

Spine and Friends

Failures and complications in spine surgery.

My worst cases: should I have done something different?

Spine and Friends, Geneva 2026 brings together leading spine surgeons and specialists to openly discuss failures, complications and challenging cases in spine surgery.

Under the theme "My worst cases: should I have done something different?", this two-day meeting aims to encourage honest, constructive and practical exchanges around surgical decision-making, complication prevention and management strategies.

Through real-life cases and expert insights, participants will have the opportunity to learn from experience, share perspectives and reflect on how complex situations can help improve future patient care.

Program

Day 1 Friday 05.06.2026

12:00 - 13:00	Welcome Lunch
13:00 - 13:10	Introduction Prof. Enrico Tessitore and Dr Claudio Schonauer

Challenges in endoscopic surgery

13:10-13:30	Uniportal endoscopy: my worst cases Dr. Jean-Yves Fournier
13:30-13:50	Unilateral biportal endoscopy: Complications and limitations. Dr Gabriele Capo

Traumatic spine

13:50 - 14:10	Failures in thoraco-lumbar traumatic injuries. Dr Marisa Gandia Gonzalez
14:10 - 14:30	Complex cervical subaxial fractures: anterior vs posterior vs combined. Dr Alexandre Simonin
14:30 - 15:00	Coffee break

Vertebral osteomyelitis: prevention and management of post-infectious deformity

15:00-15:20	Incidence and management of post-infectious deformity. Dr Andreas Demetriades
15:20-15:40	Can we prevent surgical site infection? Role of Vancomycin. Prof. Ralph Schaer
15:40-16:00	Wrap up and conclusions 1st day

Information

📅 05.06.2026, 12:00 -
06.06.2026, 13:00
📍 Musée international de la Croix-Rouge
et du Croissant-Rouge, Genève

[Register](#)

Day 2 Saturday 06.06.2026

Complications in adult deformity surgery

- 08:30 - 08:50** **Proximal junctional kyphosis: how to prevent its occurrence in ASD.**
Dr Granit Molliqaj
- 08:50 - 09:10** **Revision in adult deformity correction failure.**
Dr Aria Nouri

Surgical challenges in patients with osteopenic bone

- 09:10 - 09:30** **Learning from mistakes: Thoraco-lumbar failures.**
Dr. Ivan Cabrilo
- 09:30 - 09:50** **Learning from mistakes: Lumbo-sacral failures.**
Prof. Claudius Thomé
- 09:50 - 10:10** **How to prevent hardware failure in osteoporosis surgery.**
Prof. Gianluca Maestretti
- 10:10 - 10:40** **Coffee break**

Failure in tumor cases

- 10:40 - 11:00** **Malignant extramedullary tumor: a case with unfortunate outcome**
Dr. Mark Kotter
- 11:00 - 11:20** **Post-laminectomy kyphosis after tumor surgery: a myth or reality?**
Dr Andrea Bartoli

Degenerative spine

- 11:20 - 11:40** **My worst case: should I have done something different?**
Prof. Oliver Gautschi
- 11:40 - 12:00** **My worst case: should I have done something different?**
Prof. Florian Ringel
- 12:00 - 12:10** **Debrief, wrap up and farewell**

Continuing education credits

- **Swiss Society of Neurosurgery:** pending
- **Swiss Society of Orthopaedics:** pending

Program Chairs



Prof. Enrico Tessitore

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