



GO BEYOND THE LIMITS

AUGUST 28-31, 2026

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

PRE-SYMPOSIUM CADAVER LABS

Pre-season of the symposium, connecting access training, technical fundamentals, troubleshooting, and program scalability.

DAY 1 - AUGUST 28 | ADVANCED APPLICATIONS & PROGRAM SCALABILITY

- **Direct View Mitro-Aortic** — Dr. Torsten Doenst / Dr. Hristo Kirov / Dr. Javier Maldonado
- **Robotic BITA Harvesting** — Dr. Uthman Aluthman / Dr. Frank Van Praet / Dr. Rodrigo Ribeiro de Souza
- **TCRAT** — Dr. Oleksandr Babliak / Dr. Gustavo Orellana / Dr. Julio Moron
- **Endoscopic Mitral** — Dr. Tommaso Hina Danesi / Dr. Javier Gallego / Dr. Lai Wei
- **Endoscopic Aortic** — Dr. Mario Castillo-Sang / Dr. Patrick Perier / Dr. Ergun Demirsoy

DAY 2 - AUGUST 29 | CORE ACCESS & FOUNDATIONAL TECHNIQUES

- **Direct View BITA Harvesting with Radial Extension** — Dr. Hristo Kirov / Dr. Gustavo Orellana / Dr. Javier Maldonado
- **Robotic Mitral Repair** — Dr. Javier Gallego / Dr. Frank Van Praet / Dr. Uthman Aluthman
- **Endoscopic Mitro-Aortic** — Dr. Tommaso Hina Danesi / Dr. Mario Castillo-Sang / Dr. Patrick Perier
- **Endoscopic BITA Harvesting** — Dr. Sotirios Marinakis / Dr. Hristo Kirov / Dr. Rodrigo Ribeiro de Souza
- **Complex Procedures Using TCRAT Access** — Dr. Oleksandr Babliak / Dr. Torsten Doenst / Dr. Lai Wei

SYMPOSIUM - AUGUST 30, 31

DAY 1 - AUGUST 30 | VALVE SURGERY, AF & ADVANCED ACCESS

Original focus on valve surgery, atrial fibrillation, tricuspid surgery, complications, and future perspectives, but reorganizes the agenda around access strategy, difficult decision-making, bailout logic, and scalable innovation.

08:00 – 08:20 | OPENING CEREMONY

The Future of Minimally Invasive & Robotic Cardiac Surgery

Moderators: Dr. Milton de Miranda Santoro and Dr. Rodrigo Ribeiro de Souza

Faculty: Dr. Ergun Demirsoy; Dr. Torsten Doenst and Dr. Frank Van Praet

Key Messages:

- Why Brazil MICS must evolve from meeting to platform
- The role of cadaver training, mentoring and regional collaboration
- What LATAM can lead not only adopt

08:20 – 09:40 | PANEL I

Mitral & Mitro-Aortic Access Masterclass: Direct View, Endoscopic or Robotic?

Moderators: Dr. Torsten Doenst and Dr. Patrick Perier

Faculty: Dr. Hristo Kirov; Dr. Tommaso Hina Danesi; Dr. Javier Gallego; Dr. Frank Van Praet and Dr. Mario Castillo-Sang

Debate Topics:

- Repair versus replacement in degenerative mitral disease
- Direct view versus endoscopic versus robotic mitral strategy
- When mitral becomes mitro-aortic: how access changes the operation
- Reproducibility: what is scalable in Latin America
- Is robotic mitral already mature enough for wider adoption

Live-in-a-Box / Video Cases:

- Complex P2 repair
- Neochord implantation
- Difficult annuloplasty in limited access
- Direct view mitro-aortic exposure
- Endoscopic mitral setup and port strategy
- Robotic mitral repair: critical steps and pitfalls

09:40 – 10:00 | COFFEE BREAK

10:00 – 11:20 | PANEL II

Challenging Valve Cases: MAC, Redo, Endocarditis and the Decision to Convert

Moderators: Dr. Patrick Perier and Dr. Ergun Demirsoy

Faculty: Dr. Torsten Doenst; Dr. Tommaso Hina Danesi; Dr. Mario Castillo-Sang; Dr. Oleksandr Babliak; Dr. Gustavo Orellana and Dr. Lai Wei

Debate Topics:

- Severe MAC: repair, replace or avoid minimally invasive access
- Redo mitral and redo mitro-aortic strategies
- Endocarditis through limited access: when is it justified
- Failed repair: persist, revise or convert
- Complex combined procedures in experienced hands

Live-in-a-Box / Video Cases:

- Redo mitral with adhesions
- MAC case with stepwise decision-making
- Endoscopic valve exposure in hostile chest
- Bailout from failed repair to replacement
- Conversion strategy in complex valve surgery

11:20 – 12:20 | PANEL III

AF, Tricuspid & Adjunct Procedures: The Complete Valve Platform

Moderators: Dr. Javier Maldonado and Dr. Lai Wei

Faculty: Dr. Ergun Demirsoy; Dr. Frank Van Praet; Dr. Javier Gallego; Dr. Mario Castillo-Sang and Dr. Hristo Kirov

Debate Topics:

- Surgical AF ablation: current indications and durable benefit
- LAA closure: routine, selective or overused
- Endoscopic tricuspid repair: who really benefits
- Combined valve + AF + tricuspid procedures without losing reproducibility
- How far should we push complexity through limited access

Live-in-a-Box / Video Cases:

- Endoscopic tricuspid repair
- Surgical AF ablation set
- LAA closure techniques
- Combined mitral-tricuspid case through minimally invasive access

12:20 – 13:20 | LUNCH BREAK

13:20 – 14:40 | ECS CLUB LATAM WORKSHOP

14:40 – 16:00 | PANEL IV

Bailout Theater: Complications Nobody Likes to Show

Moderators: Dr. Torsten Doenst and Dr. Frank Van Praet

Faculty: Dr. Patrick Perier; Dr. Mario Castillo-Sang; Dr. Oleksandr Babliak; Dr. Hristo Kirov; Tommaso Hina Danesi and Dr. Ergun Demirsoy

Debate Topics:

- Bleeding under limited access
- Circumflex injury
- Inadequate exposure
- Failed repair and rescue strategy
- Cannulation trouble
- Conversion to sternotomy
- Robotic troubleshooting under pressure

Live-in-a-Box / Video Cases:

- Sudden bleeding during mitral repair
- Circumflex compromise after annuloplasty
- Exposure failure in redo valve surgery
- Cannulation complication and bailout sequence
- When conversion saves the case

16:00 – 16:20 | COFFEE BREAK

16:20 – 17:30 | PANEL V

Future of Valve Surgery: Robotics, AI, Imaging and Teleproctoring

Moderators: Dr. Javier Gallego and Dr. Lai Wei

Faculty: Dr. Frank Van Praet; Dr. Ergun Demirsoy; Dr. Torsten Doenst; Dr. Patrick Perier and Dr. Javier Maldonado

Debate Topics:

- Will robotic valve surgery expand beyond elite centers
- AI in procedural planning
- 3D imaging and digital rehearsal
- Teleproctoring and remote learning
- How video analytics may reshape the learning curve
- What valve surgery in LATAM could look like by 2030

17:30 – 18:00 | 3rd BRAZIL MICS AWARD CEREMONY

International Recognition & Best Valve Video Pearl

Moderators: Scientific Committee

Faculty: All invited faculty

Key Messages:

- Recognition of distinguished international faculty
- Best Valve Video Pearl
- Best Bailout Learning Point of the Day
- Preview of Day 2 final debate

DAY 2 - AUGUST 31 | CORONARY, ROBOTICS & ADVANCED ACCESS STRATEGIES

Evolves the original coronary/robotics structure into a more coherent pathway centered on multiarterial strategy, robotic coronary surgery, TCRAT, and high-performance program building.

08:00 – 09:20 | PANEL VI

Multiarterial Coronary MICS: BITA, Radial Extension and Hybrid Thinking

Moderators: Dr. Gustavo Orellana and Dr. Uthman Aluthman

Faculty: Dr. Frank Van Praet; Dr. Julio Moron; Dr. Sotirios Marinakis; Dr. Hristo Kirov and Dr. Javier Maldonado

Debate Topics:

- Why multiarterial strategy still matters in MICS
- Direct view versus endoscopic versus robotic BITA harvesting
- When radial extension adds real value
- Hybrid revascularization: ideal indication or overused concept
- How harvesting strategy changes the rest of the operation

Live-in-a-Box / Video Cases:

- Robotic BITA harvesting
- Endoscopic BITA harvesting
- Direct view BITA harvesting with radial extension
- Hybrid case planning in multivessel disease

09:20 – 10:40 | PANEL VII

TECAB & Robotic Coronary Surgery Without Filters

Moderators: Dr. Frank Van Praet and Dr. Sotirios Marinakis

Faculty: Dr. Uthman Aluthman; Dr. Ergun Demirsoy; Dr. Hristo Kirov; Dr. Javier Maldonado and Dr. Lai Wei

Debate Topics:

- RA-MIDCAB versus TECAB
- Learning curve in robotic coronary surgery
- Docking and OR choreography
- LIMA/BITA harvesting pearls
- Coronary anastomosis strategies
- When not to do robotic coronary surgery

Live-in-a-Box / Video Cases:

- Docking strategy and room setup
- LIMA harvest troubleshooting
- BITA robotic workflow
- Robotic coronary anastomosis sequence
- RA-MIDCAB bailout moments

10:40 – 11:00 | COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 12:20 | PANEL VIII

TCRAT and Complex Coronary Access: Beyond Standard MICS CABG

Moderators: Dr. Oleksandr Babliak and Dr. Torsten Doenst

Faculty: Dr. Gustavo Orellana; Dr. Julio Moron; Dr. Frank Van Praet; Dr. Javier Maldonado and Dr. Ergun Demirsoy

Debate Topics:

- TCRAT fundamentals and reproducibility
- Which patients benefit most from TCRAT
- Complex procedures through TCRAT access
- Diffuse LAD disease and sequential grafting
- Porcelain aorta and alternative strategy
- Beating-heart coronary surgery through limited access

Live-in-a-Box / Video Cases:

- Standard TCRAT setup
- Complex TCRAT exposure
- LAD strategy in difficult anatomy
- Sequential grafting through alternative access
- TCRAT bailout or conversion

12:20 – 13:20 | LUNCH BREAK

13:20 – 14:40 | PANEL IX

Building a High-Performance Coronary & Robotic Program

Moderators: Dr. Javier Gallego and Dr. Oleksandr Babliak

Faculty: Dr. Gustavo Orellana; Dr. Ergun Demirsoy; Dr. Javier Maldonado; Dr. Lai Wei and Dr. Uthman Aluthman

Debate Topics:

- First coronary MICS cases: how to start safely
- Robotic coronary adoption: realistic pathway for LATAM
- Perfusion and anesthesia in coronary MICS
- OR team design and coordination
- Metrics that matter
- How not to lose momentum after the first year

Workshop Topics:

- Training pathways after cadaver labs
- Institutional buy-in
- Referral strategy
- Outcomes tracking and benchmarking

14:40 – 16:00 | PANEL X

Masters Uncut: The Cases That Changed My Practice

Moderators: Dr. Patrick Perier; Dr. Ergun Demirsoy

Faculty: Dr. Tommaso Hina Danesi; Dr. Oleksandr Babliak; Dr. Mario Castillo-Sang; Dr. Javier Gallego; Dr. Javier Maldonado, Dr. Julio Moron and Dr. Lai Wei

Workshop Topics:

- 8-minute case story
- 1 technical turning point
- 1 decision that changed practice
- 1 mistake avoided today because of that experience

16:00 – 16:20 | COFFEE BREAK

16:20 – 18:00 | GRAND FINAL DEBATE

Robotic Cardiac Surgery in LATAM: Revolution, Reality or Regional Strategy?

Moderators: Dr. Milton de Miranda Santoro; Dr. Rodrigo Ribeiro de Souza

Faculty: Dr. Julio Moron; Dr. Tommaso Hina Danesi; Dr. Mario Castillo-Sang; Dr. Oleksandr Babliak; Dr. Ergun Demirsoy; Dr. Javier Maldonado; Dr. Lai Wei and Dr. Gustavo Orellana

Key Messages:

- Brazil MICS Video Library
- Brazil MICS Mentorship & Visiting Program
- Brazil MICS LATAM Outcomes Working Group

Debate Topics:

- What should LATAM adopt first: robotic mitral, robotic coronary or endoscopic platforms
- Is robotic surgery cost-effective only in high-volume centers
- What is scalable now and what remains aspirational
- Who will train the next generation in the region
- Can teleproctoring accelerate safe adoption
- What should Brazil MICS launch before the 4th edition