



Theoretical &  
hands-on course

# Paediatric Minimally Invasive Surgery and Urology Course

LAPAROSCOPY

Geneva, 21-22 August 2025



Centre  
Universitaire  
Romand  
Chirurgie  
Pédiatrique



Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Kinderchirurgie  
Société Suisse de Chirurgie Pédiatrique  
Società Svizzera di Chirurgia Pediatrica



## Course directors



**Prof. Barbara Wildhaber**

Head of Paediatric Surgery,  
Geneva University Hospitals,  
University Center of Pediatric  
Surgery of Western Switzerland



**Dr. Enrico Brönnimann**

FMH-certified Paediatric  
Surgeon, Senior Physician,  
Division of Paediatric Surgery,  
Lausanne University Hospitals,  
University Center of Pediatric  
Surgery of Western Switzerland  
Hirslanden Clinique des  
Grangettes Geneva, Switzerland



**Dr. Oliver Sanchez**

FMH-certified Paediatric  
Surgeon, Senior Physician,  
Division of Paediatric Surgery,  
Lausanne University Hospitals,  
University Center of Pediatric  
Surgery of Western Switzerland

## Invited Faculty



**Prof. Amulya Saxena**

Consultant Paediatric Surgeon,  
Chelsea Children's Hospital,  
Chelsea and Westminster  
Healthcare NHS, London, UK



**Mr. Harish Chandran**

Consultant Paediatric Surgeon,  
Birmingham Children's Hospital,  
Birmingham Women's  
and Children's NHS,  
Birmingham, UK



**PD Dr. med. habil.  
Peter Zimmermann**

Director, Department of  
Pediatric Surgery and  
Congenital Malformations  
Helios Dr. Horst Schmidt  
Kliniken Wiesbaden, Germany



**Dr. Luca Mazzone**

FMH-certified Paediatric  
Surgeon, Senior Physician,  
Department of Pediatric  
Surgery, University Children's  
Hospital Zurich

# Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

The SWISS Foundation for Innovation and Training in Surgery (SFITS) has the pleasure to announce the next edition of the Paediatric Minimally Invasive Surgery and Urology course.

The minimally invasive approach is becoming the standard for a growing number of procedures in all fields of paediatric surgery. But where can we start getting into them?

By being introduced to the specific theory, by being exposed to standardized operations in a simulative real-time setting, by being guided by experts in the field, by having a safety-belt during our first steps!

We are happy to offer you the opportunity to train on the avian model which we developed for neonatal MIS training and published recently.<sup>1</sup>

We are offering this two-day course in the unique facilities provided by the SFITS, allowing surgeons of all levels to benefit from this formal theoretical teaching, but most importantly to have the opportunity to exercise on a wide range of carefully selected models, while exchanging and discussing operative techniques with internationally recognized experts.

Welcome to the Paediatric Minimally Invasive Surgery and Urology course!

*Prof. Barbara  
Wildhaber*  
Paediatric Surgeon



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<sup>1</sup> Zimmermann, P., Wiseman, A.X., Sanchez, O. et al. The avian model: a novel and cost-effective animal tissue model for training in neonatal laparoscopic surgery. *J Ped Endosc Surg* 1, 99–105 (2019).  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s42804-019-00027-8>



## Course description

Theoretical & hands-on course, aimed at junior and senior trainees



## Date

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**21-22 August 2025**

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### Day 1

- The first day offers up to date teaching on the physiological specificities of laparoscopy in children and technical aspects covering from the fine tunings of the stack to the basics of laparoscopy ergonomics, by leading experts. The theoretical introduction will be followed by 5 hours of hands-on exercises with a view to improving laparoscopic knotting, suturing and dissection. The highlight of the first day is the new avian model proposing adapted training opportunity for juniors, as well as advanced surgeons.

- Two-day hands-on course for pediatric surgeons on cadaveric animal models including the new avian model
- Fully equipped and modern surgical training center
- Multimedia-learning with instructional videos during hands-on practice

### Day 2

- The second day will entail two half-days of hands-on practice. Specific procedures will be performed on selected high quality animal models, following short video presentations (fundoplicatio, cholecystectomy, pyeloplasty...), with high tutor-participant ratio.



## Participation fees

- including lunches and dinner

2-day training : CHF 1'500.-

**-10% for EUPSA members and members of the Swiss Society for Pediatric Surgery**

## Registration

Please book your participation via the SFITS web application:

Go to

<https://calendar.sfits.ch>

or scan QR code

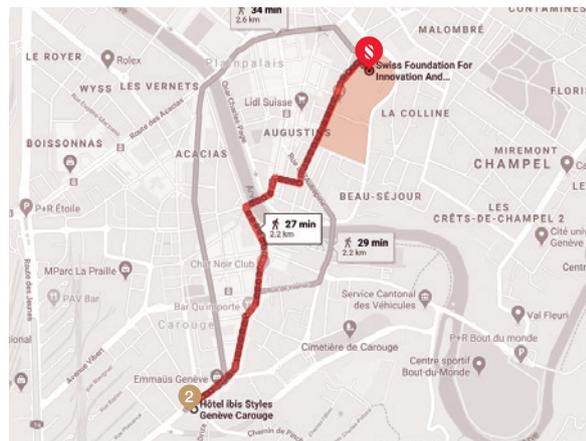


Contact for more info: [inscription@sfits.ch](mailto:inscription@sfits.ch)

## Venue

**SFITS** SWISS Foundation for Innovation and Training in Surgery

**1** Rue Gabrielle-Perret-Gentil 4,  
1205 Geneva, Switzerland | +41 22 322 9100



## Hotel recommandation

- not included in the course fees

**2**

**ibis Styles Genève Carouge Hotel**

Route De Saint Julien 3, 1227 Carouge

- Please contact us to get special prices.

More  
information

[www.sfits.ch](http://www.sfits.ch)



## Day 1

08:30	Welcome coffee & introduction of sponsors	
09:00-10:00	<b>Theoretical session</b>	
20'	Instruments and equipment	Prof. A. Saxena
20'	Ergonomics in endoscopic surgery	Prof. A. Saxena
20'	Trouble shooting and checklist	Prof. A. Saxena
10:00-12:00	<b>Hands-on session</b>	
	Pelvitainer - Suturing model	All faculty
12:00-13:00	Lunch break	
13:00-16:00	<b>Hands-on session</b>	
	Avian model - dissection, pneumoperitoneum, small space, energy device, intestinal anastomosis, cholecystectomy	All faculty
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	
16:30-17:30	<b>Theoretical session</b>	
	Retroperitoneoscopic and transperitoneal approach for pyeloplasty	Dr. L. Mazzone Mr. H. Chandran
17:40	<b>End of the day</b>	
19:00	Course dinner	



## Day 2

08:00-09:30	<b>Hands-on session</b>	
	Pelvitainer / Pelvitainer with animal organs Pyeloplasty	All faculty
09:30-10:30	Deflux session / Coffee break	Dr. E. Brönnimann
10:30-12:00	<b>Hands-on session</b>	
	Pelvitainer / Pelvitainer with animal organs Pyeloplasty	All faculty
12:00-13:00	Lunch break	
13:00-16:00	<b>Hands-on session</b>	
	Pelvitainer / with animal organs Cholecystectomy / Pyloromyotomy, Fundoplication, Splenectomy	All faculty
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	
16:30-17:30	<b>Interactive session and course evaluation</b>	

### Accreditation

- UEMS



We warmly thanks our sponsors:

