



IEO education
Istituto Europeo di Oncologia

ICLO, Verona
28th October - 29th October 2026

ESAGON Cadaver Course Advanced Ovarian Cancer Surgery

From Surgical Anatomy to Surgical Mind

Under the auspices of



Introduction

Ovarian cancer surgery represents one of the most complex and demanding fields in gynecologic oncology and remains a true school of surgical thinking.

Over time, cytoreductive surgery has evolved from a purely technical challenge into an anatomy-driven, strategy-based process, where patient selection, mental reconstruction of the operation, and awareness of surgical limits are as important as manual skills.

The introduction of minimally invasive, robotic, and digital surgery has not simplified surgical practice; it has instead reinforced the need for a strong surgical mind, capable of integrating anatomy, oncologic goals, and technology into a coherent decision-making process.

This course is designed to train surgeons to think, plan, and sequence surgical procedures, using ovarian cancer cytoreduction as the central model.

Advanced pelvic gynecologic surgery, intestinal surgery, and pelvic and para-aortic lymphadenectomy are addressed as integral components of a single anatomical and decision-making pathway

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Gynecologic oncologists and surgeons who wish to:

- Develop advanced surgical thinking
- Improve anatomy-driven decision making
- Integrate open, minimally invasive, robotic, and digital approaches
- Apply surgical steps consciously, not mechanically

COURSE FORMAT

- One morning of theory (09:00–13:00) – to build the Surgical Mind
- One and a half days of cadaver lab – to apply thinking to real anatomy
- High tutor-to-trainee ratio
- Structured 15-minute debriefing after each lab session
- Surgical technique taught as a logical consequence of anatomy and strategy

FACULTY

Esagon Directors:

Roberto Biffi & Angelo Maggioni

International Faculty:

William C. Helm, Consultant, Gynecologic Oncology, Cornwall, UK

Giuseppe Vizzielli, Associate Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics,
University of Udine

IEO Faculty:

Maria Teresa Achilarré, European Institute of Oncology - IEO IRCCS, Milan

Giovanni Damiano Aletti, European Institute of Oncology - IEO IRCCS, Milan

Alessia Aloisi, European Institute of Oncology - IEO IRCCS, Milan

Vanna Zanagnolo, European Institute of Oncology - IEO IRCCS, Milan

Scientific Programme

Wednesday, 28th October 2026

MORNING | THEORY

Building the Surgical Mind

9.00	Why Surgical Mind Matters <i>From technique to decision-making</i>	11.40	Central Intestinal & Nodal Strategy <i>Bowel, mesentery, pelvic and para-aortic lymph nodes as a surgical continuum</i>
9.20	The Evolution of Cytoreductive Surgery <i>How ovarian cancer reshaped surgical mentality</i>	12.10	Reading the Cadaver <i>Translating anatomy into surgical steps across all zones</i>
9.40	Patient Selection in Advanced Ovarian Cancer <i>Who to operate, how far to go, and with which approach</i>	12.40	Take-Home Framework <i>From Surgical Mind to Surgical Judgment</i>
10.00	Mental Reconstruction of Surgery <i>Planning surgical steps before entering the operating room</i>	13.00	Lunch
10.25	Pelvic Radicality <i>From radical oophorectomy to extended pelvic radicality</i> <i>Anatomical spaces as drivers of surgical steps</i>	14.00	AFTERNOON CADAVER LAB Pelvic Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pelvic anatomy and surgical spaces• Radical oophorectomy• Radical hysterectomy• Integration with advanced gynecologic pelvic procedures
10.45	Guided Discussion	16.45	Debriefing (15 minutes)
11.00	Coffee Break	19.30	Faculty & Participants Dinner
11.20	Upper Abdominal Strategy <i>Exposure, mobilization, and limits of safety</i>		

Thursday, 29th October 2026

MORNING | CADAVER LAB

Upper Abdominal Zones

- 9.00
- *Right and left upper quadrants*
 - *Liver mobilization*
 - *Diaphragmatic surgery*
 - *Spleen and distal pancreas*
 - *Anatomical limits and safety*

12.45 *Debriefing (15 minutes)*

13.00 Lunch

AFTERNOON | CADAVER LAB

Central Intestinal & Nodal Zone

- 14.00
- *Small and large bowel surgery*
 - *Mesenteric anatomy*
 - *Pelvic lymphadenectomy*
 - *Para-aortic lymph node dissection*

16.15 *Final Debriefing & Closing*

“Surgical steps are built on anatomy, strategy, and judgment.”



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Organising Secretariat
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Course venue
ICLO Teaching and Research Center
Via E Torricelli 15/A - Verona - Italy

Registrations

Regular registration fee: Euro 2.350,00 + 22% VAT
ESAGON participants registration fee: Euro 1.250,00 + 22% VAT

Register here: <https://ems.mzevents.it/start/2557/eng>

The registration fee does not include travel and accommodation expenses.
Hotel accommodation at the Leonardo Hotel: Euros 145 per person, per night.
Bookings through the Organising secretariat

