



STEPS 2026

TEACHING SEMINAR

under the auspices of
European Paediatric Surgeons' Association (EUPSA)

TECHNIQUES AND OUTCOMES IN THORACIC SURGERY



Ospedale dei Bambini
Vittore Buzzi

Sistema Socio Sanitario



Regione
Lombardia

ASST Fatebenefratelli Sacco



PROGRAM



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO

LA STATALE
PEDIATRIC CLINICAL
RESEARCH CENTER



FONDAZIONE ROMEO
ED ENRICA INVERNIZZI

16-17 October, 2026

Milan, Italy

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to invite you to the 2026 STEPS (Strategies & Trends in European Pediatric Surgery) Seminar which will be held under the auspices of European Pediatric Surgeons Association (EUPSA) in Milan on 16-17 October 2026.

The 2026 teaching seminar will be an Experts Forum on “Techniques and outcomes in thoracic surgery”. Experts have been invited to deliver State-of-the-Art lectures and compare their experiences in management. The experts forum will include debates with expert opinions and views.

The University of Milan, officially abbreviated as UniMi, or colloquially referred to as La Statale, is a public research university in Milan, Italy. It is one of the largest universities in Europe, with 64,878 students and a permanent teaching and research staff of 2,566 as of 2025.

Milan, a metropolis in Italy's northern Lombardy region, is a global capital of fashion and design. Home to the national stock exchange, it's a financial hub also known for its high-end restaurants and shops. The Gothic Duomo di Milano cathedral and the Santa Maria delle Grazie convent, housing Leonardo da Vinci's mural “The Last Supper,” testify to centuries of art and culture.

Milan is well known for its world-class restaurants and cafés, characterised by innovative cuisine and design. Milan has 157 Michelin-selected places and is a great place to enjoy the fashion and cultural history of the country along with several social events on offer during Autumn 2026.

Our co-host Prof. Gloria Pelizzo and her team as well as the organizing team of STEPS welcome your participation to Milan for STEPS 2026.

Amulya K. Saxena
STEPS Organizer

Experts Forum Topics

- Diaphragmatic hernia and fetal approaches and outcomes
- Long term outcomes after diaphragmatic hernia repairs
- Patch repairs for large defects in congenital diaphragmatic hernia
- Diaphragm palsy and eventration surgical outcomes
- Thoracoscopic procedures for congenital pulmonary airway malformations
- Challenging lung resections in collagenopathies
- Results of transcriptomics profiles of congenital pulmonary airway malformation
- Esophageal atresia and tracheoesophageal fistula thoracoscopic repairs
- Esophageal replacement – outcomes of endoscopic surgical procedures
- Surgical management of bronchogenic cysts
- Long-term functional imaging by ultrasound, fluoroscopy, dynamic MRI
- Multidisciplinary pathways with pulmonology and physiotherapy
- Chest wall deformities and treatment: where do we stand?
- Postoperative residual thoracic space after lobectomy or decortication
- Chylothorax after thoracic surgery- management and outcomes
- Anesthesiologic and cardiology challenges in thoracic pathologies

Scientific Faculty

Amulya Saxena	<i>London, United Kingdom</i>
Andrea Farolfi	<i>Milan, Italy</i>
Andrea Manzotti	<i>Milan, Italy</i>
Arnaud Bonnard	<i>Paris, France</i>
Ernesto Leva	<i>Milan, Italy</i>
Francesco Macchini	<i>Milan, Italy</i>
Gloria Pelizzo	<i>Milan, Italy</i>
Hiroyuki Koga	<i>Tokyo, Japan</i>
Luca Colombo	<i>Milan, Italy</i>
Michele Torre	<i>Genova, Italy</i>
Salvatore Zirpoli	<i>Milan, Italy</i>
Sara Costanzo	<i>Milan, Italy</i>
Sundeep Keswani	<i>Houston, United States</i>
Timothy Lee	<i>Houston, United States</i>



08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:05 Welcome address Amulya Saxena and Gloria Pelizzo

SESSION- I Moderator: Amulya Saxena

09:05-09:30 Fetoscopic Endoluminal Tracheal Occlusion: survival, pulmonary hypertension, and the limits of response
Timoty Lee, *Houston, United States*

09:30-10:00 ECMO in congenital diaphragmatic hernia
Sundeeep Keswani, *Houston, United States*

10:00-10:30 Thoracoscopic repair of congenital diaphragmatic hernia
Hiroyuki Koga, *Tokyo, Japan*

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

SESSION-II Moderator: Gloria Pelizzo

11:00-11:30 Patch repairs in congenital diaphragmatic hernia
Amulya Saxena, *London, United Kingdom*

11:30-12:00 Long-term respiratory outcomes after congenital diaphragmatic hernia repair
Andrea Farolfi, *Milan, Italy*

12:30-13:00 Diaphragmatic eventration and palsy: outcomes in adult age
Françoise Le Pimpec-Barthes, *Paris, France*

13:00-14:00 Lunch break



SESSION- III Moderator: Ernesto Leva

14:00-14:30 Anesthetic challenges in pediatric thoracoscopic surgery: ventilation, CO₂ insufflation and perioperative safety
Elena Zoia, *Milan, Italy*

14:30-15:00 Thoracoscopic approaches in pediatric spinal deformity surgery: techniques and outcomes
Luca Colombo, *Milan, Italy*

15:00-15:30 Additive manufacturing and tissue-mimicking technologies for neonatal thoracoscopic training models: systematic review
Zahradníková P, Babala J, Aitor T-O, Klin S, Hudák R, *Bratislava, Slovakia; Bilbao, Spain; Košice, Slovakia*

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

SESSION- IV Moderator: Francesco Macchini

16:00-16:30 Functional Recovery after Pediatric Thoracic Surgery: Chest Wall Mechanics, Posture and Rehabilitation
Andrea Manzotti, *Milan, Italy*

16:30-17:00 Long-term functional imaging after pediatric thoracic surgery: ultrasound, fluoroscopy and dynamic MRI
Caterina Monti, *Cambridge, United Kingdom*

17:00-17:30 Chest wall deformities in children: where do we stand? Current techniques and outcomes
Michele Torre, *Genoa, Italy*

20:00 STEPS Dinner



08:30-09:00 Registration

SESSION- V Moderator: Sundeep Keswani

- 09:00-09:30 Thoracoscopic repair of esophageal atresia
Hiroyuki Koga, *Tokyo, Japan*
- 09:30-10:00 Outcomes after thoracoscopic esophageal atresia repairs
Amulya Saxena, *London, United Kingdom*
- 10:00-10:30 Tracheoesophageal fistula repair: technical pitfalls and management of complications and outcomes
Francesco Macchini, *Milan, Italy*

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

SESSION-VI Moderator: Hiroyuki Koga

- 11:00-11:30 Long-gap esophageal atresia: native esophagus preservation, replacement strategies and outcomes
Ernesto Leva, *Milan, Italy*
- 11:30-12:00 Age- and sex-related thoracoabdominal patterns: fundamentals for Pediatric Surgeons
Gloria Pelizzo, *Milan, Italy*
- 12:30-13:00 Tailored approach for congenital tracheal stenosis
Michele Torre, *Genoa, Italy*

13:00-14:00 Lunch break



SESSION- VII Moderator: Tim Lee

- 14:00-14:30 Transcriptomic profiling of congenital pulmonary airway malformations: molecular findings to clinical decision-making
Irene Paraboschi, *Milan, Italy*
- 14:30-15:00 Virtual reality–guided pediatric thoracoscopy: patient-specific planning, surgical decision-making and training
Gloria Pelizzo, *Milan, Italy*
- 15:00-15:30 Lobectomy versus lung-sparing resection for congenital lung malformations: indications and outcomes
Sara Costanzo, *Milan, Italy*

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

SESSION- VIII Moderator: Michele Torre

- 16:00-16:30 Surgical techniques in congenital lung malformations: EXIT procedures, urgent neonatal lobectomy and infant thoroscopic resections
Sundeep Keswani, *Houston, United States*
- 16:30-17:00 Thoracoscopic pulmonary resections in children
Arnaud Bonnard, *Paris France*
- 17:00-17:30 Asymptomatic congenital lung malformations: resection versus observation — outcomes, timing, and case for early surgery
Timothy Lee, *Houston, United States*

17:30 Closing remarks/ End of seminar

ABSTRACTS /REGISTRATION/ VENUE



Abstract submission

Structured abstracts (Aim, Patients, Results, Conclusion) of 200 words with title, full author names (first name and family name) & institution (name, city, country) can be submitted online or by email to steps.seminars@gmail.com.

Abstract submission deadline	31st July 2026
Acceptance notification	15th August 2026

Registration Fee*	Before 31st Aug	From 1st Sep
EUPSA member	200 €	250 €
Regular participant	250 €	300 €
Annual dinner	50 €	50 €

** Registration fee includes seminar, breaks & lunches (Annual dinner not included)*

For registration email details (Name/Address/Registration type) to steps.seminars@gmail.com or online/website

Seminar Venue

SOMA Istituto Osteopatia Milano
Viale Sarca 336 F - Edificio 16
20126 Milan

STEPS Organizing Committee

Amulya Saxena
Volker Müller
Cornelia van Tui

Local Organizing Committee

Gloria Pelizzo (Chairman)
Irene Paraboschi
Sara Costanzo
Ugo Maria Pierucci
Andrea Manzotti
Carlotta Ardenghi

Information/Registration website: shorturl.at/uCU26