



ESTS WOMEN IN THORACIC GENERAL THORACIC SURGERY COMMITTEE (WGTS) ACADEMY 25-26

Copenhagen - Milan - Zurich - Sao Paulo

ORGANISER



Cecilia Pompili
Hull, United Kingdom

FACULTY



Nuria Novoa
Madrid, Spain



Isabelle Opitz
Zurich, Switzerland



Rene Petersen
Copenhagen, Denmark



Ricardo Terra
Sao Paulo, Brazil



Giulia Veronesi
Milan, Italy



WGTS MENTORS
Bianca Battilana
Zurich, Switzerland



Cristina Viola
Norwich, UK



Paula Duarte
Sao Paulo, Brazil

The ESTS Women in General Thoracic Surgery Committee (WGTS) is proud to offer the 2025-2026 ESTS WGTS Academy as a special opportunity to further support clinical and personal development of women thoracic surgeons.

The purpose of the Academy will be to support female early-career general thoracic surgeons to gain exposure to female thoracic surgeon mentors and have access to educational resources that have been tailored to the needs expressed in the ESTS/EACTS Gender Bias Survey in terms of leadership, mentorship, and research training.

The Academy will be focusing on early career thoracic surgeons wishing to acquire surgical skills by a mixed schedule of in-person networking, live webinars and observership on participation in a structured gender-balanced way.

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION: www.ests.org

PROGRAMME OF THE 2026 ACADEMY (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Candidates must be able to attend all stated dates

1. Introductory webinar: November 2025

2. Clinical immersion at Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark (Two days)



Groups split into 4 and attending either 24-25 November 2025 or 12-13 January 2026

- 1.5 days in OR VATS lobectomies and segmentectomies
- 0.5 day at CAMES for Virtual Reality Simulation
- Digital Proctorships following immersions

3. Clinical Immersion San Raffaele Hospital, Milan, Italy (Two days)



Groups split into 4 and attending either 2-3 March or 23-24 March 2026

- ENB/Ablation
- Robotic Surgery and ERAS
- Digital Proctorships following immersions
- Novelties in the field of immunotherapy for lung cancer

4. Surgery for Advanced Lung Disease University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland (Three days): 14-17 April 2026



- Lung Volume Reduction Surgery
- Pulmonary Endarterectomy
- Lung transplantation

5. Clinical Immersion at Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, Sao Paulo, Brazil (Two days): 25-26 May 2026



- Robotic simulation centre
- Clinical case LECTURES on the management of early and advanced stage lung cancer
- Live robotic thoracic surgery demonstrations,
- SURGICAL simulations in the operating room.

6. End of Academy presentation at the ESTS Meeting in Athens: 7-9 June 2026

SELECTION PROCESS

The 8 Fellows will be selected by the ESTS Women in General Thoracic Surgery Committee and Learning Affairs Committee after review and evaluation of applications. Applications will be graded on strength and motivation of candidate, institutional support, and potential for career impact. Preference will be given to applicants from developing countries.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must be an ESTS Member
- More than 50% of applicant's activity in pure general thoracic surgery
- A surgeon should either be in the final year of their thoracic training or have completed their training within the past five years
- Adequate skills in English
- Must be able to attend ALL course dates and have the required Visa of entry.
- After the Academy the candidate must return to their home institution to apply the acquired skills. At the home institution appropriate facilities and resources must be available.

APPLICATION FORM

1. A personal statement of no more than 500 words stating how the applicant fulfils the requirements and their motivation for applying for the fellowship. A description of the training structure and how many years of pure general thoracic surgery is advised.
2. A current curriculum vitae
3. A letter of reference from the department chair
 - a. The letter should include an overall evaluation of the fellow, including assessment of the applicant's performance during the years of service. The applicant's ability to satisfy the criteria of the fellowship requirements should be specifically addressed. The Department chair should confirm that they can implement one of the advanced techniques acquired in their institution and that they have the required multidisciplinary support

For successful candidates, a final written summary must be submitted to ESTS after the Academy programme concludes summarising the educational experience, and reviewing changes in practice upon return to the home institution. The recipient will be invited to give a short oral presentation to share their experiences during the ESTS annual meeting at the WGTS networking session. This will take place at ESTS 2026 in Athens, Greece from 7-9 June 2026

Funding provided

Flight and hotel costs are covered for visiting the centres. Flights/registration to attend ESTS 2026 is the responsibility of the Fellow. It is a condition to attend ESTS 2026 as part of the Fellowship.

APPLICATIONS TO BE SENT BY WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2025 TO:

Zlatka Mitreva, Projects Administrator, ESTS
zmitreva@kenes.com

Applicants will be notified by early November 2025

Application checklist:

1. A personal statement of no more than 500 words
2. A current curriculum vitae
3. A letter of reference from the department chair
4. Confirmation that the candidate can attend ALL of the centre dates listed

For any questions contact WGTS Chair, Cecilia Pompili, C.Pompili@leeds.ac.uk, or Zlatka Mitreva as above.

ESTS mission statement:

"Our mission is to improve quality in all aspects of our specialty: from clinical and surgical management of patients to education, training and credentialing of thoracic surgeons in Europe and worldwide"

The European Society of Thoracic Surgery (ESTS) is currently the largest global organisation purely focusing on General Thoracic Surgery with over 2000 members from all over the world.

Several sections of our Society-such as the Women in Thoracic Surgery Committee, Learning Affairs Committee, and Program Committee of the Annual Conference follow this mission with the strategy to keep the present generation of Thoracic surgeons up-to-date and to educate and support the future generation.