

European  
Spine Journal



Meet  
The Expert



# Complex Spine Surgery

ESJ Meet the Experts™  
2025 Course

May 9 & 10, 2025, Venice - Italy



 RIZZOLA  
ACADEMY

## Faculty

Complex spine surgery encompasses procedures addressing severe or intricate spinal conditions, often involving multiple vertebral levels or requiring advanced approaches for deformities, instability, or advanced degenerative diseases. This field includes surgeries such as correction of severe scoliosis and kyphosis, revision of failed prior fusions, treatment of spinal tumors, infections, and complex fractures. It demands meticulous preoperative planning, advanced tools like surgical navigation or robotics, and a multidisciplinary team. Patients often present with significant medical challenges such as osteoporosis, post-traumatic deformities, or the need to preserve neurological function in cases of spinal cord or nerve root compression. The goal is to improve spinal alignment, relieve pain, preserve or restore function, and, where possible, maintain segmental mobility.

### Chairmen

Pedro Berjano  
Claudio Lamartina

*Pedro Berjano and Claudio Lamartina*

### Faculty

Max Aebi  
Amer Aziz (Case Presenter)  
Massimo Balsano  
Roberto Bassani  
Stefano Boriani  
Deszö Jeszensky  
Alessandro Gasbarrini  
Atul Goel  
Heiko Koller  
Lawrence Lenke  
Alessandro Luzzati  
Per Trobisch  
Massimiliano Visocchi (Case Presenter)

Switzerland  
Pakistan  
Italy  
Italy  
Italy  
Switzerland  
Italy  
India  
Germany  
United States  
Italy  
Germany  
Italy

### Scientific Secretariat

Riccardo Cecchinato  
Carlotta Martini  
Andrea Redaelli

### Organization

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*In case you have questions on-site, please do not hesitate to contact us with the above contact details.*

### WiFi

Free internet connection is available at the hotel and congress center.

[rizzolaacademy.it/MTE2025](http://rizzolaacademy.it/MTE2025)

## Welcome Addresses

Complex spine surgery encompasses advanced surgical interventions designed to address severe and multifactorial spinal pathologies that cannot be managed with conservative measures or simpler surgical procedures. These surgeries are usually indicated for conditions such as spinal deformities, traumatic injuries, vertebral infections, neoplastic processes, degenerative multi-segment disease, or spinal instability resulting in significant pain, neurologic compromise, or functional limitations.

The complexity of these procedures arises from the combination of the intricate anatomy and biomechanical function of the spine and the complexity of specific spinal diseases. Technological advancements have revolutionized complex spine surgery, improving safety, precision, and patient outcomes. Intraoperative navigation, robotic-assisted surgery, and 3D imaging technologies enable accurate screw placement and real-time visualization, reducing the risk of iatrogenic injury. Additionally, minimally invasive surgical (MIS) techniques have gained traction for reducing surgical morbidity, blood loss, and recovery time, while providing comparable outcomes to traditional open approaches. However, the knowledge of the disease and the fundamental criteria should always be put in first place, as it is the basis of success. For this reason ongoing scientific research is vital to address these challenges, optimize surgical outcomes, and develop innovative solutions, with the final goal of improving patients outcomes and quality of life. Scientific journals as European Spine Journal have a leading role in this process, promoting innovative studies and allowing the sharing of knowledge. We hope to see you in the marvelous scenery of Venice to increase your expertise in complex spine procedures with an outstanding international faculty.

*Robert Gunzburg*  
Editor-in-Chief European Spine Journal

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Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we, at the Rizzola Academy Foundation, welcome you to the "ESJ Meets the Experts 2025" Course, scheduled for May 9-10, 2025, in Venice, Italy. This course will focus on Complex Spine Surgery and represents an important opportunity to explore advancements and share insights in this demanding area of medicine.

We believe this meeting exemplifies the critical role that scientific foundations play in advancing medical practice. Through rigorous research and effective knowledge dissemination, clinicians can deliver safer, more precise, and innovative treatments, ultimately improving outcomes for patients with challenging spinal conditions.

As the Rizzola Academy Foundation, we are honored to organize this event and to provide a platform for experts to exchange knowledge and experience. Hosting the ESJ Meets the Experts in Italy for the first time adds a unique cultural and historical backdrop to a program dedicated to advancing expertise and fostering collaboration in the field.

*Antonio Alizzi*  
Scientific Director Rizzola Academy Foundation

[rizzolaacademy.it/MTE2025](http://rizzolaacademy.it/MTE2025)

7.30 Registration and welcome coffee

8.00 Opening Remarks and Institutional Greetings

8.15 *Introduction to the Course: Why Complex Spine Surgery?*

8.30 *ESJ Founder's Address*  
Complex Spine Surgery: The Balance between Hope, Cost and Risk

Berjano P.  
Lamartina C.  
Gunzburg R.

Berjano P.  
Lamartina C.  
Aebi M.

## Morning Session

9.00 **Session 1** Complex cervical problems

*Moderator:* Redaelli A.

*Keynote Lecture:* What is the State of Art in C0-C2 Deformity Treatment?

Goel A.

9.20 *Discussion*

9.30 *Case Discussion:* Sagittal Deformity in the Cervical Spine

Redaelli A.

10.20 *Topic Essential Short Lecture:* How to Evaluate Sagittal Alignment in the Cervical Spine

Berjano P.

10.30 BREAK

11.00 *Case Discussion:* Coronal Deformity in the Cervical Spine

Goel A.

11.50 *Topic Essential Short Lecture:* Surgery in Coronal Cervical Deformities: Which Small Details Make the Big Difference?

Koller H.

12.00 INDUSTRY WORKSHOPS WITH LUNCH

## Afternoon Session

**Session 2** Complex Surgery in the Thoracolumbar Spine

*Moderator:* Lamartina C

14.00 *Keynote Lecture:* How I Plan and Execute Surgery in extremely severe (>120° Cobb) Pediatric Deformities

Lenke L.

14.20 *Discussion*

14.30 *Case Discussion:* Scoliosis in Growing Patients

Jeszensky D.

15.20 *Topic Essential Short Lecture*  
Growth Modulation in Pediatric Deformity: How to Avoid Failures

Trobisch P.

15.30 BREAK

16.00 *Case Discussion:* Severe Adult Spine Deformity

Koller H.

16.50 *Topic Essential Short Lecture*  
*Anterior Approaches in Severe Adult Spine Deformity*

Bassani R.

17.00 END OF THE WORKS

20.00 *Dinner*

## Saturday, May 10

### 7.15 *Breakfast case discussions*

Moderator: Balsano M

Aziz A.  
Visocchi M.

### 8.15 *KOL Talks*

Moderator: Berjano P

### 8.30 *Key Opinion Leader Talk: High-grade Isthmic*

Spondylolisthesis: state of the art

Lamartina C.

### 8.50 *Discussion*

### 9.00 *Key Opinion Leader Talk:*

PVCR: Indications and Technique

Lenke L.

### 9.20 *Discussion*

## 9.30 BREAK

### 10.00 **Session 3** Spinal Tumors

Moderator: Cecchinato R

*Keynote Lecture:* The balance between oncological appropriateness and surgical aggressiveness. Is there a limit?

Boriani S.

### 10.20 *Discussion*

### 10.30 *Round Table:* Primitive Spine tumors - treatment options in complex cases

Boriani S.  
Gasbarrini A.  
Luzzati A.

## 11.30 INDUSTRY WORKSHOPS WITH LUNCH

### 13.30 **Session 4** Complex Problems in Revision for Degenerative Spine

Moderators: Gunzburg R

*Keynote Lecture:* How to identify and address deformity in degenerative conditions of the spine.

Berjano P.

### 13.50 *Discussion*

### 14.00 *Case Discussion:* Revision in Degenerative Spine with Loss of Lumbar Lordosis

Bassani R.

### 14.50 *Topic Essential Short Lecture:* How to Increase Lower Lumbar Lordosis in Revision Surgery

Jeszensky D.

### 15.00 Closing Remarks and Farewell

Berjano P.  
Lamartina C.



## Registration and General Information

## Registration Fee

## Participant

Early bird fee until 31 January

€450,00

€360,00

The registration fee includes:

- Access to the scientific sessions and industrial exhibition\activity
- Lunch and coffee breaks as announced in the programme

### On-site Registration Opening Times

Friday, 9 May:

07.00 - 18.00 hrs

Saturday, 10 May:

07.30 - 15.10 hrs

### Venue

Move Hotels Venezia Nord, via Bonfadini 1, 31021 Mogliano Veneto, TV - Italy

## Language

The official language of the Meeting is English.

## Coffee and Lunch

Coffee and lunch will be served in the exhibition area during the breaks between sessions.

## Accreditation

An application has been submitted.

### Dress Code

The dress code of the Meeting is business casual.

## Liability

In registering for the ESJ Meet the Experts™ 2025 Course, participants agree that Rizzola Academy Foundation doesn't assume any liability whatsoever. Participants should therefore organise their own health, travel and personal insurances.

## Taxi

In case you need a taxi, please ask at the hotel reception. They will contact the nearest taxi in the neighbourhood to pick you up.

## Notes

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Patronages



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