



**Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia 2026**  
[www.CDH2026.org](http://www.CDH2026.org)

**Bi-annual meeting of the Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Study Group  
 in collaboration with European Reference Network “ERNICA”**

**Leuven, Belgium**  
**Monday 13 April – Wednesday 15 April 2026**

**Outline of program with confirmed invited speakers**

**Changes will be made in function of efficient time use and confirmation of abstract presentation**

	<b>Monday 13 April 2026</b>	<b>Tuesday 14 April 2026</b>	<b>Wednesday 15 April 2026</b>
8:00-10:00	Plenary 1 <b>Neonatal management 1</b>	Plenary 4 <b>Antenatal management</b>	Plenary 7 <b>Neonatal Management 2</b>
10:00-10:30	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
10:30-12:30	Plenary 2 <b>Surgery</b>	Plenary 5 <b>Genetics</b>	Plenary 8 <b>Prognosis &amp; long term outcome</b>
12:30-13:30	Lunch break	Lunch break	End of meeting
13:30- 15:30	Plenary 3 <b>Basic Science</b>	Plenary 6: <b>Patients, Parents &amp; Lived Experiences</b>	Post congress ERN ERNICA parallel courses  Fetal assessment of CDH  Surgical repair of CDH
15:30-16:00	Coffee break	Coffee break	
16:00-17:30	Parallel short oral presentations  1. Antenatal Management 2. Neonatal Management 3 Prognosis & Long term 4. Patients, Parents, Lived Exper	Parallel short oral presentations  5. Basic Science 6. Surgery 7. Neonatal Management 8. Miscellaneous	
17:30-17:45	Short break	Short break	
17:45-18:45	Parallel Workshops 1. Escape Room 2.TBD  Oral poster presentations 1. Antenatal/Basic Science 2. Surgery	Parallel Workshops 3.Cardiac assessment 4. Patient Advocacy Groups Oral poster presentations 3. Neonatal 4. Prognosis	
	<b>19:00</b> reception and walking dinner	<b>19:30</b> Gala Dinner (for registrants)	

**Summary of time use**

<b>8:00 – 15:30: Plenary sessions</b>	<b>16:00- 17:30: Parallel sessions</b>	<b>17:45 – 18:45: Parallel session</b>
<b>37</b> invited lectures (15 min), long oral abstract presentations 10 min incl Q&A	<b>13</b> invited lectures (15 min) Short oral presentations 8 min incl Q&A	Parallel small group workshops Oral poster presentations 4 min incl Q&A
<b>Daily : Digital poster presentations</b> <b>10:00-10:30, 12:30-13:30 and 15:30 -16:00</b>		
<b>67 Digital Poster on Display</b>		

## Plenary Presentation Sessions:

Monday April 13th		
<b>8.00 u.</b>	<b>Plenary 1 Neonatal Management</b>	<b>Patel/Debeer</b>
8:00 u.	<i>Opening words</i>	TBD
8:10 u.	<i>Neonatal transition in CDH: pathophysiology insights</i>	Crossley, Kelly
8:25 u.	<i>PINC trial</i>	DeKoninck, Philip
8:40 u.	<i>CHIC trial</i>	Mur, Sébastien
8:55 u.	<i>Pannel discussion</i>	All, plus chairs
9:10 u.	<b>5 long oral abstract presentations of 10 min</b>	
9:30 u.	<b>Coffee Break (30 min)</b>	
<b>10.30 u.</b>	<b>Plenary 2 Surgery</b>	<b>Harting/Rygl</b>
10:30 u.	<i>Refining timing of surgery: a pathophysiological approach</i>	Patel, Neil
10:45 u.	<i>Timing of neonatal surgery</i>	Mychaliska, George
11:00 u.	<i>Thoracoscopic repair in high risk CDH</i>	De Coppi, Paolo
11:15 u.	<i>Open repair in high risk CDH</i>	Zani, Augusto
11:30 u.	<i>Debate</i>	All, plus chairs
11:45 u.	<b>4 long oral abstract presentations of 10 min</b>	
<b>12.30 u.</b>	<b>Lunch (60 min)</b>	
<b>13.30 u.</b>	<b>Plenary 3 Basic Science</b>	<b>Russo/Zani</b>
13:30 u.	<i>Regenerative Medicine Solutions for CDH</i>	De Coppi, Paolo
13:45 u.	<i>Beyond Genes: Non-Coding RNAs as Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets in CDH</i>	Keijzer, Richard
14:00 u.	<i>Inflammation in CDH</i>	Wagner, Richard
14:15 u.	<i>Duration of tracheal occlusion</i>	TBD
14:30 u.	<i>Developing Brain: Hypoxic Injury and Impaired Neurogenesis Using nanoparticles for prenatal therapy in CDH and a placenta/lung-on-a-chip model for CDH</i>	Zani, Augusto
14:45 u.		Labouta, Hagar
14:55 u.	<b>3 long oral abstract presentations of 10 min</b>	
<b>15.30 u.</b>	<b>Coffee Break (30 min)</b>	
Tuesday April 14th		
<b>8.00 u.</b>	<b>Plenary 4 Antenatal Management</b>	<b>Devlieger/Attilakos</b>
8:15 u.	<i>The journey of tracheal occlusion</i>	Deprest, Jan
8:30 u.	<i>5 year's outcome after FETO</i>	Lenclen, Clara
8:45 u.	<i>SMART Balloon first 100 cases experience</i>	Benachi, Alexandra
9:00 u.	<i>FETO therapy not covered by health insurance in the Netherlands</i>	Meijer, Frank
9:10 u.	<b>6 long oral abstract presentations of 10 min</b>	
10:00 u.	<b>Coffee break (30 min)</b>	
<b>10.30 u.</b>	<b>Plenary 5 Genetics</b>	<b>Breckpot/</b>
10:30 u.	<i>Should exome sequencing be offered in fetuses with congenital diaphragmatic hernia?</i>	Chitty, Lyn
10:45 u.	<i>Genomics of CDH</i>	Wild, Taylor
11:00 u.	<i>NAVA or de novo variants</i>	McCulley, David
11:15 u.	<i>Pannel discussion</i>	All
11:30 u.	<b>6 long oral abstract presentations of 10 min</b>	
<b>12.30 u.</b>	<b>Lunch (60 min)</b>	
<b>13.30 u.</b>	<b>Plenary 6 Patients, Parents and Lived Experiences</b>	<b>Proesmans/Cauvet</b>
13:30 u.	<i>Patient &amp; family experience</i>	Puligandla, Pramod
13:45 u.	<i>CDH follow up program</i>	Herkert, Lisa
14:00 u.	<i>I had CDH and now I want to have a baby</i>	Harting, Matthew
14:15 u.	<i>Psychological impact fetal diagnosis</i>	Crombag, Neeltje
14:30 u.	<i>Consequences of anxiety and stress during pregnancy</i>	Devlieger, Roland
14:45 u.	<i>Resilience program for expectant parents and families affected by CDH</i>	Van Gils, Edith

15.00 u.	<i>Young, hip, and CDH: what concerns do young adults born with CDH have, and what care do they need?</i>	Meijer, Frank
15.15 u.	<i>CDH and Autism Spectrum Disorder</i>	Power, Beverley

**15.30 u. Coffee break (30 min)**

**Wednesday April 15h**

08.00 u.	<b>Plenary 7 Neonatal Management 2</b>	<b>Tibboel/Rintoul</b>
8.00 u.	<i>ECMO debate: the argument pro</i>	Kipfmüller, Florian
8.15 u.	<i>ECMO debate: the argument against</i>	Yoder, Bradley
8.30 u.	<i>ECMO pannel discussion</i>	Tibboel, Dick
8.45 u.	<i>Role of echocardiography in CDH</i>	Altit, Gabriel
9.00 u.	<i>Proposal for a consensus definition of pulmonary hypertension in COS</i>	Patel, Neil
9.15 u.	<i>Discussion on pulmonary hypertension</i>	Patel & Chairs
9.25 u.	<b>3 long oral abstract presentations of 10 min</b>	
10.00 u.		

**10.00 u. Coffee break (30 min)**

10.30 u.	<b>Plenary 8 Prognosis and Long Term</b>	<b>Harting/Rayyan</b>
10.30 u.	<i>There is no single natural history: validation of algorithm (invited)</i>	Russo, Francesca
10.40 u.	<i>There is no single natural history: Japan (abstract)</i>	Arai, Tomohiro
10.48 u.	<i>There is no single natural history: USA (abstract)</i>	Danzer, Enrico
10.56 u.	<i>Discussion</i>	Harting/Rayyan
11.05 u.	<i>The future of risk prediction</i>	Jancelewicz, Tim
11.20 u.	<b>7 long oral abstract presentations of 10 min</b>	
12:00 u.	<b>end</b>	

**Parallel Presentation Sessions & Workshops**

**Monday April 13th**

16.00 u.	<b>Parallel Abstract Session 1 Antenatal Management</b>	<b>Benachi/Krofta</b>
16.00 u.	<i>AI at work in fetal lung assessment: how does it work ?</i>	Uus, Alena
16.15 u.	<i>The value of AI in lung assessment in fetuses with CDH</i>	Aertsen, Michael
16.30 u.	<i>Antenatal imaging: comparison ultrasound and magnetic resonance</i>	Ketwaroo, Pam
16.45 u.	<i>Discussion</i>	All, plus chairs
16:55u.	<b>4 short oral abstract presentations 8 min</b>	
	End: 17 30	
16.00 u.	<b>Parallel Abstract Session 2 Neonatal Management</b>	<b>Kipfmüller/Debeer</b>
16.00 u.	<i>Non-invasive ventilation</i>	Panitch, Howard
16.15 u.	<i>A.I. integration of clinical data in practice</i>	Reynolds, Thomas
16.15 u.	<b>7 short oral abstract presentations 8 min</b>	
	End: 17 30	
16.00 u.	<b>Parallel Abstract Session 3 Prognosis &amp; Long term</b>	<b>Proesmans/Storme</b>
16.00 u.	<i>Spinal deformations</i>	Nectoux, Eric
16.15 u.	<i>Chest wall deformities</i>	Andrew, James
16.30 u.	<i>Neurodevelopment in CDH - lessons learned from institutional cohort studies</i>	Danzer, Enrico
16.45 u.	<i>CDH with CHD... it sounds bad, but is it?</i>	Harting, Matthew
17.00 u.	<b>4 short oral abstract presentations 8 min</b>	
	End: 17 30	
16.00 u.	<b>Parallel Abstract Session 4 Patients, Parents and Lived Experiences</b>	<b>Cauvet/Power</b>
16.15 u.	<i>Feeding strategies</i>	Morini, Francesco
	<b>9 short oral abstract presentations 8 min</b>	
	End: 17 30	
17.30 u.	<b>Break</b>	

<b>Tuesday April 14th</b>		
<b>16.00 u.</b>	<b>Parallel Abstract Session 5 Basic Science</b>	<b>Zani/Keijzer</b>
16.00 u.	<i>Liquid Ventilation : back from never gone</i>	<i>Mychaliska, George</i>
16.07 u.	<i>Liquid Ventilation : back from never gone</i>	<i>Partridge, Emily</i>
16.14 u.	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>All, plus chairs</i>
16.19 u.	<i>Amniotic fluid derived organoids as models for (congenital malformations, including) CDH</i>	<i>Gerli, Mattia</i>
16.34u.	<b>7 short oral abstract presentations 8 min</b>	
<b>16.00 u.</b>	<b>Parallel Abstract Session 6 Surgery</b>	<b>De Coppi/Van Veer</b>
16.00 u.	<i>Muscle flap repair</i>	<i>Liechty, Ken</i>
16.15 u.	<i>Purpose and reconciliation of parallel prospective registries</i>	<i>Wijnen, René</i>
	<b>8short oral abstract presentations 8 min</b>	
	End: 17 30	
<b>16.00 u.</b>	<b>Parallel Abstract Session 7 Neonatal Management</b>	<b>Van Heijst/Patel</b>
16.00 u.	<i>Delivery room of the future - CDH resuscitation</i>	<i>Rintoul, Natalie</i>
<b>16:10</b>	<b>10 short oral abstract presentations 8 min</b>	
	End: 17 30	
<b>16.00 u.</b>	<b>Parallel Abstract Session 8 Miscellaneous</b>	<b>TBD</b>
	<b>10 short oral abstract presentations 8 min</b>	
	End: 17 30	
<b>17.30 u.</b>	<b>Break</b>	

### Parallel workshops and oral poster presentations

<b>17:30 Monday April 13th, 2026</b>		
60 min	<i>Workshop 1: Neonatal Escape Room</i>	<i>Rintoul, Natalie</i>
60 min	<i>Workshop 2: TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
60 min	<b>Oral Poster presentation 1: 15 presentations (antenatal/basic science)</b>	
60 min	<b>Oral Poster presentation 2: 15 presentations (surgery)</b>	
<b>17:30 Tuesday April 14th, 2026</b>		
60 min	<i>Workshop 3: Cardiac assessment of the neonate</i>	<i>Patel, Neil</i>
60 min	<i>Workshop 4: Patient advocacy groups</i>	<i>Meijer F &amp; Power B</i>
60 min	<b>Oral Poster presentation 3: 15 presentations (neonatal)</b>	
60 min	<b>Oral Poster presentation 4: 15 presentations (prognosis/long term)</b>	
<b>Post congress workshops</b>		<b>By ERNICA</b>
<b>14:00 Wednesday April 15th, 2026</b>		
120 min	<i>Workshop 9: Surgical repair of diaphragmatic hernia</i>	<i>Zahn, Mesas-Burgos &amp; Wijnen</i>
180 min	<i>Workshop 10: Antenatal assessment of fetus with CDH</i>	<i>Benachi A &amp; Russo F</i>