



Organised by the ESHRE Special Interest Group "Embryology"

## The search for excellence in IVF: a practical approach

**ESHRE Campus 2010**  
**Maribor** Slovenia, 22-23 January 2010



ESHRE Campus workshop

**The search for excellence in IVF:  
a practical approach**

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# ESHRE'S PREMIUM CORPORATE MEMBERS

EUVITRO S.L. – Spain

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Merck Serono International S.A. – Switzerland

SAGE IVF, a Cooper Surgical Company – U.S.A.

Schering-Plough Global Meetings and Conventions – U.S.A

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

**Course description** Since the first clinical application of IVF, many developments have rapidly occurred in IVF laboratories leading to a constant increase in the quality of clinical results.

In the continuous search for the best conditions that might promote embryo viability, many scientific research studies have provided new insight into the biological and physiological processes of early embryogenesis. Novel criteria guiding gamete selection and handling have started to emerge, which maximize the growth of viable embryos when they are cultured in the most suitable environment. As a reflection in the clinical daily practice, a lower number of embryos can now be replaced without decreasing the chances of pregnancy. Acquiring this knowledge is crucial for the development of the best working system and for the safest infertility treatment by ART.

Topics covered are:

- Set up of the best laboratory and culture system
- Selection of the best gametes to generate viable embryos
- Modification of clinical approaches based on the improvements in the laboratory conditions

**Course objectives** The objectives of this course are:

- To identify the best working conditions, including design and equipment of the laboratory, culture systems, and methodology of work.
- To identify the most viable gametes, zygotes and embryos, both for transfer and freezing.
- To establish optimal laboratory conditions that can successfully support the clinical practice of single embryo transfer, blastocyst transfer and replacement of frozen / thawed embryos.

At the end of this course, participants should be able to have a comprehensive view of the key factors leading to the excellence in IVF laboratories.

**Target audience** Clinical embryologists, geneticists and clinicians involved in reproductive medicine and biology. The course will provide an update for senior embryologists and a comprehensive knowledge for the embryologists that are still in training. It will also assist clinicians in deciding the best strategy for their patients.

# FACULTY & ORGANISATION

**Course coordination** M. Cristina Magli (Italy) – coordinator SIG Embryology  
Etienne Van Den Abbeel (Belgium) – past coordinator SIG Embryology  
Kersti Lundin (Sweden) – Deputy  
Rachel Levy (France) – Deputy  
Josephine Lemmen (Denmark) – Junior Coordinator

**Local organisers** Borut Kovacic (Slovenia)  
Veljko Vlaisavljević (Slovenia)

<b>Faculty</b>	Ingrid Agerholm (Denmark)	Borut Kovacic (Slovenia)	Laura Rienzi (Italy)
	Magnus Bach (Austria)	Rachel Levy (France)	Johan Smitz (Belgium)
	Thomas Ebner (Austria)	Kersti Lundin (Sweden)	Etienne van den Abbeel (Belgium)
	Julius Hreinsson (Sweden)	M. Cristina Magli (Italy)	Veljko Vlaisavljevic (Slovenia)
	Ronny Janssens (Belgium)	Tonko Mardešić (Czech Republic)	
	Davorin Ježek (Croatia)	Milan Reljič (Slovenia)	

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	Belgium	Web site: <a href="http://www.eshre.com">www.eshre.com</a>

# GENERAL INFORMATION

**Venue** Congress Center Habakuk  
Hotel Habakuk  
Pohorska ulica 59  
2000 Maribor  
Slovenia

**Language** The official language of the course is English.

**About Maribor** For more information about Maribor see [http:// http://maribor.uni-mb.si/vodnik/angles/index.htm](http://http://maribor.uni-mb.si/vodnik/angles/index.htm)

**How to get there** There are frequent flights from many European cities to the two nearest airports.  
**Ljubljana Airport** (Slovenia) is 140 km from Maribor while **Graz Airport** (Austria) is about 40 km by highway.  
You can reach Slovenia and Maribor via major highways from Austria, Hungary, Croatia and Italy.

## **From Graz Airport**

**By air** The nearest airport is Graz International Airport (Austria), 45 km north of Maribor. It is connected with Maribor by highway (a 30-40 minute drive). Graz Airport has direct flights to most European cities, and several daily flights to Vienna. Shuttle transportation before the congress will be organized from Graz Airport to the Habakuk Hotel, based on interest and pre-reservation (please check with the hotel when making your hotel reservation). Taxi connections are permanent.

**By taxi** The taxi rank is right outside the airport's passenger terminal, next to the arrival area, for maximum convenience.  
**Austrian company:** Phone 0043 316 878 ([office@878.at](mailto:office@878.at)). Please call or send e-mail before arrival. The price is between 100 and 130 EUR.  
**Slovene company:** Phone 00386 2 2517 151 ([taxi.plus@siol.net](mailto:taxi.plus@siol.net)). Please call or send e-mail before arrival. The approximate taxi fare from Graz Airport to Maribor is 55 EUR.

**Public transportation** Public buses operate between Graz main bus station / Jakominiplatz and Graz Airport. The bus is right outside the airport's passenger terminal, next to the arrival area. A one-way ticket is 1.80 EUR.

**Train and bus time table:**

[http://www.flughafen-graz.at/home/an\\_abreise\\_uebersicht/bahn\\_bus\\_sommer\\_08.pdf](http://www.flughafen-graz.at/home/an_abreise_uebersicht/bahn_bus_sommer_08.pdf)

Timetable inquiries – phone: +43 316 / 2902-172

Timetable inquiries – internet:

<http://www.verbundlinie.at/lang/en/bbb.phb>

<http://www.oebb.at/pv/en/>

Other information can be found at: [www.flughafen-graz.at](http://www.flughafen-graz.at)

**Graz – Maribor**

Public train from Graz main railway station to Maribor.

Time schedule: 6.55, 8.36, 10.36, 14.02, 16.50, 18.37. A one-way ticket is 13 EUR.

**Maribor – Graz**

Public train from Maribor to Graz main railway station:

Time schedule is: 10.20, 12.42, 14.14, 16.21, 18.19, 20.15. A one-way ticket is 13 EUR.



**From Ljubljana Airport** Ljubljana Airport at Brnik is 20 km away from Ljubljana City. Centre and can be reached by busses running at time intervals of one hour. Bus stop at the front of the airport and its final stop is at the Ljubljana main railway and bus station (these two are together). The bus takes about 45 minutes. Tickets are obtained at the driver.

Arriving to Ljubljana City, travel to Maribor may be continued by bus directly to Maribor (via highway) or by train (IC) which takes about 1 hour and 45 minutes.

**Hotel accommodation** Rooms can be booked directly at the following hotels, with the reference code ESHRE Campus Workshop:

Hotel Habakuk \*\*\*\*\*

Hotel Arena\*\*\*

Hotel Meran\*\*\*

The Course will take place at Hotel Habakuk, a congress centre also known as a wellness and spa centre on the foothills of Pohorje, a skiing resort close to the university city of Maribor. The hotel is situated close to ski lifts and only 6 km from the old centre of the city.

All suggested hotels are at walking distance from the Hotel Habakuk Congress Centre (50 m - 200 m)

If you prefer to use a local agency to assist you when booking a hotel room, please contact:

VENETUS TRAVEL AGENCY Ltd

Tyrševa 3

2000 Maribor

Slovenia

Tel: +386 2 235 26 23

Tel: +386 2 235 26 20

Mobile: + 386 41 624 393

Fax: +386 2 235 26 22

E-mail: [jana.hrescak@venetus.si](mailto:jana.hrescak@venetus.si)

**Social event** A social dinner is organized on January 22 (at 8.00 pm).

The dinner will be held at the Martinček cottage on the top of Pohorje hill. The transport by cable cabin is organized at 7.30 pm. The meeting point is at the lower cabin station (100 m from Hotel Habakuk) at 7.15 pm. The return by cable cabin to the city is at 11.00 pm. Since the cottage is located on the ski slope winter shoes and winter clothes are recommended.

Fee: 25 Euro per person.

In the lower cabin station it is possible to rent the skis and snowboards. A good ski condition can be expected at the time of congress. The ski slopes are near the Hotel Habakuk.

# REGISTRATION

Registrations are only possible online. Please visit our website [www.eshre.com](http://www.eshre.com), click 'Calendar' and then go to the pages of the "The search for excellence in IVF: a practical approach" course.

Registrations are limited to 200 participants. For availability of places, please check first with the ESHRE Central Office. The following fees apply:

1. Members of ESHRE = 150 Euro
2. Non-members of ESHRE = 200 Euro
3. Student members of ESHRE = 70 Euro
4. Student non-members of ESHRE\* = 100 Euro

\* "Student" applies to undergraduate medical students, residents, fellows and post-doctoral research trainees. A letter from the head of the department proving the participant's student status must accompany each student registration.

PLEASE NOTE! The preferred methods of payment are either by bank transfer or credit card. Cheques and bank drafts will not be accepted.

**Registration fees  
1, 2, 3, and 4 include:**

- Attendance to all sessions
- Symposium syllabus
- Lunch
- Coffee breaks
- Certificate of attendance

**Cancellation  
policy**

All cancellations should be made in writing. An administrative fee of 25 Euro will be charged for all cancellations. Cancellations received after 1 January 2010 will not be refunded.

# PROGRAM – 22 JANUARY 2010

**Morning** 08.30 - 09.00 Registration

09.00 - 09.10 Welcome note and introduction - *Borut Kovacic (Slovenia)*

## **Session 1: The best laboratory and culture system**

09.10 – 09.40 A laboratory set up: important clues – *Ronny Janssens (Belgium)*

09.40 – 10.10 The choice of culture media and strategies: advantages and potential risks –  
*Etienne van den Abbeel (Belgium)*

10.10 – 10.30 *Discussion*

10.30 – 10:35 **State of Session 1: Main conclusions**

10.35 – 11.05 Coffee break

## **Session 2: The best oocyte: a viable embryo stems from a competent oocyte**

11.05 – 11.35 From GV to MII – *Julius Hreinsson (Sweden)*

11.35 – 12.05 The impact of hormonal stimulation on oocyte quality – *Johan Smitz (Belgium)*

12.05 – 12.35 Morphological markers of oocyte quality - *Thomas Ebner (Austria)*

12.35 – 12.55 *Discussion*

12.55 – 13.00 **State of Session 2: Main conclusions**

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

**Noon Session 3: The best spermatozoon: a viable embryo stems from a viable spermatozoon**

14.00 – 14.30 Is there an external influence on sperm quality (medicine, fever, vitamin E)? –  
*Rachel Levy (France)*

14.30 – 15.00 New approaches for sperm selection – *Magnus Bach (Austria)*

15.00 – 15.30 Testicular biopsy – a valuable source of spermatozoa – *Davor Ježek (Croatia)*

15.30 – 15.50 *Discussion*

15.50 – 15.55 **State of Session 3: Main conclusions**

15.55 – 16.25 Coffee break

**Session 4: The best zygote**

16.25 – 16.55 ICSI vs. IVF: the correct choice – *Milan Reljič (Slovenia)*

16.55 – 17.25 Zygote morphology and implantation – *Cristina Magli (Italy)*

17.25 – 17:45 *Discussion*

17.45 – 17.50 **State of Session 4: Main conclusions**

# PROGRAM – 23 JANUARY 2010

## Morning Session 5: The best embryo

09.00 – 09.30 Evaluation of embryo morphology – *Inge Agerholm (Denmark)*

09.30 – 10.00 Embryo development and viability – *K. Lundin (Sweden)*

10.00 – 10.20 *Discussion*

10.20 – 10.25 **State of Session 5: Main conclusions**

10.25 – 10.55 Coffee Break

## Session 6: The best blastocyst

10.55 – 11.25 Culture and evaluation of blastocyst morphology – *Borut Kovacic (Slovenia)*

11.25 – 11.55 Day 2-3 versus Day 5 transfer: advantages and disadvantages – *Veljko Vlaisavljevic (Slovenia)*

11.55 – 12.15 *Discussion*

12.15 – 12.20 **State of Session 6: Main conclusions**

## Session 7: Cryopreservation

12.20 – 12.50 Oocyte cryopreservation: slow cooling versus vitrification – *Laura Rienzi (Italy)*

12.50 – 13.20 Embryo/blastocyst cryopreservation: laboratory aspects – *Etienne van den Abbeel (Belgium)*

13.20 – 13.50 Embryo/blastocyst cryopreservation in natural and stimulated cycles: clinical aspects –  
*Tonko Mardešić (Czech Republic)*

13.50 – 14.10 *Discussion*

14.10 – 14.15 **State of Session 7: Main conclusions**

14.15 – 14.30 **State of the art on 'The search for excellence in IVF' - Main conclusions**

14.30 Adjourn (with some snacks for everybody)





Find out more about ESHRE at

[www.eshre.com](http://www.eshre.com)