**Preliminary Programme**

**ESSO Hands on Course on Colorectal Cancer Surgery Ljubljana (SI), 15 - 17 January 2026**

# Chairs

**Ibrahim Edhemovic,** Institute of Oncology, Ljubljana, SI

**Franco Roviello,** Università degli Studi di Siena, IT

**Theo Wiggers,** University Medical Center Groningen, NL

# Faculty Members (tbc)

**Ayhan Kuzu**, Ankara University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, TR

**Andrej Laposa**, Ljubljana University Medical Centre, Ljubljana, SI

**Claus Anders Bertelsen,** Hillerod University Hospital, Hillerod, DK

**Erik Brecelj,** Institute of Oncology, Ljubljana, SI

**Mirko Omejc,** Ljubljana University Medical Centre, Ljubljana, SI

**Paolo Delrio,** Istituto dei Tumori di Napoli, Fondazione G. Pascale, IT

**Heleen Snijders,** Leiden University Medical Centre, Leiden, NL

# Program

## Thursday, 15th January

***13:30– 13:50 Registration***

13:50 – 14:00 Introduction and Welcome

14:00 – 14:15 The surgeon as the Prognostic Factor in Colorectal Cancer Surgery

*I. Edhemovic*

14:15 – 15:00 Colon Cancer I – Surgical Anatomy, Embryology and Reversion Principles, Ligaments

*A. Kuzu*

15:00 – 15:20 Colon Cancer II – Surgical Technique

*F. Roviello*

15:20 – 16:05 Colon Cancer III – (Extended) Right Hemicolectomy, Transversectomy following the Principles of Complete Mesocoloic Excision (CME)

*C. A. Bertelsen*

16:05 – 16:25 Routine Mobilization of the Splenic Flexure: Is it Mandatory for a Low Anterior Resection?

*M. Omejc*

16:25 – 16:35 Omental Plasty

*I. Edhemovic*

### 16:35 – 16:50 Coffee break

16:50 – 19:10 Hands-on Workshop Colon I – (Extended) Right Colectomy: Approach and Dissection with Side-to-side Stapled Anastomosis Terminal Ileum/Transverse Colon, Ileostomy, Omental Plasty

*All faculty*

## Friday, 16th January

08:30 – 09:15 Colon Cancer IV – (Extended) Left Hemicolectomy, Sigmoidectomy, following the Principles of Complete Mesocoloic Excision (CME)

*C. A. Bertelsen*

09:15 – 09:45 Filling the Pelvic Space with Flap – VRAM

*A. Laposa*

09:45 – 10:05 Anastomosis Technique and Stoma Formation

*I. Edhemovic*

### 10:05 – 10:20 Coffee break

10:20 – 12:30 Hands-on Workshops Colon II – Left Colectomy with Mobilisation of Splenic Flexure, Anastomosis, VRAM

*All faculty*

### 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 14:00 Rectal Cancer I – Surgical Anatomy, Planes and Nerves in the Pelvis

*A. Kuzu*

14:00 – 14:45 Rectal Cancer II – (Low) Anterior Resection following the Principles of Total Mesorectal Excision (TME). Coloanal Anastomosis.

*P. Delrio*

### 14:45 – 15:00 Coffee break

15:00 – 15:40 Rectal Cancer III – Abdominoperineal Resection – Extralevator Approach

*T. Wiggers*

15:40 – 18:15 Hands-on Workshop – Rectal Cancer – Low Anterior. ELAPE.

 Gluteus Flap (Eventualy)

*All faculty*

## Saturday, 17th January

08:30 – 08:45 Options after Good Response after Neoadjuvant Treatment in Rectal Cancer

*I. Edhemovic*

08:45 – 09:45 Video Session: Surgical Techniques

*T. Wiggers*

09:45 – 10:05 Low Anterior Resection: How Low Can We Go?

*E. Brecelj*

### 10:05 – 10:20 Coffee break

10:20 – 11:50 Tips and Tricks and Questions from Participants. Advantage and Hazards/Disadvantage of All Procedures, Both Technical and Medical, with Comments from the Faculty

*H.**Snijders*

11:50 – 12:10 Minimal Invasive Approach in Colorectal Surgery

*F. Roviello*