



SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

48th ISMH World Congress

International Society of Medical Hydrology and Climatology

13 – 16 May 2026

Banja Koviljača, Serbia

GREAT HALL SESSIONS · PARALLEL SESSIONS · POSTER SESSIONS

GREAT HALL SESSIONS

Day I – Wednesday, 13 May 2026

16:00 – 17:00 Registration

17:00 – 18:00 | Session I (3 lectures) – Serbian Balneological Potentials and Opportunities

Chair: Constantin Munteanu, Đorđe Radak

MONIKA MUSTAK-BLAGUSZ & MIROSLAV KRSTIĆ, AUSTRIA	<i>Austrian Pensionsversicherung and Banja Koviljača: Referral Criteria and Diagnosis Distribution 2021–2026</i>
ĐORĐE RADAK, SERBIA	<i>Balneology in Pre-Operative Preparation: Optimizing High-Risk Surgical Patients</i>
DEJAN NEŠIĆ, SERBIA	<i>Balneological potential of Serbia, old dogmas, new dilemmas</i>

18:00 – 18:20 Coffee Break

18:20 – 19:05 | Session II (3 lectures) – Integrative Spa Medicine and Balneoclimatology: Clinical, Psychological and Aesthetic Perspectives

Chair: K'tso Nghargbu

DAVID TH AUSSERHUBER, AUSTRIA	<i>Exploring Potential Benefits of Thermal Water and Spa-Based Interventions for Post-Traumatic Stress Following Workplace Bullying</i>
MARIJA STANOJEVIĆ, SERBIA	<i>Balneological potential of magnesium-rich mineral waters and peloids of Serbia</i>
MARCUS COPLIN, USA	<i>Traditional Perspectives in Medicine and Modern Applications in Balneotherapy</i>

19:05 – 21:00 Welcome Cocktail

Day II – Thursday, 14 May 2026**08:00 – 09:00** **Registration****09:00 – 10:00 | Session III (4 lectures) – Social and Educational Aspects***Chair: Pedro Cantista, Tomislav Jovanović, Gordana Mihajlov*

CHRISTIAN FRANCOIS ROQUES LATRILLE, FRANCE	<i>Clinical evaluation of Spa Treatments by the French National Academy of Medicine</i>
PEDRO CANTISTA, PORTUGAL	<i>The UEMS Multidisciplinary Joint Committee on Balneology</i>
FRANCISCO MARAVER, SPAIN	<i>Training in Medical Hydrology at the Spanish Universities</i>
OLGA SURDU, ROMANIA	<i>Toward a Global Definition of Balneotherapy: A Call for Collaborative Action</i>

10:00 – 10:20 **Coffee Break****10:20 – 11:40 | Session IV (5 lectures) – Balneology: From the Basic Research to Clinical Practice***Chair: Tamas Bender, Aleksandar Jokić*

TAMAS BENDER, HUNGARY	<i>The effect of Balneotherapy on Microbiome system – clinical aspect</i>
CONSTANTIN MUNTEANU, ROMANIA	<i>Balneological Hydrogen Sulfide Resources: From Biochemical Basis to Clinical Applications</i>
NEVENA JEREMIĆ, SERBIA	<i>The impact of low mineral content water on cardiac function in diabetic rats: focus on oxidative stress</i>
TODORKA SOKRATEVA, BULGARIA	<i>Anti-inflammatory potential of mineral water, sulforaphane, alliin, and taurine in an in vitro model of LPS-induced inflammation</i>
ALEKSANDAR JOKIĆ, SERBIA	<i>Circulating Serotonin in Osteoarthritis Following Sulfur Water Balneotherapy and Peloid Therapy in Banja Koviljača</i>

11:40 – 12:00 **Coffee Break****12:00 – 13:00** **Opening Ceremony****13:00 – 14:30** **Lunch****14:30 – 16:00 | Session V (6 lectures) – Biology and Clinical Translation of Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) in Balneology***Chair: Mufit Zeki Karagülle, Atila Klimo*

JOSE CARBAJO, SPAIN	<i>Hydrogen Sulfide in Balneology: How does it exert its activity?</i>
MUFIT ZEKI KARAGÜLLE, TURKEY	<i>Effects of Drinking Natural Sulfurous Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S)-Rich Mineral Waters in Humans: A PRISMA-Structured Systematic Review</i>
MOURAD ER-RASFA, MOROCCO	<i>Therapeutic effect of the sulphurous thermal water of Moulay Yacoub thermal springs on knee osteoarthritis</i>
FRANCISCO MARAVER, SPAIN	<i>Physical characteristics of the Banja Koviljača peloid</i>
ALENA KORENČIKOVA, SLOVAKIA	<i>Comprehensive balneotherapy at the Slovak Health Spas Piešťany and Smrdáky</i>
ATILA KLIMO, SERBIA	<i>Occurrence of sulfur-containing mineral waters in Serbia</i>

16:00 – 16:20 **Coffee Break****16:30 – 18:00 | Session VI (6 lectures) – Balneology: New Economic Strategies***Chair: Francisco Maraver, Maria Lorena Vela Iglesias, Mladen Čudanov*

MLADEN ČUDANOV, SERBIA	<i>Spa as the Local Economic Development Catalyst: Can a Spa Centre Improve the Local Triple Bottom Line?</i>
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LINA NOSEVIČ, LITHUANIA	<i>Evaluating Wellness Economy growth: macroeconomic effects and trend dynamics</i>
ANDRIJA RAŽNATOVIĆ, SERBIA	<i>Advancing Outsourcing Evaluation Management of Serbian Spa Center</i>
YASUAKI GOTO, JAPAN	<i>Re-designing Onsen Wellness Through Regional Integration in Izu, Japan – Purpose-based Bathing Design</i>
SYBILLE RAMON DUPUY, FRANCE	<i>Management science applied to balneotherapy</i>
LOLITA RAPOLIENE, LITHUANIA	<i>From Fatigue to Recovery: The role of Balneotherapy in Post-COVID Rehabilitation</i>

18:00 – 19:00 **Executive Board Meeting**

20:00 **Congress Dinner**

Day III – Friday, 15 May 2026**09:00 – 10:30 | Session VII (6 lectures) – Balneology in Musculoskeletal Conditions I***Chair: Romain Forestier, Aleksandra Todić*

FATMA BEGÜM EROL FORESTIER, FRANCE	<i>Water-Based Treatments in Fibromyalgia Syndrome: A Systematic Review and the Meta-Analysis</i>
ILDIKO KATALIN TEFNER, HUNGARY	<i>Evidence-based balneotherapy in Hungary. Updated systematic review and meta-analysis of Hungarian clinical trials</i>
MINE KARAGÜLLE, TURKEY	<i>Clinical and Biochemical Effects of Outpatient Balneological Treatment in Rheumatic Diseases: A Review of Randomized Controlled Trials</i>
ALAIN FRANCON, FRANCE	<i>Randomized clinical trials and presence of balneotherapy in clinical practice recommendations in chronic low back pain, osteoarthritis and fibromyalgia</i>
ROMAIN FORESTIER, FRANCE	<i>Comparative Efficacy of Home Exercise with and Without Spa Therapy in Chronic Low Back Pain: A multicenter Randomized Controlled Trial</i>
FATMA BEGÜM EROL FORESTIER & ROMAIN JACQUES FORESTIER, FRANCE	<i>Why Balneotherapy and Hydrotherapy Studies Often Fail to Produce Robust Evidence? Common Methodological and Statistical Errors</i>

10:30 – 10:50**Coffee Break****10:50 – 11:50 | Session VIII (4 lectures) – Balneotherapy in Pediatric and Sports Rehabilitation***Chair: Carmen Delia Nistor Cseppento, Jasmina Milovanović-Arsić*

SERAP SERINGEÇ KARABULUT, TURKEY	<i>Aquatic Therapy on Balance and Function in Duchenne and Becker Muscular Dystrophy: A Controlled Pilot Study</i>
JASMINA MILOVANOVIĆ-ARSIĆ, SERBIA	<i>Motor Outcomes of an Early Balneophysical Habilitation Protocol Including Sulfurous Peloid Therapy in Children with Spastic Cerebral Palsy</i>
MIRJANA ŽIVANOVIĆ, SERBIA	<i>Balneoclimatic Rehabilitation in Children with Asthma: Effects on Disease Control</i>
ERTAN TUFEKCIOGLU & MERVE EFE SEVINÇ, TURKEY	<i>WATSU Therapy for Athletic Recovery: New Horizons in Medical Hydrology and Thermal Resorts</i>

12:00 – 13:00**General Assembly****13:00 – 14:30****Lunch****14:30 – 16:00 | Session IX (6 lectures) – Balneology in Musculoskeletal Conditions II***Chair: Nazim Badalov, Dušan Mustur*

NAZIM BADALOV, RUSSIA	<i>Balneotherapy in rheumatology: myths or realities</i>
ROMAIN FORESTIER, FRANCE	<i>French Recommendations on Balneotherapy for Rheumatism, a DELPHI consensus</i>
NUR GÖKÇE AYDIN, TURKEY	<i>Clinical effectiveness of standardized local knee peloid therapy in knee osteoarthritis</i>
ANTONELLA FIORAVANTI, ITALY	<i>May Balneotherapy be a valid opportunity to treat Fibromyalgia Syndrome</i>
ZORAN GRUJIĆ, SERBIA	<i>Treatment of active rheumatoid arthritis with low-temperature peloid and sulfuric mineral water in Banja Koviljača (Serbia)</i>
DUŠAN MUSTUR, MONTENEGRO	<i>Balneotherapy and Igalo healing mud in the treatment of Bechterew's disease</i>

16:00 – 16:20**Coffee Break****16:20 – 18:00 | Session X (6 lectures) – Usefulness of Balneotherapy in Rehabilitation and Age-Related Problems***Chair: Christoph Gutenbrunner, Mia Stevanović*

CHRISTOPH GUTENBRUNNER, GERMANY	<i>The Role of Balneotherapy in Modern Rehabilitation Programs</i>
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CARMEN DELIA NISTOR CSEPPENTO & ANAMARIA GHERLE, ROMANIA	<i>NeuroRehabilitation in Balneary Environments – Mechanisms, Applications and Outcomes</i>
KAĞAN ÖZKUK, TURKEY	<i>Long-Term Clinical Outcomes of Peloidotherapy in Postoperative Rotator Cuff and SLAP Repair Rehabilitation</i>
FRANCISCO MARAVER, SPAIN	<i>Cofrentes Spa as a Mediterranean Reference Center for Frailty Screening and Healthy Ageing: The SALUD SENIOR 6P Model</i>
MARIA LORENA VELA IGLESIAS, ARGENTINA	<i>Balneoclimatology in Argentina: Natural Resources, Scientific Perspectives and Future Challenges</i>

20:00**Gala Dinner**

Day IV – Saturday, 16 May 2026**09:00 – 09:45 | Session XI (3 lectures) – New Perspectives in Balneology***Chair: Olga Surdu, Atila Klimo*

KARINE DUBOURG, FRANCE	<i>The experience of spa treatment by patients undergoing treatment in Dax (France)</i>
MILOŠ RADIČEVIĆ, SERBIA	<i>Influence of Natural Mineral Water 'Topla Voda' on Physiological and Pathophysiological Processes</i>
TANJA ĐUKIĆ	<i>VODAVODA – Story of a National Brand with Global Potential</i>

09:45 – 10:05**Coffee Break****10:05 – 11:05 | Session XII (4 lectures) – Mineral Waters, Peloids, Microbiome***Chair: Iryna Babova, Gordana Gajica*

CSABA KOVACS, HUNGARY	<i>Iodide Mineral Waters: A Medical Perspective</i>
FRÉDÉRIC BAUDUER, FRANCE	<i>Heat treatment of mud-packs in French pelotherapy facilities: the HTBT protocol</i>
GORDANA GAJICA, SERBIA	<i>The influence of maturation processes on peloid composition in Spa-scale systems in Koviljača Spa (Serbia)</i>
TOMAŠ VYLITA, CZECH REPUBLIC	<i>Mineral water and peloids of the Bohemian Massif, Czechia (occurrence, properties, utilisation and protection)</i>

11:05 – 12:00**Congress Closing**

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Day II – Thursday, 14 May 2026

14:30 – 15:30 | Session XIV (4 lectures) – History and New Experiences

Chair: Alexander Rapp, Ljiljana Josović

ROMAIN FORESTIER, FRANCE	<i>A little-known story: ISMH at the origins of rheumatology</i>
ISABEL SANTOS, FRANCE	<i>EDUC'POLY THERMARTHRITE: A 'personalised' Therapeutic Patient Education (TPE) Program</i>
ALEXANDER RAPP, GERMANY	<i>Expectations regarding the effectiveness and popularity of medical hydrology among German medical students</i>
ODILE ELOY-TRAN VAN CHUOÏ, FRANCE	<i>The European Interreg Sudoe program – Two experiences of the Institute of Thermalism of Bordeaux University</i>

Day III – Friday, 15 May 2026

14:30 – 15:45 | Session XV (5 lectures) – ISMH Meets National Balneological Health Resort Systems

Chair: Hitomi Kanayama, Snežana Radulović

FRANCISCO MARAVER, SPAIN	<i>Thermal Waters from the Guaraní Aquifer in Uruguay and Their Potential Use in Balneology</i>
HITOMI KANAYAMA, JAPAN	<i>The Natural Environment in Japanese Health Resorts: Perspectives from Balneotherapy and Climatotherapy</i>
NATALIA CHAURSKAYA, RUSSIA	<i>National Spa Association of Russia (NSA) – 30 years in public health</i>
IRYNA BABOVA & OKSANA TSURKAN, UKRAINE	<i>Organization of natural healing resources researches in Ukraine: medical and biological aspect</i>
K'TSO NGHARGBU, NIGERIA	<i>Leveraging Partnerships in the Development of Balneology and Medical Geology in Africa</i>

POSTER SESSIONS

Day III – Friday, 15 May 2026

09:00 – 09:30 | Session PI (6 lectures) – Microbiology and Biochemistry in Balneology

Chair: Francisco Maraver, Maria Lorena Vela Iglesias, Olga Lekić

FRANCISCO MARAVER, SPAIN	<i>Evolution AQUAPRED-SUDOE Project: Control and Prevention System for Contaminants in Mineral-Medicinal Waters through Artificial Intelligence</i>
MILKA NASHAR & DIANA IVANOVA, BULGARIA	<i>Sulfur-Containing Mineral Water Modulates Redox-Regulating Gene Expression in Human Cells</i>
OLGA LEKIĆ, SERBIA	<i>Balneotherapy Potential of Bottled Waters of Serbia with Special Emphasis on Gastrointestinal Tract Diseases</i>

10:00 – 10:30 | Session PII (6 lectures) – Balneotherapy, Pain and Quality of Life

Chair: Antonella Fioravanti, Snežana Panić

ANTONELLA FIORAVANTI, ITALY	<i>Balneotherapy at Levico Terme (Italy): Effects on Pain, Function, Quality of Life, Anxiety, and Depression in Fibromyalgia</i>
PEDRO CANTISTA, PORTUGAL	<i>Effects of Aquatic Exercise and Balneotherapy in Chronic Low Back Pain</i>
MERVE EFE SEVİNÇ, TURKEY	<i>The Effect of Hydrotherapy and Pelotherapy on Pain and Quality of Life in Patients with Ureteral Stones: A Pilot Study</i>
SERAP SERINGEÇ KARABULUT, TURKEY	<i>Hydrotherapy on Balance and Selective Motor Control in Children with Cerebral Palsy: A Randomized Controlled Trial</i>
ANA PAJIĆIĆ, SERBIA	<i>Management in spa resorts with special reference to Banja Koviljača</i>
SNEŽANA PANIĆ, SERBIA	<i>HACCP in Integrative Medicine at a Balneological Rehabilitation Hospital: Descriptive Analysis, 2025 (Banja Koviljača, Serbia)</i>

11:00 – 11:30 | Session PIII (4 lectures) – Balneotherapy, Cardiovascular and Respiratory Rehabilitation

Chair: Snežana Radulović

LJILJANA JOSOVIĆ, SERBIA	<i>Balneological Interventions in the Prevention and Management of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease</i>
SNEŽANA RADULOVIĆ, SERBIA	<i>Molecular and Hemodynamic Mechanisms of Balneology in Post-Carotid Revascularization Rehabilitation</i>
MARIJA ŽIVKOVIĆ, SERBIA	<i>The Importance of Balneotherapy and Respiratory Rehabilitation in the Treatment of Pulmonary and Locomotor Manifestations of Rheumatoid Arthritis: A Case Report</i>
IVAN NIKODIJEVIĆ, SERBIA	<i>Effects of Balneoclimatic and Respiratory Rehabilitation in a Patient with Post-COVID Syndrome and Cardiopulmonary Comorbidities: A Case Report</i>