



48th IHF World Hospital Congress

Geneva 2025

10-13 November 2025



Switzerland

International Conference Centre Geneva



Post-event Report



International
Hospital
Federation



Hôpitaux
Universitaires
Genève



48th IHF World Hospital Congress

Geneva 2025



ABOUT THE CONGRESS

The 48th IHF World Hospital Congress, organized by the International Hospital Federation (IHF) in collaboration with Geneva University Hospital (HUG), was held from 10–13 November 2025 at the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG), Switzerland.

The Congress brought together over 1,500 delegates from 86 countries and territories, offering a dynamic programme of plenary and parallel sessions, workshops, masterclasses, and poster presentations. Participants explored cutting-edge ideas in the i-to-i Innovation Lounge and engaged with exhibitors showcasing the latest healthcare solutions.

More than 260 speakers shared insights across 50+ scientific sessions, while over 420 posters highlighted best practices and innovations from around the globe. A key highlight was the IHF Awards Gala Reception, where 500+ healthcare leaders celebrated outstanding projects and programmes. Delegates also enjoyed exclusive visits to leading hospitals in Switzerland and neighbouring France.

The Congress provided unparalleled opportunities for knowledge exchange, discovery of innovative solutions, and networking with peers from across the global healthcare community.

Programme tracks

'Global learning, local action for every patient'



Leadership imperatives



Clinical models enhancing quality and safety



Environmentally sustainable, resilient, and low-carbon healthcare



Digital transformation and AI in care and hospital operations



The human-centred experience – core to all we do



ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS



International Hospital Federation

Established in 1929, the International Hospital Federation (IHF) is a global not-for-profit, non-governmental membership organization, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The IHF provides its members with a platform for knowledge exchange and networking with different leaders in the health sector, to improve the standard, quality, sustainability, and level of service delivery.

The IHF supports healthcare leaders to excel with training and development. Through its members, it is the voice of hospitals on the global stage.

www.ihf-fih.org



Hôpitaux
Universitaires
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Geneva University Hospital (HUG) brings together 11 hospital sites and 20 healthcare facilities. Its missions are to provide care to the community in all medical specialties, to contribute to the training of doctors and health personnel, and to carry out medical and nursing research. The HUG is a national reference centre for influenza, emerging viral infections, meningococci, and transplantation immunology, and the national reference laboratory for histocompatibility. The hospital is a WHO Collaborating Centre in six fields of expertise, and has centres of excellence in several sectors. In 2023, the HUG treated 249,000 patients, managed 2,083 hospital beds and had 12,800 staff in its employ.

The HUG is a stand-alone associate member of the IHF and a long-standing supporter of its mission to promote leadership development, knowledge exchange, and advocacy to improve the standard, quality, and level of service delivery in hospitals and healthcare settings. HUG was one of the first hospitals in the world to achieve the JCI-GSC Healthcare Sustainability Certification.

www.hug.ch/en



SUSTAINABILITY AT CONGRESS

At the 45th IHF World Hospital Congress in 2022, IHF Members approved the IHF Statement for Sustainability. This statement makes it clear that sustainability is a natural fit with the core purpose of healthcare delivery, and should contribute to reducing hospitals' environmental footprint while improving the health of the communities. Sustainability is also an integral part of planning and delivering the Congress each year.

With the help of the IHF's Geneva Sustainability Centre, environmentally sustainable, resilient and low-carbon healthcare is one of the five tracks in the programme that the Scientific Committee shaped for Geneva. At Congress, we also celebrate the sustainability champions in the IHF membership through three dedicated Excellence Awards.

Each year, we strive to organize an environmentally sustainable Congress. By prioritizing sustainability, it can act as an example to participants for ways to reduce the carbon footprint of events, providing a positive experience to visitors and preserving the local environment for its community.



*Supporting hospitals to
become leaders for
sustainability
in their communities.*





ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



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#IHFGeneva

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
AND KEY NUMBERS



1 500+

Attendees



86

Countries and
territories represented



260+

Speakers



50+

Plenary and
parallel sessions



420+

Posters
(print, digital, online)



21

Innovators
showcased at the
i-to-i Innovation
Lounge



81

IHF Awards winners



17

Hospital visits
in Switzerland and
nearby France

WHC by numbers

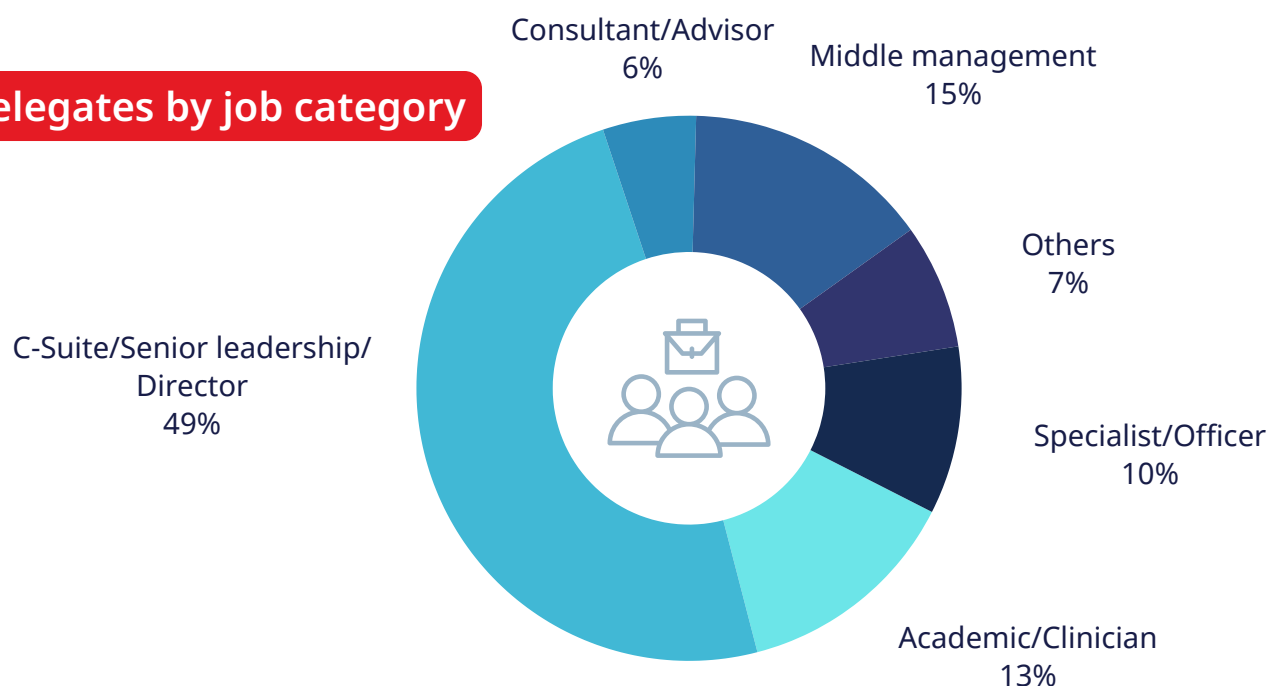


**1500+ delegates from
86 countries and territories
registered for the 48th IHF
World Hospital Congress**

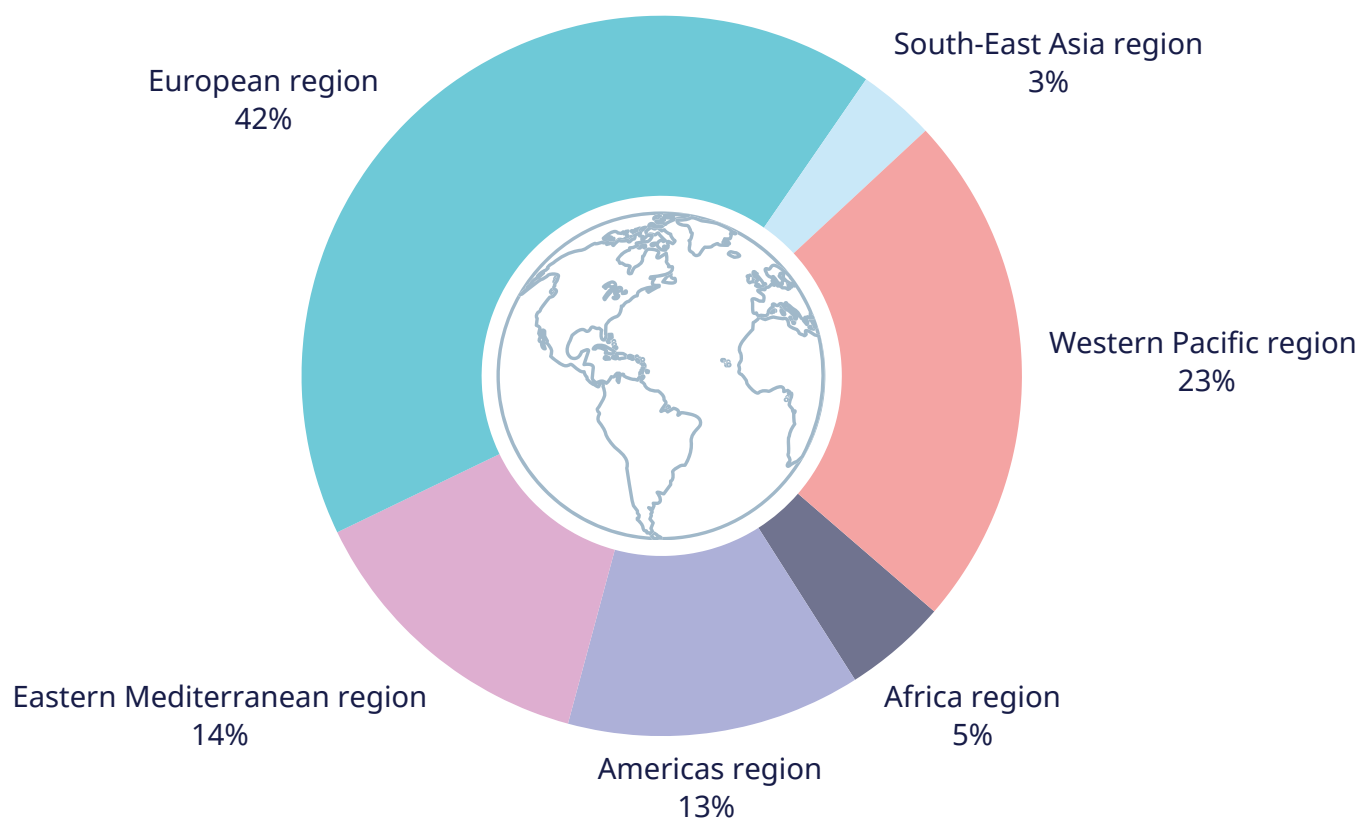


ATTENDEE DEMOGRAPHICS

Delegates by job category



Delegates breakdown by region



Sessions, meetings, and workshops

On 10 November, the 2025 Congress began with several meetings and activities, including the Geneva Sustainability Centre's Navigating Net Zero masterclass and the IHF Young Executive Leaders workshop. The IHF Governing Council meeting and General Assembly also took place.



PRE-CONGRESS ACTIVITIES AND WELCOME RECEPTION



Welcome Reception

At the welcome reception, delegates kicked off the Congress with networking over drinks and light bites, including Swiss specialties, while exploring the exhibition area and the Innovation Lounge.



The Opening Ceremony officially launched the 48th IHF World Hospital Congress, with welcoming remarks from Dr Muna A. Tahlak (IHF President), Robert Mardini (Director-General of HUG), and representatives of the host city and canton, including Christina Kitsos and Pierre Maudet.

OPENING CEREMONY & KEYNOTE



The session also featured a keynote by Prof. Dr Didier Cossin (International Institute for Management Development, Switzerland), who shared thought-provoking insights on governance challenges in a rapidly transformed world.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

This year's Congress brought together hospital leaders and experts from around the world for three days of plenaries, workshops, spotlight talks, and parallel sessions across key topics including leadership, clinical models for quality and safety, sustainable and low-carbon healthcare, digital transformation and AI, and human-centred care.

For the majority of scientific sessions, simultaneous translation in 10 languages was offered (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese (Europe), Arabic, Korean, Mandarin, Bahasa Indonesia, and Vietnamese), making it easier than ever for delegates to engage, exchange insights, and learn.





SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

PLENARY 1 Envisioning 2050: The intersection of AI and healthcare



The first plenary session explored how AI could transform clinical care, operations, and patient experience by 2050. The panellists agreed that AI is not magic but, when governed responsibly and paired with strong data, ethics, and workforce development, it can reduce administrative burden, improve safety and precision, and ultimately enhance the human elements of care while building patient trust.

PLENARY 2 Beyond the hospital: A system-wide approach to low- carbon healthcare



Plenary session 2 highlighted that climate change is already reshaping health systems, and that hospitals must lead sustainable change by reducing their environmental impact while strengthening quality, equity, and resilience. Speakers emphasized that sustainability must be embedded across governance, clinical practice, operations, and culture, guided by strong leadership, reliable data, and practical steps that start small, mobilize others, and support the teams driving the work forward.

PLENARY 3 A healthcare leader's greatest challenge: Workforce strategies that work



The third plenary session brought together leaders from Colombia, Pakistan, Singapore, and Spain who shared practical, human-centred strategies for building a resilient health workforce, emphasizing psychological safety, flexibility, empathy, and supportive team culture. The session concluded that workforce strategy is inseparable from care strategy.

The Congress also hosted a series of workshops and invitational meetings, creating a collaborative environment where selected delegates engaged in focused discussions on key topics. These sessions fostered in-depth dialogue and knowledge exchange, enhancing the overall experience of the event.



WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS



IHF Young Executive Leaders Workshop



IHF Virtual Care SIG workshop
The future of virtual care: Global perspectives



Taking action with the Geneva Sustainability Centre



Stanford Medicine Innovation Workshop



IHF Partners' workshop
Strengthening hospital financing for the future



IHF Association Leaders Circle Breakfast



IHF Women in Leadership SIG Workshop
The power we bring: Celebrating women in healthcare leadership



IHF President's workshop
Safe maternity care, hospital leaders taking action



POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Over 420 posters were selected for the 48th World Hospital Congress. The top-scoring posters for each thematic track, as judged by members of the Congress Scientific Committee, were revealed at the Poster presentations and tour on 11 November.





SPONSORED SESSIONS

The Congress also featured sessions led by key partners and sponsors, offering expert insights and fostering interactive discussions. These sessions delivered in-depth perspectives on critical topics such as cybersecurity, distributed innovation, robotic surgery clinical outcomes, sustainability, and data-driven healthcare, further enriching the learning experience for attendees.





INNOVATION HUB SHOWCASE

The *i-to-i* Innovation Hub 2025, from innovation to implementation, had the theme of hospital-born innovations.

The Hub Steering Committee selected 23 innovators from 16 countries (out of 84 eligible applications), 21 of whom joined the 2025 line-up. Each innovator had a dedicated area at the Innovation Lounge at the World Hospital Congress in Geneva.

The 3 top-scoring innovators from National University Hospital Singapore, Chi Mei Medical Center Taiwan and Corewell Health in the US were recognized at the Welcome Reception. In addition, an innovator from Centro Hospitalar Universitário de Santo António won the audience choice award.

A workshop for 35 innovators and their teams, led by Stanford Healthcare, and hosted by the Innovation Centre of University Hospital Geneva, focused on the seven stages of innovation, and encouraged peer-to-peer sharing and learning.



On 12 November, 81 IHF Awards winners were honoured during a prestigious ceremony held at Campus Biotech.

Gold, Silver, and Bronze winners in each of the eight categories, along with recipients of honourable mentions, were presented with trophies and certificates.

Dr Kwang Tae-Kim graced the evening and was awarded with a special tribute for his inspiration in establishing the IHF Awards in 2015.

The Awards Gala Reception brought together over 500 hospital and healthcare leaders from around the world.

The evening concluded with Swiss Village experience that offered a festive and unique touch to the event.



AWARDS GALA RECEPTION



[Download](#) the IHF Awards digital publication to read the inspiring programmes of all the winners.



NETWORKING

Delegates enjoyed numerous networking opportunities, including designated breaks, country-themed lunches, and other social gatherings designed to foster connections.



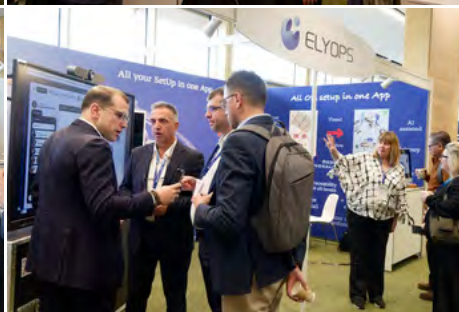
During an exclusive reception, invited guests experienced the distinctive atmosphere of International Geneva at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the most iconic institution and the founding organization of International Geneva since 1863.





EXHIBITION

The Congress exhibition created a dynamic environment for engagement, featuring sponsor and exhibitor booths, an Innovation Hub showcase, spotlight talks, and networking opportunities that supported professional exchange.





CLOSING CEREMONY AND HANDOVER



The 48th IHF World Hospital Congress came to a close on 13 November with an upbeat sense of the opportunities ahead to advance hospital sustainability, innovation, and patient-centred care delivery. In his speech, Mr Robert Mardini, Director-General of Geneva University Hospital emphasized the importance of recommitting to the mission of the Congress, and what leadership truly means in hospitals.

A key moment of the ceremony was the leadership transition within the IHF, as Dr Muna A. Tahlak, IHF President and Chief Medical Officer of Dubai Health and Vice Provost for Clinical Affairs of Mohammed Bin Rashid University in the UAE, introduced Dr Henry Gallardo as the incoming IHF President and formally handed over the President's medal. Dr Gallardo paid tribute to Dr Tahlak's leadership and shared his remarks and priorities for the next two years.

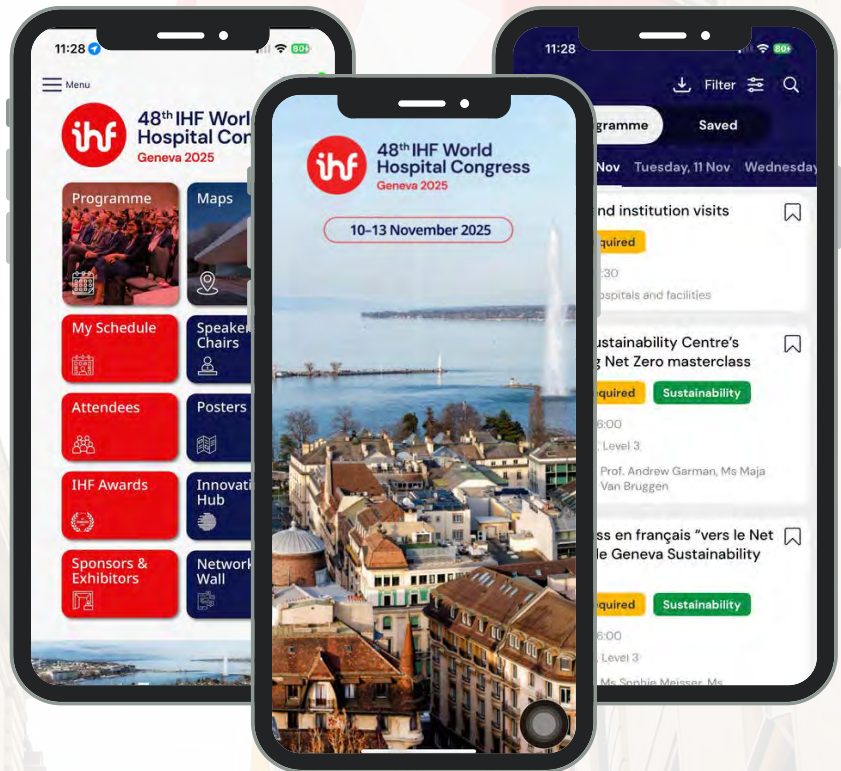
Mr Mardini and Prof. Dr Klara Posfay-Barbe, Medical Director, HUG, then ceremonially handed over hosting duties for the 49th World Hospital Congress to Seoul (Republic of Korea), where the event will be held on 19–22 October 2026. The IHF will organize the next Congress in collaboration with the Korean Hospital Association (KHA).



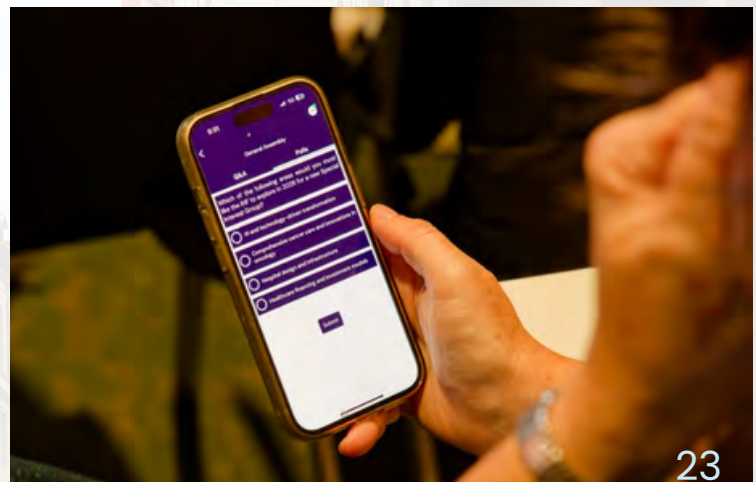
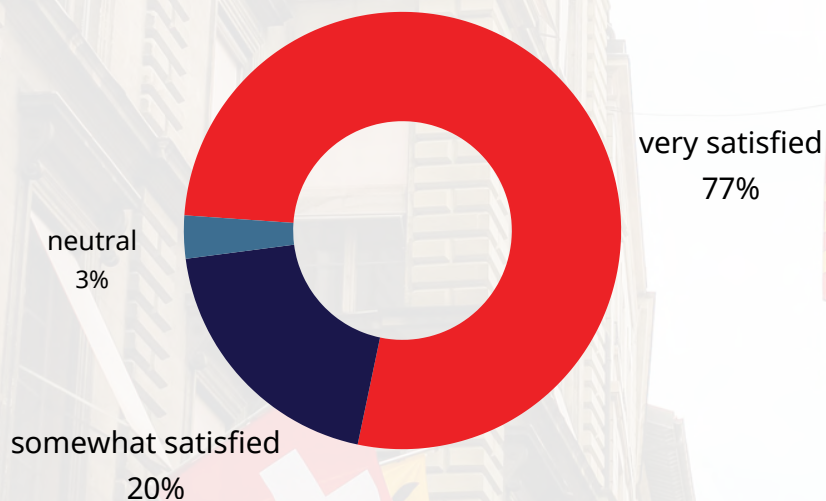


WHC APP

Delegates maximized their Congress experience by using the event app which allowed them to connect with the speakers and other attendees, take part in Q&As, view their schedules, view posters, learn unique innovations, and more.



User satisfaction rate





HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTION VISITS

On 10, 13, and 14 November, 432 delegates had the opportunity to participate in guided hospital and institution visits. These visits provided a firsthand look into the best practices of hospitals and healthcare facilities in Switzerland and nearby France.



Hirslanden Clinique la Colline and Hirslanden Clinique des Grangettes



Hospices Civils de Lyon and Centre Léon Bérard



Geneva University Hospital: Child and Adolescent Centre



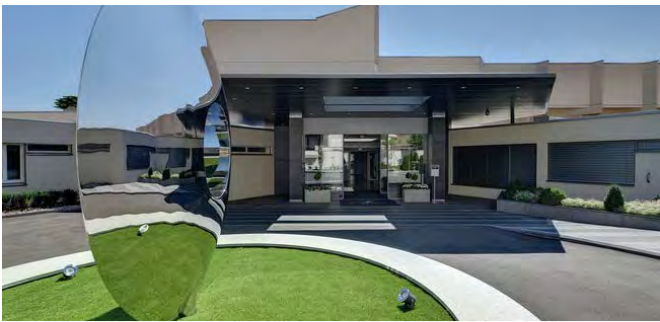
AGORA Cancer Research Center



HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTION VISITS

Exploring Switzerland and France

Learning from leading health institutions



Campus Genolier (Clinique de Genolier and Genolier Innovation Hub)



Geneva University Hospital: Swiss Foundation for Innovation and Training in Surgery (SFITS), GIBOR, and Innovation Center



**Geneva University Hospital:
Sustainability focus**



Hôpital de La Tour



HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTION VISITS

Exploring Switzerland and France

Learning from leading health institutions



**Lausanne University Hospital:
Children's Hospital**



Klinik Hirslanden



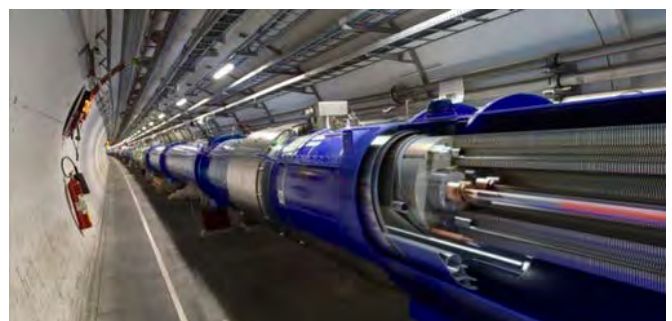
**University Hospital Zurich's
Outpatient Health Center**



Centre Hospitalier Annecy Genevois



**Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI)
World Cycling Centre**



**CERN: European Organization for
Nuclear Research**

Content quality received very high satisfaction ratings across all criteria, with an average of **94.4%**.

FEEDBACK FROM ATTENDEES AND SPONSORS

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID ABOUT THEIR CONGRESS EXPERIENCE

Some feedback from post-Congress survey results:



"From start to finish, the Congress maintained a highly professional standard, creating an environment that fostered learning, collaboration, and meaningful dialogue. The atmosphere throughout the congress was remarkably positive, supported by fantastic, dedicated people who contributed to a warm and welcoming tone. The staff, speakers, and participants demonstrated a strong commitment to sharing knowledge and advancing innovation within healthcare."

"Hospital visits gave us the opportunity to see the reality about the difference between modern health facilities and those in developing countries, this encouraged us to work even harder to reach the level."

"The expert testimonials were truly inspiring regarding leadership and innovation, and the quality of the moderators was excellent. Many examples of local projects were presented."

"The organization before and on the days of the conference was excellent. Everything ran to clockwork, and the AV was very good. There was a very diverse selection of topics, many good presenters, and a good selection of posters."

"Interesting topics including challenges and innovation from all over the world."

"The programme was thoughtfully structured, offering clear overviews and easy navigation between sessions. Both the digital and physical guidance made it simple to identify and locate the relevant presentations. Overall, the World Hospital Congress delivered an outstanding experience. A valuable and memorable event."



TOP REASONS FOR ATTENDING



Overall programme – topics and speakers



Presenting in a session or a poster



To learn from other countries



SPONSORS, PARTNERS, AND EXHIBITORS

GOLD SPONSORS

INTUITIVE



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Deloitte.



Medtronic

SUSTAINABILITY EXPERTISE



DESTINATION PARTNERS

GENEVA
CONVENTION BUREAU



REPUBLIQUE
ET CANTON
DE GENEVE

POST TENEBRAS LUX

INNOVATION HUB PARTNER



AWARDS SPONSORS



EXHIBITORS





49th IHF World Hospital Congress

Seoul 2026



International
Hospital
Federation



사단법인
대한병원협회
Korean Hospital Association

Save the date.

**20-22
OCTOBER 2026**

(with pre-Congress activities and the
Welcome Reception on 19 October)

Coex Magok Lewest
Seoul, Republic of Korea

