

October 30th, 2026

ESAGON 2026

European School of Abdomino-Pelvic Surgery in Gynecologic Oncology



From biology to surgical judgment
Advanced decision-making in ovarian
cancer surgery

ESAGON Advanced session – open to external surgeons

COURSE DIRECTORS

Roberto Biffi
Angelo Maggioni



Why this course

Advanced ovarian cancer surgery remains one of the most demanding areas of gynecologic oncology. While systemic therapies and maintenance strategies have evolved, surgical decisions have become more complex.

Complete cytoreduction remains fundamental.

However, surgical value today depends on appropriate indication, proportional radicality, and integration within the broader therapeutic pathway.

This course focuses on decision-making — not technical demonstration.

What will be addressed

- How tumor biology influences surgical intent
- How imaging and mapping define resectability
- When operable does not mean indicated
- How to plan a cytoreductive operation before entering the operating room
- How to balance radicality with safety
- How to interpret outcomes in the maintenance era
- How to evaluate surgical gain versus surgical burden

What participants will gain

Participants will refine their ability to:

- Select patients appropriately
- Define anatomical limits
- Build a strategic operative plan
- Recognize the threshold between feasibility and proportionality
- Interpret outcomes within the modern therapeutic context

Who should attend

Gynecologic oncologic surgeons seeking to strengthen their clinical judgment in advanced ovarian cancer management.

Open to ESAGON participants and external surgeons interested in high-level decision-making.

FACULTY

Esagon Directors: **Roberto Biffi, Angelo Maggioni**

**European Institute of Oncology IRCCS, Milan,
Italy**

María Teresa Achilarré

Sarah Alessi

Giovanni Damiano Aletti

Alessia Aloisi

Roberto Biffi

Giuseppe Caruso

Nicoletta Colombo

Annalisa Garbi

Mariacristina Ghioni

Angelo Maggioni

Francesco Multinu

Gabriella Schivardi

Vanna Zanagnolo

Livia Xhindoli

Scientific Programme

Friday, October 30th

8:45 AM Welcome & introduction

Understanding the disease

What truly drives surgical strategy

9:00 AM Tumor biology and clinical heterogeneity
Why biology shapes clinical decisions
M. Ghioni

9:20 AM From radiologic mapping to surgical intent - *S. Alessi*

9:40 AM Interactive case lab I
From biology to surgical intent – structured case-based decision exercise - *L. Xhindoli*

Q&A session

Defining resectability

When operable does not automatically mean indicated

10:20 AM Technical feasibility & anatomical limits
Where anatomy defines the boundary of indication - *M.T. Achilarré*

10:40 AM Preoperative mapping
Imaging and diagnostic laparoscopy decision tools - *A. Garbi*

11:00 AM From indication to operative plan
Case-based strategic surgical planning
A. Maggioni

Q&A session

Strategic decision-making

11:30 AM Strategy selection
Primary vs interval surgery in the maintenance era - *A. Aloisi*

11:50 AM Patient selection & risk balance
Frailty, morbidity, and objectives of care - *G. Schivardi*

12:10 PM Case discussion: borderline operability
Where criteria end and judgment begins - *L. Xhindoli*

Q&A session

1:00 PM Lunch break

Operating with Judgment

Radicality, proportionality, and responsibility

1:45 PM Pelvic radicality: defining proportionality - *V. Zanagnolo*

2:05 PM Upper abdominal radicality: benefit vs risk - *R. Biffi*

2:45 PM Complications as strategic events
Morbidity as part of surgical indication - *G.D. Aletti*

Q&A session

Does surgery truly add value?

Rethinking benefit in the modern era

3:00 PM Ro in the era of maintenance therapy
G. Caruso

3:20 PM Surgical gain vs surgical burden
F. Multinu

3:40 PM Distinguished keynote lecture
Surgical value in the modern therapeutic landscape -

4:10 PM Distinguished invited lecture
Designing the modern therapeutic strategy in advanced ovarian cancer
N. Colombo

Final surgical judgment board

4:40 PM Final interactive case: applying indication, limits, and value
L. Xhindoli

5:20 PM Closing remarks - *R. Biffi*

*Advanced ovarian cancer surgery is not defined by how much we remove.
It is defined by how responsibly we decide.*

Saturday, October 31st
ESAGON International - Inaugural Academic Session

October 30th Registration Fee:

Regular: Euro 100 VAT Included

Free for attendees of Esagon 2026

Click here to register for October 30th:

<https://ems.mzevents.it/start/2568/eng>

October 31st Registration Fee:

Free of charge

Click here to register for October 31st:

<https://ems.mzevents.it/start/2569/eng>

To participate in both days, it is necessary to complete both registration forms.

Certificate of attendance

The certificate of attendance will be sent by email, while the parchment certificate for participants in the ESAGON Weeks Program 2026 will be awarded on October 31st at the end of the ESAGON International Inaugural Academic Session.

Scientific area of interest

Gynecology and General Surgery



Course venue:

Aula Magna Leonardo la Pietra

Building 1

European Institute of Oncology

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Organising Secretariat

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