



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

Advanced ovarian cancer surgery remains one of the most complex and demanding fields in gynecologic oncology and continues to represent one of the best models for understanding complex oncologic surgery.

Over the years, cytoreductive surgery has evolved from a predominantly technical procedure into a process driven by anatomy, surgical strategy, patient selection, and clinical judgment. Successful surgery no longer depends only on technical skills, but on the surgeon's ability to understand anatomical planes, define the appropriate surgical indication, anticipate operative challenges, and recognize the limits of radicality.

At the same time, the progressive de-escalation of surgical treatment in selected patients and the reduced exposure to highly complex procedures have created new challenges for surgical education. Future surgeons will have fewer opportunities to acquire experience through direct exposure to highly complex procedures.

For this reason, modern surgical education must increasingly emphasize surgical reasoning, operative planning, multidisciplinary decision-making, and the ability to translate anatomical knowledge into sound surgical strategy.

Using advanced ovarian cancer surgery as its educational model, this course is designed to train not only technical skills but, above all, the **Surgical Mind**.

Advanced pelvic surgery, upper abdominal procedures, intestinal surgery, and pelvic and para-aortic lymphadenectomy are presented as components of a single integrated anatomical and strategic pathway.

Who should attend

This course is intended for gynecologic oncologists and surgeons wishing to:

- Develop advanced surgical judgment.
- Strengthen anatomy-based decision-making.
- Understand the indications and limitations of open, laparoscopic, and robotic surgery.
- Improve operative planning before entering the operating room.
- Integrate anatomy, surgical strategy, and clinical reasoning into daily practice.

Course format

- One morning of interactive theory (09:00–13:00): Building the Surgical Mind
- One and a half days of cadaver dissection.
- High tutor-to-participant ratio.
- Structured debriefing following each practical session.
- Integration of operative planning, anatomical dissection, and clinical discussion.
- Surgical technique presented as the logical consequence of anatomy, strategy, and sound clinical judgment.

FACULTY

Esagon Directors:

Roberto Biffi & Angelo Maggioni

International Faculty:

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

IEO Faculty:

Maria Teresa Achilarge, 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

Tutors: *G.D. Aletti, A. Aloisi, R. Biffi*
A. Maggioni, G. Vizzielli

MORNING SESSION

Building the surgical mind

9.00 **Why surgical mind matters**
 From technique to surgical judgment
G.D. Aletti

9.20 **The evolution of cytoreductive surgery**
 How ovarian cancer has shaped modern surgical thinking
A. Aloisi

9.40 **Patient selection in advanced ovarian cancer**
 Who should undergo surgery, how far to proceed, and which surgical approach to choose
G.D. Aletti

10.00 **Strategic operative planning**
 Designing the operation before entering the operating room
A. Maggioni

10.25 **Pelvic radicality**
 From radical oophorectomy to extended pelvic surgery: anatomical spaces guiding operative strategy
A. Maggioni

10.45 **Interactive discussion**

11.00 **Coffee break**

11.20 **Upper abdominal strategy**
 Exposure, mobilization, and limits of safe surgery
R. Biffi

11.40 **Intestinal and nodal strategy**
 Bowel, mesentery, pelvic and para-aortic lymph nodes as a continuous anatomical pathway
A. Aloisi, R. Biffi

12.10 **Reading the cadaver**
 Translating anatomy into surgical strategy throughout the abdomen and pelvis
R. Biffi

12.40 **Take-home messages**
 From surgical anatomy to surgical mind
R. Biffi

13.00 **Lunch**

AFTERNOON SESSION

Cadaver Laboratory

Pelvic surgical module

- Pelvic anatomy and surgical spaces
- Radical oophorectomy
- Radical hysterectomy
- Integration with advanced pelvic oncologic procedures

16.45 **Structured debriefing (15 minutes)**

19.30 **Faculty & Participants Dinner**

Thursday, 29th October 2026

Tutors: *M.T. Achillare, R. Biffi, A. Maggioni, V. Zanagnolo*

MORNING SESSION

Cadaver Laboratory

Upper abdominal surgical module

9.00

- Right and left upper abdominal quadrants
- Liver mobilization
- Diaphragmatic surgery
- Splenic and distal pancreatic procedures
- Anatomical landmarks, surgical strategy, and limits of safe surgery

14.00

12.45

Structured debriefing (15 minutes)

13.00

Lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION

Cadaver Laboratory

Intestinal and nodal surgical module

- Small and large bowel surgery
- Mesenteric anatomy and surgical planes
- Pelvic lymphadenectomy
- Para-aortic lymph node dissection
- Integration of intestinal and nodal surgery into cytoreductive strategy

16.15

Final debriefing & course closing

From Surgical Anatomy to Surgical Mind

Surgical technique is the consequence of anatomy, strategy, and clinical 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

