

Call for Applications: ESTS Robotic Discovery Course

Amsterdam Skills Centre | 4 – 5 February 2026 and 11 – 12 March 2026

The ESTS Robotic Working Group, chaired by Pr. Jean-Marc BASTE is pleased to announce two upcoming **Robotic Discovery Courses** to be held at the **Amsterdam Skills Centre on 4 – 5 February 2026, and 11 – 12 March 2026.**

Each two-day course begins with lectures on robotic thoracic surgery fundamentals, including port placement strategies, the standard RATS lobectomy approach, the standard mediastinal approach, learning curves, safety, bleeding management, and an introduction to the KindHeart model for the day 2. Day two is dedicated to hands-on wet lab training focused on port placement, dissection, vascular control, suturing, and practical surgical tips under recognized expert supervision.

Directors:

- Pr. Pierre-Benoit PAGES, Dijon University Hospital, France (February course)
- Pr. Ghada SHAHIN, Leiden University Medical Center, Netherlands (March course)

Faculty:

The Faculty is composed by recognized robotic thoracic experts. In 2025 for the 2 discovery courses, the Faculty was composed by: - Pr. Tim BATCHELOR ; Bart's Hospital, London, UK; - Pr. Martin EICHHORN, Heidelberg University Hospital, Germany; - Dr. Rune EGGUM; Akershus University Hospital; Oslo; Norway; - Dr. Aron ELSNER Charite-Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany; - Pr. Maria Teresa GOMEZ HERNANDEZ, Salamanca University Hospital; Spain; - Dr. Niek HUGEN, Rijnstate Hospital, Netherlands; - Dr. François MONTAGNE, Valenciennes General Hospital, France

Other faculty to be confirmed in 2026

Candidates are asked to indicate which course date they would prefer—either 4–5 February or 11–12 March 2026—or to confirm availability for both. Please note that each candidate may only attend one course.

Please see an **example Program** from a previous Discovery Course. The final programs for each course will be shared when final.

To be eligible for this course, applicants must:

- Be **ESTS members** residing in **Europe**
- Work at a hospital with access to a **Da Vinci surgical system**
- Be interested in **Robot-Assisted Thoracic Surgery (RATS)**
- Have completed **at least 100 thoracoscopic procedures** as the primary surgeon
- Complete [online training and assessment](#) in the module:
Essential Multiport System Fundamentals and da Vinci Technical Skills – Xi
(Note: In-service training is not required)

- **Simulator training** prior to the course is recommended
- **Have completed the application: including Robotic CV**

Support Provided

The course will provide:

- ***High-quality educational content***
- ***Up to two nights' accommodation (arranged by Intuitive)***
- ***Travel (arranged by Intuitive)***

Selected participants may be invited to attend the **Advanced ESTS Robotic Courses** at the Amsterdam Skills Centre (6-7 May 2026) or IRCAD, France (9-10 Sept 2026).

How to Apply

Send your application by **December 5, 2025**, to Zlatka Mitreva at: zmitreva@kenes.com;

Your application must include:

- A statement confirming you meet the eligibility criteria
- A current CV and the Robotic CV
- Any relevant supporting documents
- Candidates must indicate which course date they would prefer—either 4–5 February or 11–12 March 2026—or to confirm availability for both. Please note that each candidate may only attend one course.

This course is kindly supported by a grant from **Intuitive**.