



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, Kepler University Hospital, Linz, AT

Mariela Vasileva, Shterev Hospital, Sofia, BG

Faculty members

Andreas Karakatsanis, Uppsala University, Uppsala, SE

Carlos Carvalho, Champalimaud Foundation, Lisbon, PT

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

Mario Levis, University of Torino, Turin, IT

Stoyan Yankov, Stoyan Consult ApS, Sofia, BG

Pavel Bochev, Acibadem City Clinic Sofia, Sofia, BG

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

Tvetomir Ivanov, Heart and Brain Hospital Vratsa, Vratsa, BG

Luibov 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 <i>M. Vasileva/S. Stattner/ P. Piso</i>
08.40 – 09.00	Molecular Oncology: Carcinogenesis, Cancer Progression <i>D. Poposka</i>
09.00 – 09.10	Discussion <i>All faculty</i>
09.10 – 09.30	Common Patterns of Metastatic Spread

	<i>P. Bochev</i>
09.30 – 09.40	Discussion
	<i>All faculty</i>
09.40 – 10.00	Principles of Systematic Chemotherapy
	<i>C. Carvalho</i>
10.00 – 10.10	Discussion
	<i>All faculty</i>
10.10 – 10.30	Personalised Medicine
	<i>C. Carvalho</i>
10:30 – 10.40	Discussion
	<i>All faculty</i>
10.40 – 11.00	Coffee Break
Session 2	
11.00 – 11.20	Principles of Immunotherapy
	<i>L. Simeonova</i>
11.20 – 11.30	Discussion
	<i>All faculty</i>
11.30 – 11.50	Cancer Vaccines
	<i>C. Carvalho</i>
11.50 – 12.00	Discussion
	<i>All faculty</i>
12.00 – 12.20	Genetics in Decision-Making for Surgery
	<i>D. Poposka</i>
12.20 – 12.30	Discussion
	<i>All faculty</i>
12.30 – 12.50	Radiobiology and Principles of Radiotherapy
	<i>M. Levis</i>
12.50 – 13.00	Discussion
	<i>All faculty</i>
13:00 – 13:20	Local Ablation Techniques
	<i>S. Stättner</i>
13:20 – 13:30	Discussion
	<i>All faculty</i>
13:30 – 14:10	Lunch

Session 3

14.10 – 14.30	How to Increase the Risk-Benefit Ratio of Radiotherapy with Modern Techniques <i>M. Levis</i>
14.30 – 14.40	Discussion <i>All faculty</i>
14.40 – 15.00	Monitoring of Cancer Treatment <i>C. Carvalho</i>
15.00 – 15.10	Discussion <i>All faculty</i>
15:10 – 15:30	The Current Place of the Surgical Oncologist in the MDT <i>S. Stättner</i>
15.30 – 15.40	Discussion <i>All faculty</i>
15.40 – 16.00	Multimodality Management of Metastatic Disease <i>S. Stättner</i>
16.00 – 16.10	Discussion <i>All faculty</i>

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 <i>J. Herrera Kok</i>
08.50 – 09.00	Discussion <i>All faculty</i>
09.00 – 09:20	Principles of Palliation – Medical and Integrative <i>P. Piso</i>
09.20 – 09.30	Discussion <i>All faculty</i>
09:30 – 09:50	The Difficult Conversation <i>J. Herrera Kok</i>
09.50 – 10.00	Discussion <i>All faculty</i>



10:00 – 10:20 Mental Health Support of Patients, Doctors and Caregivers (Psycho-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

S. Yankov

16.30

Closing Remarks