| 09.00 | Opening and welcome
Bea Latal & Oliver Kretschmar | 14.00 | Needs and wishes of parents during the first year of life
Parent perspective, Zurich |
| 09.10 | Welcome from AEPC Working group
Katya de Groote | 14.30 | Posttraumatic stress in parents: outcomes and interventions
Markus Landolt, Zurich |
| 09.15 | Introduction
Bea Latal, Zurich | 15.00 | Family -centered care in the NICU
Irmi Müller-Gorman, Zurich |
| 09.30 | Brain development and windows for modulation
Marie Brossard-Racine, Montreal | 15.30 | Coffee break |
| 10.00 | Neurodevelopmental follow-up in Europe: Recommendations and current best practice
Johanna Calderon. Paris | | Novel interventions in early childhood |
| 10.30 | Coffee break | 16.00 | Music intervention: The BOND study
Cornelia Hagmann, Zurich |
| 11.00 | Barriers and facilitators in the prenatal care of a family with a child with CHD
Emanuela Valsangiacomo, Zurich | 16.20 | Motor intervention: the PRONE project
Beatrice Desnous, Marseille |
| 11.30 | Prenatal Intervention Strategies for the brain in CHD
Shabnam Peyvandi, UCSF | 16.40 | Strong-CHiLD: Parent-child interaction as a key mechanism for the long-term positive development of children with CHD
Raphael Oberhuber, Linz |
| 12.00 | Partnering with parents and patients
ECHDO and Herzznetz | | |
| 12.30 | Lunch | | |

Friday April 17th

School age and adolescents: Windows of opportunities

09.00 **The Zurich palliative care concept for complex heart disease**

Eva Bergsträsser, Zürich

09.30 **Cardiopsychiatric and -psychological care of the child with congenital heart disease and its family: a lifespan approach.**

Phaedra Lehmann, Zurich

10.00 **My journey as an adolescent heart patient**

Niki Zehnder, Schwyz

10.30 Coffee break

Novel interventions for school-age children

11.00 **Yoga for Little Hearts: a parent-child yoga intervention targeting attention in CHD**

Anne Gallagher, St. Justine
Montreal

11.20 **European Multi-center Randomised Controlled Trial QUALI NEUROREHAB**

Johanna Calderon, Paris

11.40 **E-Fit Heart: How to improve motivational strategies during coaching**

Alenka Schmid, Zurich

12.00 **Poster Pitches**

12.30 Lunch

14.00 **Psychosocial interventions during transition**

Phillip Moons, Leuven

14:30 **Effective interventions for adults with CHD**

Edward Callus, Milan

14:45 **Neurodevelopmental Follow-up Survey for AEPC Centers**

Adam James, Crumlin

15.00 **Discussion and Outlook**

Frank Casey/Oliver
Kretschmar, Zurich

15.30 **Get together**

Apero/Heart choir



Speakers

Eva Bergsträsser MD PhD

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Biennial Meeting of the AEPC neurodevelopmental and psychosocial care working group: Improving outcomes

Location:

Research building
University Children's Hospital Zurich,
Lenggstrasse 30, 8008 Zurich

Date:

- April 15-17th 2026
- 15.4.26: pre-conference workshop

Duration:

- 16. and 17.4. 2026:
2- day conference
- Preconference workshop
15.4.2026 2-5 pm

Registration fees:

- CHF 300
- CHF 150 for families and patients
- Preconference workshop: CHF 50

Abstract submission:

Please submit a structured abstract
(250 maximal word count) via this
email: AEPC_Zurich@kispi.uzh.ch
Abstract deadline: Monday, January
19th 2026, 5 CET (Swiss local time).

Target Audience:

AEPC and CNOC members,
healthcare professionals working
with pediatric populations, patients
and parents.

Registration



Accommodation:

Please find below a selection of
hotels you can book for the congress:

- Hotel St. Josef
<https://www.st-josef.ch/>
Code: Kongress 2026
- Hotel Opera
<https://www.operahotel.ch/>
By Mail: AEPC Zurich

