



*INSTITUTIONAL COURSE*

## **Comprehensive Corneal Course: Pathology-Focused**

**14-15 May 2026**

**University of Brescia (Brescia) / Venice Eye Bank (Venice) - Italy**

Course Chairman: Francesco Semeraro

Course Scientific Coordinators: Alessandro Ruzza, Vito Romano

ESASO Scientific Director: Mario Romano

### **Introduction**

This proposal outlines the structure of an innovative corneal training course focusing on corneal and ocular surface surgery to address disease like Keratoconus, Fuchs Endothelial Dystrophy, and Bullous Keratopathy and ocular surface disease. The program is designed to provide participants with an in-depth the different surgical techniques through a combination of theoretical education, practical wet labs, surgical skill development, and live surgery observation.

The course will take place across three distinguished locations, each providing specialized facilities and expertise: **the Venice Eye Bank, and the University of Brescia.**

### **Learning Objectives**

Develop a comprehensive understanding of the pathophysiology, clinical presentation, and management of anterior and posterior lamella surgery and ocular surface surgery.

Master advanced graft preparation techniques (DMEK, DSAEK, DALK). Gain confidence in suturing and handling corneal tissues in a wet lab setting. Observe live surgeries to bridge the gap between theory and clinical practice.

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### **Target Audience**

Ophthalmology residents, young full ophthalmologists, and fellows.

Corneal surgeons seeking to refine their surgical techniques.

Eye bank specialists interested in advancing their knowledge of graft preparation.

The level of the course is intermediate

### **Facilities**

Venice Eye Bank:

Renowned for expertise in tissue preparation and distribution, offering high-quality donor corneas for hands-on training.

University of Brescia:

A leading centre for corneal surgery with experienced faculty providing real-world surgical insights.

### **Conclusion**

This course offers a unique, multidisciplinary approach to corneal pathology and surgery, leveraging the expertise and resources of three distinguished centres. Participants will leave with a well-rounded skill set and confidence to manage complex corneal cases effectively.

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## 14 May 2026

### University of Brescia

08:00 – 11:00	Live Surgery Observation Opportunity to observe a variety of anterior lamellar corneal surgeries including: DMEK / Graft preparation / DALK	Vito Romano
11:00 – 13:00	Theoretical training: - Overview of endothelial dysfunction etiology and clinical presentation and keratoconus Treatment options: medical management versus surgical interventions	Vito Romano
13:00-14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 16:00	Postoperative case discussions Debriefing on what was seen during the morning	Vito Romano
16:00-16:10	Closing remarks Travelling to Venice	Vito Romano

## 15 May 2026

### Fondazione Banca degli Occhi del Veneto

08:00 – 13:00	Wet Lab: - Introduction to suturing techniques. - Practice using artificial and donor corneas to develop skills in partial-thickness grafting. - Techniques to assess donor tissue quality and manage challenging cases. - Training in suturing techniques for full-thickness and partial-thickness corneal grafts. - Preparation of corneal grafts for DALK procedures, Bowman layer transplantation and CAIRS. - Preparation of ultra-thin DSAEK/ DMEK: peeling, loading, unfolding	Alessandro Ruzza / Luigi Fontana
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13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-17:30	Wet Lab: continuation of the morning programme	Alessandro Ruzza / Luigi Fontana
17:30-17:40	Closing remarks	Alessandro Ruzza / Luigi Fontana

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