

Preliminary Programme

**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

To be confirmed

Programme

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

09:00 – 09:10 Opening & Introduction of the live RAMIE surgery case

09:10 – 09:30 Introduction to the Surgical Anatomy of the Stomach

09:30 – 09:45 Laparoscopic versus Open Gastrectomy
D. D'Ugo

09:45 – 10:05 Lymphadenectomy in MIG

10:05 – 10:20 Anastomotic techniques in MIG

10:20 – 10:45 General discussion+ Live RAMIE surgery

10:45 – 11:05 Coffee Break

11:05 – 11:20 MIG and RAMIE: step by step

11:20 – 11:35 Robot-assisted Minimally Invasive Gastrectomy (RAMIG): Tips, Tricks, & Pitfalls

11:35 – 11:40 Introduction to hands on practical training session

11:40 – 12:00 General discussion + Live RAMIE surgery

12:00 – 12:45 Lunch

12:45 – 13:00 Transfer to the Department of Anatomy

13:00 – 17:30 Hands-on practical training

13:00 – 15:00 Minimally Invasive Gastrectomy: Dissection

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:30 Minimally Invasive Gastrectomy: Reconstruction

Friday 16 October 2026 – Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy (MIE)

08:30 – 08:35 Opening

08:35 – 08:55 Introduction to the Surgical Anatomy of the Esophagus

08:55 – 09:10 Lymphadenectomy During MIE: The More The Better?

- 09:10 – 09:25 The current status of MIE and RAMIE
- 09:25 – 09:40 How to set up a MIE program
- 09:40 – 10:00 General discussion + live MIEG surgery
- 10:00 – 10:20 Coffee Break*
- 10:20 – 10:35 Enhanced Recovery after Esophagectomy
- 10:35 – 10:50 Anastomotic techniques for (robot-assisted) MIE
- 10:50 – 11:05 Robot-assisted Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy (RAMIE): step by step, tips, tricks and pitfalls
- 11:05 – 11:20 Introduction to hands on practical training session
- 11:20 – 11:45 General discussion
- 11:45 – 12:15 Lunch*
- 12:15 – 12:30 Transfer to the Department of Anatomy
- 12:30 – 17:00 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