



Preliminary programme

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, Salzkammergutklinikum Vöcklabruck and Gmunden, AT

Mariela Vasileva, Shterev Hospital, Sofia, BG

Faculty members (TBC)

Andreas Karakatsanis, Uppsala University, Uppsala, SE

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

Mario Levis, University of Torino, Turin, IT

Mihail Stefanov, Misho Stefanov Academy Bulgaria, BG

Pavel Bochev, Acibadem City Clinic Sofia, BG

Program

Thursday 19th March

Session 1

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|---------------|---|
| 08:30 – 08.40 | Introduction <i>M. Vasileva/E. Rangelova/S. Stättner/ P. Piso</i> |
| 08.40 – 09.00 | Molecular oncology: Carcinogenesis, cancer progression <i>E. Rangelova</i> |
| 09.00 – 09.10 | Discussion |
| 09.10 – 09.30 | Common patterns of metastatic spread <i>P. Bochev</i> |
| 09.30 – 09.40 | Discussion |
| 09.40 – 10.00 | Principles of systematic chemotherapy tbc |
| 10.00 – 10.10 | Discussion |
| 10.10 – 10.30 | Personalized medicine tbc |
| 10:30 – 10.40 | Discussion |

10.40 – 11.00

Coffee break

Session 2

11.00 – 11.20

Principles of Immunotherapy

E. Rangelova

11.20 – 11.30

Discussion

11.30 – 11.50

Cancer vaccines

tbc

11.50 – 12.00

Discussion

12.00 – 12.20

Genetics in decision making for surgery – (how to use genetics to better treat cancer – the surgical prespective)

S. Stättner tbc

12.20 – 12.30

Discussion

12.30 – 12.50

Radiobiology and principles of radiotherapy

M. Levis

12.50 – 13.00

Discussion

13:00 – 13:20

Local ablation techniques

S. Stättner

13:20 – 13:30

Discussion

13:30 – 14:10

Lunch

Session 3

14.10 – 14.30

How to increase the risk-benefit ratio of radiotherapy with modern techniques

M. Levis

14.30 – 14.40

Discussion

14.40 – 15.00

Monitoring of cancer treatment

tbc

15.00 – 15.10

Discussion

15:10 – 15:30

The current place of the surgical oncologist in the MDT

S. Stättner

15.30 – 15.40

Discussion

15.40 – 16.00

Multimodality management of metastatic disease

E. Rangelova/S. Stättner

16.00 – 16.10

Discussion

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
tbc
- 08.50 – 09.00 Discussion
- 09.00 – 09:20 Principles of palliation – medical and integrative
P. Piso
- 09.20 – 09.30 Discussion
- 09:30 – 09:50 The difficult conversation
tbc
- 09.50 – 10.00 Discussion
- 10:00 – 10:20 Mental health support of patients, doctors and caregivers (pshyco-oncology, second victim, supportive groups)
P. Piso
- 10.20 – 10.30 Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

Session 2

- 11.00 – 11.20 Efficiency in cancer care
M. Vasileva
- 11.20 – 11.30 Discussion
- 11.30 – 11.50 Leadership/Work-life balance in surgical oncology and Preventing burnout
E. Rangelova
- 11.50 – 12.00 Discussion
- 12:00 – 12:40 Lunch**
- 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
- 13:40 – 14.00 Surgical research (we can remove this and have one nice big workshop on statistics)
tbc
- 14:00 – 14:20 The role of surgeons in translational research (biobanks)
M. Vasileva



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| 14.20 – 14.30 | Discussion |
| 14.30 – 15.00 | How to write an article – lecture and workshop <i>A. Karakatsanis</i> |
| Session 3 | |
| 15.00 – 16.00 | Interactive Workshop Developing soft skills: public speaking for surgeons <i>M. Stefanov</i> |
| 16.00 | Closing remarks |