

# 4<sup>th</sup>

## BALKAN FOOT & ANKLE SOCIETY CONGRESS

### STEPS TO THE FUTURE



IN COLLABORATION WITH

**BGFAS** BULGARIAN FOOT & ANKLE SOCIETY

**CAOST** CYPRUS ASSOCIATION OF ORTHOPAEDIC  
SURGERY AND TRAUMATOLOGY

**GFFC** GERMAN SOCIETY FOR FOOT & ANKLE SURGERY

**4 - 6**  
**September 2026**

[www.bafascongress.com](http://www.bafascongress.com)

## PROGRAM

Secretariat



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**MEDITERRANEAN  
BEACH HOTEL**

Limassol, Cyprus



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## Welcome Address

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are delighted to extend a warm invitation to you for the 4th Congress of the Balkan Foot and Ankle Society "Steps to the future", which will take place in the enchanting island of Cyprus – the Island of Aphrodite - from September 4th to 6th, 2026. The Congress will be a combined meeting which will be held along with GFFC – German Society for Foot and Ankle Surgery and Bulgarian Foot and Ankle Society - BGFAS. This prestigious event promises to be a cornerstone for advancing knowledge and collaboration in the field of foot and ankle care on the Balkans and beyond.

Join us in exploring the latest developments, sharing groundbreaking research, and engaging in stimulating discussions with experts from around the area. Here's a glimpse of what awaits you:

**- Inspiring Keynote Sessions:** Hear contemporary lectures from leading voices who will enlighten and challenge our perspectives. Pre-congress course for the young doctors and residents with a wonderful award.

**- Networking Opportunities:** Connect with peers, share experiences, and forge new partnerships.

**- Panel Discussions:** Dive into lively debates on current challenges and future directions in our Foot and Ankle field. We will be thrilled to have lecturers and participants from various countries, each bringing unique insights and experiences.

This congress stands as a testament to our shared commitment to improving foot and ankle care across the Balkans and beyond. Together, let's strive to not only enhance our professional skills but also strengthen the bonds that unite us as a community dedicated to excellence in foot and ankle care.

We will be excited to welcome you to Cyprus – the Island of Love, where you can enjoy not only the congress but also the rich culture, beautiful beaches and stunning landscapes of the island.

Save the date!

The President of BAFAS  
**Dr. Atanas Katsarov**

The President of the Organizing Committee  
**Dr. Antonios Pettas**



## Organizing Committee

**Antonios Pettas** - *Greece/Cyprus*

**Atanas Katsarov** - *Bulgaria*

**Athanasios Badekas** - *Greece*

**Altug Tanriover** - *Turkey*

**Domagoj Perkovic** - *Croatia*

**Matej Drobic** - *Slovenia*

**Emre Baca** - *Turkey*

**Jurij Stalc** - *Slovenia*

**Jozefina Botezatu** - *Romania*

## Scientific Committee

**Antonios Pettas** - *Greece/Cyprus*

**Atanas Katsarov** - *Bulgaria*

**Athanasios Badekas** - *Greece*

**Kajetan Klos** - *Germany*

**Niek Van Dijk** - *Netherlands*

**Beat Hintermann** - *Switzerland*

**Roxa Ruiz** - *Switzerland*

**Hans Polzer** - *Germany*

**Nikolaos Gkougkoulis** - *Greece*

**Panagiotis Symeonidis** - *Greece*

**Hans Jörg Trnka** - *Austria*

**Stathis Chronopoulos** - *Greece*

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## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

### FRIDAY 04.09.2026

08.30 - 19.00 Registrations

09.00 - 09.10 **Opening remarks**

**Atanas Katsarov, Antonios Pettas**

09.10 - 10.30 **Ankle Instability**

Chair: **Antonios Pettas, Atanas Katsarov**

Role of Alignment in the Ankle. Is the Syndesmosis so Significant?

**Atanas Katsarov**

Lateral ankle stabilization using fibular periosteal flap

**Filip Anton Božinović**

Arthroscopic treatment of syndesmotic injury

**Panagiotis Symeonidis**

The footballers ankle: something from the past or still a reality

**Niek van Dijk**

Medial ankle instability and Deltoid ligament reconstruction

**Andrzej Komor**

Complex instability - what to do more?

**Roxa Ruiz**



## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**FRIDAY 04.09.2026**

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### 10.30 - 11.30 **Tendon transfers and Achilles pathology**

Chair: **Athanasios Badekas, Altuğ Tanrıöver**

Treatment of peroneal tendon pathologies

**Kajetan Klos**

Achilles tendon reconstruction - modern concepts

**Philipp Winter**

Tendon transfers for cavus foot

**Altuğ Tanrıöver**

Spontaneous tendon ruptures - TP, TA, peroneus longus.

TLAP syndrome

**Dmitry Bobrov**

Seeing what we do: Ultrasound in Minimal invasive Achilles surgery

**Jouko Kivioja**

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11.30 - 11.50 **Coffee break**

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## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**FRIDAY 04.09.2026**

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11.50 - 13.30 **What have i changed in my practice?**

Chair: **Emre Baca, Serafim Tsitsilonis**

Interposition arthroplasty for Hallux rigidus treatment

**Athanasios Badekas**

Hindfoot nail for non compliant patients

**Jurij Štalc**

What do I do different in hallux valgus treatment compared to 1993

**Hans-Jörg Trnka**

Arthroscopic assisted ankle fracture treatment.

A game changer

**Hans Polzer**

The effect of plantar fasciectomy and Lambrinudi triple fusion and how it has changed my treatment strategy in severe cavovarus deformity

**Roxa Ruiz**

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13.30 - 14.10 **Lunch**

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14.10 - 15.30 **Before the fusion or TAR. But... Replace or fuse?**

Chair: **Roxa Ruiz, Matej Drobnič**

Ankle arthroscopy as a first line treatment for Grade1 and 2 ankle arthritis

**Faidon Katinakis**

Cartilage treatment in foot and ankle

**Matej Drobnič**

Takedown TAR with PSI

**Ākos Kynsburg**



## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**FRIDAY 04.09.2026**

Scopes and limits of SMOT in joint-preserving surgery of the ankle

**Beat Hintermann**

Relative and absolute contraindications of TAR-

**Antonios Pettas**

15.30 - 15.50 Coffee break

15.50 - 17.30 **Arthritic ankle. Current concept.**

Chair: **Beat Hintermann, Kajetan Klos**

What are the challenges in planning a replacement surgery of the ankle?

**Roxa Ruiz**

Total Ankle Replacement: tips & tricks

**Serafeim Tsitsilonis**

Total Talus replacement. A case report

**Jurij Štalc**

Arthroscopic ankle arthrodesis

**Nikolaos Gkougkoulis**

Total Ankle and Talus Arthroplasty: From posttraumatic arthritis to osteomyelitis

**Vasily V. Kuznetsov**

How do I fuse the ankle after failed TAA.

**Hans-Jörg Trnka**

Scopes and limits of revision TAR.

**Beat Hintermann**

20.00

Welcome cocktail

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## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

### SATURDAY 05.09.2026

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08.30 - 19.00 Registrations

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08.30 - 09.50 **All about forefoot. Hallux valgus surgery**

Chair: **Hans-Jörg Trnka, Andrzej Komor**

The hindfoot-driven hallux valgus and rigidus – fact or fiction

**Roxa Ruiz**

The Evolution of Lapidus-Arthrodesis

**Paul Simons**

Revision surgery of hallux valgus

**Levon Makinyan**

Combined techniques on severe hallux valgus deformities

**Kyriakos Daniilidis**

Rotational deformities in hallux valgus

**Floriano Ferenaz**

Is it necessary to switch from open hallux valgus surgery to MIS?

**Hans-Jörg Trnka**

Complications of hallux valgus surgery

**Antonios Pettas**

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## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**SATURDAY 05.09.2026**

**09.50 - 10.50 Other pathologies. Easier paths.**

Chair: **Panagiotis Symeonidis, Paul Simons**

Reumatoid foot

**Altuğ Tanrıöver**

OLT treatment. My approach

**Athanasios Badekas**

Surgical treatment of Pes Cavovarus in children

**Ermogenis Pavlou**

Chondral defects of the talus in child athletes - therapeutic guidelines

**Kristian Ivanov**

Evaluating the Minced Cartilage Technique for Talar Defects in Bulgarian Patients

**Preslav Penev**

New approach for treatment of malunited calcaneal fractures

**Igor Pakhomov**

Bone marrow oedema in Foot and Ankle

**Stathis Chronopoulos**

**10.50 - 11.10 Coffee break**

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## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**SATURDAY 05.09.2026**

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11.10 - 13.10 **PCFD Controversies**

Chair: **Alexey Mazalov, Damjan Dimiakovic**

Why do we need a new classification?

**Beat Hintermann**

Principles and current treatment strategies for PCFD

**Roxa Ruiz**

WBCT. Useful tool for decision making in PCFD

**Joze Dernovsek**

Spring ligament reconstruction

**Ezequiel Palmanovich**

The problem of bringing down the 1st ray of the foot in surgery of planovalgus deformity

**Alexey Mazalov**

Operative Strategies in progressive collapsing flatfoot in children and young adolescent

**Hartmut Stinus**

When and how to fuse

**Beat Hintermann**

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13.10 - 13.50 **Lunch**

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## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**SATURDAY 05.09.2026**

**13.50 – 15.10 MIS in Foot and Ankle. Small incisions for big surgeons.**

Chair: **Kyriakos Daniilidis, Ivan Gerov**

Transcutaneous surgery of the 1st Ray. Comparison of the techniques

**Atanas Katsarov**

MIS Calcaneus osteotomy. Challenging cases

**Giannis Giannakopoulos**

Minimally invasive hallux valgus surgery - the Bavarian perspective

**Sebastian Altenberger**

1st MTP joint arthroscopy

**Damjan Dimiakovic**

Arthroscopic FHL transfer for treatment of Chronic Achilles tendon rupture

**Antonios Pettas**

Arthroscopic hindfoot fusion

**Hans Polzer**

The burr and the blade. Mastering the complication of MIS Hallux valgus

**Anthony Perera**

P-Anti RoLL technique for chronic lateral ankle instability: 5years experience and results

**Ivan Gerov**

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## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

### SATURDAY 05.09.2026

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15:10 - 16:00 **All about forefoot. Lesser toes surgery**

Chair: **Hans Polzer, Levon Makinyan**

Morton's neuroma

**Domagoj Perković**

Osteotomy techniques on small metatarsals

**Nikolaos Gougoulis**

Plantar plate repair

**Andrzej Komor**

Brachymetatarsia

**Levon Makinyan**

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16.00 - 16.20 Coffee break

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16.20 - 17.30 **Charcot foot. Always challenging.**

Chair: **Josefina Botezatu, Stanislav A. Osnach**

Surgical treatment of Charcot foot. The German approach

**Kyriakos Daniilidis**

Surgical treatment of Charcot foot. The Romanian approach

**Josefina Botezatu**

Replacement of total bone defects in Charcot foot with 3D porous titanium implants

**Stanislav A. Osnach**

Review of key concepts and an evidence based algorithm of Charcot foot

**Miltiadis Argyropoulos**

The limb salvage approach for osteomyelitis around the ankle

**Anton Semini**

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20.00

Dinner

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## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**SUNDAY 06.09.2026**

08.30 - 19.00 Registrations

09.00 - 10.30 **Foot and Ankle trauma. Securing a stable foundation.**

Chair: **Nikolaos Gkougkoulis, Jurij Štalc**

MIS in calcaneal fractures

**Emre Baca**

Treatment of talus fractures

**Predrag Rašović**

Trimalleolar ankle fractures. Why should we stabilize the posterior malleolus

**Nikolaos Gkougkoulis**

Lisfranc fracture-dislocation

**Panagiotis Symeonidis**

Surgical treatment of tibia fractures with bone defects

**Dimitrios Garpozis**

Minimally Invasive Intramedullary Nailing of the Fibula:  
A Viable Alternative To Plating

**Svetoslav Dobrilov**

Breaking point: A strategic approach to 5th metatarsal stress fractures in athletes

**Anthony Perera**

10.30 - 10.50 **Coffee break**

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## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

### SUNDAY 06.09.2026

10.50 - 12.10 **Free papers session**

Chair: **Domagoj Perković, Predrag Rašović**

Surgical treatment of 5th toe traumatic instability with tendon transfer

**Spyros Manthas**

TTC nail for the treatment of ankle and distal tibia fractures. A retrospective cohort study

**Giannis Stavrakakis**

Congenital Absence of the Tibialis Anterior tendon, Treated with Posterior Tibialis Tendon Transfer: A Rare Clinical Case

**Lavdim Berisha**

Innovations and new techniques in MR imaging of foot and ankle

**Dr. Elena Ilieva**

Gastrocnemius release

**Tonio Gottlieb**

Brachymetatarsia: Our Experience Using a Fixed-Angle (90-Degree) External Fixation System and an External Fixator Permitting Variable-Angle Pin Placement

**Borut Kovačič**

Clubfoot: Our experience with Ponseti treatment and treating difficult cases

**Tanja Slokar**

Posterior Malleolar Fracture Management

**Radoslav Petrov, R. Kastelov**





## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**SUNDAY 06.09.2026**

12.10 - 13.10 **Professor Emeritus Lecture**

The latest is always the greatest

Chair: **Prof. Niek van Dijk**

13.10 - 14.00 **Closing Ceremony**

15.00 - 17.00 **BAFAS Council meeting**