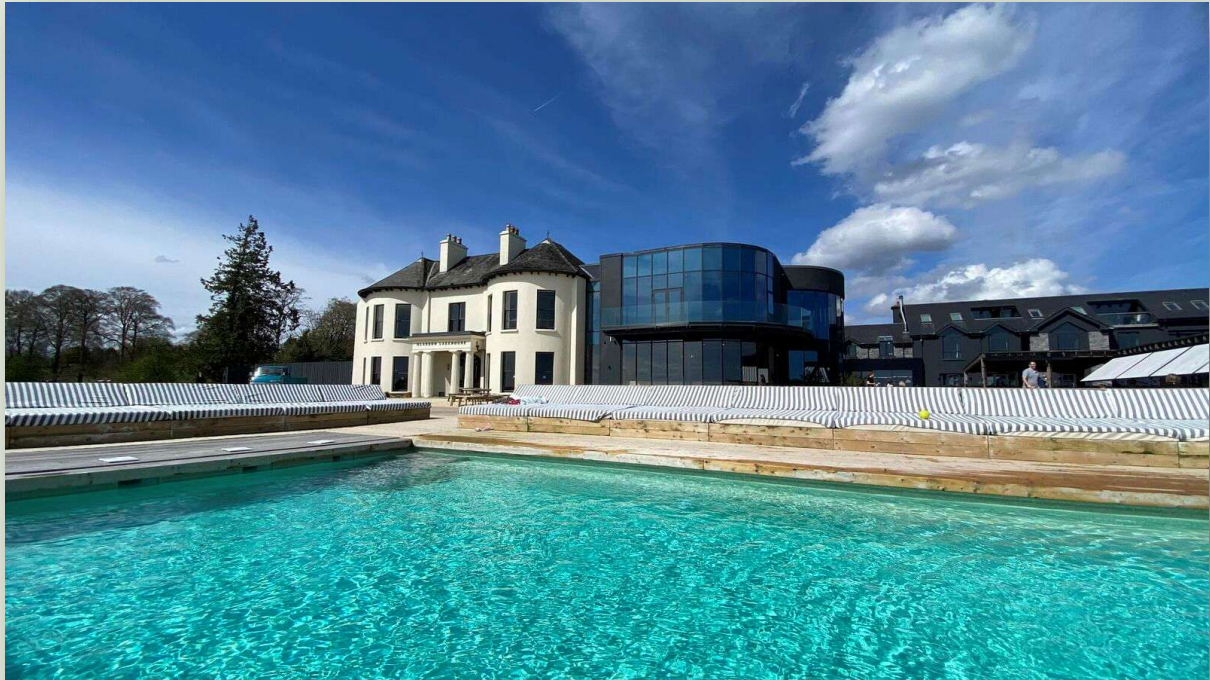


45th WESTERN ANAESTHESIA SYMPOSIUM 2026



Annual Scientific Meeting of the Western Anaesthesia Society of Ireland in Collaboration with the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland and University of Galway Anaesthesiology & Critical Care



GLASSON LAKEHOUSE HOTEL, WESTMEATH

APRIL 17th and 18th 2026

“A MODERN EXPERIENCED BASED PRACTICE OF ANAESTHESIOLOGY”

Hosted by Western Anaesthesiology Society In Conjunction With Portiuncula and Roscommon Hospitals and Approved for CME by the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Friday April 17th 2026

Morning Workshops 09.00-13.00 (require additional registration)

Regional Anaesthesia Masterclass (Consultants Only)

Facilitators: John McDonnell & Niall Cribben

Airway Workshop

Facilitators: Ciara Hanley & Brian Harte

1.00 “Poster” Presentations - Trainees

Facilitator: Colm Keane

Research and audit studies are presented by a variety of trainees and students.

2.30 – 4.00 Regional Anaesthesia Metasession

The team will discuss current hot topics in regional anaesthesia, how they approach common and uncommon nerve blocks. There will be discussions about chest wall and abdominal blocks; additives and whether or not they are valuable; ideal block duration; compartment syndromes; anticoagulants and blocks; LAST – is it the dose, the volume or the location that is the main problem;

Facilitator: John McDonnell

METASESSION TEAM

John McDonnell

Ciara Hanley

Niall Gibben

Speaker TBC

4.00 – 4.30

Coffee

4.30 – 6.00 Airway Management Metasession

Facilitator: Craig Lyons

METASESSION TEAM

The team will discuss airway strategy, videolaryngoscopy performance, how and when to do awake intubation, VAFI, airway surgery, the use of HFO amongst other things

Craig Lyons

Alaistair McNarry

Ellen O’Sullivan

6.30 – 7.15 Plenary Lecture and Interview

Dr. Alistair McNarry – President of the Difficult Airway Society

Facilitator: Dr Michael Callaghan, UHG

7.30 Barbecue

Saturday April 18th 2026

08.00 Case Presentation Competition

Facilitators: Mike Scully & Martina Melvin

These are clinical cases that are presented by anaesthesia trainees that illustrates clinical conundrums in anaesthesiology and critical care.

09.15 – 10.45 University of Galway Session

Moderator: Prof. John Laffey

Prof. Vincenzo Russotto, University of Turin

What Happens When Anaesthesiologists No Longer “Own” The Airway (Airway Management in ICU and the ED)

Prof. John McDonnell (GUH)– “Regional Anaesthesia in the 2030s – What Blocks Will You Be Doing?”

10.45 – 11.15 Coffee

11.15- 12.30 SYT Session “So You Think You Know About.....”

This Hi-Impact session will contain 5 talks about issues relating to anaesthesia and critical care that most of us THINK we understand, but once you peel away the layers we....probably don’t.

Michael O’Connor, University of Chicago

Lua Rahmani – Toronto

Pat Neligan, GUH – Preoxygenation

Mai O’Sullivan, GUH – You think that Simulation Training is a waste of resources?

Leo Kevin, GUH – Adjuncts to Pain Management in the Operating Room – are we deceiving ourselves?

12.30 – 13.15 Plenary Lecture

Michael O’Connor (University of Chicago) - Understanding Medical Accidents: What Have We Learned and Failed to Learn Over 20 Years?

Lunch in the Main Restaurant

Coffee in Exhibit Hall

14.30 – 16.00 Intravenous Anaesthesia Metasession

Facilitator: Dr Lua Rahmani (Toronto)

The team will discuss a range of topics that are current or controversial in Intravenous Anaesthesia. The current role of propofol and whether we are overdosing our patients; propofol vs remimazolam; the use or underuse of ketamine; do we need BIS or equivalent during TIVA? Is there any benefit to “modern” TCI models (Schnider/Eleveld) – and what is the story in elderly, obese and ICU patients? Is TIVA “green”? TIVA in paediatrics, radiology, and ICU; the role of dexmedetomidine, lidocaine, magnesium and all of those other “adjuncts” etc. Is “opioid free anaesthesia” a meaningful advance or just cheap hype?

The METASESSION TEAM:

Lua Rahmani

Eoin Young (Cambridge)

Louise Moran (Letterkenny)

Eamonn Coleman

20.00 Gala Dinner in the Restaurant

Join us to celebrate another great year in our specialty and in our region. Hosted by Dr Mark Ross, President of WAS. Special Guest Prof. Donal Buggy, President of the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland.

Registration: [EVENTBRITE](#)

Social and Other Activities

Outdoor heated swimming pool on site

Gym on each floor

Hot tubs

18 Hole Golf Course

Driving Range

Paddle Boarding

Kayaking

Row Boats (including motorised ones)



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OF GALWAY



SCAN QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION