

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Athens, March 2026

The 1st International Congress of the Balkan Society of Pediatric and Congenital Heart Diseases Concludes with Great Success

Athens, Greece — The **1st International Congress of the Balkan Society of Pediatric and Congenital Heart Diseases (BSPCHD)** was held on **13–14 March 2026** at the **Metropolitan College, Maroussi Campus, Athens**, marking a historic milestone for pediatric and congenital cardiac care across the Balkan region.

The two-day congress brought together leading cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, pediatricians, and allied health professionals from across the Balkans and beyond, creating a vibrant platform for scientific exchange, clinical dialogue, and regional collaboration. Representatives from the majority of Balkan countries were present, reflecting the growing strength and unity of the regional medical community around a shared mission: improving outcomes for children and young patients living with congenital and acquired heart conditions.

A Rich Scientific Programme

The congress featured a wide range of presentations, workshops, and discussions covering the most current and clinically relevant topics in pediatric and congenital heart disease, including:

- Advanced echocardiographic assessment and pre-operative imaging protocols for the surgical team
- Management of complex valvular pathologies, right heart response, and hemodynamic evaluation
- Updates in interventional cardiology and hybrid approaches
- Legal and institutional developments, including the formal establishment of the BSPCHD as an international scientific society, with presentations on its statutes, legal status, and governance framework

The breadth and depth of the programme reflected the society's commitment to excellence in both science and practice.

A Milestone for the Society

Alongside the scientific sessions, the congress served as an important organizational milestone for the BSPCHD. The society's founding documents and statutes were formally presented and discussed, laying the groundwork for a structured and sustainable

international association with English as its official language. The atmosphere throughout the two days was one of enthusiasm, collegiality, and shared purpose — a true testament to the spirit that has driven the society's creation.

Save the Date: Belgrade 2028

In a much-anticipated announcement, it was confirmed that the **2nd International Congress of the BSPCHD** will take place in **Belgrade, Serbia, on 17–18 March 2028**. The announcement was met with great excitement by all attendees, signalling the society's commitment to continuity, growth, and expanding regional impact.

Looking Ahead

The success of the 1st Congress has set a strong foundation for the years to come. The BSPCHD looks forward to welcoming an even broader international community in Belgrade in 2028, continuing to advance the standard of care for children with heart disease throughout the Balkans and beyond.

For more information about the Balkan Society of Pediatric and Congenital Heart Diseases, please visit bspchd.com

Congress Photo Gallery



Group photo of congress participants — Metropolitan College, Maroussi Campus, Athens



Presentation on the legal status and statutes of the BSPCHD



Scientific session on pre-operative echocardiographic assessment



Speaker at the podium — 1st International Congress of the BSPCHD