



4<sup>th</sup> European  
Society of Pathology  
*Academy*

11–14 May 2026  
Riga, Latvia

## Introduction

The European Society of Pathology (ESP) is actively supporting the education and career development of Pathologists. One of the prestigious activities offered for this scope, is the organisation of the ESPA Academy (ESPA).

ESPA is an intensive and interactive workshop, devoted to the promotion of applied and translational scientific research in the field of human pathology. ESPA is aimed for the future leaders in pathology and is organised every other year.

During this 4-day workshop, ESPA Awardees attend sessions provided by world-renowned experts and additionally present their own proposals for future research projects. Interactive discussions are strongly encouraged and attendance of all ESPA sessions and social events is mandatory. This ensures that the maximum educational benefit is achieved.

### **In 2026, ESP is organising the 4th edition of ESPA in Riga.**

The educational goals of ESPA are:

- Promotion of research excellence and innovation among young pathologists/ scientists
- Provision of solutions for building up a research strategy and academic career to become a leader in pathology
- Receiving updates on the latest developments in the field of translational research in pathology
- Participation in a forum where experiences from world leading senior researchers in pathology as well as junior pathologists/ scientists are shared
- Networking and early-career development support



**1st ESPA 2018  
Belgium**

ESP has successfully organised three editions of ESPA. From 2018 to 2024, we have awarded the participation for 68 rising stars in Pathology.

As a sample of the career development success of ESPA, several of past awardees have participated in ESP activities, like been ambassadors to other organisations, participating in ESP Working Groups, been Faculty in courses and webinars, and more!



**2nd ESPA 2022  
Belgium**



**3rd ESPA 2024  
Malta**

## ESPA 2026 Organising/ Scientific Committee

Name	Position in ESP
<b>Xavier Matias Guiu</b>	President
<b>Raed Al Dieri</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Metka Volavšek</b>	Secretary
<b>Catarina Eloy</b>	Chair of the Education Committee
<b>Christos Poullos</b>	Education Manager

## ESPA 2026 Faculty

Name	Country
<b>Raed Al Dieri</b>	Belgium
<b>Catarina Eloy</b>	Portugal
<b>Irene Esposito</b>	Germany
<b>Nicola Fusco</b>	Italy
<b>Aija Linē</b>	Latvia
<b>Xavier Matias Guiu</b>	Spain
<b>Mila Ogalla Toledo</b>	Spain
<b>Fabio Pagni</b>	Italy
<b>Frédérique Penault-Llorca</b>	France
<b>Christos Poullos</b>	Belgium/Greece
<b>Maria Rosaria Raspollini</b>	Italy
<b>Peter Schirmacher</b>	Germany
<b>Dina Tiniakos</b>	Greece/UK
<b>Metka Volavšek</b>	Slovenia
<b>Funda Yilmaz</b>	Turkey

The ESP Academy 2026, Riga, Latvia 11/05/2026 – 14/05/2026, has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) with 16.0 European CME credits (ECMEC®s).

Each medical specialist should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity. Through an agreement between the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes and the American Medical Association, physicians may convert EACCME® credits to an equivalent number of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits.

Information on the process to convert EACCME® credit to AMA credit can be found at [www.ama-assn.org/education/earn-credit-participation-international-activities](http://www.ama-assn.org/education/earn-credit-participation-international-activities).

Live educational activities, occurring outside of Canada, recognised by the UEMS-EACCME® for ECMEC®s are deemed to be Accredited Group Learning Activities (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.



## We would like to thank all Faculty for their contribution!



**Raed Al Dieri**

Pharm, MSc., PhD

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CEO of ESP

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**Catarina Eloy**

MD, PhD

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IPATIMUP, Porto, Portugal

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Chair of the  
ESP Education Committee,  
member of the ESP Council

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**Irene Esposito**

MD, PhD

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Dusseldorf University,  
Germany

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President-Elect of ESP

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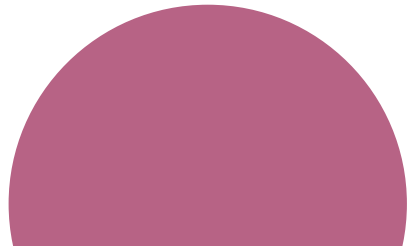
**Nicola Fusco**

MD

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University of Milan, Italy  
Director, Division of Pathology  
and Somatic Molecular  
Diagnostics, European  
Institute of Oncology (IEO)

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**Aija Linē**

PhD

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Latvian Biomedical Research  
and Study Centre

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Keynote Lecturer  
for ESPA 2026

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**Xavier Matias Guiu**

MD, PhD

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University of Lleida,  
Spain

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President of ESP

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**Mila Ogalla Toledo**

BSc, Patient Advocate

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Chair of the DiCE Patient  
Advisory Committee (PAC)

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Board Member, Digestive  
Cancers Europe (DiCE)

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**Fabio Pagni**

MD

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Monza University, Italy

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Member of the ESP  
Education Committee

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**Frédérique  
Penault-Llorca**

MD, PhD

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University Clermont Auvergne  
France

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**Christos Poullos**

MD, MSc, PhD

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ESP Education Manager,  
Belgium

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**Maria Rosaria Raspollini**

MD, PhD

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Florence University, Italy  
Treasurer of ESP

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**Peter Schirmacher**

MD, PhD

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Heidelberg University,  
Germany  
Past President of ESP

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**Dina Tiniakos**

MD, PhD

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Athens University, Greece  
and Newcastle University, UK

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Chair of the ESP  
Advisory Board

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**Metka Volavšek**

MD, PhD

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University of Ljubljana,  
Slovenia

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Secretary of ESP

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**Funda Yilmaz**

MD

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Ege University  
Izmir, Türkiye

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## Congratulations to this year's Awardees!



**Valentina Angerilli**  
Italy



**Ihor Arkhypov**  
Germany



**Vishwapriya Godkhindi**  
India



**Suk Wai Lam**  
Netherlands



**Marvin Masalunga**  
Phillipines



**Chen Mayer**  
Israel



**Daniela Nakuci**  
Albania



**Zeineb Nfikha**  
Tunisia



**Baris Boyraz**  
USA



**Monica Curado**  
Portugal



**Ido Livneh**  
Israel



**Lukas Marcelis**  
Belgium



**Karolina Mazurec**  
Poland



**Ioana Maria Mihai**  
Canada



**Sandrine Nugteren**  
Netherlands




**Feodor Odzhakov**  
Bulgaria


# ESPA 2026


## Scientific Programme


Monday, 11 May 2026

until 16:00	<b>Arrivals</b>
16:00 – 18:00	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>
18:00 – 18:30	<b>ESP support for career development in pathology,</b> Raed al Dieri
18:30 – 19:00	<b>Quality control in Molecular Pathology,</b> Fabio Pagni
20:00 – 22:30	<b>Reception Dinner with Faculty</b> 

Tuesday, 12 May 2026

7:00 – 8:30	<b>Breakfast</b> 
8:30 – 9:00	<b>Grant writing,</b> Peter Schirmacher
9:00 – 9:30	<b>Quantitative Histomorphologic Analysis of Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma Using the CODA Algorithm and Its Association with Clinical Outcomes,</b> Chen Mayer
	<b>Extracellular Matrix Density, Biophysical Barriers, and Drug-Penetration Signatures in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma,</b> Feodor Odzhakov
9:30 – 10:00	<b>The role of Pathology in Clinical Trials,</b> Xavier Matias Guiu
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Experience from a central laboratory in multicentric clinical trials,</b> Frédérique Penault-Llorca
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b> 
11:00 – 12:00	<b>Myxofibrosarcoma and Myxoinflammatory Fibroblastic Sarcoma: Improving Diagnostic Discrimination and understanding of tumour biology,</b> Lukas Marcelis
	<b>BONE-CLASS – Bone tumour classification with Multimodal Deep Learning,</b> Suk Wai Lam
	<b>Organisation of a molecular pathology laboratory,</b> Nicola Fusco
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Cancer-derived extracellular vesicles,</b> Aija Linē
13:00 – 14:30	<b>Lunch with Faculty</b> 

14:30 – 15:00	<b>Why to become an interventional pathologist,</b> Catarina Eloy
15:00 – 16:00	<b>Methylation-Based Approach in Classification of Adenosquamous Proliferations of Breast,</b> Baris Boyraz
	<b>Integrated Spatial Transcriptomics and Multiplex Imaging to Decode Genotype to (Immuno-) Phenotype Relationships in Liver Cancer,</b> Ihor Arkhyrov
	<b>Spatial profiling of immune microenvironment in Claudin 18.2-positive extrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma,</b> Valentina Angerilli
	<b>mTOR-Regulated Proteasome Localisation in Multiple Myeloma,</b> Ido Livneh
16:00 – 16:15	<b>Open Discussion</b>
16:15 – 16:45	<b>Coffee break</b> 

16:45 – 17:15	<b>Bridging the Gap: Patient Advocacy and the Unique Needs of Adolescents and Young Adults in Cancer Care,</b> Mila Ogalla Toledo
17:15 – 18:15	<b>Combined Immunohistochemical Profiling of BRAF V600E and PDL1 in Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma: Implications for Risk Stratification and Targeted Immunotherapy,</b> Zeineb Nfikha
	<b>The Impact of Lymph Node Dissection on Immunotherapy Response in Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer,</b> Ioana Maria Mihai
	<b>Subtyping of Immune-Mediated Inflammatory Diseases by Artificial Intelligence,</b> Sandrine Nugteren
	<b>Exploring the influence of the laboratory management of samples on the quality of digital images and artificial intelligence tools for diagnosis in pathology,</b> Monica Curado
	<b>Recap and Open Discussion</b>
18:15 – 18:30	<b>Recap and Open Discussion</b>
19:30	<b>Walk to restaurant</b>
20:00 – 22:30	<b>Dinner with Faculty</b> 

### Colour Legend

<b>Invited Speakers</b>	<b>Keynote Lecture</b>	<b>Research Project Presentation</b>	<b>Networking</b>
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# ESPA 2026

## Scientific Programme



Wednesday, 13 May 2026

7:00 – 8:30	<b>Breakfast</b> 	13:00 – 21:30	<b>Social activity and dinner with Faculty</b> 
8:30 – 9:00	<b>Combining diagnosis, teaching and research in pathology,</b> Metka Volavšek		
9:00 – 9:30	<b>Work-life balance,</b> Maria-Rosaria Raspollini		
9:30 – 10:00	<b>Importance of Mentoring,</b> Dina Tiniakos		
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Coffee break</b> 		
10:30 – 12:30	<b>Breakout into session. 3 groups.</b>  Each group will have a specific subject and will be coordinated by a Faculty member.  Group discussion is possible to continue during the Lunch and social event		
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Light Lunch and departure for Social Event</b> 		

### Colour Legend

Invited Speakers	Research Project Presentation	Breakout Groups	Networking
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Thursday, 14 May 2026

7:00 – 8:00	<b>Breakfast &amp; Check-out</b> 
8:30 – 10:00	<b>Report from Breakout groups to the whole group. Presented by 1 Junior from each Breakout group.</b>  <b>Interactive discussion with all group</b>
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Artificial Intelligence-Assisted Digital Pathology for the Diagnosis and Phenotyping of Endometriosis,</b> Daniela Nakuci
	<b>Toward Precision Prevention in Multizonal HPV-Associated Lower Anogenital Squamous Lesions: Multicenter Validation of p16/Ki67 Dual Stain as a Decision-Making Adjunct to p16 Immunohistochemistry within the Updated LAST Framework,</b> Karolina Mazurec
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b> 
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Histopathologic and Molecular characterisation of Lymphoepithelial Sialadenitis and Mucosa-Associated Lymphoid Tissue (MALT) Lymphoma of the Salivary Glands: Developing an Algorithmic Approach for Low-Resource Settings,</b> Marvin C. Masalunga
	<b>Evaluation &amp; validation of a cost-effective 5-marker (PHOX2B, NMYC, TRKA(NTRK1), TRKB(NTRK2) &amp; Ki67 immunohistochemistry surrogate panel for risk stratification in paediatric neuroblastoma in resource limited setting,</b> Vishwapriya M. Godkhindi

11:30 – 12:00	<b>Sustainability in Pathology: From Awareness to Action,</b> Funda Yilmaz
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Dear ChatGPT, Please Write My Paper – A Survival Guide for Young Scientists,</b> Irene Esposito
12:30 – 13:00	<b>How tumour staging should be in the 21st century,</b> Xavier Matias Guiu
13:00 – 13:30	<b>Evaluation, feedback discussion and concluding remarks (Faculty)</b>
13:30 – 14:00	Adjurn, light lunch, and departure

**Contact Details**

European Society of Pathology  
Square de Meeûs 18  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium

[admin@esp-pathology.org](mailto:admin@esp-pathology.org)  
[www.esp-pathology.org](http://www.esp-pathology.org)

