

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)

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 08:30 – 09:00 | Registration and coffee |
| 09:00 – 09:10 | Opening & Introduction of the live RAMIE surgery case
<i>R. van Hillegersberg</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. van der Sluis
- 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
R. van Hillegersberg
- 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
J. Ruurda
- 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. Giacomuzzi
- 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. Chiu
- 10:50 – 11:05 Robot-assisted Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy (RAMIE): step by step, tips, tricks and pitfalls
J. Ruurda
- 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