



ESNO CONGRESS 2026

4 - 6 JUNE ROME ITALY

**“Mutual Goals, Many Pathways: Unifying
Specialist Nursing Education Across Europe”**

Promoting harmonized general nurse qualifications as a requirement for specialist and advanced, and leadership roles in a modern European and global health workforce

www.esno-congress.eu/esno_rome_2026

FOREWORD

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the 8th ESNO Congress. We gather at a time when Europe's health systems are under immense pressure, stretched by demographic change, chronic diseases, and the growing complexity of care. Added to this are the persistent challenges of workforce shortages, economic constraints, and the scars left by recent crises. In this reality, one truth stands firm: the advancement and specialisation of nurses are not optional—they are essential.

The nursing profession is at the heart of Europe's healthcare solutions. Specialist and advanced practice nurses do not only provide care; they bring innovation, knowledge, and leadership that reshape entire systems. Whether through new models of chronic disease management, digital transformation, antimicrobial stewardship, or climate-conscious care, nurses are pioneering approaches that improve outcomes while ensuring sustainability. These innovations are not side notes—they are part of the core answer to Europe's health and economic challenges.

Recognition of these advanced roles is vital. By valuing the expertise of specialist nurses and embedding their innovations into national and European frameworks, we also address one of the greatest challenges of our time: retention. Nurses stay and thrive where their contributions are recognised, their autonomy respected, and their

professional development supported. In this way, nursing innovation not only strengthens care for patients but also builds stability and resilience in the health workforce itself.

This congress provides a platform to demonstrate that impact. Through our six thematic clusters, we will showcase science, clinical practice, and policy that highlight how nursing innovation improves care, supports systems, and contributes directly to economic sustainability. Our aim is clear: to position nursing specialisation at the centre of Europe's health strategies—not as an afterthought, but as a driving force for the future.

Together, let us use this congress to inspire, to connect, and to build momentum. By advancing and recognising nursing expertise, we invest not only in better health, but also in stronger, more stable, and more resilient healthcare systems for Europe.

Dr. Adriano Friganovic
ESNO president



A WARM WELCOME FROM THE HOSTING LOCATION



The Link Campus University Rome is delighted to host the ESNO congress and the participants, where tradition meets innovation in the heart of Rome. Our main campus, the historic Casale di San Pio V—commissioned in the 16th century by Pope Pius V and surrounded by green spaces—offers a setting of rare beauty. Here, history inspires learning, and modern facilities support both in-person and online study. With a strong international outlook, we work closely with universities around the world to encourage the exchange of lecturers and students. Our mission is to equip learners with the skills and knowledge to meet professional challenges, combining academic teaching with seminars, practical workshops, and small-group collaboration. At Link Campus University, we believe that a

stimulating environment is key to developing the abilities, insight, and confidence needed to succeed in a constantly changing world.

Maddalena de Maria
Nursing Associate Professor



“It is my great honour to welcome you to this historic city, where tradition and progress meet. This congress places a strong focus on the education of nurse specialists and advanced practice nurses, recognising that lifelong learning and continuing professional development are the foundation of excellence in our profession. Together, we aim to strengthen European recognition and harmonisation of education, ensuring that nurses across borders share common standards and opportunities.

May my home town Rome also inspire your learning, enrich your dialogue, and empower you to shape the future of nursing”.

Alessandro Stievano
ESNO vice president



GENERAL AIMS OF THE CONGRESS

INTRODUCTION

A team of ESNO nurse specialists and allied experts is building a programme rooted in today's healthcare realities – from ageing and vulnerability to preparedness, climate, digital health, antimicrobial resistance, and mental health. By weaving together science, practice, and policy, they are creating an agenda that showcases nursing innovation, leadership, and impact. The result will be a dynamic congress that inspires debate, sparks collaboration, and connects expertise across Europe.

SIX THEMATIC CLUSTERS

- 1 AGEING AND VULNERABILITY** Covering all aspects of ageing, chronic conditions, frailty, incontinence and palliative approaches, with a focus on person-centred, dignity-driven care that ensures value for patients and systems.
- 2 PREPAREDNESS IN HEALTH SYSTEMS** Including infection prevention, vaccination, outbreak response, and cross-border health collaboration, with nurses as pivotal actors in building resilient, value-driven health systems.
- 3 CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY** Exploring the nurse's contribution at the interdisciplinary level to reduce healthcare's environmental footprint, address climate-related health risks, and implement green, cost-effective practices.
- 4 DIGITAL HEALTH AND INNOVATION IN NURSING PRACTICE** Harnessing AI, telehealth, wearable technologies, and interoperable health records to enhance patient outcomes, optimise resource use, and strengthen digital competencies in value-based care delivery.
- 5 ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND RESPONSIBLE PHARMACOLOGY** Highlighting nurses' roles in antimicrobial stewardship, vaccination and education, safe prescribing practices -formal and informal- medication optimisation such as biosimilars, and optimum patient engagement, ensuring therapeutic high-value with evidence-based interventions.
- 6 MENTAL HEALTH, RESILIENCE, AND WORKFORCE WELLBEING** Focusing on mental health in both patients and healthcare professionals, addressing burnout, moral injury such as 'second victim', and strategies for sustainable, supportive working environments and patient safety as an essential foundation for delivering value-based care.

GENERAL AIMS OF THE CONGRESS

SPECIFIC AIMS

ANALYSE the developments of different forms of nursing specialisation in clinical practice within the European health ecosystem.

DEMONSTRATE the impact of nursing specialism and advanced levels in strengthening care for people with chronic diseases, disability, vulnerability, and frailty.

PRESENT studies and best practices that have influenced changes in clinical practice at the international level.

ELEVATING THE DIALOGUE: ENGAGING POLICY, REGULATORY, AND POLITICAL LEADERS

In parallel to the confirmed keynote speakers, the ESNO Congress is now entering the process of extending special invitations to high-level experts from European health policies, regulatory bodies, and the political domain. We are thrilled with the inspiring and diverse line-up of keynote speakers already confirmed, and these additional expert contributors will further elevate the depth and relevance of the programme.

Building on this strong foundation, we will invite distinguished voices from the broader European health policy landscape, as well as influential professionals from economics, management, education science, regulatory affairs, and other interdisciplinary fields. Their participation will enrich the conversation, offering fresh, high-level insights into the challenges and opportunities shaping healthcare in Europe today.

By connecting specialist nursing expertise with the wider strategic, social, and economic drivers of health, the Congress aims to ignite meaningful dialogue and bold ideas that reach far beyond our own profession.

More updates are coming soon, stay tuned for the announcement of these special contributors and other programme highlights.

SPEAKERS



Wendy Budin (USA)

Professor Wendy Budin is a distinguished nurse leader from Rutgers University in the US, recognised for her expertise in nursing education, practice, and research. She has contributed significantly to maternal health and women's health nursing, publishing widely and mentoring future generations of nurses, with a career dedicated to advancing professional development worldwide.



Susan Gennaro (USA)

Professor Susan Gennaro, from the USA, is an internationally recognised nurse scientist and educator. Her research has influenced maternal and child health, with a focus on vulnerable populations. She served as Dean of the Boston College William F. Connell School of Nursing and is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Nursing Scholarship an official journal of Sigma Theta Tau International.



Silvia Fung (China)

Professor Silvia Fung, a nurse leader from Hong Kong, has advanced practice nursing through her contributions in education, and clinical practice. She is recognised for building bridges between Eastern and Western nursing traditions. She is the President of the Hong Kong Academy of Nursing and is widely respected worldwide.



Siobhan O'Connor (UK)

Siobhan O'Connor is a nurse academic with expertise in digital health and informatics. She has worked across nursing practice, research, and education in the UK and internationally. Her work focuses on integrating technology into healthcare to enhance patient care, nursing practice, and workforce development in an evolving health ecosystem.

SPEAKERS



Jackie Rowles (USA)

Professor Jackie Rowles is an advanced practice nurse and global leader in pain management, serving with the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists (IFNA). She has championed nurse anaesthesia education and regulation, expanding professional roles worldwide. Her advocacy focuses on safe, accessible anaesthesia care and advancing global standards in nurse practice



Jasper Tolarba (USA)

Professor Jasper Tolarba is an influential figure in international nursing education and leadership. With a background in accreditation and global programme development, he strengthens academic standards and cross-border collaboration. His work fosters quality in nursing education and supports professional mobility, contributing to global healthcare workforce sustainability.



Annamaria Bagnasco (Italy)

Annamaria Bagnasco, PhD, is a professor at the University of Genoa, Italy, specialising in nursing science, education, and healthcare research. Her work focuses on advancing evidence-based practice, professional development, and patient-centred care. Annamaria actively contributes to European research networks, fostering innovation in nursing education and strengthening the role of nurses in improving health outcomes across diverse settings.



Anne Marie Mauro

Dr. Mauro is a national expert in the health professions with a strong background in academic and administrative leadership. As former Dean of Nursing and Health Studies at Monmouth University, she led major accreditation efforts and established a simulation lab. She is currently Director of the Nursing Education Program and a visiting professor at Teachers College, Columbia University. A fellow of several leading professional academies, she also served as president of the Eastern Nursing Research Society and held national governance roles in nursing science and education.

SPEAKERS



Annemarie Bergsma (The Netherlands)

Annemarie Bergsma is a nursing expert specialising in environmental health and sustainability in healthcare. She works at the intersection of nursing practice, ecological responsibility, and policy, promoting sustainable workplaces and climate-conscious care. Active in European programmes, Annemarie advocates for reducing healthcare's environmental footprint and empowers nurses to lead on green innovation, waste reduction, and sustainable health system transformation.



Christine (Garcia) Pabico (USA)

Christine Garcia Pabico, PhD, RN, NE-BC, FAAN, is Director of the Pathway to Excellence program at the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). With more than 25 years of leadership experience, she is board-certified as a Nurse Executive and has dedicated her career to fostering positive practice environments, advancing clinician well-being, and building high-reliability organisations. Beyond her ANCC role, she serves as President-Elect of the Philippine Nurses Association of Metro DC, contributes to leadership development programs, and remains active in professional and community initiatives that strengthen nursing practice and workforce sustainability.



Isabelle Uchmanowicz (Poland)

She is a Professor at Wroclaw Medical University, where she contributes actively to the academic community, and also serves as Chief Nurse at the Institute of Heart Diseases at Wroclaw University Hospital in Poland, placing her at the forefront of cardiology practice. Professor Uchmanowicz's research focuses on heart failure, particularly on patient self-care and medication adherence as key factors in disease management. She also dedicates significant attention to the needs of older adults with cardiovascular disorders, aiming to improve their quality of life through targeted research.



Rosaria Alvaro (Italy)

She is Full Professor of Nursing Science at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy, and a leading figure in academic nursing. She is widely recognised for her work in nursing education, health systems, patient safety, and quality of care. Professor Alvaro has held numerous national and international leadership roles and has contributed extensively to scientific literature. She is actively involved in policy development, curriculum design, and the advancement of advanced nursing practice, strengthening the scientific foundations and societal impact of the nursing profession.

GENERIC PROGRAM

ESNO HACKATHON - THURSDAY 4TH JUNE 2026

The ESNO Congress will once again open with a dynamic hackathon, setting the stage for dialogue, creativity, and fresh thinking. By addressing today's most pressing health challenges, the hackathon acts as a catalyst, generating ideas and interconnections that energise the congress and its formal programme. These outcomes will directly inspire debates, workshops, and collaborations during the main event. The full programme and topics will be launched at the end of this year—stay tuned for an engaging and forward-looking agenda that places nurses at the centre of shaping healthcare's future.

ESNO CONGRESS – DAY 1 - FRIDAY - 5TH JUNE 2026

Nursing and clinical evidence: future developments in uncertain times

08.00 - 08.45	Registration
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PLENARY SESSION - Moderators: Adriano Friganovic Alessandro Stievano

08.45 - 09.00	Official Greetings
09.00 - 09.20	Key note - Leadership in Nursing - Susan Gennaro
09.20 - 09.40	Key Note - European Health Policies for Specialist Nurses - Ber Oomen
09.40 - 10.00	Key Note - Global Health and Nursing specialties - Jackie Rowles
10.00 - 10.20	Key Note - European Nurses Advanced Role in the USA - Wendy Budin
10.20 - 11.00	Discussion with participants and speakers
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee Break

PARALLEL SESSIONS

11.30 - 13.00	Approximately 45 presentations and workshops, 1 workshop on vaccines, 1 nurse Mobility
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch break
13.00 - 14.00	Posters Presentations and Sponsors exhibition
14.00 - 16.00	Presentations and workshops, one hour on 'Nursing and digital innovation'

PLENARY SESSION

14.00 - 16.30	Nurses in Climate Change and Sustainability
17:00	Closing remarks
19.00 - 22.00	Gala Dinner - Including Fellow Award Ceremony

GENERIC PROGRAM

ESNO CONGRESS – DAY 2 - SATURDAY - 6TH JUNE 2026

‘Nursing and clinical evidence: which future developments and preparedness’

08.00 - 09.00 Registration and welcome

PARALLEL SESSIONS

09.00 - 09.15	Clinical evidence in healthcare: science and artificial intelligence - S.O'Connor
09.15 - 09.30	The climate and the nursing contribution - A. Bergsma
09.30 - 09:45	Nursing and the pharmaceutical domain, example the communication, education, and prescribing domain - D. Lehwaldt
09:45 - 10:00	Specialization in Cardio Vascular Nursing - Isabella Uchmanowicz
10.00 - 10.15	Nurse Specialists evolution Hong-Kong - Sylvia Fung
10.15 - 11:00	Discussion with participants
11.00 -11.30	Coffee break

PARALLEL SESSIONS

11.30 - 13.00	Presentations and Workshops
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch break
13.00 - 14.00	Posters Presentations and Sponsors exhibition
14.00 - 16.00	Presentations and Workshops

PLENARY SESSION

14.00 - 16.30	Advanced Nursing and specialisation around the globe
16:30	Closing remarks

CONGRESS TEAM

MODERATORS TEAM

The Moderators' Team for the ESNO Congress will soon be revealed! More than just guiding the sessions, these moderators are skilled facilitators who ensure that every voice is heard and every discussion stays vibrant and on point. Drawn from diverse backgrounds, they represent nursing expertise alongside perspectives from policy, management, and science. Together, they will create the space where dialogue flows, ideas connect, and the congress experience becomes dynamic, interactive, and truly engaging.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

This committed team of nurse specialists and allied experts is at the heart of building the congress, weaving science, practice, and policy into a coherent and inspiring agenda. In close collaboration with our members and partners, the committee is carefully selecting topics, shaping sessions, and ensuring a balanced mix of perspectives. Their efforts will deliver a programme that is dynamic, relevant, and firmly rooted in the realities of healthcare today.

MEMBERS SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Adriano Friganovic	Tihana Gaspert
Alessandro Stievano	Laura Iacoross
Rosario Caruso (chair)	Arianna Magon
Maddalena de Maria (chair)	Corinne Scicluna
Patricia Burga	Ber Oomen
Sara Carrodano	Panagiotta Tsikala
Kristian Civka	Vedrana Vejzovic
Joséfine Declaye	

CONGRESS LEAD

Adriano Friganovic
Alessandro Stievano
Ber Oomen

CONTACT

secretariat@esno.org

ABSTRACT POSTER EXHIBITION

SPECIAL SESSION: POSTER ABSTRACTS EXHIBITION - WHERE ACHIEVEMENTS COME TO LIFE

In this vibrant exhibition, abstracts come alive—showcasing solutions that move beyond theory into tangible achievements ready to transform healthcare. Each poster is a beacon of inspiration, aligned with one or more of the congress clusters, and invites you to explore, connect, and envision a future where innovation seamlessly transcends borders.

WHAT TO ANTICIPATE:

- **Inspirational Achievements** - Posters present proven solutions, demonstrating the transformative power of nursing innovation and sparking new ideas.
- **Global Impact** - Discover how achievements can be implemented and adapted across European and global contexts, building a shared healthcare future
- **Complement to Verbal Presentations** - Posters expand on sessions, offering a broader view of the diverse approaches driving healthcare forward
- **Interactive Networking** - Meet presenters, exchange insights, and explore opportunities for collaboration and dialogue.
- **Innovation Hub** - A dynamic forum where creativity becomes action, nurturing ideas into strategies that can reshape healthcare.

At the Poster Abstracts Exhibition, achievements meet their audience, connections find purpose, and innovation finds its home—a living testament to our collective dedication to healthcare excellence. The best three posters will have a free entrance fee for the ESNO congress 2027.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

- Opens: 1st- November 2025, Closes: 1st of April 2026
- Acceptance Notification: 15 April 2026
- Link : <https://project-redcap.unimi.it/redcap/surveys/?s=CPHJL4TYXP9XCYP3>
- Contact on 'abstracts': congress@esno.org



CONGRESS MANAGEMENT

- Iviaggidelperigeo www.iviaggidelperigeo.it
- Contacts: elena@iviaggidelperigeo.it and secretariat@esno.org

HOTEL

- NH roma Villa Carpegna - Via Pio IV, 6, 00165, Rome Italy

REGISTRATION LINK

- <https://tally.so/r/jaD6vJ>
- Invitation letters: If you need an invitation letter for visa application, contact I Viaggi del Perigeo: elena@iviaggidelperigeo.it

CONGRESS FEE

EARLY BIRD

- From 1 December 2025 to 30 April 2026
- Basic package: Attendance at the congress € 290,00
For AllIAO members the registration fee is € 190,00

FULL FEE

- From 30 April to the 4th of June € 345,00

STUDENT

- Bachelor status € 80,00

STUDENT

- Master's degree and/or PhD status € 120,00

GOLD PACKAGE

- Hotel NH Roma Villa Carpegna
- Congress Fee Gala Dinner
- Visit To Rome (Musei Vaticani and Cappella Sistina)
€ 990,00

GALA DINNER € 90

OTHER ASPECTS

- **Certification of Attendance** - All participants will receive an official certificate, recognising their engagement in the ESNO Congress.
- **MedTech Compliance** - Application for MedTech Europe approval is being processed to ensure transparency and compliance with industry standards.
- **Professional Photography** - A dedicated photographer will be on site to capture key moments, sessions, and networking opportunities.
- **High-Quality Experience** - The congress is designed to provide accredited learning, professional recognition, and memorable highlights for all participants.
- **Sponsorship Opportunities** - The ESNO Congress sponsor package will be available soon, offering partners a chance to connect, showcase.

ENDORISING ORGANISATIONS



ESNO MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

ESNO MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

ACOVENE - Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

EANN - European Association Neuroscience Nurses

EAUN - European Association of Urology Nurses

EDTNA/ERCA - European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association / European Renal Care Association

EfCCNa - European federation of Critical Care Nursing associations

ENDA - European Nurse Directors Association

EORNA - European Operating Room Nurses Association

ESGENA - European Society of Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Nurses and Associate

EuSEN - European Society for Emergency Nursing

EWMA - European Wound Management Association

FEND - Foundation of European Nurses in Diabetes

FINE - European federation of Educators in Nursing Science

ICANA - International Council of Anthroposophic Nursing Associations

ICRN - International Coalition Respiratory Nurses

IFNA - International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists

ESNO MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

ESNO ORGANISATIONAL ASSOCIATES

- AEEMC** - Specialist Nurses in Medical Surgical Nursing Portugal
- AICO** - Italian Association Operation Room Nurses
- AIIO** - Italian Association of Oncology Nurses
- ISLeC** - Italian Nursing Association for the Study of Skin Lesions
- ANIMO** - Italian Association of Medical Nurses
- ANIPIO** - National Society Infection Control Nurses - Italy
- APER** - Portuguese Association of Nurses Specialized in Rehabilitation
- BFHBOV** - The Belgium Federation of Advance Nurses
- CNNF** - Croatian National Nursing Federation
- CNSARICT** - Croatian Nursing Society of Anesthesia, Reanimation, Intensive Care and Transfusion
- Eng4Nurse** - English for Nurses
- ESHRE** - European Society of Human Reproduction
- ESKULAP** - Association of health workers and associates of the republic of Serbia
- GONS** - Georgian Oncology Nursing society
- GORNA** - Greek Operating Room Nurses Association
- IMI24 NETWORK ETS** - Italian Association of Infectious Diseases Nurses
- NVAM** - Dutch Association for Nurses in Anesthesia
- PTPAIO** - Polish Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Nurses
- SIAN-ETS** - Society of Nephrology Area Nurses
- SIJET** - Società Italiana Infermieri dell'Emergenza
- SK-SaPA** - Slovak Chamber of Nurses and Midwives
- SOWADO** - Social Welfare and Agricultural Development Organization Somalia
- TPNA** - Turkish Psychiatric Nurses Association, Turkey
- UISH** - Albanian Order of Nurses
- V&VN** - National Nursing Association Netherlands
- VMSB** - Higher Medical School Macedonia
- ZA NAS** - Association of nurses, technicians, midwives and dental nurses

CONGRESS VENUE

Link Campus University

Via del Casale di S. Pio V, 44, 00165 Roma RM





ABOUT ESNO

The European Specialist Nurses Organisation (ESNO) is a non-profit organisation and the goal is to facilitate and provide an effective framework for communication and co-operation between the European Specialist Nurses Organisations and its constituent members. ESNO represents the mutual interests and benefits of these organisations to the wider European community in the interest of the public health. Members of ESNO consist of individual European specialist nurses organizations.

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