



# ECMO CONFERENCE

**Transport of  
ECMO patients**  
7CPD Points



**Date: 24 October**

**Venue: Future Africa**

**Conference Venue, Pretoria**

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**ECMO SOCIETY  
SOUTH AFRICA**



THE FUTURE HAS ARRIVED | ECMO IN SOUTH AFRICA

ECMO SA CONGRESS | 24 OCT 2025

FUTURE AFRICA CONFERENCE VENUE

TRANSPORT OF ECMO PATIENTS

Co-Ordinator: Hugo Minnaar

<b>7h00 - 8h00</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Introductions</b>	<b>Hugo Minnaar</b>
	Welcome coffee & networking, Program overview & learning objectives, Team introductions – emphasis on multidisciplinary collaboration	
<b>8h00 - 9h00</b>	<b>Session 1: Principles of ECMO Transport</b>	<b>Hugo Minnaar</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why ECMO patients need transport (referral networks, mobile ECMO)</li> <li>• Risks of transporting ECMO patients (circuit failure, patient instability, limited resources in transit)</li> <li>• International guidelines &amp; best practice</li> <li>• Team structure: roles &amp; responsibilities</li> </ul>	
<b>9h00 - 10h00</b>	<b>Session 2: Pre-Transport Preparation</b>	<b>Martin Ellis</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECMO circuit readiness check (adult, paediatric, neonatal considerations) - <b>Henli Faber</b></li> <li>• Patient stabilization before transfer - <b>Martin Ellis</b></li> <li>• Packaging the patient: securing lines, cannulas, airway, and devices - <b>Martin Ellis</b></li> <li>• Checklists &amp; go/no-go criteria (aligned with aviation medicine safety culture)</li> </ul>	
<b>10h00 - 10h30</b>	<b>Coffee / Networking Break</b>	
<b>10h30 - 11h05</b>	<b>Session 3: Transport Logistics &amp; Safety</b>	<b>Martin Ellis</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road, rotary, and fixed-wing transport differences</li> <li>• Equipment compatibility (power, gas, stretcher mounts, weight limits)</li> <li>• Communication protocols with receiving ICU, dispatch, and pilots</li> <li>• Contingency planning: circuit failure, cardiac arrest, hypoxemia in flight</li> </ul>	
<b>10h05 - 11h30</b>	<b>Session 4: Transport Post ECPR in the field</b>	<b>Neville Vlok / Maqshuda Kajee</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special considerations post ECPR transport to hospital</li> <li>• The not so eloquent transport</li> </ul>	
<b>11h30 - 12h10</b>	<b>Operation Headquarters</b>	<b>Martin Ellis</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vital parameters &amp; ECMO circuit monitoring in transit - <b>Hugo Minnaar</b></li> <li>• Alarm management &amp; troubleshooting on the move - <b>Xander Loubser</b></li> <li>• Anticoagulation management during transport - <b>Hugo Minnaar</b></li> <li>• Role of structured documentation &amp; patient reports</li> </ul>	
<b>12h10 - 12h45</b>	<b>Reflex Drills</b>	<b>Xander Loubser Maqshuda Kajee</b>
	Off Pump crisis drills: air embolism, power failure/Pump failure, loss of gas supply	
<b>12h45-13h30</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; Networking</b>	

<b>13h30 - 14h00</b>	<b>Session 5: Team Simulation Briefing</b>	<b>Hugo Minnaar</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to simulation scenarios</li> <li>• Review of transport workflow: ICU bed → CT scanner → ambulance stretcher → helicopter</li> <li>• Safety &amp; human factors in simulation</li> </ul>	
<b>14h00 - 16h00</b>	<b>Session 6: Practical Simulations</b>	<b>All Faculty</b>
	<p><i>Hands-On Rotations (small groups)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>ICU Bed → Ambulance Stretcher Transfer</b> 14:00 – 14:35 / 14:45 – 15:20 / 15:30 – 14:05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Securing lines/cannulas during lift &amp; move</li> <li>• Circuit management while transferring</li> <li>• Testing – More negative P1 &gt; chattering &gt; Low Flow</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>ICU Bed → CT Scanner Transfer</b> 14:00 – 14:35 / 14:45 – 15:20 / 15:30 – 14:05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing patient in confined spaces</li> <li>• Maintaining circuit integrity during imaging procedures</li> <li>• Testing High P2 Pressures &gt; Kinking &gt; No flow &gt; Desat</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Ambulance Stretcher → Helicopter Loading</b> 14:00 – 14:35 / 14:45 – 15:20 / 15:30 – 14:05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power/gas handover</li> <li>• Safe stretcher loading/unloading</li> <li>• Patient rapid deterioration / Crash procedure briefing with aviation team</li> <li>• Patient deterioration in flight</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	
<b>16h00 - 16h30</b>	<b>Debrief &amp; Lessons Learned</b>	<b>Hugo Minnaar</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team debrief (what went well, what to improve)</li> <li>• Aligning simulation outcomes with real-world ECMO transport incidents</li> <li>• Emphasis on <i>team communication, safety culture, and human factors</i></li> </ul>	
<b>16h30 – 17h00</b>	<b>Closing Session</b>	<b>All Faculty</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key take-home messages</li> <li>• Q&amp;A with faculty</li> <li>• Networking</li> </ul>	

### International Alignment Notes

- Mirrors International **Transport Courses**: morning didactic sessions, afternoon hands-on simulations.
- Includes **checklists, crisis management, and human factors**, which are central themes in international ECMO transport training.
- **Simulation-based training** (bed-to-bed, bed-to-CT, stretcher-to-helicopter) matches high-fidelity programs used in Europe, US, and Australia.
- Ensures participants leave with both **theory + practical confidence**.