

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.

Pedro Berjano and Claudio Lamartina

Chairmen

Pedro Berjano
Claudio Lamartina

Faculty

Max Aebi
Roberto Bassani
Stefano Boriani
Deszö Jeszensky
Alessandro Gasbarrini
Atul Goel
Heiko Koller
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Per Trobisch

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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.

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

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

- 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?
- 9.20 *Discussion*
- 9.30 *Case Discussion:* Sagittal Deformity in the Cervical Spine
- 10.20 *Topic Essential Short Lecture:* How to Evaluate Sagittal Alignment in the Cervical Spine
- 10.30 BREAK
- 11.00 *Case Discussion:* Coronal Deformity in the Cervical Spine
- 11.50 *Topic Essential Short Lecture:* Surgery in Coronal Cervical Deformities: Which Small Details Make the Big Difference?
- 12.00 INDUSTRY WORKSHOPS WITH LUNCH

Goel A.

Redaelli A.

Berjano P.

Goel A.

Koller H.

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

Saturday, May 10

KOL Talks

Moderators: Berjano P

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| 8.30 | <i>Key Opinion Leader Talk:</i> High-grade Isthmic Spondylolisthesis: state of the art | Lamartina C. |
| 8.50 | <i>Discussion</i> | |
| 9.00 | <i>Key Opinion Leader Talk:</i> PVCR: Indications and Technique | Lenke L. |
| 9.20 | <i>Discussion</i> | |
| 9.30 | BREAK | |
| 10.00 | Session 3 Spinal Tumors
<i>Moderator:</i> Cecchinato R
<i>Keynote Lecture:</i> The balance between oncological appropriateness and surgical aggressiveness. Is there a limit? | Boriani S. |
| 10.20 | <i>Discussion</i> | |
| 10.30 | <i>Round Table:</i> 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
<i>Moderators:</i> Gunzburg R
<i>Keynote Lecture:</i> How to identify and address deformity in degenerative conditions of the spine. | Berjano P. |
| 13.50 | <i>Discussion</i> | |
| 14.00 | <i>Case Discussion:</i> Revision in Degenerative Spine with Loss of Lumbar Lordosis | Bassani R. |
| 14.50 | <i>Topic Essential Short Lecture:</i> How to Increase Lower Lumbar Lordosis in Revision Surgery | Jeszensky D. |
| 15.00 | Closing Remarks and Farewell | Berjano P.
Lamartina C. |



