

**CATARACT COURSE BASIC**  
**OPHTACORE TRAINING CENTRE, TIMISOARA**  
**14-16 May 2026**

ESASO Scientific director: Mario Romano  
Course Scientific coordinator: Mihnea Munteanu

**14 May 2026**

<b>08:45 - 09:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>	
09:00-09:15	Welcome + Video ESASO	
09:15 - 09:45	Understanding the basics of phacoemulsification <i>Fundamentals of phaco: machine settings, key</i>	Mihnea Munteanu
09:45 - 10:30	Mastering cataract surgery step-by-step <i>Incisions, capsulorhexis, lens fragmentation, IOL insertion</i>	Raluca Iancu
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11:00 – 11:30	IOL selection made simple – A guide to power calculations <i>Biometry principles, choosing formulas, and practical application</i>	Bogdan Galan
11:30 - 12:00	Types of IOLs – Knowing your options <i>Overview of monofocal, toric, EDOF, multifocal, and trifocal IOLs</i>	Atanas Bogoev
12:00 - 12:30	Matching the Right IOL to the Right Patient <i>Indications for each IOL and patient selection criteria</i>	Raluca Iancu
12:30 – 13:00	Q&A and discussion	
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
14:00-14:30	Managing shallow anterior chamber and hard lenses	Atanas Bogoev
14:30-15:00	Phaco in eyes with zonular weakness	Atanas Bogoev

**WETLAB**

Bogdan Galan,

**Participants will work in pairs (surgeon + assistant),  
alternating roles during the session, under continuous faculty  
supervision.**

Raluca Iancu,

**Hands-on activities include:**

Atanas Bogoev

15:00-18:00

Tbd

**Learning objectives:**

To build confidence in the fundamental surgical steps, improve hand-eye coordination and develop correct ergonomics and surgical flow.

**DAY 2**

**15 May 2026**

09:00 – 10:00

Complication management – Staying calm under pressure

Horia T. Stanca

*Decision-making and adapting techniques in real time*

10:00 – 10:30

When things go wrong: PCR and vitreous loss

Marco Tavolato

*How best to handle the situation and stress*

**10:30 – 11:00**

**Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:00

Post-operative refractive surprises

Bogdan Galan

*Possible problems and solutions*

12:00 - 13:00

Q&A and discussion

**13:00 – 14:00**

**Lunch Break**

14:00-14:30

Cataract surgery in the presence of corneal pathology

Marco Tavolato

14:30 -15:00

Cataract surgery in ocular surface disease (Dr. Bogdan Galan)

Bogdan Galan

15:00-15:30

Cataract surgery in post-refractive surgery eyes

Horia T. Stanca

**WETLAB**

Horia T. Stanca, Mihnea

*Participants will continue working in pairs, practising alternatives  
scenarios*

Munteanu, Marco

15:30 – 17:30

*Hands-on activities include:*

Tavolato, Bogdan Galan

*Learning objectives:*

*To improve decision-making, maintain surgical control in unexpected  
situations and increase confidence.*

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**INAUGURATION CEREMONY- draft of programme**

**ESASO Campus Timișoara – Inauguration Ceremony**

*Friday | 19:00 – 21:00*

*19:00 – 19:30 Welcome & Campus Visit (group visits)*

*19:30 – 20:00 Institutional speeches*

- *Welcome*
- *Local greetings*
- *ESASO vision and international perspective*
- *The new campus in Romania: goals and perspective*

*20:00-20:10*

*Official Inauguration: ribbon-cutting ceremony*

*20:10 – 22:00*

*Networking Cocktaillnizio moduloFine modulo*

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**DAY 3**

**16 May 2026**

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**From Surgeon to Communicator: Building Trust and Setting**

**Realistic Expectations in Cataract Surgery**

09:00 – 10:30 This session focuses on effective communication with cataract patients before and after surgery. Participants will learn how to explain the procedure in clear and reassuring language, discuss IOL options, manage expectations regarding visual outcomes, and handle patient anxiety or dissatisfaction. Practical examples and interactive discussion will help translate communication skills into daily clinical practice.

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**10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break**

**Creating a Safe and Trustworthy Surgical Environment:**

**11:00 – 13:00 Teamwork, Empathy and Role-Play Scenarios**

This interactive session explores how to create a calm, safe and

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trustworthy environment for patients and surgical teams. Through **role-play exercises**, participants will practise real-life scenarios such as managing difficult patients, communicating complications, and working effectively with the operating room team. The session aims to strengthen empathy, teamwork and leadership skills essential for young cataract surgeons.

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**13:00 – 14:00      Lunch Break**

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**Location**  
OPTHACORE, EDUCATION HUB  
TIMISOARA, ROMANIA

Tuition Fee  
1'700 Euro, Hotel Included  
1'590 Euro, Hotel not included  
max 26 participants