Advanced education developing world-class ophthalmologists

ESASO a vision of collaboration
ESASO
a Vision of Collaboration
ESASO welcomes you

Our mission

Education

Modules

Admission and Campuses

Fellowship

Faculty

Our Participants

Simulator Training

3D & Simulator Training
ESASO is a pioneer in post-graduate education in ophthalmology. We collaborate with individuals, groups and institutions to enhance expertise in ophthalmology and take the field into the future. Our approach is of a Vision of Collaboration, from fruitful partnerships with leading ophthalmologists and institutions worldwide. These collaborations are a source of cutting-edge knowledge, innovative and in-depth research, clinical leadership and a global outlook that is also reflected in the diversity and skills of our participants at the campuses at Lake Lugano in Switzerland, and in Singapore.

The School’s activities cover the study of all subspecialties, including medical and surgical management of retinal conditions, cornea, refractive surgery, cataracts, glaucoma, uveitis, oculoplastics, paediatric ophthalmology and strabismus.

We hope that ESASO will continue to grow to become a leader in the field of ophthalmological training. We believe that by supporting the learning needs of tomorrow’s leading ophthalmologists, we are investing in better outcomes for eye patients everywhere.

We look forward to welcoming you to an inspiring learning environment that will challenge your perspectives, expand your horizons and unlock your full potential.

Yours sincerely

Borja Corcóstegui
President ESASO Foundation
ESASO aims at improving the clinical and surgical practice of specialists in ophthalmology by helping them to develop and enhance their professional skills. Our objective is to provide ophthalmologists with a high-calibre postgraduate renowned faculty.

Through the promotion of scientific research, organisation of meetings and seminars, and publication management, we contribute to improve scientific knowledge within the ophthalmic community and help to obtain better and better outcomes for all patients with eye conditions.

ESASO Foundation Board of Directors

- Borja Corcóstegui, President
- Fabio Nicoli, Vice President
- Ottavio Bernasconi, General Secretary
- Francesco Bandello, Member
- Marco Borradori, Member
- Bruno Falcomatà, Member
- Giorgio Giudici, Member
- Boas Erez, Member
- Sandro Rusconi, Member

Giuseppe Guarnaccia
Global Executive Director
ESASO’s educational programme is based on a modular system that covers the whole field of ophthalmology. This system makes it easy to combine continuing education with existing work commitments. ESASO ensures the highest educational standards through the support given by a distinguished international faculty and specialist input from renowned practitioners in the field.

To tailor your learning, ESASO educational programmes can be combined in different ways:

- Single module: Certificate of attendance
- Single module plus 4-week visiting fellowship
- Single module plus 1-month observership
- Five modules organised by ESASO Lugano Campus: Diploma of Specialist Superior in Ophthalmology (DiSSO)
- One-year fellowship at one of many prestigious institutions associated with ESASO

“It is a great opportunity to learn from some of the best teachers, to make contacts and get suggestions from them.”

Carmela Sannace, Italy
“Certainly, ESASO modules in Lugano campus, located in the heart of Lugano, offer high quality of education. All the courses were very interesting as they provided me with some important educational experience. Sharing ideas and experiences, getting to know colleagues and being taught by experienced professors ophthalmologists is, in my opinion, the best way to improve our skills. I really hope to attend another one!”

Nuria Olivier Pascual, Spain

“I did the Medical Retina course in Rome and it exceeded my expectations. The presentations and the teachers were fantastic and the topics covered will help me in my daily practice. On the other hand, Rome is a wonderful city!”

Willem - Martin Gerber, South Africa

“The Corneal & refractive module surpassed all my expectations. I had the opportunity to discuss difficult cases with world-class leaders in their field. The course presented a good overview of fundamental principles of diagnosis and management of corneal diseases. The ESASO course was one of the best experiences I have had. Not only did I meet world-renowned experts, I also made wonderful friends!”

Hans Peter Iseli, Switzerland

“I work at the Limmat Eye Center in Zurich, Switzerland. This was my first ESASO Surgical retina module. The course was very helpful in understanding the principles of retinal surgery. The wet-lab encouraged me to make further steps in vitreoretinal surgery. Thank you very much.”
ESASO was founded in 2008 to address the specific further education needs of training and practising clinicians, drawing on the skills of colleagues worldwide and the support of various universities. It aims at facilitating the dissemination of new and effective ophthalmological learning and expertise by combining in-depth exposition of topics and direct face-to-face training, where experts show students how to deal with practical situations and problems.

ESASO cutting-edge five-day modules cover the entire field of ophthalmology, including medical and surgical management of retinal conditions, cornea, refractive surgery, cataracts, glaucoma, uveitis, oculoplastics, paediatric ophthalmology and strabismus.

ESASO organises a module-based programme in the Lugano campus and one in the Singapore Campus. Each module offers theoretical and practical tuition, by combining lectures, wet-lab and dry lab activities; all lessons are very interactive and held in English.

All modules organised by ESASO Lugano campus apply for CME accreditation since January 2018.

**Wet labs**

Wet labs take place in the ETC, ESASO Training Centre, in a wet lab room fully equipped with high tech learning facilities and 21 stations equipped with all necessary tools and instruments to recreate a real-life situation participants could experience in operating rooms. Thanks to available surgical instruments sets, surgical machines and microscopes, participants can practice surgical treatment of all possible ophthalmic pathologies.

Each workstation is a small operating theatre.

Wet labs are run by ESASO international experts’ faculty.

**Dry labs**

During dry labs, participants practice with surgical simulators, in order to acquire expertise and hands-on experience in vitreoretinal and cataract surgery, assisted by expert surgeons.

“The wet lab helped to consolidate the theoretical material that we received in lectures, with practical skills”

Alexander Trubilin, Russia
Admission to ESASO modules

The location of our campuses means that participants attending ESASO modules benefit from world-class facilities, state of the art equipment at their fingertips and a vibrant learning and social environment.

Admission requirements

• Master of Medicine obtained at a university recognised under the regulations of the country concerned.
• Specialisation degree in ophthalmology obtained in accordance with the current regulations.

Application process

The online application process opens 4 months prior to the beginning of each module. To see the online application opening dates consult ESASO website. Through the online process, applicants will be also asked to provide copies of their education certificates. The online application will close once the maximum number of attendees is reached. ESASO is solely responsible for the selection of attendees.

Tuition fee

The standard module’s admission fee is 2,300€ and includes tuition, course materials, lunches (at the university canteen) and accommodation. Some modules can have different costs; all information about modules’ admission fees is available on ESASO website. Advance payment (usually 90 days prior to the beginning of the module) is required to secure participation. Applications are accepted within the limits of available places.

ESASO Head Office

Lugano head office is located in beautiful Villa Saroli, an ancient villa in the heart of Lugano, surrounded by a wonderful park, where visitors can enjoy peculiar trees and flowers.
Campuses

ESASO Lugano Campus

On 28 October 2016, the new ESASO Training Centre (ETC) in Lugano was inaugurated as a state-of-the-art innovative lab and a first-rate institution for advanced ophthalmologic education. The spacious ETC offers excellent equipment with plenty of opportunities for didactic training and hands-on education of ophthalmologists, where they can teach and learn from each other. The Training Centre on the third floor of the Regional Hospital in Lugano (Ospedale Regionale di Lugano, Italiano). Since 2009 until September 2016 ESASO trained its participants at the university campus of the Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), building a strong partnership with the institution. The collaboration between ESASO and USI will continue in the future and some of the training courses offered by ESASO will be hosted in the USI campus.

ESASO Singapore Campus

ESASO’s successful launch led to the concept of ESASO Asia. The Singapore Campus is located at one of Singapore’s most prestigious private medical establishments: the Camden Medical Centre, on Orchard Boulevard in the heart of the city. It features state-of-the-art lecture facilities, including specialised console tables that can be converted into wet lab workstations.
The ESASO Fellowship Programme is a good option for those wishing to achieve the highest level of training. In pursuing this ultra-advanced line of study, highly-motivated and talented ophthalmologists can specialise in a subject to refine and further develop their skills in the context of clinical ophthalmic surgery under the tuition of a renowned and prestigious faculty.

ESASO Fellowships and Observerships are truly unique as curricula are planned in consultation with highly reputed and accredited academic and clinical bodies from around the world.

**Application Process:**

1. **ESASO One-Year Fellowship**

   ESASO awards fellowships on a competitive basis. Each June, the Fellowship Committee holds interviews with candidates in Lugano. Applicants should have completed an ophthalmology residency.

2. **ESASO Visiting Fellowship**

   Applicants must have completed one ESASO module, here preferably in cataract surgery, to be eligible to attend this programme.

3. **ESASO one-month Observership**

   After the test taken at the end of modules, the participant with the best grades is offered the opportunity to pursue an observership in the same subspeciality. If this participant declines the observership the participant with the second-highest grades will be eligible, and so on. The observership programme allows students to spend four weeks at the institute where one of the module’s teachers is based, increasing the knowledge and understanding of a subject learnt during the module.

**Economic Support**

ESASO will provide successful applicants with an annual grant. The sum depends on the commitments related to the specific fellowship programme.

1. **ESASO One-Year Fellowship**

   ESASO provides grants of up to € 30,000 for the ESASO Fellowships, depending on the local funding of the international centre.

2. **ESASO Visiting Fellowship**

   ESASO will support successful applicants with a grant (€ 1000 - 2000).

3. **ESASO one-month Observership**

   ESASO provides a grant of up to € 1,000 for each ESASO Observership. The grant is paid as a lump sum at the end of the programme.

**The ESASO Fellowship Committee**

- *Stanley Chang, Chair*

**Members**

- Rupert Bourne
- Borja Cercóstequi
- Giuseppe Guarnaccia
- José L. Güell
- Anselm Jünemann
- Anat Loewenstein
- Ramón Medel
- Robert Rejdak
- Ursula Schmidt-Erfurth
- Christoph Scholda
- Sobha Sivaprasad
- Paulo E. Stanga
- Leonidas Zografos
- Maurizio Battaglia Parodi, Secretary
ESASO Fellowships enable young ophthalmologists who have participated in ESASO Modules to acquire expertise and hands-on experience in a particular subspecialty.

List of Centres and Institutions in the ESASO Network

### 1 YEAR FELLOWSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Focus</th>
<th>Surgeon</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anterior Segment Surgery</td>
<td>José L. Güell</td>
<td>Instituto de Microcirugía Ocular (IMO), Barcelona, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glaucoma</td>
<td>Rupert Bourne</td>
<td>Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oculoplastic</td>
<td>Ramón Medel</td>
<td>Instituto de Microcirugía Ocular (IMO), Barcelona, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Retina</td>
<td>Sobha Sivaprasad</td>
<td>Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Retina</td>
<td>Anat Loewenstein</td>
<td>Tel Aviv Medical Center &amp; Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv, Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Stanley Chang</td>
<td>Columbia University Medical Center, New York, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Retina</td>
<td>Robert Rejdak</td>
<td>Medical University of Lublin, Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Retina &amp; Research</td>
<td>Paulo E. Stanga</td>
<td>Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, Manchester, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Retina</td>
<td>Borja Corcóstegui</td>
<td>Instituto de Microcirugía Ocular (IMO), Barcelona, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Retina</td>
<td>Anselm Jünemann</td>
<td>Universitätsmedizin Rostock, Rostock, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anterior Segment Surgery</td>
<td>Anselm Jünemann</td>
<td>Universitätsmedizin Rostock, Rostock, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Retina</td>
<td>Ursula Schmidt-Erfruth</td>
<td>Allgemeines Krankenhaus Universitätskliniken, Vienna, Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Retina</td>
<td>Christoph Scholda</td>
<td>Allgemeines Krankenhaus Universitätskliniken, Vienna, Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Retina</td>
<td>Anat Loewenstein</td>
<td>Tel Aviv Medical Center &amp; Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv, Israel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VISITING FELLOWSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Focus</th>
<th>Surgeon</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hands-on Training in Cataract Surgery</td>
<td>Gullapalli N. Rao</td>
<td>L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) Hyderabad, India</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Michael R. Martinez, Mexico

"By having the opportunity to operate several times a week, to triage and treat emergencies, and see interesting cases in the clinic is contributing to my confidence to make treatment decisions and to approach different pathologies and cases with more discrimination and expertise. In addition, my tutors and the entire hospital staff, are very friendly and willing to offer their guidance, advice and help in every way they can."

Tomasz Wilczynski, Poland

"I attended an ESASO Observership in Rostock. Prof. Juememann and his team are experienced surgeons and willing to share their experience with others. I was able to spend most of the time at the OR, observing all the PPV procedures conducted in that period as well as others in the remaining time. The most enjoyable aspect of the ESASO Observership was having the opportunity to observe very experienced surgeons in their daily routine, to watch their technique steps and how they deal with unexpected complications."

Abdullah Alqahtani, Saudi Arabia

"During my fellowship with Dr. Carl Claes and his excellent team, I learned a lot from him in many aspects starting from dealing with the high exposure work to admiring the perfection in most difficult cases. Of course I will never forget the great friends that I met during the modules which is the enjoyable part of ESASO network."

Patrizio Magliozzi, Italy

"The program of the “Visiting Fellowship and Hands-on Training in Cataract Surgery” is very detailed and well organized. It offers young surgeons the opportunity to improve their skills and knowledge in cataract surgery and to learn new approaches and techniques. The LVPEI tutors are always available and ready to help you and to give you tips and tricks in your surgical procedures in order to achieve the best results. Wet lab with phaco-machine engineers and lessons help you to plan better what you will do in the operating theatre."
We know that a globally diverse student body deserves an equally diverse faculty of experts to support it. The ESASO faculty is privileged to include approximately 250 leaders in ophthalmology from across the world, each with an exemplary clinical and research track record. It is their diversity of background, collective skills and experience that makes learning with ESASO a truly outstanding and special experience.

Participants at ESASO can benefit in many ways from the expertise of our diverse faculty, from group seminars and practical training, to one-to-one tutoring and guidance. This combination of broad and personal support ensures the best possible educational experience for the experts of tomorrow.

“The organisation of ESASO showed from the beginning an ambitious program that was able to realize and magnificently enrich daily. Today we have a well-established reality, with a primary role in post-resident formation, covering excellently every branch of our beloved discipline. Every aspect is carefully tended: from the venues to the excellent faculty coming from all over the world. I’m really grateful and proud of being part of this ambitious project which is one of the flagships of ophthalmology worldwide.”

Gabriel Coscas, France
Emeritus Professor, Hôpital Intercommunal de Créteil

“It is a really fulfilling experience for me to be part of the ESASO faculty. It is very fruitful to witness the academic environment and share and gain knowledge from the keen ophthalmologists. I also admire the efforts that ESASO has put in to create an excellent faculty and facility for this opportunity for the next generation of ophthalmologists. I am very proud to be a member of this faculty.”

Sobha Sivaprasad, UK
Consultant Ophthalmologist, Moorfields Eye Hospital, London
Our Participants

ESASO participants make us who we are

While over 60% of our participants hail from Europe, we are proud to welcome ophthalmologists from around the world. We believe that the high uptake rate of the modules indicates the internationally recognised high standards of tuition and the opportunities for hands-on learning under expert direction. Together, our diverse student body and faculty form the ESASO Community, an intercontinental framework of knowledge and friendship. Participants also benefit from close contact with and guidance from their mentors. We carefully select participants to participate in ESASO programmes to ensure that learning with us is a highly rewarding experience.

To encourage the development of a truly global network, ESASO partners in several international locations offer scholarships, so that potential participants can take advantage of every opportunity to learn from the best, to be the best.

“The learning atmosphere produced by world class lecturers at the ESASO campus in Lugano is superb.”

Petteri Ingalsuo, Finland

Participant distribution in the world 2010-2017

Participants by gender 2010-2017
Training courses with ophthalmic surgical simulators enhance technical skills of participants and hands-on experience in vitreoretinal and cataract surgery through the use of dry lab equipment, instruments, and technologies. Thanks to simulators’ software and sensors, every phase of surgery is reproduced in an extremely realistic way, allowing participants to improve their surgical ability.

**Main assets**

- Training assisted step by step by vitreoretinal and cataract surgeons
- One day course tailored on individual skills
- Courses in small groups (4 people)
- 3D & Simulator training - EFC Lugano
Application Procedure

Applicants are not required to have completed their residency.
Previous participation in ESASO modules not necessary.
Application: send an email to simona.fertilio@esaso.org
The application package, to be sent in a Portable Document Format (PDF) files, will include:
• Curriculum Vitae
• Copy of the Degree/Master in Medicine
• Passport/ID card copy
The fees cover tuition, course material and lunches.
The fee for one day is of € 1,000 and it is paid with one single advanced instalment, usually 90 days prior to the beginning of the course to secure participation.
3D & Simulator training

Training courses with ophthalmic surgical simulators and 3D visualisation system enhance technical skills of participants and hands-on experience in vitreoretinal surgery through the use of dry lab equipment, instruments, and technologies, giving participants the opportunity to try a new way of working. Thanks to simulators’ software and sensors, every phase of surgery is reproduced in an extremely realistic way, allowing participants to improve their surgical ability. Training courses with 3D visualisation system last 1.5 days: during the first day participants practice with ophthalmic surgical simulators and during the second half day participants practice with 3D visualisation system.

Main assets

- Training assisted step by step by vitreoretinal surgeons
- Possibility to exercise with new technologies
- One and a half day course tailored on individual skills
- Courses in small groups (6 people)

Application Procedure

Applicants are not required to have completed their residency. Previous participation in ESASO modules not necessary. Application: send an email to simona.fertilio@esaso.org

The application package, to be sent in a Portable Document Format (PDF) files, will include:
- Curriculum Vitae
- Copy of the Degree/Master in Medicine
- Passport/ID card copy

The fees cover tuition, course material and lunches. The fee for one day is of € 1,500 and it is paid with one single advanced instalment, usually 90 days prior to the beginning of the course to secure participation.
ESASO
for 10 years devoted to Ophthalmology
ESASO Head Office
Villa Saroli
Viale Stefano Franscini, 9
CH-6901 Lugano
Switzerland
T: +41 (0)91 921 1154

ESASO Training Centre (ETC)
Ospedale Regionale di Lugano – Italiano
Via Capelli
CH-6962 Lugano – Viganello
Switzerland
T: +41 (0)91 921 1180

ESASO Singapore Campus
#13-03 Camden
Medical Centre
1 Orchard Boulevard
Singapore 248649
Singapore
T: +65 (0)6738 2000