**Preliminary Programme**

**ESSO Course on Basics of Oncology for Surgeons**

19th to 20th March 2026, Sofia, BG

**Chairs**

**Pompiliu Piso,** Hospital Barmherzige Brueder Regensburg, DE

**Elena Rangelova,** Sahlgrenska University, Gothenburg, SE

**Stefan Stättner,** Salzkammergutklinikum Vöcklabruck and Gmunden, AT

**Mariela Vasileva,** Shterev Hospital, Sofia, BG

**Faculty members (TBC)**

**Andreas Karakatsanis,** Uppsala University, Uppsala, SE

**Carlos Caravalho**, Champalimaud Foundation, Lisbon, PT

**Johnn Henry Herrera Kok,** University Hospital of Palencia, Palencia, SP

**Mario Levis,** University of Torino, Turin, IT

**Michail Stefanov**, Misho Stefanov Academy Bulgaria, BG

**Pavel Bochev,** Acibadem City Clinic Sofia, BG

**Tsvetelina Paycheva**, Military Medical Academy, Sofia, BG

**Tvetomir Ivanov,** Heart and brain hospital Vratsa, BG

**Lyubov Simeonova,** St Ekaterina University Hospital, Sofia, BG

**Daniela Poposka**, Acibadem Sistina Hospital, Skopje, MK

**Programme**

**Thursday 19th March**

**Session 1**

08:30 – 08.40 Introduction

*M.Vasileva/S. Stattner/ P. Piso*

08.40 – 09.00 Molecular Oncology: Carcinogenesis, Cancer Progression

*D. Poposka*

09.00 – 09.10 Discussion

*All faculty*

09.10 – 09.30 Common Patterns of Metastatic Spread

*P. Bochev*

09.30 – 09.40 Discussion

*All faculty*

09.40 – 10.00 Principles of Systematic Chemotherapy

*C. Carvalho*

10.00 – 10.10 Discussion

*All faculty*

10.10 – 10.30 Personalised Medicine

*C. Carvalho*

10:30 – 10.40 Discussion

*All faculty*

**10.40 – 11.00 Coffee Break**

**Session 2**

11.00 – 11.20 Principles of Immunotherapy

*L. Simeonova*

11.20 – 11.30 Discussion

*All faculty*

11.30 – 11.50 Cancer Vaccines

*C. Carvalho*  
11.50 – 12.00 Discussion

*All faculty*

12.00 – 12.20 Genetics in Decision-Making for Surgery

*D. Poposka*

12.20 – 12.30 Discussion

*All faculty*

12.30 – 12.50 Radiobiology and Principles of Radiotherapy

*M. Levis*

12.50 – 13.00 Discussion

*All faculty*

13:00 – 13:20 Local Ablation Techniques

*S. Stättner*

13:20 – 13:30 Discussion

*All faculty*

**13:30** – **14:10 Lunch**

**Session 3**

14.10 – 14.30 How to Increase the Risk-Benefit Ratio of Radiotherapy with Modern Techniques

*M. Levis*

14.30 – 14.40 Discussion

*All faculty*

14.40 – 15.00 Monitoring of Cancer Treatment

*C. Carvalho*

15.00 – 15.10 Discussion

*All faculty*

15:10 – 15:30 The Current Place of the Surgical Oncologist in the MDT

*S. Stättner*

15.30 – 15.40 Discussion

*All faculty*

15.40 – 16.00 Multimodality Management of Metastatic Disease

*S. Stättner*

16.00 – 16.10 Discussion

*All faculty*

**16.10 – 16.30 Coffee break**

**Session 4**

**16:30-17:30 Case-based discussion & MDT workshop**

*All faculty*

**Friday 20th March**

**Session 1**

08:30 – 08:50 Principles of Palliation – Surgical

*J. Herrera Kok*

08.50 – 09.00 Discussion

*All faculty*

09.00 – 09:20 Principles of Palliation – Medical and Integrative

*P. Piso*

09.20 – 09.30 Discussion\

*All faculty*

09:30 – 09:50 The Difficult Conversation

*J. Herrera Kok*

09.50 – 10.00 Discussion

*All faculty*

10:00 – 10:20 Mental Health Support of Patients, Doctors and Caregivers (Phyco-Oncology, Second victim, Supportive Groups)

*P. Piso*

10.20 – 10.30 Discussion

*All faculty*

**10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break**

**Session 2**

11.00 – 11.20 Efficiency in Cancer Care

*M. Vasileva*

11.20 – 11.30 Discussion

*All faculty*

11.30 – 11.50 Leadership/Work-Life Balance in Surgical Oncology and Preventing Burnout

*S. Stattner*

11.50 – 12.00 Discussion

*All faculty*

**12:00 – 12:40 Lunch**

**Session 3**

12:40 – 13:00 Clinical Trials Design and Research Methodology

*A. Karakatsanis*

13.00 – 13.10 Discussion

13:10 - 13:30 Basics of Medical Statistics

*A. Karakatsanis*

13.30 – 13.40 Discussion

*All faculty*

13:40 – 14.00 Surgical Research

*J. Herrera Kok*

14.00 – 14.10 Discussion

14:10 – 14:30 The Role of Surgeons in Translational Research - Biobanks

*M. Vasileva*

14.30 – 14.40 Discussion

*All faculty*

14.40 – 15.00 Critical Evaluation of Research Publications: The Editor Point of View

*A. Karakatsanis*

15:00 – 15.10 Discussion

*All faculty*

**15:10 – 15:30 Coffee Break**

**Session 4**

15.30 – 16.30 Interactive Workshop Developing Soft Skills: Public Speaking for Surgeons

*M. Stefanov*

16.30 Closing Remarks