8th International Balint Group Leadership Conference

Lisbon, Portugal

17–19 September 2027

Balint Leadership Across Cultures and Settings

What should remain constant, and what can change?

HOSTS	International Balint Federation (IBF) Associação Portuguesa de Grupos Balint (APGB) **E-mail:** balint.leadership.conference@gmail.com
VENUE	Hotel Seminário Torre d'Aguilha Address: Beco Anexo à Estrada Mata da Torre, 2785-599 São Domingos de Rana, Cascais, Portugal **Website:** https://www.aguilha.com/
Application form	Link to application form here

Invitation

The International Balint Federation (IBF) and the Associação Portuguesa de Grupos Balint (APGB) are pleased to invite accredited Balint Group leaders and those nearing completion of their accreditation pathway to the 8th International Balint Group Leadership Conference, to be held in the Lisbon region, Portugal, from **17 to 19 September 2027**.

The conference will take place at Hotel Seminário Torre d'Aguilha in São Domingos de Rana, in the municipality of Cascais, west of Lisbon. Set in extensive green grounds, the venue provides accommodation and meeting facilities for residential conferences. Travel, accessibility and local information appear later in this document.

The International Balint Federation holds a leadership conference every two years, organised by the IBF Task Force on Leadership in partnership with the host society. The conference provides a focused international forum in which Balint Group leaders can explore leadership together, exchange experience and reflect on the challenges and rewards of the role.

Conference theme

Balint Leadership Across Cultures and Settings

What should remain constant, and what can change?

Michael Balint began his case discussion seminars with general practitioners in a particular professional and cultural setting. Today, Balint groups meet across many countries, cultures, healthcare systems and professional settings. This diversity invites us to consider how leadership responds to different contexts and what enables the work to remain recognisably Balint.

Proposed questions

1. How does Balint leadership vary across cultures and settings?
2. How do leaders work with cultural and professional differences within groups?
3. Can Balint work extend beyond healthcare?
4. What are the essential elements of Balint work that must remain constant?
5. Which aspects can legitimately vary across cultures, professions and settings?

Purpose and learning approach

The conference will be organised primarily through facilitated small-group work, supported by an opening plenary and a concluding plenary. The overall aim is to create a concentrated experience of working together across national, cultural and professional contexts.

- Participants will share experience and reflect on their leadership practice, considering how cultural and professional differences shape the work of their groups.
- Through this work, participants will explore which elements of Balint practice should remain constant and which can legitimately adapt to different settings.

Information for applicants

The working language will be English.

The conference is intended for accredited Balint group leaders and those finishing their accreditation pathway, from societies affiliated with the IBF. Everyone interested can apply for one of the 58 available places. Therefore, only an average of two participants will be selected for the Conference from each national society by the IBF Task Force.

Eligibility

- Experienced and recently accredited Balint Group leaders.
- Leaders finishing their accreditation pathway.

Participant commitment

- Participants must commit to attending the full conference:
  - From Friday, 17 September 2027, 1pm;
  - To Sunday, 19 September 2027, 2:30pm.
- Participants should be willing to lead or co-lead group work and also present cases as group members.
- Participants are expected to respect confidentiality and the agreed boundaries of the working groups.

The IBF Task Force will select the facilitators and supervisors.

Accompanying persons

Accompanying persons are welcome, limited to one for each participant.

Applications and allocation of places

1. Interested leaders are encouraged to apply early. No payment will be requested until a place has been offered.
2. Applications will be reviewed by the IBF Task Force, selecting an average of two participants from each national society . Final selection will be made taking into account equitable representation across societies, leadership experience and progress towards accreditation.
3. Applicants offered a place will be asked to pay by the stated deadline to secure it.

Application timetable

Milestone	Date	Action
Applications open	16 November 2026	Application form becomes available until 28 Feb 2027.
“Save the date” and reminders	November 2026 to February 2027	Emails sent to each national society.
Application deadline	28 February 2027	Application form closes.
Offers of places	April 2027	Successful applicants receive a letter of acceptance with instructions for fee payment.
Payment deadline	31 May 2027	Full payment due. Non payment by this date will result in removal from the list of participants.
Final information pack	July 2027	Travel, programme, information on reservation of additional days on the conference venue, practical information issued.

Fees, accommodation and payment

The working assumption is a residential package including conference accommodation, meals and refreshments, meeting facilities and conference materials.

Category	Fee per person	Includes
Participant – single room	€400	Single bedroom for 2 nights full board, access to conference programme, social programme and conference dinner
Participant – shared twin/double room	€370	Twin bedroom for 2 nights full board, access to conference programme, social programme and conference dinner
Accompanying person sharing	€290	Twin bedroom for 2 nights half board (breakfast and evening meal), social programme and conference dinner

Two accessible bedrooms are available for participants with reduced mobility.

Application form:

Link to application form here

Payment and bank charges

Bank transfer is the payment method. Bank fees should be paid by the applicant, please check your personal bank policies. Applicants will receive payment instructions with their offer of a place.

Cancellation policy

Dates	Refund / charge
Up to and including 30 June 2027	100% refund
1–31 July 2027	50% refund
From 1 August 2027	No refund
Event cancelled by organisers	In the event of total cancellation by the organizers, conference fees will be reimbursed in line with the cancellation dates above. The organizers are not able to refund travel costs.

Staff and organising team

Members of the IBF Task Force on Leadership and the Associação Portuguesa de Grupos Balint will prepare and support the conference.

Closing invitation

We look forward to welcoming you to Lisbon in September 2027 and we warmly invite you to apply. We hope the event will offer a thoughtful, challenging and hospitable international space in which to deepen the practice of Balint Group leadership.

Application form:

Link to application form here

Privacy Policy

The International Balint Federation (IBF) and Associação Portuguesa de Grupos Balint (APGB) are committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. This Privacy Notice sets out the basis on which any personal data we collect from you or that you provide to us (Personal Data) will be processed. Please read the following carefully to understand our use of your Personal Data. Anonymised data is not personal data.

WHO WE ARE

We are a team of Balint leaders who you can contact by email at balint.leadership.conference@gmail.com.

THE DATA WE COLLECT

We collect personal data which you volunteer when applying for the event.

We use the information we collect about you for the following purposes:

- To email you periodic updates, where requested by you.
- To process your booking and payment for the event.

LEGAL BASIS FOR COLLECTING AND HOLDING DATA

We collect your data on the following legal bases:

- The fulfilling of contractual obligations where you have made a booking for a service through our application form.
- With your consent for receipt of documents.

You may withdraw your consent to this use of your data at any time.

SECURITY

We take all reasonable steps to protect the data provided to us. We maintain administrative, technical and physical safeguards designed to protect the personal data you provide. However, no internet or email transmission is ever fully secure or error free. Therefore, you should take special care in deciding what information you send. Please keep this in mind when disclosing any personal data via the internet. We store personal data only for as long as it is necessary for the fulfilment of the purpose for which the personal data was collected, unless otherwise required or authorised by applicable law. We take measures to destroy or permanently de-identify personal information if required by law or if the personal data is no longer required for the purpose for which we collected it.

WHO HAS ACCESS TO THE PERSONAL DATA?

Only people organising the conference and relevant third-party suppliers who are engaged to process personal data for the purposes set out above will have access to it. We will not otherwise disclose, sell or distribute your information to any third party without your permission unless required to do so by law.

ACCESS TO, CHANGING OR REMOVING THE INFORMATION WE HOLD

If you want to update your information, change your mind or no longer wish to have your details stored by us, please email us.

THIRD-PARTY SERVICES

We may employ third-party companies and individuals to carry out work for the conference. These third parties will have access to your personal data only to perform specific tasks on behalf of the organizing committee and are obligated not to disclose or use it for any other purpose.

YOUR RIGHTS

To the extent provided by applicable law, you may have the right to obtain confirmation that we hold personal data or other information about you, request access to and receive information about the personal data we maintain about you, receive copies of the personal data we maintain about you, update and correct inaccuracies in your personal data, object and withdraw your consent to the processing of your personal data and have the information edited, deleted or have processing of this data limited. The right to access personal data may be limited in some circumstances by legal requirements. To exercise these rights, please contact us using the methods listed below. Upon your request, we will take reasonable efforts to delete all of your personal data and non-identifiable information that you have provided to us, though we cannot delete any aggregate or otherwise non-indefinable information derived from your personal data or from your participation in the conference.

To invoke your rights, you should contact us via the contact details provided.

If you believe it necessary you may also lodge a complaint about the way we have processed your personal data, with the "Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados (CNPD)" de Portugal, and you can contact them on geral@cnpd.pt.