



HESPERIS

FOUNDATIONAL COURSE

14 - 16 September 2025 | Valencia, Spain

INTRODUCTION

HESPERIS is a comprehensive course on organ transplantation, ideally suited for physicians, surgeons, and scientists entering the field of transplantation.

The 2025 edition of the HESPERIS Course consists of a three-day in-person programme which includes lectures on both foundational and hot topics in transplantation, breakout sessions, group discussions, and interactive case study presentations.

In this dynamic and interactive live environment, participants will have the chance to gain firsthand knowledge from some of the most experienced professionals in the transplant field. HESPERIS 2025 brings together a varied faculty to address a comprehensive spectrum of topics in transplantation. Sessions are focused on issues in transplant immunology, organ donation and preservation, recipient evaluation and management, regenerative medicine, and person-centred care. The 2025 edition introduces a dedicated focus on Extracorporeal Photopheresis (ECP), a developing area of interest in the field.

To enhance interaction and participation, learners will be invited to submit clinical cases for discussion on the main topics of the course, and to present them onsite. The best case presentation will be awarded the “Paolo Muiesan Award for the Best Case Study Presentation.”

By taking this course, participants will gain an extensive view of transplantation and will be able to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to implement into their own transplant centres.

Scientific Organising Committee



Amelia Hessheimer
Madrid, Spain



Annelies de Weerd
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

When

From Sunday, 14 September 2025
To Tuesday, 16 September 2025

Where

Valencia, Spain

Target Group

Individuals who are entering the field and wish to further their career.

ONLINE PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

Participants are strongly encouraged to review the online materials to prepare for the in-person portion of the course and to select the topics they wish to delve into depending on their individual needs and level of expertise.

Each unit includes three to five lectures, each complemented by a selection of readings, a self-assessment quiz, and the slides provided by the faculty.

This year's edition will feature a new set of supplementary resources on ECP (Extracorporeal Photopheresis) as part of the online preparatory activities. Participants will also explore this topic in greater depth during the onsite portion of the course.

While completion of the online programme and activities is not required, these materials cover important topics that may not be included in the in-person programme of the course, and therefore are strongly recommended and a key component of the educational opportunity offered by HESPERIS.

UNIT 1: IMMUNOLOGY

Lectures

Title	Faculty
Basics on HLA (Human leukocyte antigen) typing	Sebastiaan Heidt, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands
Traditional and virtual X-match	Anthony Dorling, King's College, London, United Kingdom
The jungle of immunosuppression: the surgeon's point of view	Roberta Angelico, Policlinico Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy

UNIT 2: INDICATIONS

Lectures

Title	Faculty
Am I a candidate for a kidney transplant?	Raj Thuraisingham, The Royal Hospital, London, United Kingdom
Are there new indications for abdominal transplantations?	Roberta Angelico, Policlinico Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy
Indications for lung transplantation: current practice recommendations	Robin Vos, University Hospital, Leuven, Belgium
Heart in kidney transplantation: views from over the diaphragm	Luciano Potena, Policlinico Sant'Orsola Bologna, Italy
Indications and outcome in pancreas transplantation	Fabio Vistoli, University of L'Aquila, L'Aquila, Italy
Indications and complications in islet cell transplantation	Lorenzo Piemonti, San Raffaele Hospital, Milan, Italy

ONLINE PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

UNIT 3: ORGAN DONATION

Lectures

Title	Faculty
Technique multiorgan retrieval	Luca Toti, Policlinico Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy
Living donation rules in liver: pediatric and adults	Roberta Angelico, Policlinico Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy
Machine perfusion	Robert Minnee, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

UNIT 4: RECIPIENT MANAGEMENT / part 1

Lectures

Title	Faculty
HBV (Hepatitis B virus), HCV (Hepatitis C virus) and HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) in transplant recipients: not only a liver problem	Quirino Lai, Policlinico Umberto I, Rome, Italy
Infection recurrence after transplantation	Jacopo Romagnoli, Policlinico Gemelli, Rome, Italy
Malignancies recurrence and de novo	Quirino Lai, Policlinico Umberto I, Rome, Italy
HCC (Hepatocellular carcinoma) management in liver transplantation	Quirino Lai, Policlinico Umberto I, Rome, Italy
Recurrent disease post kidney transplant	Raj Thuraisingham, The Royal Hospital, London, United Kingdom

UNIT 4: RECIPIENT MANAGEMENT / part 2

Lectures

Title	Faculty
Cellular therapy for resistant viral infections after transplantation: the new frontier?	David Cucchiari, Hospital Clínic, Barcelona, Spain
Individual susceptibility to infection and immuno-suppression: does one size fit all?	Oriol Manuel, Lausanne University Hospital, Lausanne, Switzerland
Prevention is better than cure: strategies for vaccination in solid-organ transplant recipients	Ines Ushiro-Lumb, NHS Blood and Transplant, London, United Kingdom

UNIT 5: REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Lectures

Title	Faculty
The prospects of regenerative medicine	Ton Rabelink, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands
Generation of mini organs	Nuria Montserrat, Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia Barcelona, Spain
Cell therapies in organ transplantations	Marlies Reinders, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Repair of organs through machine perfusion	Sandra Lindstedt, Lund University, Lund, Sweden

ON-SITE PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Day 1

Sunday
14 September

09:00 – 09:10 **Welcome**
Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Amelia Hessheimer, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, Spain

09:10 – 09:50 **Icebreaker: Getting to know each other**
Faculty and participants

SESSION 1 – IMMUNOLOGY (09:50-13:00)

Session intro

Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

09:50 – 10:15 **DSA (Donor-Specific Antibodies)**
Educator TBC

10:15 – 10:40 **Immunosuppression in 2025: Old classics and repurposed newcomers**
Martijn van den Hoogen, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

10:40 – 10:55 **Coffee break** ☕

Non-pharmacologic management of immunosuppression

10:55 – 11:10 **Plasma exchange and immunoadsorption**
Nikolina Basic-Jukic, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Croatia

11:10 – 11:25 **Extracorporeal photophoresis**
Carolt Arana, Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, Spain

11:25 – 11:50 **“My most difficult case”: Highly sensitised kidney transplant candidates**
Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

11:50 – 12:30 **Breakout session: Crossing the HLA barrier in solid organ transplantation**
Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Martijn van den Hoogen, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Educator TBC

12:30 – 12:40 **Group discussion & wrap-up session 1**
Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Amelia Hessheimer, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, Spain

12:40 – 13:00 **Case presentation and discussion**
Presenter TBC

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch break** 🍴

ON-SITE PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Day 1

Sunday
14 September

SESSION 2 - INDICATIONS (14:00 - 18:00)

Session intro

Amelia Hessheimer, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, Spain

- 14:00 – 14:25 **Evaluating & optimising recipient sarcopenia, frailty, and obesity**
Dilan Dabare, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, United Kingdom
- 14:25 – 14:50 **Expanding indications for liver transplantation:
The era of transplant oncology**
Cristina Dopazo, University Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Spain
- 14:50 – 15:15 **Foundations and frontiers in heart transplantation**
Educator TBC
- 15:15 – 15:40 **Current status of beta cell-replacement therapy**
Irum Amin, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
- 15:40 – 16:00 **Coffee break ☕**
- 16:00 – 16:25 **Preemptive kidney transplantation**
Nikolina Basic-Jukic, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Croatia
- 16:25 – 16:50 **“My most difficult case”: Prior cancer in solid organ transplant
candidates**
Carmen Vinaixa, La Fe University and Polytechnic Hospital, Valencia, Spain
- 16:50 – 17:30 **Breakout session: Who is “too sick” to transplant?**
Dilan Dabare, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, United Kingdom
Cristina Dopazo, University Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Spain
Educator TBC
- 17:30 – 17:40 **Group discussion & wrap-up session 2**
Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Amelia Hessheimer, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, Spain
- 17:40 – 18:00 **Case presentation and discussion**
Presenter TBC

ON-SITE PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Day 2

Monday
15 September

SESSION 3 – ORGAN DONATION & PRESERVATION (09:00-13:00)

Session intro

Amelia Hessheimer, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, Spain

- 09:00 – 09:25 **Donor evaluation: Biological risk, infections & neoplasms**
Eduardo Miñambres, Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Santander, Spain
- 09:25 – 09:50 **Ethics of live organ donation**
Hannah Maple, Guy's Hospital, London, United Kingdom
- 09:50 – 10:15 **Xenotransplantation: Closing in on clinical reality**
Educator TBC
- 10:15 – 10:40 **Organ preservation & perfusion solutions in 2025**
Amelia Hessheimer, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, Spain
- 10:40 – 11:00 **Coffee break ☕**
- 11:00 – 11:25 **Strategies for DCD heart, lung recovery & preservation**
Educator TBC
- 11:25 – 11:50 **“My most difficult case”: Co-morbidities in living donors**
Fritz Diekmann, Hospital Clínic, Barcelona, Spain
- 11:50 – 12:30 **Breakout session: Ethical issues in deceased organ donation**
Hannah Maple, Guy's Hospital, London, United Kingdom
Eduardo Miñambres, Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, Santander, Spain
Educator TBC
- 12:30 – 12:40 **Group discussion & wrap-up session 3**
Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Amelia Hessheimer, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, Spain
- 12:40 – 13:00 **Case presentation and discussion**
Presenter TBC
- 13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch break 🍴**

ON-SITE PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Day 2

Monday
15 September

SESSION 4 - RECIPIENT MANAGEMENT PART 1 (14:00-18:00)

Session intro

Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

- 14:00 – 14:25 **Recipient optimisation/pre-habilitation in end-stage organ disease**
Dilan Dabare, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, United Kingdom
- 14:25 – 14:50 **Managing complications of intestinal/MVT in adults & kids**
Irum Amin, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
- 14:50 – 15:15 **Role of non-invasive biomarkers in recipient management**
Fritz Diekmann, Hospital Clínic, Barcelona, Spain
- 15:15 – 15:40 **Long-term complications following solid organ transplant:
Cardiovascular disease and cancer**
Educator TBC
- 15:40 – 16:00 **Coffee break ☕**
- 16:00 – 16:25 **Home monitoring for transplant recipients**
Martijn van den Hoogen, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 16:25 – 16:50 **Pregnancy after solid organ transplantation**
Marina Berenguer, La Fe University and Polytechnic Hospital, Valencia, Spain
- 16:50 – 17:30 **Breakout session: Chronic allograft failure & re-transplantation**
Marina Berenguer, La Fe University and Polytechnic Hospital, Valencia, Spain
Martijn van den Hoogen, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Educator TBC
- 17:30 – 17:40 **Group discussion & wrap-up session 4 Part 1**
Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Amelia Hessheimer, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, Spain
- 17:40 – 18:00 **Case presentation and discussion**
Presenter TBC

ON-SITE PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Day 3

Tuesday
16 September

SESSION 4 - RECIPIENT MANAGEMENT

PART 2: CHALLENGES IN BALANCING IMMUNOSUPPRESSION (09:00-11:10)

Session intro

Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

09:00 – 09:20 **CMV infection after SOT: Current strategies and challenges**

Nikolina Basic-Jukic, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Croatia

09:20 – 09:40 **Multidrug resistant bacteria and other threatening bugs**

Rosa Blanes, La Fe University and Polytechnic Hospital, Valencia, Spain

Long term allograft dysfunction: monitoring strategies, etiologies and treatment

09:40 – 10:00 **Chronic immune injury and graft dysfunction in kidney, heart and lung transplantation**

Educators TBC

10:00 – 10:25 **ECP after kidney transplantation in immunologically high-risk patients**

Carolt Arana, Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, Spain

10:25 – 11:00 **Diagnosis and management of CAV (Cardiac Allograft Vasculopathy) and the utility of ECP in treating it**

Educator TBC

11:00 – 11:10 **Wrap-up session 4 Part 2**

Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Amelia Hessheimer, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, Spain

11:10 – 11:25 **Coffee break ☕**

SESSION 5 - REGENERATIVE MEDICINE (11:25-13:00)

Session intro

Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

11:25 – 11:45 **Cell therapy: Opportunities and limitations**

Marcella Franquesa, IGTP Institut Germans Trias i Pujol, Barcelona, Spain

11:45 – 12:05 ***Ex situ* organ repair**

Martin Hoogduijn, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

ON-SITE PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Day 3

Tuesday
16 September

- 12:05 – 12:30 **My preferred future organ**
Marcella Franquesa, IGTP Institut Germans Trias i Pujol, Barcelona, Spain
Martin Hoogduijn, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 12:30 – 12:40 **Wrap-up session 5**
Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Amelia Hessheimer, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, Spain
- 12:40 – 13:00 **Case presentation and discussion**
Presenter TBC
- 13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch break** 🍴

SESSION 6: PERSON-CENTRED CARE IN TRANSPLANTATION (14:00-16:55)

- 14:00 – 14:25 **The person with an organ - not the organ in the person. What matters to the organ recipient and how it can be evaluated**
Anna Forsberg, Lund University, Lund, Sweden
- 14:25 – 14:50 **Non-adherence in the post-transplant period**
Martijn van den Hoogen, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 14:50 – 15:15 **Breakout session: Interactive group discussions about person-centred care**
Anna Forsberg, Lund University, Lund, Sweden
Hannah Maple, Guy's Hospital, London, United Kingdom
Educator TBC
- 15:15 – 15:25 **Follow up on group discussions**
Anna Forsberg, Lund University, Lund, Sweden
Hannah Maple, Guy's Hospital, London, United Kingdom
Educator TBC
- 15:25 – 15:40 **Break**

ON-SITE PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME



Day 3

Tuesday
16 September

- 15:40 – 15:55 **My experience as an organ donor**
Federico Oppenheimer, Barcelona, Spain (father)
Educator TBC
- 15:55 – 16:10 **My experience as an organ recipient**
Federico Oppenheimer, Barcelona, Spain (son)
Educator TBC
- 16:10 – 16:50 **When things go wrong: How to support yourself and your colleagues**
Hannah Maple, Guy's Hospital, London, United Kingdom
Educator TBC
- 16:50 – 16:55 **Wrap-up session 6**
Anna Forsberg, Lund University, Lund, Sweden

CONCLUSION

- 16:55 – 17:00 **Award ceremony and farewell**
Annelies de Weerd, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Amelia Hessheimer, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, Spain

GENERAL INFORMATION

VENUE

[Barceló Valencia](#)

Av. de França, 11, Camins al Grau, 46023 València, Spain

ACCREDITATION

An application for EACCME accreditation will be submitted for this course.

The online preparatory activities are accredited by EACCME® for 3 European CME credits (ECMEC®s) for each unit, except for Unit 4: “Recipient management – Part 2”.

REGISTRATION

Participation in this year’s HESPERIS Course will be subject to a **selection process**. All relevant details are available on the [ESOT website](#).

ESOT member* 600 EUR

Non-member 800 EUR

Low and lower-middle income countries** 100 EUR

* In order to be eligible to register with an ESOT member fee, please note that you must be an active ESOT member at least until the end of the course.

** In order to be eligible to register with this fee, your country must be listed among the low or lower-middle income economies according to the [World Bank classification](#).

The registration fee includes:

- Access to scientific sessions
- Educational materials
- Certificate of attendance
- CME credits (pending EACCME approval)
- Coffee breaks and luncheons
- Networking dinner (no entertainment)

The course attendance is limited to a maximum of 45 participants.

INVOICES

Invoices will be issued for payments made both by credit card and bank transfer.

CANCELLATION POLICY

There will be no refunds once your registration has been confirmed. Refunds will be issued only if the Organiser elects to cancel the event due to force majeure. Should ESOT decide to cancel in-person courses, this will be communicated to all registered participants a month before the start date of the event.

We recommend that participants purchase insurance to cover any losses resulting from the inability to attend the course for any reasons that may occur.

ESOT HESPERIS

FOUNDATIONAL COURSE

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This course was possible thanks to the
unrestricted grant support from



The THERAKOS™ CELLEX™ System is intended to be used in patients who require the administration of photopheresis. This includes patients suffering from:

- Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma (CTCL) in patients >18 years of age
- Acute and Chronic Graft versus Host disease (aGvHD, cGvHD) >3 years of age
- Solid Organ Transplant (SOT) rejection (Lung and Heart) >18 years of age

ORGANISER CONTACT DETAILS:

Laura Contessi

Head of Education

laura.contessi@esot.org

Denise De Salvo

Project Coordinator

denise.desalvo@esot.org

