



Final Report

17th Congress of European Federation of Audiology Societies

May 14–17, 2025 | Vienna, Austria



Venue Palais Niederösterreich



EACCME®



17th EFAS Congress
Vienna 2025



Introduction

The 17th EFAS Congress took place in Vienna, Austria, from May 14 to 17, 2025, bringing together approximately 400 participants from across the world — students, clinicians, researchers, and industry representatives — at the historic Palais Niederösterreich in the heart of the city. The congress provided an important platform for professional exchange among experts in the fields of audiology, hearing implants, and auditory rehabilitation.

The scientific programme reflected the breadth and current momentum of the field, with a particular focus on the growing role of artificial intelligence in audiology, telemedicine and remote device fitting, hearing implants, bimodal hearing, and precision treatment approaches. As with previous editions, the congress aimed to provide a platform not only for presenting recent work, but for fostering direct exchange between clinical experts and the industry.

The purpose of this report is to present a concise overview of the key organizational and scientific aspects of the congress and to summarize the main impressions and contents of the event. The report is structured into four main sections: **(1) Committees & Organizations**, **(2) Scientific Program Overview**, **(3) Social Events**, and **(4) Industry Exhibition & Sponsors**. This structure allows for a clear presentation of the organizational framework, the scientific contributions, as well as the networking opportunities and industry participation that shaped the congress.

Vienna proved a fitting host: its central location, well-established congress infrastructure, and international character contributed to a productive and collegial atmosphere throughout the four days.

Congress President: Prof. Georg M. Sprinzi





1. Committees & Organizations

1.1 Local Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee, consisting of Prof. Sprinzl, Prof. Magele, and the senior physicians Dr. Mayr and Dr. Piec, were involved in planning and organizing the 17th EFAS Congress. As members of the implantology team of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at the University Hospital in Sankt Pölten, Austria, they contributed significantly to the preparation and successful realization of the meeting. Their efforts helped create a well-organized congress that enabled valuable scientific exchange and collaboration among colleagues.



(From left to right; Congress President: Prof. Georg M. Sprinzl, MD, Congress Vice-President: Prof. Astrid Magele, Congress Secretary: Dr. Adrian D. Piec and Dr. Thomas Mayr)



1.2 Session Coordinators, Reviewers & Chairpersons

The following table provides an overview of the Session Coordinators, Reviewers, and Chairpersons who contributed to the organization and scientific quality of the congress. Through their expertise and commitment, they supported the review process, coordinated individual sessions, and guided the scientific discussions during the meeting. Their contributions played an important role in ensuring a well-structured and high-quality scientific program. The scientific program of the 17th EFAS Congress reflected the broad range of current research and clinical developments in audiology and hearing implantation. In total, 169 speakers contributed to the program, highlighting the strong international participation and diversity of expertise.

List of the Session Coordinators, Reviewers & Chairpersons

Name	Country	Name	Country
Ilona Anderson	Austria	Artur Lorens	Poland
Susan Arndt	Germany	Astrid Magele	Austria
Sue Archbold	United Kingdom	Thomas Mayr	Austria
Wolf-Dieter Baumgartner	Austria	Tobias Neher	Denmark
Margaret Dillon	USA	Waldo Nogueira Vasquez	Germany
Peter Grasso	Italy	Adrian D. Picc	Austria
Ulrich Hoppe	Austria	Gabor Polony	Hungary
Vasiliki Maria Iliadou	Greece	Oliver Profant	Czech Republic
Maja Jovanović	Montenegro	Luminita Radulescu	Romania
Liat Kishon-Rabin	Israel	Ranjith Rajeswaran	India
Victor Koci	Austria	Dominik Riss	Austria
Birger Kollmeier	Germany	Piotr H. Skarżyński	Poland
Andro Košec	Croatia	Cas Smits	The Netherlands
Anja Kurz	Germany	Sanja Špiric	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Georg Sprinzi	Austria		
Robert Tropic	Croatia		
Benjamin Loader	Austria		



2. Scientific Programme Overview

The scientific programme was organized across multiple parallel sessions in the Landtagssaal, Herrensaal, Prälatensaal, and Room Hartmann, with a dedicated Poster Area in Garderobe. The congress program included 4 keynote sessions, 7 structured sessions, and 3 panel discussions, which addressed major scientific and clinical topics in the field. In addition, 18 free paper sessions provided a platform for researchers and clinicians to present new findings and ongoing projects. Complementing these sessions, 5 poster pitch sessions allowed authors to briefly present their work and engage in discussion with the audience. Together, these formats created a comprehensive and dynamic scientific program.

2.1 Keynote Lectures

Four keynote lectures were presented during dedicated slots within the scientific programme:



Saad Bhamla (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA)

"An Ultra-Low-Cost Hearing Aid for Age-Related Hearing Loss and Other Frugal Inventions"



Raymond van de Berg (Maastricht University, The Netherlands)

"The Vestibular Implant – Results of the Next Generation Device"



Andrej Kral (Hannover Medical School, Germany / Macquarie University, Australia)

"Critical Period in Auditory Plasticity – Implications for Therapy of Inborn Deafness"



Astrid van Wieringen (University of Leuven, Belgium)

"Speech Perception and Localization in Children with Single-Sided Deafness and a CI"



2.2 Structured Sessions

A total of **seven structured sessions** addressed key developments and current challenges in audiology and hearing implantation. These sessions were designed to provide focused insights into specific thematic areas and to encourage in-depth discussion among experts.

Topics included **new developments in aided outcome assessment**, highlighting current **approaches to evaluating hearing rehabilitation outcomes**, as well as the growing role of **artificial intelligence in audiology**, which explored emerging applications of AI in diagnostics, signal processing, and clinical decision support. Another session organized in collaboration with the **HEARRING network** examined the question of whether **personalized treatment strategies** can be achieved in modern hearing care.

Further discussions focused on **contemporary perspectives on age-related hearing loss**, addressing current research and clinical management strategies. The increasing relevance of big data in audiology was also explored, emphasizing how large datasets can support research, diagnostics, and individualized treatment approaches. Another session examined **electric–acoustic stimulation (EAS)** as a bridge between cochlear implants and hearing aids, discussing patient selection and clinical outcomes. Finally, a session addressed the important clinical question of whether implantation earlier than nine months of age is necessary and feasible, reflecting ongoing debates regarding early intervention in pediatric hearing loss.



2.3 Panel Discussions

The congress featured **three panel discussions**, each providing an interactive forum for expert exchange and audience participation.

One discussion focused on **partial deafness treatment using electric–acoustic stimulation (EAS)**, addressing indications, outcomes, and clinical decision-making in patients with residual hearing. Another panel examined **sustainability in healthcare**, highlighting environmental and economic considerations in modern medical practice. The third discussion addressed the topic “**Speaking the Same Language: The ICF**”, emphasizing the importance of the **International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)** as a shared framework for describing hearing-related health outcomes and patient functioning.

2.4 Free Paper Sessions

In addition to the invited sessions, **18 free paper sessions** provided researchers and clinicians with the opportunity to present new findings and ongoing research projects. These sessions covered a wide range of topics reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of audiology and hearing science.

Subjects included **tinnitus and hyperacusis**, as well as **big data and artificial intelligence** in hearing research. Several sessions were dedicated to **auditory implants**, presented across four parts, addressing both clinical and technological developments. **Auditory objective measures** were discussed in two sessions, focusing on electrophysiological and diagnostic assessment tools.

Further sessions explored **basic and translational research**, linking fundamental auditory science with clinical applications. **Screening and diagnostic approaches** were presented in three sessions, highlighting advances in early detection and clinical evaluation of hearing disorders. Additional sessions addressed **hearing aids, speech, language, and music**



perception, and the management of **single-sided deafness and asymmetric hearing loss**.

The program also included presentations on **complex auditory disorders, innovative technologies and therapeutic approaches**, as well as **vertigo and balance disorders**, reflecting the broad clinical and scientific scope of the congress.

2.5 EFAS Working Groups

In addition to the main scientific sessions, **four working group sessions** were held during the congress. These sessions provided a platform for focused discussions on specific topics and encouraged collaboration among experts working in specialized areas of audiology.

One working group addressed **Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)** and discussed the need to reconsider current approaches to hearing evaluation. The session, led by **Vasiliki Maria Iliadou (Greece)** and **Hung Thai-Van (France)**, emphasized the importance of improving diagnostic frameworks and clinical awareness of auditory processing disorders.

Another session focused on **school-age hearing screening**, chaired by **Jan Wouters (Belgium)**. The discussion explored current screening strategies, challenges in implementation, and the importance of early detection of hearing problems in school-aged children.

A further working group session on **clinical audiology**, led by **Andro Košec (Croatia)**, addressed practical aspects of audiological diagnostics and management in clinical settings, fostering exchange on best practices among clinicians.

Finally, a session dedicated to **data formats for big data in audiology**, chaired by **Birger Kollmeier (Germany)**, examined the need for standardized data structures and formats to enable large-scale data analysis and collaborative research in the field of audiology.



2.6 Poster Sessions

During the congress, **five poster pitch sessions** were held in the dedicated poster area. These sessions provided researchers with the opportunity to briefly present their work to the audience in concise presentations.

Authors introduced the key objectives, methods, and main findings of their studies in short pitches, which were followed by **questions and discussion with the audience**. This format encouraged direct interaction between presenters and participants and facilitated scientific exchange around the presented research projects.



2.7 EFAS Lifetime Award 2025

The **EFAS Lifetime Award 2025** was presented to **Prof. Dr. Norbert Dillier**, Professor Emeritus at the **University of Zurich, Switzerland**, in recognition of his outstanding lifetime achievements and his significant contributions to the field of audiology.

Throughout his career, Prof. Dillier has made important contributions to **auditory physiology and pathology**, as well as to the **development and clinical application of modern electronic technologies in hearing diagnostics and rehabilitation**. His work has also advanced the use of **digital signal processing in audiology** and has played a key role in the development and improvement of **auditory prostheses**.

By honoring Prof. Dillier with the EFAS Lifetime Award, the society acknowledges his longstanding scientific work and his lasting impact on both research and clinical practice in the field of hearing science.



From left to right; Prof. Trotic, Prof. Dillier and Prof. Nagaraj

3. Social Events

3.1 Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception

The **opening ceremony** of the congress took place on **Wednesday, May 14, 2025**, at the historic **Palais Niederösterreich in Vienna**. The event was held in the elegant and historic rooms of the palace, providing a distinguished setting for the beginning of the congress.

The ceremony was accompanied by **beautiful classical music performed by a musical quartet**, which created a festive atmosphere and marked a memorable start to the meeting. Following the opening ceremony, participants were invited to a **welcome reception in the industry exhibition area**. This reception provided an opportunity for attendees to meet colleagues, reconnect with peers, and engage with industry partners in an informal setting at the start of the congress.



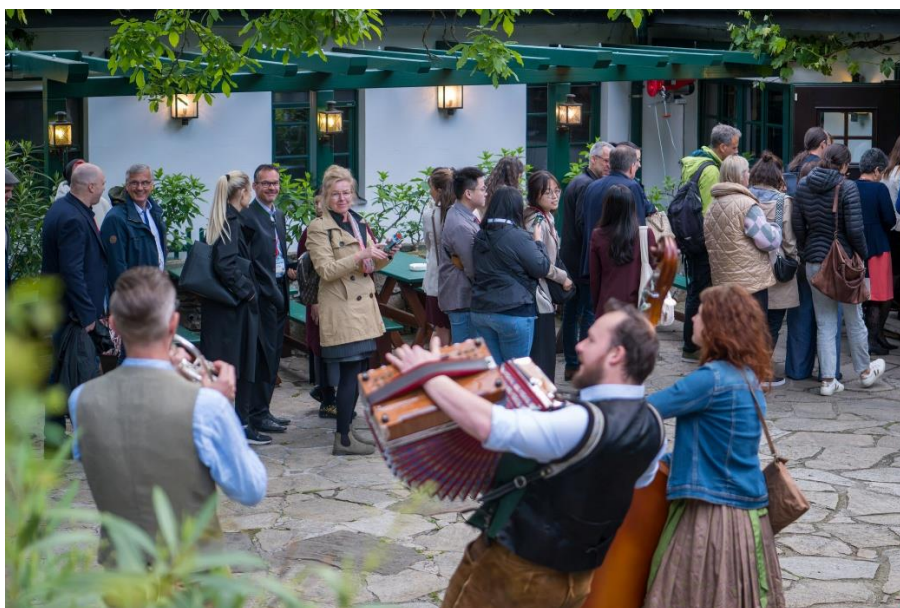


3.2 Networking Dinner

The **EFAS Networking Evening** took place on **Friday, May 16, 2025**, at the well-known **Heurigen restaurant Fuhrgassl-Huber in Vienna**. The venue is one of the traditional Viennese “**Heurigen**”, a type of vineyard restaurant that reflects the long-standing wine culture of the region.

Vienna holds a unique position among world capitals as it has **significant wine production within the city limits**, with vineyards located on the surrounding hills. This setting provided an authentic atmosphere for the networking event.

Participants enjoyed an evening in a relaxed **vineyard environment**, offering an excellent opportunity for informal exchange, networking, and conversations among colleagues. The combination of traditional Viennese hospitality, local cuisine, and the scenic vineyard surroundings created a communicative and memorable social event for the congress participants.





4. Industry Exhibition & Sponsors

4.1 Sponsors

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the sponsors who supported the 17th EFAS Congress and contributed to the successful realization of the event. Their commitment and support played an important role in enabling a high-quality scientific meeting and a vibrant industry exhibition.

Special thanks go to our **Platinum Sponsor, MED-EL**, as well as to our **Silver Sponsor, Cochlear**, for their generous support. We also thank **Neuroth** for their valuable contribution as a **Sponsor**.

The involvement of these industry partners helped facilitate scientific exchange, provided insights into current technological developments, and strengthened collaboration between clinical practice, research, and industry.

4.2 Industry Exhibitors

The **industry exhibition** was located in the **Rittersaal on the first floor of the Palais Niederösterreich**, providing a central meeting point for congress participants. The exhibition offered attendees the opportunity to learn about the latest technological developments and products in audiology, hearing implants, and hearing care. It also facilitated direct interaction between clinicians, researchers, and industry representatives.

The following companies were represented in the exhibition area:

- **MED-EL**
- **Cochlear**
- **Neuroth**
- **Innoforce**
- **Advanced Bionics**



4.3 Industry Symposia

In addition to the exhibition, **three industry-sponsored symposia** were organized during the congress. These sessions provided further insights into current technological developments, clinical applications, and future perspectives in audiology and hearing care.

The **MED-EL symposium**, titled “**Audiology Rocks**”, took place on **Thursday, May 15, 2025**, in the **Landtagssaal**. During this session, leading experts in the field of hearing implants discussed recent advancements and innovations that are shaping the future of auditory implantation and audiological care.

Also on **Thursday, May 15, 2025**, the **Neuroth symposium** was held in the **Landtagssaal** under the title “**Artificial Intelligence in Acoustics and Audiology.**” The presentation was given by **Christoph Tanner**, who discussed how the integration of **artificial intelligence in hearing aids** represents a paradigm shift in hearing technology. The symposium also highlighted how Neuroth, as a traditional acoustics company, is positioning itself within this rapidly evolving technological landscape while maintaining a strong focus on the needs of its customers.

The third industry symposium was organized by **Cochlear** and took place on **Friday, May 16, 2025**, also in the **Landtagssaal**. Under the title “**A Lifetime of Hearing Performance,**” the session featured presentations by **Prof. Dr. Ulrich Hoppe (Erlangen)**, **Margarete Überfuhr, PhD**, and additional guests. The symposium addressed several important aspects of cochlear implant care, including the **management of audiological disorders in cochlear implant recipients**, perspectives on the **future of remote care and telemedicine**, and insights into **Cochlear’s acoustics portfolio**.



Accreditation

The **17th EFAS Congress 2025**, held in **Vienna, Austria, from May 14–17, 2025**, was accredited by the **European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®)**.

The congress was awarded a **maximum of 13.0 European CME credits (ECMEC®s)**. This accreditation recognizes the scientific quality and educational value of the congress and enables participating physicians to claim **continuing medical education (CME) credits** in accordance with European standards.

The accreditation was granted by the **EACCME® of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)** for the event “**EFAS 2025 – 17th Congress of the European Federation of Audiology Societies.**” Participants were therefore able to collect CME credits for their attendance and participation in the scientific program.



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