European School for Advanced Studies in Ophthalmology
Partnership Opportunities with the Industry
ESASO
a Vision of Collaboration
CONTENTS

ESASO welcomes you 05

Our mission 07

Education 08

Modules 10

Simulator Training 12

3D & Simulator Training 14

Wet-labs 16

Preceptorship programme 18

Executive training courses 19

Lugano Retina Forum 21

Residents Training Programme 22

Campuses 23

Fellowship Programme 26

Observership 28

Congresses 29

Anterior Segment Academy 29

Retina Academy 29

Forums and sessions 30
The European School for Advanced Studies in Ophthalmology (ESASO) offers training to ophthalmologists in Europe and around the world. It was established in 2008 with the aim of offering post-graduate education to ophthalmologists and educational opportunities that cannot be found elsewhere in Europe.

ESASO’s activities have increased over the years. Its structure has become more professional, and the number of employees has increased. We established our headquarters in one of Lugano’s traditional locations, and have widened our network of contacts and partners continuously. Above all, we have enhanced our activities by increasing the number of modules in Switzerland and abroad. ESASO has extended the range of educational offerings, such as the ESASO Fellowships and the Observerships, and has systematically expanded its faculty, which includes approximately 250 experts from over 35 countries today. As part of the educational programme structure, ESASO started publishing the full teaching syllabus in the ESASO Course Series volumes in order to make part of the modules’ content available to a wider public. Last but not least, the new specific courses for companies have extended the ESASO learning experience to industry professionals.

ESASO has undeniably met its goals so far, but it will not stop here. On the contrary ESASO, keeps seeking new challenges, like the opening of the new ESASO Training Centre (ETC), which took place on Friday 28 October 2016. The ETC is a new and innovative didactic centre: it contains fully equipped wet lab and dry lab rooms, allowing students to practice surgery in all ophthalmology fields and improve their surgical skills.

Furthermore, ESASO will continue to dynamically optimize and adapt to the changing educational needs of its students and partners. We look forward to fruitful collaborations and partnerships to reach the next level of excellence in post-graduate ophthalmology training.

Yours sincerely

Giuseppe Guarnaccia
Global Executive Director
Our Mission

Continuous development and training

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 seeks to facilitate the dissemination of new and effective ophthalmological learning and expertise through a dynamic combination of in-depth exposition of topics and direct face-to-face training, where experts show students how to deal with practical situations and problems. Each module offers theoretical and practical tuition, by combining theoretical lessons, wet lab and dry lab activities; all lessons are very interactive. 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.

ESASO offers a wide variety of training and development programmes that address the educational needs of clinical ophthalmologists, as well as collaboration partners in the technology and pharmaceutical industries, and regional/country specific health institutions.

Thanks to the collaboration with its network of educational institutions, ESASO offers training programmes of high scientific and practical quality, which provide ophthalmologists from Europe and abroad with top level post graduate opportunities.

Faculty

Leading ophthalmologists from around the world contribute to ESASO’s hands-on training programme. 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.

VISION

To continue ESASO’s growth as a leading institution in ophthalmology training for the benefit of all patients.

MISSION

ESASO’s mission is to provide post-graduate education and disseminate new and effective learning and expertise to improve the clinical and surgical practice of specialists in ophthalmology. Its objective is to provide in-depth exposure to topics, face-to-face tutoring and hands on training from an internationally renowned faculty.
ESASO aims at improving the clinical and surgical practice of specialists in ophthalmology by helping them to develop and enhance their professional skills.

Through the promotion of training courses, fellowship opportunities, congresses and other educational events, ESASO improves scientific knowledge within the ophthalmic community, hence improving outcomes for all patients with eye conditions worldwide.

**Educational offer**

All modules organised by ESASO Lugano campus apply for CME accreditation since January 2018. Other ESASO educational activities can also be accredited, if planned in advance.

**Admission requirements:**

1. **Modules**
   - Full ophthalmologists only
2. **Simulator training**
   - Residents, full ophthalmologists or other professionals
3. **Wet lab**
   - Residents, full ophthalmologists or other professionals
4. **Preceptorships**
   - residents, full ophthalmologists or other professionals
5. **Executive Training Courses**
   - residents, full ophthalmologists or other professionals
6. **Retina forum**
   - residents, full ophthalmologists or other professionals
7. **Conferences**
   - residents, full ophthalmologists or other professionals
8. **ESASO days and forums**
   - residents, full ophthalmologists or other professionals
ESASO offers several options to corporate as well as non-profit entities to demonstrate their commitment to improving high-level education within the ophthalmic field by providing financial support to the ESASO Modules.

- Unrestricted educational grant: a contribution to the costs of the ESASO module’s organisation as an educational activity
- Industry-Sponsored satellite symposium: an opportunity to organise one-hour satellite symposium on one of the module’s days, being therefore able to attract the entire event’s audience
- Material used for hands-on courses: provision of surgical instruments, equipment or other material in exchange for visibility/promotional opportunities

For more information, please contact ESASO.

ESASO’s educational programme is based on a modular system, ensuring the highest educational standards through support from a distinguished international faculty and specialist input from renowned practitioners in the field. ESASO cutting-edge five-day modules cover all ophthalmology’s subspecialties, to provide ophthalmologists with a complete postgraduate education offer, including: medical and surgical management of retinal conditions, cornea, refractive surgery, cataracts, glaucoma, uveitis, oculoplastics, paediatric ophthalmology and strabismus. 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.

Participants can customise their learning path, by choosing from five programmes:
- 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)

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

Admission
The standard module’s admission fee is € 2,300, covering tuition, course material, lunches (at the hospital canteen) and lodging at partner hotels (single room). Some modules can have different costs; all information about modules’ admission fees is available on ESASO’s website.
The training with simulators enhances 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.

Simulator Training courses take place in the ESASO Training Centre (ETC), where a dry lab room has been equipped with two ophthalmic surgical simulators, allowing both vitreoretinal and cataract surgical training, and a high tech learning facilities.

The 1-day programme is run by international expert faculty members.

The fee for one day is of € 1,000 and is paid with one single advanced instalment (hotel not included).

The fee for a group of four participants is € 4,000.

Highlights

- Training courses assisted step by step by vitreoretinal and cataract surgeons.
- One-day course tailored on individual skills.
- Small group (4 people).
- Possibility to individually rent the simulators.

ESASO offers several options to corporate as well as non-profit entities to demonstrate their commitment to improve high-level education

- Organise a one-day course (4 people)
- Book one seat
- ESASO can also organise lunch and coffee breaks, travel, accommodation and dinners in Lugano

For more information, please contact ESASO.

“I studied medicine at the University of Athens-Greece and was trained in Ophthalmology and ophthalmic surgery at the Department of Ophthalmology - University of Patras-Greece, Department of Ophthalmology-University of Tübingen-Germany, University Eye Clinic-Charite Campus Benjamin Franklin Berlin-Germany, Department of Ophthalmology and Optometry-Innsbruck Medical University-Austria and St. Paul’s Eye Unit-Liverpool,-UK. Since 2009 I have worked as a consultant at the Department of Ophthalmology and Optometry, Innsbruck Medical University, Austria. My areas of interest include vitreoretinal surgery and medical retina, cataract surgery, ophthalmic trauma, intraocular and ocular surface tumours and I am the head of the department of electrophysiology in my clinic. I was introduced to ESASO by colleagues of mine, whom I worked with during my stay in the UK: I immediately responded positively to the invitation of ESASO to participate as an instructor in cataract and vitreoretinal surgery. ESASO is not only fulfilling its role in postgraduate training of ophthalmologists from Europe and all around the world in an excellent way, but also provides a platform for the exchange and development of new ideas in making ophthalmic education attractive, up-to-date and modern. What makes my task as an instructor most enjoyable is the motivation of the participants to learn and their will go a step further and develop abilities they might not know they had.”

Georgios Blatsios, MD, PhD, born 1972 in Athens, Greece
3D & Simulator Training

Training courses with 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. 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 gives participants the opportunity to try a new way of working.

3D & Simulator Training courses take place in the ESASO Training Centre (ETC), which has been equipped with a 3D visualisation system and two ophthalmic surgical simulators, allowing both vitreoretinal and cataract surgical training, and a high tech learning facilities. The 1.5-day programme is run by international expert faculty members. The fee for one day is of € 1,500 and is paid with one single advanced instalment (hotel not included). The fee for a group of six participants is € 9,000.

**Highlights**

- 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).

**ESASO offers several options to corporate as well as non-profit entities to demonstrate their commitment to improve high-level education**

Organise a 1.5-day course (6 people)
- Book one seat
- ESASO can also organise lunch and coffee breaks, travel, accommodation and dinners in Lugano

For more information, please contact ESASO.
Objective: to enhance the surgical and technical skills of participants through the use of wet laboratory, surgical instruments, devices and technologies, pig eyes or synthetic eyes.

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.

ESASO offers several options to corporate as well as non-profit entities to demonstrate their commitment to improve high-level education

- Possibility to organise two-day wetlab courses for groups of participants (10 to 40 people), including admission fee, all necessary disposable materials.
- Possibility to rent the ETC wet-lab room to organise specific courses for staff members or ophthalmologists.
- ESASO can also organise lunch and coffee breaks, travel, accommodation and dinners in Lugano.

For more information, please contact ESASO.

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

Alexander Trubilin, Russia
ESASO preceptorship programme

ESASO offers preceptorship programmes in partnership with leading ophthalmology hospitals worldwide, like the department of Ophthalmology of Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy. The ESASO Preceptorship comprises both theoretical and practical lectures led by a multidisciplinary faculty of leading international experts in the ophthalmology field. Each course focuses on a specific subspecialty in ophthalmology and aims providing full young ophthalmologists with a thorough practical understanding of the management of the disease from diagnosis to treatment, according to current standards of surgical and medical care.

Subspecialties: retina, cataract, cornea, glaucoma, uveitis and oculoplastics.

The courses are primarily designed for young full ophthalmologist and aim to educate participants about the current standards of surgical and medical care. ESASO Preceptorship offers an enriched intense learning experience in the shortest possible time, thanks to the small size of the groups of participants (no more than 30 people) and emphasis on interaction between participants and faculty.

The ESASO Preceptorship are typically 2.5 - 3 days in duration and are held throughout the year in Europe and Asia. The programme structure is usually structured as follows:

1. One day class theory
2. One day dedicated to wet lab (a small simulator session can be included)
3. One day practice at the selected Hospital / Institution
Executive training courses

ESASO offers companies the possibility to train their managers or employees in the field of ophthalmology, by organising customised courses on the basis of participants’ specific needs and objectives. There are two options:
- Basic ophthalmology courses addressing companies’ managers
- Specific courses addressing both full ophthalmologists and residents; free choice of topics. Indeed, ESASO can offer companies different kinds of courses, combining theory classes, wet lab sessions and dry lab sessions to practice with the simulators.

Courses can be 1 to 3-day long and they are always run by the internationally renowned ESASO faculty; scientific quality of the contents is thus always very high and they can cover all ophthalmology’s subspecialties.

ESASO can provide simultaneous interpretation service, or organise courses in languages other than English.

Subspecialties: cataract surgery, VR surgery, medical retina, oculoplastics, uveitis, dry eye, cornea and glaucoma.

ESASO offers several options to corporate as well as non-profit entities to demonstrate their commitment to improve high-level education.

Possibility to organise courses for groups of 10 to 30 participants, including admission fees, accommodation, dinner and local transfers. For more information, please contact ESASO.
Lugano Retina Forum

Lugano Retina Forum is an intense one-day interactive gathering with leading specialists discussing recent advances and controversies of specific retinal pathology issues; it is open to all ophthalmologists and it concentrates on a specific pathological issue only.

The first Forum will focus on intraocular steroids in retinal pathology and the second will concentrate on advances in diabetic macular oedema.

Lugano Retina Forum is structured as one-day theory classes where constant interaction between faculty members and participants is enhanced by debates, and concepts are always illustrated with clinical cases to make the sessions more dynamic. The courses’ structure include the following sessions:

• Introduction of the challenge and the implications in the clinic
• Discussion of the topic, pros and cons, with expert examples
• Debate of controversies, conclusion on key learnings and quiz

The Retina Forum can be organised in Lugano or abroad.

ESASO offers several options to corporate as well as non-profit entities to demonstrate their commitment to improve high-level education

• Possibility to organise a forum for groups of 30 ophthalmologists, including accommodation and local transfers
• Organise several Retina forum for groups

For more information, please contact ESASO.
Residents Training Programme

With its state-of-the-art facilities the ETC provides a solid base for tailored education, hosting wet lab workstations, dry lab stations and a classroom for up to 60 participants. Learners train their skills in diagnostics and surgical techniques and can choose from different medical devices. The innovative multimedia equipment captures surgical techniques on an elevated level, and allows faculty members to interact with the participants individually or in the group.

Tailored programmes
ESASO aims at supporting its partners by training residents and preparing them for their future careers. Complementary to the training, ESASO offers tailored programmes for wet and dry lab activities. The participants learn about surgical steps and processes, become familiar with the OR environment and perform surgical interventions. They benefit from shared knowledge from senior colleagues guiding them through their individual learning experience. The benefit for the participant is to gain hands-on experience without pressure, sharing knowledge while assisting colleagues to perform their surgeries, and reflecting on outcomes with experts and other participants.

Depending on the varying university specialisation curricula, ESASO’s tailored programmes can include several days of wet and/or dry labs: vitreoretinal surgery and/or cataract surgery with a surgical simulator; and vitreoretinal and/or cataract in the wet lab.
The dry lab, with its virtual simulators, allows residents a stepwise approach to consecutive surgical attempts without time-consuming preparations; an efficient personal and equally professional experience that would require years of practice in a real-world environment and with real patients.

ESASO would be pleased to give you more information about this activity. For more information, please contact ESASO.
ESASO Lugano Campus

The ESASO Training Centre (ETC) is 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 is located on the third floor of the Regional Hospital in Lugano (Ospedale Regionale Lugano, ORL; Ospedale Italiano).

The ETC’s 400 m² wide area includes:

- **A classroom** for approximately 60 people, equipped with cutting-edge technological devices (98 inch professional interactive display 4k; audio and video system; computer with blu-ray reader; audio and video recording possibility).
- **A 200 m² wide wet lab** room. Specifically built to host ophthalmology courses, it can also be adapted to a wide range of situations and needs. It contains up to 20 stations for practical exercises with pig eyes and/or synthetic eyes; laser projector full HD 10’000 lumen; audio and video system; computer with blu-ray reader; audio and video recording possibility.
- **A 20 m² dry lab** room equipped with 2 to 4 simulators for dry-lab activities; 65 inch television; computer with blu-ray reader.
- A fully equipped control room, thanks to which a wide range of activities can effectively be managed.

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.

ESASO offers several options to corporate as well as non-profit entities to demonstrate their commitment to improve high-level education.

**Possibility to rent the ETC.**

Possibility to rent the whole ETC or individual rooms to organise courses, meetings or other events; all the equipment in the ETC rooms is also available for rent.

For more information, please contact ESASO.
ESASO Singapore Campus

ESASO’s successful launch led to the concept of ESASO Asia. Singapore was chosen as the venue for the new campus because of its status as the “Switzerland of Asia”, with a well-developed academic system, a central location, good infrastructure and facilities, and political and social stability. The Singapore Campus is located at one of Singapore’s most prestigious private medical establishments: the Camden Medical Center, on Orchard Road in the heart of the city.

It features state-of-the-art lecture facilities with internet and network connections, as well as specialised console tables that can be converted into wet lab workstations. The Board of Directors has appointed Dr. Adrian Koh as Executive Director for ESASO Asia. By end of 2017, ESASO Asia had successfully conducted 14 modules in Medical & Surgical Retina, Uveitis and Glaucoma, as well as a workshop on OCT. The modules had seen participation by 714 ophthalmologists from 31 countries. Besides the programs conducted in our Singapore campus, ESASO Asia had also conducted modules in Shanghai & Beijing, P.R. China and in Hanoi, Vietnam.

ESASO Asia is proud to list a panel of distinguished international faculty; the complete list can be viewed on ESASO website.

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Thanks to the one-year Fellowship Programme, ESASO trains young ophthalmologists to become future experts and top level professionals, who could be integrated into ESASO faculty. ESASO takes care of the whole participants’ career and makes sure its faculty is always cutting-edge and up-to-date. Thanks to ESASO one-year fellowship programme, 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. The programme includes different opportunities, all of which are planned in consultation with highly reputed and accredited academic and clinical bodies from around the world. Each ESASO Fellowship is spent in a specialised world-class teaching hospital or university department that have developed a specific training programme as part of their partnership agreement with ESASO. The individual programme provides the Fellow with all the skills necessary to improve their specialisations autonomously on a highly advanced level.

**Economic Support**

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

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**The ESASO Fellowship Committee**

- **Stanley Chang**, Chair

**Members**

- Rupert Bourne
- Borja Corcóstegui
- 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 offers several options to corporate as well as non-profit entities to demonstrate their commitment to improve high-level education.

For more information, please contact ESASO.
The one-month ESASO Observership enables participants to explore a subspecialty further, perhaps prior to applying to a one-year full fellowship. This programme is restricted to those effectively participating in an ESASO module. Thus, in each module the participants with the best grades at the final exam is offered the opportunity to pursue an observership in the same subspecialty. In addition, ESASO provides a grant of up to € 1,000 to successful applicants.

Subspecialities:
- Cataract – IOL implantation
- Glaucoma
- Oculoplastic
- Medical Retina – New anti-VEGF and steroids
- Surgical Retina – Mini-invasive vitrectomy
- Cornea

ESASO offers several options to corporate as well as non-profit entities to demonstrate their commitment to improve high-level education.

For more information, please contact ESASO.
ESASO organises every year two international congresses, hosted in different cities all over Europe, focusing on different fields of ophthalmology and standing out for their high quality level in terms of scientific content and didactic effectiveness: Retina Academy and Anterior Segment Academy.

ESASO Anterior Segment Academy

The ESASO Anterior Segment Academy is a world-class forum on the diagnosis and treatment of anterior segment diseases; the first ASA took place in 2016. The focus is on the science, diagnosis, and management of dry eye disease and selective corneal surgery. Internationally renowned specialists in corneal and ocular surface surgery and dry eye management share their knowledge and discuss the latest scientific developments and technical advances in corneal and ocular surface surgery. Long focused lectures provide in-depth insight into a range of topics; in addition, delegates will have the opportunity to interact with the experts and see real surgery video presentations, also in 3D.

ESASO Retina Academy

The main objective of Retina Academy congress is to maximise the learning of participants, and it is achieved thanks to a scientific programme covering a wide range of interesting and important topics, and including a variety of different types of sessions, in order to provide effective education. Formats include: highly interactive sessions; practical clinical cases presented by the participants and discussed by an expert panel; classic plenary sessions, which begin and end with questions to the audience to evaluate learning in each session; keynote lectures delivered by well-known experts on important topics; Industry Innovations Sessions, which provide an opportunity for representatives of the pharmaceutical industry to present their ongoing research programmes and development pipeline; debates; masterclasses; workshops and video surgery sessions.

Participants in ESASO Retina Academy benefit from a wide variety of post-residency education provided by a large faculty of experts from around the world; moreover, dissemination of new and effective learning and expertise help participants to improve their clinical and surgical practice.

ESASO offers several options to corporate as well as non-profit entities to demonstrate their commitment to improve high-level education

- Install an educational corner and be included in the sponsors’ list
- Support a block of participants’ registration fees
- Organise a short lecture or workshop about technology and innovation
- Sponsor conference items

For more information, please contact ESASO.
**ESASO Forums and Sessions**

*ESASO Forums* are educational events that focus on a particular ophthalmic pathology, with a specific approach and analysing involution. ESASO forums address expert ophthalmologists, who are particularly involved with the specific topic. Since they are different from congresses, with a more limited number of participants, they can become part of a wider international network and be more effective in delivering teaching and spreading the knowledge of new medical technologies.

*ESASO Sessions* are organised within other congresses or events in the field of ophthalmology.

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**ESASO** offers several options to corporate as well as non-profit entities to demonstrate their commitment to improve high-level education:

- Install an educational corner and be included in the sponsors’ list
- Support a block of participants’ registration fees
- Organise a short lecture or workshop about technology and innovation
- Buy a group of gadgets
- Sponsor conference items

For more information, please contact ESASO.
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