

ESSO Hands-on Course On Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy and Gastrectomy

In partnership with University Medical Center Utrecht

Utrecht (NL), 15-16 October 2026

Chairs

Richard van Hillegersberg, University Medical Center Utrecht, NL

Jelle Ruurda, University Medical Center Utrecht, NL

Co-Chairs

Ronald Bleys, University Medical Center Utrecht, NL

Domenico D'Ugo, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, IT

Faculty members

Benjamin Babic, Sana Klinikum Offenbach, Offenbach, DE

Philip Chiu, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, CN

Simone Giacomuzzi, University Hospital Verona, Verona, IT

Naruhiko Ikoma, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, USA

Takahiro Kinoshita, National Cancer Center Hospital East, Kashiwa, JP

Jasmina Kuvendjiska, Universitätsklinikum Freiburg, Freiburg, DE

Pieter van der Sluis, Erasmus Medisch Centrum, Rotterdam, NL

Programme

Thursday, 15 October 2026 – Minimally Invasive Gastrectomy (MIG)

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| 08:30 – 09:00 | Registration and coffee |
| 09:00 – 09:10 | Opening & Introduction of the live RAMIG surgery case
<i>J. Ruurda</i> |
| 09:10 – 09:30 | Introduction to the Surgical Anatomy of the Stomach
<i>R. Bleys</i> |
| 09:30 – 09:45 | Laparoscopic versus Open Gastrectomy
<i>D. D'Ugo</i> |

- 09:45 – 10:00 Lymphadenectomy in MIG
T. Kinoshita
- 10:00 – 10:15 Anastomotic techniques in MIG
P. Chiu
- 10:15 – 10:30 General discussion+ Live RAMIG surgery
- 10:30 – 10:45 Coffee Break*
- 10:45 – 11:00 MIG and RAMIG: step by step
N. Ikoma
- 11:00 – 11:15 Robot-assisted Minimally Invasive Gastrectomy (RAMIG): Tips, Tricks, & Pitfalls
J. Ruurda
- 11:15 – 11:20 Introduction to hands on practical training session
F. Lammes
- 11:20 – 11:40 General discussion + Live RAMIG surgery
- 11:40 – 12:15 Lunch*
- 12:15 – 12:30 Transfer to the Department of Anatomy
- Hands-on practical training**
- 12:30 – 14:30 Minimally Invasive Gastrectomy: Dissection
- 14:30 – 15:00 Coffee Break*
- 15:00 – 17:00 Minimally Invasive Gastrectomy: Reconstruction

Friday 16 October 2026 – Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy (MIE)

- 08:45 – 08:50 Opening
R. van Hillegersberg
- 08:50 – 09:10 Introduction to the Surgical Anatomy of the Esophagus
R. Bleys

09:10 – 09:25 Lymphadenectomy During MIE: The More The Better?

J. Kuvendijkska

09:25 – 09:40 The current status of MIE and RAMIE

S. Giacopuzzi

09:40 – 09:55 How to set up a MIE program

B. Babic

09:55 – 10:15 General discussion + Live RAMIE surgery

10:15 – 10:35 Coffee Break

10:35 – 10:50 Anastomotic techniques for (Robot-assisted) MIE

P. van der Sluis

10:50 – 11:05 Robot-assisted Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy (RAMIE): step by step, tips, tricks and pitfalls

R. van Hillegersberg

11:05 – 11:20 Introduction to hands on practical training session

S. Spruijt

11:20 – 11:35 General discussion + RAMIE surgery

11:35 – 12:15 Lunch

12:15 – 12:30 Transfer to the Department of Anatomy

Hands-on practical training

12:30 – 14:30 Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy: 1st hands-on session

14:30 – 15:00 Coffee Break

15:00 – 17:00 Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy: 2nd hands-on session