INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON DRUG-RESISTANT EPILEPSY
Scientific Agenda

Duration: 3 Days (2026 September 30 - October 2)

Congress Venue: Milad Hospital, Isfahan, Iran

Scientific Halls: 2 Parallel Halls

Daily Scientific Program: 08:00-14:00

Scientific Sessions: 12 Sessions /Workshop/ Symposium

Congress President: Dr. Jafar Mehvari

Scientific Secretary of the Congress: Dr. Hossein Kahnouji

International Congress on Drug-Resistant Epilepsy
Scientific Program (Isfahan, 2026)

Congress Overview and ILAE/EpiEd Alignment

The International Congress on Drug-Resistant Epilepsy will convene from September 30 to October 2, 2026 (8–10 Mehr 1405) at Milad Hospital, Isfahan, Iran. Over three days and two parallel halls (Hall A, Main Auditorium; Hall B, Symposium Hall), approximately forty faculty members —including international guest Prof. Nicola Specchio—will deliver twelve scientific sessions, two masterclasses, one hands-on surgical workshop, and two industry-supported symposia.

Overall Aims and Learning Objectives

Overarching aim. The Isfahan DRE Congress 2026 is a three-day scientific program designed to instruct participants in the ILAE core competencies related to the diagnosis of drug-resistant epilepsy, its pharmacologic and surgical treatment, referral and counseling, and the management of comorbidities — core competencies 1, 2, 3, and 6, extended with surgical and emergency competencies (4,5) where the congress content requires them.

Competency 1 — Etiology and diagnostics. After attending the congress sessions on classification, semiology, neurogenetics, and imaging, the participant will be able to:

- **1.1.1 (L1)** describe the major etiologies of seizures and epilepsies — structural, genetic, infectious, metabolic, immune, and neurodegenerative — as applied to drug-resistant cohorts.
- **1.2.1 (L2)** decide whom to test genetically and **1.2.2 (L3)** select the appropriate type of testing, with **1.2.3 (L3)** interpretation of results applied to the Day-2 neurogenetics content of the congress program.
- **1.5.2 (L1)** decide whom to image and **1.5.3 (L2)** determine when to image or repeat imaging, including 3T epilepsy-protocol MRI indications in surgical candidates.
- **1.8.2 (L2)** recognize the semiology of psychogenic non-epileptic seizures and the role of video-EEG and suggestion techniques, supporting the comorbidity and PNES content of the congress.

Competency 2 — Counseling and referral. The participant will be able to:

- **2.1 (L1)** address culturally appropriate aspects of diagnosis, including stigma, when communicating a diagnosis of drug-resistant epilepsy.

- **2.2.2 (L1)** counsel on lifestyle factors — driving, sports, stress, sleep, and adherence — and **2.2.3 (L1)** deliver seizure-safety advice.
- **2.3.2 (L2)** educate patients and families on prognosis and risk factors, and **2.3.5 (L1)** counsel on adverse effects of antiseizure medications, including polytherapy in refractory patients.
- **2.4.1 (L2)** advise patients in remission and **2.4.2 (L2)** advise patients with uncontrolled seizures, including the transition from pharmacologic to surgical pathways.
- **2.5 (L1)** recognize when to refer for higher-level care — video-EEG monitoring, pre-surgical evaluation, lesional or uncontrolled epilepsy, epileptic encephalopathy, psychiatric comorbidity, and genetic counseling — which is the central referral objective of the congress.
- **2.6 (L2)** counsel women of childbearing age on teratogenicity and pregnancy planning.
- **2.10.1–2.10.3 (L1–L2)** communicate the diagnosis and psychological treatment potential of PNES and counsel on tapering inappropriate antiseizure medications and the role of anxiolytics and antidepressants.

Competency 3 — Pharmacologic treatment. The participant will be able to:

- **3.1.2 (L1)** explain the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of antiseizure medications relevant to combination therapy in refractory epilepsy.
- **3.2.2 (L2)** recommend therapy according to epilepsy syndrome, including syndrome-specific regimens in pediatric and adolescent populations with drug-resistant epilepsy.
- **3.3.4 (L2)** discuss treatment strategies for sexual function and dysfunction related to antiseizure medication exposure.

Competency 4,5 - Surgical and emergency extensions (L2–L3). The participant will additionally be able to describe the diagnostic work-up and candidacy criteria for resective and disconnective surgery, neuromodulation (VNS, DBS, RNS), and stereotactic procedures, and to apply status epilepticus protocols in acute settings.

Competency 6 — Comorbidities. The participant will be able to **6.1.1 (L2)** recognize psychiatric comorbidities — depression, anxiety, ADHD, psychosis, and autism spectrum disorder — in patients with drug-resistant epilepsy, and **6.2 (L2)** diagnose and manage relevant somatic comorbidities in this population.

Assessment, Certification and Continuing Education Credits

In line with the assessment tools defined in the EpiEd curriculum, the congress incorporates the following evaluation and certification mechanisms:

- **Case-based assessment.** The SEEG masterclass, complex pediatric case presentations, and the autoimmune encephalitis masterclass are structured as interactive, case-based examinations of clinical reasoning, consistent with the EpiEd recommendation of case-based testing for postgraduate epileptology training.
- **Modular interim certification.** Following the modular seven-block EpiEd model, each completed masterclass and workshop may be certified as an interim module, enabling participants to accumulate credit toward Level 1 (GOSI) competence; Level 2 (COE) content is flagged for comprehensive-epilepsy-center practitioners.
- **Continuing medical education.** Formal CME credit is requested from the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education; international attendees receive an attendance certificate that itemizes EpiEd domains and contact hours for submission to their national ILAE chapter.

DAY 1 (September 30)-Hall A	Advanced Diagnostic Evaluation and Electroclinical Localization of Drug-Resistant Epilepsy Moderator: Dr. Amid Tabatabaiee Session Chairs : Dr. Abbas Tafakhori / DR . Mahdi Neshatfar / Dr. Amir Hoseinzadeh

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08:00–8:25	**Opening ceremony and welcome**	
08:25–8:50	**The 2025 ILAE Classification of Epileptic Seizures: What Has Changed and Why It Matters in Clinical Practice**	Prof. Nicola Specchio
08:50–9:15	**Ictal and Interictal Semiology in Generalized Epilepsy: Distinguishing Generalized Seizures from Focal Epileptic Phenotypes**	Dr. Asieh Mehramiri
09:15–9:40	**Complex Localization Cases: Integrating Semiology, EEG, and Neuroimaging**	Dr. Abbas Tafakhori
09:40–0:05	**Why Does Epilepsy Become Drug-Resistant? Molecular, Cellular, and Network Mechanisms of Pharmacoresistance**	Dr. Mohamad Amin Farzi
10:05–10:35	Coffee Break	

DAY 1 (September 30)-Hall A	**Pediatric Drug-Resistant Epilepsy** **Moderator: Dr. Reza Shervin Badv** **Session Chairs : Dr. Reza Azizi / Dr. Neda Sadat Hoseini/ Dr Mohamad Reza Zolfaghari**

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
10:35–11:00	**When Should We Stop Adding Medications and Refer to a Child for Epilepsy Surgery?**	Dr. Mohamad Reza Ghazavi
11:00–11:25	**The Role of Artificial Intelligence in the Multimodal Diagnosis and Management of Complex and Drug-Resistant Epilepsy**	Dr. Reza Azizi Malamiri
11:25–11:45	**Ketogenic Dietary Therapies in Pediatric Drug-Resistant Epilepsy: Patient Selection, Implementation, and Monitoring**	Dr. Jafar Nasiri
11:45–12:05	**Complex Pediatric Cases:**	Dr. Forogh Derakhshani
12:05-12:25	**Complex Pediatric Cases**	Dr. Maedeh Majidinezhad

DAY 1 (September 30)-Hall A	**Workshop** **VNS Therapy /Surgery of Hypothalamic Hamartoma** **Moderator : Dr. Mahdi Shafiee** **Session Chairs : Dr. Ali Riazi / Dr. Mohammad Sadegh Masoodi**

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
12:30-12:55	VNS Therapy in Drug Resistant Epilepsy	Prof.Dr. Nerses Bebek
12:55 – 13:40	VNS Therapy (case- based discussion) /surgery of hypothalamic Hamartoma	Dr. Mohamad Sadegh Masoodi

14:00-15:00	**Lunch break**

DAY 1 (September 30)-Hall B	**SEEG Masterclass** **Moderator: Dr. Farnaz Sinaiee** **Session Chairs: Dr. Akbar Fazel / Dr. Jafar Mehvari / Dr.Hashemi Fesharaki**

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08:25–08:55	**SEEG Strategy: From Hypothesis Generation to Electrode Implantation — Common Pitfalls**	Dr. Farnaz Sinaiee
08:55–09:25	**Interactive SEEG Case Discussion**	Dr. Jafar Mehvari
09:25–09:55	**Case-Based Learning: Grid electrodes implantation**	Dr. Seyed Sohrab Hashemi Fesharaki
09:55–10:05	**Question and Answer**	Faculty Panel
10:05-10:35	**COFFEE BREAK**	

DAY 1 (September 30)-Hall B	Etiology-Driven Management of Drug-Resistant Epilepsy Moderator: Dr. Seyed Jalal Ziaiee Session Chairs: Dr. Seyed Ahmad Sonbolestan /Dr.Mohamad Amin Najafi/ Dr.Neda Sheykhinia /Dr.Nahid Jivad

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
10:35–11:00	**Focal Cortical Dysplasia as a Cause of Drug-Resistant Epilepsy: Diagnosis and Treatment**	Dr. Pegah Katibeh
11:00–11:25	**Post-Traumatic Drug-Resistant Epilepsy: Mechanisms, Risk Factors, and Management**	Dr. Nayereh Akbari
11:25–11:50	**Drug-Resistant Epilepsy Following Central Nervous System Infection**	Dr. Mohammad Reza Najafi
11:50–12:15	**Post-Stroke Drug-Resistant Epilepsy: Prevention, Diagnosis, and Management**	Dr. Sadegh Izadi
12:15–12:40	**Drug Resistant Epilepsy Associated with Brain Tumors: Seizure Management and Oncological Considerations**	Dr. Samaneh Haghigi

14:00-15:00	**Lunch break**

DAY 2 (October 1)-Hall A	Complications and Comorbidities of Drug-Resistant Epilepsy Moderator: Dr. Mohamad Reza Najafi Session Chairs: Dr. Keyvan Basiri / Dr. Mohsen Ataiee/ Dr. Abbas Ghorbani /Dr. Mohamad Saadatnia

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08:00–08:25	**Cardiovascular Complications of DRE: Peri-Ictal Arrhythmias, and Cardiac Risk Assessment**	Dr. Soheila Rezakhani
08:25–08:50	**Sexual Dysfunction and Reproductive Health in DRE**	Dr. Mostafa Asadolahi
08:50–09:15	**Endocrine and Metabolic Complications of DRE and Long-Term Antiseizure Medication Therapy**	Dr. Hoda Naghshineh
09:15–09:40	**Bone Health in DRE: Osteoporosis, Vitamin D Deficiency, and Fracture Prevention**	Dr. Roshanak Tirdad
09:40–10:05	**Driving, Occupational Safety, and Injury Prevention in People With DRE**	Dr. Meysam Aghaiee
10:05-10:35	COFFEE BREAK	

DAY 2 (October 1)-Hall A	**Advanced Diagnostic and management of Drug-Resistant Epilepsy** **Moderator: Dr. Mahmood Motamedi** **Session Chairs: Dr.Daryoosh Savadi /Dr.Majid Ghafarpoor / Dr.Ahmad Chitsaz**

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
10:35–11:00	**Nocturnal Seizures Versus Parasomnias in Drug-Resistant Epilepsy: Advanced Diagnostic Strategies**	Dr. Daryoosh Savadi
11:00–11:30	**Frontiers of idiopathic generalized epilepsies**	Dr. Mahmood Motamedi
11:30–11:55	**Genetic Epilepsies in Adults: When the Diagnosis Changes Treatment**	Dr. Nasim Tabrizi
11:55-12:20	**Choosing Antiseizure Medications Based on Mechanism of Action and Patient Characteristics**	Dr. Majid Ghafarpoor

Symposium 1: 12:30–13:30 Making Every ASM Count	**DRE Congress – Cobel Darou Symposiums** ***A Practical Approach to Rational Polytherapy in Adult DRE*** **Moderator: Dr. Jafar Mehvari**

Role	Full Name	Position
Moderator	Jafar Mehvari	Professor of Neurology in Isfahan University of Medical Sciences; Epilepsy Fellowship
Speaker	Nasim Tabrizi	Associate Professor of Neurology in Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences; Epilepsy Fellowship
Speaker	Navid Naghibi	Neurologist; Epilepsy Fellowship

14:00-15:00	**Lunch break**

DAY 2 (October 1)-Hall B	**Advanced diagnostic and Management of comorbidities in Drug-Resistant Epilepsy** **Moderator: Dr. Jalal Khalighinezhad** **Session Chairs: Dr. Afshin Najafi/ Dr.Maryam Rahnama / Dr.Mohamad Mahdi Salehi/Dr. Behnaz Ansari**

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08:00–08:25	**Psychiatric Comorbidities in Drug Resistant Epilepsy: Depression, Anxiety, Psychosis, and Suicide Risk**	Dr. Mohamad Taghi Farzadfard
08:25–08:50	**Progressive Cognitive Decline in Pediatric Drug-Resistant Epilepsy: The Role of Seizure Burden, Interictal Activity, and Antiseizure Medications**	Dr. Bahram Yarali
08:50–09:15	**Management of Drug-Resistant Epilepsy in Older Adults: Balancing Seizure Control and Comorbidity**	Dr. Mahyar Noorbakhsh
09:15–09: 40	**Hepatic and Renal Comorbidities in Drug-Resistant Epilepsy: Implications for Antiseizure Medication selection and Dosing**	Dr. Fatemeh Jahanshahi

09: 40 – 10:05	***Lecture presented by Ronak pharm***

10:05–10:35	**COFFEE BREAK**

DAY 2 (October 1)-Hall B	**Advanced Neuropsychiatry in Epilepsy** **Moderator: Dr. Minoo Hashemi** **Session Chairs: Dr.Majid Barkatin/ Dr Fatemeh Mirfazeli/ Dr.Somayeh Ashrafi**

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
10:35–11:00	**The New Nosology of Functional/Dissociative Seizures: Neurobiology and Clinical Subclassification**	Dr. Majid Barkatin
11:00–11:25	**Beyond Conventional CBT: Intensifying Psychological Treatment in High-Frequency Functional/Dissociative Seizures**	Dr. Fatemeh Mirfazeli
11:25–11:50	**Breaking the Revolving Door: Emergency Care, Family Systems, and Integrated Management of Functional/Dissociative Seizures**	Dr. Somayeh Ashrafi
11:50–12:15	**Expert Panel: Solving the Refractory Functional/Dissociative Seizure Case**	All Faculty + Chair
12:15–12:40	**Key Messages and Take-Home Clinical Algorithm**	Chair

13:30 -13:50	**Lecture Presented by Actover Company**

14:00-15:00	**Lunch break**

DAY 3 (October 2)-Hall A	**Advanced Neuroimaging in Drug-Resistant Epilepsy** **Moderator: Dr. Fariborz Khorvash** **Session Chairs: Dr.Elham Rahimian / Dr.Reza Basiratnia/ Dr.Neda Azin**

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08:00–08:25	**Artificial Intelligence in Epilepsy Neuroimaging: Current Applications and Future Directions**	Dr. Elham Rahimian
08:25–08:50	**Advanced MRI in Drug-Resistant Epilepsy: Epilepsy-Protocol MRI and Detection of Subtle Lesions**	Dr. Neda Azin
08:50–09:15	**Characterization of Normal MRI Variations in Patients with Drug-Resistant Epilepsy**	Dr. Reza Basiratnia
09:15–09:40	**MRI morphometry of non-lesional of temporal lobe epilepsy**	Dr. Fatemeh Fadaiee

09:40 – 10:05	Lecture presented by RAHA pharmaceutical Co.

10:05–10:35	**COFFEE BREAK**

DAY 3 (October 2)-Hall A	Epilepsy surgery in DRE Moderator: Dr. Masih Saboori Session Chairs: Dr. Mohamad Ghodsi/ Dr. Bahram Amin Mansoor/ Dr. Majid Rezvani

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
10:35–11:00	**Surgical Treatment of Temporal Lobe Epilepsy: Patient Selection, Surgical Strategies, and Outcomes**	Dr. Mohamad Ghodsi
11:00–11:25	**Deep Brain Stimulation for Drug-Resistant Epilepsy: Current Evidence and Future Directions**	Dr. Aydin Omidvar
11:25–11:50	**Corpus Callosotomy in Drug-Resistant Epilepsy: Indications, Techniques, and Outcomes**	Dr. Ali Riazi
11:50–12:15	**Epilepsy Surgery in MRI-Negative Drug-Resistant Epilepsy**	Dr. Mohamad Samadian

DAY 3 (October 2)-Hall A Symposium 2: Expanding Possibilities in DRE 12:30–13:30	*Newer Therapeutic Options Across Ages and Seizure Types*

Role	Full Name	Academic / Clinical Title
Moderator	Dr. Mahmood Motamedi	Professor of Neurology in Tehran University of Medical Sciences
Speaker	Dr. Reza Azizi Malamiri	Assistant Professor of Pediatric Neurology in Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences
Speaker	Dr, Asieh Mehramiri	Assistant Professor of Neurology in Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences

DAY 3 (October 2)-Hall B	**Autoimmune Encephalitis Masterclass:** **Moderator: Dr.Vahid Shayegannezhad** **Session Chairs: Dr.Mohamad Zare / Dr.Fereshte Ashtari /Dr.Iman Adibi**

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
08:00–08:25	**Pathophysiology for the Bedside Clinician**	Dr. Mohamad Zare
08:25–08:50	**Autoimmune Encephalitis: Practical Questions in Antibody Testing and Interpretation**	Dr. Fereshteh Ashtari
08:50–09:15	**The Epileptic and Psychiatric Phenotype of Autoimmune Encephalitis**	Dr. Reyhaneh Sadat Madanian
09:15–09:40	**The Critical Role of Neuroimaging in Autoimmune Encephalitis**	Dr. Iman Adibi
09:40–10:05	**Expert Panel: Iranian Consensus and Clinical Experience in Autoimmune Epilepsy**	Dr. Saba Naghavi
10:05–10:35	**COFFEE BREAK**	

DAY 3 (October 2)-Hall B	Advanced Therapeutic Strategies in Drug-Resistant Epilepsy Moderator: Dr. Akbar Soltanzadeh Session Chairs: Dr.Parviz Bahrami/ Dr. seyed Navid Naghibi/ Dr.Ghazaleh Homagostar

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
10:35–10:55	**Non-Epileptic Drop Attacks in Patients with Suspected Drug-Resistant Epilepsy: Differential Diagnosis and Multimodal Evaluation**	Dr. Mahdieh Afzali
10:55–11:20	**Management of Drug-Resistant Epilepsy During Pregnancy**	Dr. Navid Naghibi
11:20–11:45	**Pharmacotherapy of Drug Resistance focal Epilepsy**	Dr. Parviz Bahrami
11:45–12:05	**Therapeutic Drug Monitoring of Antiseizure Medications in Drug Resistant Epilepsy: Indications, Interpretation, and Clinical Utility**	Dr. Mana Ahmadian
12:05–12:25	**indications of referral for LTM in Drug Resistant Epilepsy**	Dr. Hossein Kahnouji