

ESSO Hands on Course on Colorectal Cancer Surgery

Ljubljana (SI), 15 - 17 January 2026

Chairs

Ibrahim Edhemovic, Institute of Oncology, Ljubljana, SI

Franco Roviello, Università degli Studi di Siena, IT

Theo Wiggers, University Medical Center Groningen, NL

Faculty Members

Ayhan Kuzu, Ankara University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, TR

Andrej Laposa, Ljubljana University Medical Centre, Ljubljana, SI

Claus Anders Bertelsen, Hillerød University Hospital, Hillerød, DK

Erik Brecelj, Institute of Oncology, Ljubljana, SI

Mirko Omejc, Ljubljana University Medical Centre, Ljubljana, SI

Paolo Delrio, Istituto dei Tumori di Napoli, Fondazione G. Pascale, IT

Sonja Kramer, Institute of Oncology Ljubljana, Ljubljana, SI

Programme

Thursday, 15th January

13:30– 13:50

Registration

13:50 – 14:00

Introduction and Welcome

14:00 – 14:15

The surgeon as the Prognostic Factor in Colorectal Cancer Surgery
I. Edhemovic

14:15 – 15:00

Colon Cancer I – Surgical Anatomy, Embryology and Reversion
Principles, Ligaments
A. Kuzu

15:00 – 15:20

Colon Cancer II – Basic Principles of Surgical Techniques
F. Roviello

15:20 – 16:05

Colon Cancer III – (Extended) Right Hemicolectomy, Transversectomy
following the Principles of Complete Mesocolic Excision (CME)
C. A. Bertelsen

16:05 – 16:25 Routine Mobilization of the Splenic Flexure: Is it Mandatory for a Low Anterior Resection?
M. Omejc

16:25 – 16:35 Omental Plasty
I. Edhemovic

16:35 – 16:50 *Coffee break*

16:50 – 19:10 Hands-on Workshop Colon I – (Extended) Right Colectomy: Approach and Dissection with Side-to-side Stapled Anastomosis Terminal Ileum/Transverse Colon, Ileostomy, Omental Plasty
All faculty

Friday, 16th January

08:30 – 09:15 Colon Cancer IV – (Extended) Left Hemicolectomy, Sigmoidectomy, following the Principles of Complete Mesocolic Excision (CME)
C. A. Bertelsen

09:15 – 09:45 Filling the Pelvic Space with Flap – VRAM
A. Laposa

09:45 – 10:05 Anastomosis Techniques and Stoma Formation
S. Kramer

10:05 – 10:20 *Coffee break*

10:20 – 12:30 Hands-on Workshops Colon II – Left Colectomy with Mobilisation of Splenic Flexure, Anastomosis, VRAM
All faculty

12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch*

13:30 – 14:00 Rectal Cancer I – Surgical Anatomy, Planes and Nerves in the Pelvis
A. Kuzu

14:00 – 14:45 Rectal Cancer II – (Low) Anterior Resection following the Principles of Total Mesorectal Excision (TME). Coloanal Anastomosis.
P. Delrio

14:45 – 15:00 *Coffee break*

15:00 – 15:40 Rectal Cancer III – Abdominoperineal Resection – Extralevator Approach
T. Wiggers

15:40 – 18:15 Hands-on Workshop – Rectal Cancer – Low Anterior. ELAPE.
Gluteus Flap (Eventually)
All faculty



Saturday, 17th January

08:30 – 08:45 Options after Good Response after Neoadjuvant Treatment in Rectal Cancer
E. Breclj

08:45 – 09:45 Video Session: Surgical Techniques
T. Wiggers

09:45 – 10:05 Low Anterior Resection: How Low Can We Go?
E. Breclj

10:05 – 10:20 *Coffee break*

10:20 – 11:50 Tips and Tricks and Questions from Participants. Advantage and
Hazards/Disadvantage of All Procedures, Both Technical and Medical,
with Comments from the Faculty
T. Wiggers & all faculty

11:50 – 12:10 Minimal Invasive Approach in Colorectal Surgery
F. Roviello