

22nd San Servolo Advanced Epilepsy Course Pediatric Epileptology (7)

Epilepsies Throughout Childhood: In-Depth Phenotyping and Management

July 20-31, 2026
San Servolo (Venice) Italy



Course Directors: **Kette Valente (Brasil)** and **Nicola Specchio (I)**

The main objective of the Advanced Epilepsy Course is to train attendees to improve the critical competence on the pathophysiology, the diagnosis and the management of epilepsies of childhood. Objectives of the Course are to understand i) the types, etiology and pathophysiology of epilepsies in children and adolescence, with a particular focus on early onset epilepsies, ii) the pathogenesis of the related comorbidities, iii) the current treatment options, iv) the clinical research methodology applicable to study early onset epilepsies, v) the unresolved critical issues related to the diagnosis and treatment of these forms.

The Course is open to specialists and residents in pediatric neurology, pediatrics, clinical neurophysiology and neurology; neuroscientists and PhD students are welcome to apply. To allow an optimal level of interaction with the faculty a maximum of 50 applicants will be selected on the basis of their CVs; consideration will be given to ensure participation of trainees from different geographical origins and disciplines.

FACULTY - TUTORS

Kette Valente	Br	Ania Dabrowski	US	Ronit Pressler	UK
Nicola Specchio	I	Elena Gardella	Den	Ingrid Scheffer	Aus
Stephane Auvin	F	Tiziana Granata	I	Jo Wilmshurst	SAF
Helen Cross	UK	Julia Jacobs	Can	Elaine Wirrell	US
		Rima Nabbout	F	Sameer Zuberi	UK

FACULTY - LECTURERS

Giuliano Avanzini	I	Francesca Bisulli	I	Luca De Palma	I
Danielle Andrade	Br	Kees Braun	NL	Massimo Mantegazza	F
Simona Balestrini	I/UK	Gaetano Cantalupo	I	Veronica Pelliccia	I
Sara Baldassarri	F	Fernando Cendes	Br	Marina Trivisano	I

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Course Program

July 20th		
6.30 pm	<i>registration and welcome buffet dinner</i>	
July 21st – CLASSIFYING AND TREATING THE MOST COMMON EPILEPSY SYNDROMES Chairs: Valente & Specchio		Tuesday Day 1
8.30 -8.50	Welcome - Course Introduction	de Curtis Valente Specchio
8.50-9.20	Classifying epilepsy – always syndromes!	Specchio
9.20-10.00	Self-limited epilepsies in neonates and childhood	Zuberi
10.00-10.40	IESS: From prevalence to etiology and treatment	Wilmshurst
<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.00-11.40	EMaTs: Identifying, treating and predicting the diagnosis	Wirrell
11.40-12.20	EE AND DEE-SWAS: The over and the misdiagnosis	Dabrowski
<i>Lunch</i>		
14.00-14.40	Workshop for student groups	All groups
14.40-15.20	Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome: Distinguishing from other syndromes and trying to establish a reasonable holistic treatment	Cross
15.20-16.00	IGE: From IGE to genetic generalized epilepsies and back	Valente
16.00-16.40	Project Development – Day 1: How to prepare a scientific question? The difference between a question and a scientific question	Cendes
17.00	Do's and don'ts in Venice	Guarino de Curtis
18.00	<i>first meeting of student teams with tutors</i>	<i>all tutors</i>
July 22nd – ETIOLOGY-DRIVEN CLASSIFICATION, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT Chairs: Ingrid & Elena		Wednesday Day 2
8.15-8.30	Charlotte Dravet: woman and science	Nabbout and Scheffer
8.30 -9.10	Clinical Spectrum of <i>SCN1A</i> including Dravet Syndrome: Electroclinical Phenotype and Beyond.	Scheffer
9.10-9.50	<i>SCN1A</i> Mutations and the Biology of Dravet Syndrome (Role of <i>SCN1A</i> in neuronal excitability and inhibitory interneurons)	Mantegazza
9.50 -10.30	DS: Challenges in diagnosis and management over time	Andrade
<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.00 -11.40	Optimizing Seizure Control in DS: Updates in treatment	Specchio
11.40-12.20	Beyond Dravet: Other <i>SCN1A</i> -related epilepsies. Nav Channel Dysfunction in Epilepsy and Beyond: Exploring Non-Dravet Syndromes (emphasis on <i>SCN1A</i> GoF; <i>SCN2A</i> , <i>SCN8A</i>)	Gardella
12.20-13.00	Clinical Spectrum of Potassium Channelopathies	Nabbout
<i>Lunch</i>		
14.00-14.40	Workshop for student groups	
14.40-15.20	PCDH19 and CDKL5: particular findings and challenges for treatment	Trivisano
15.20-16.00	SYNGAP and STXBP1-epilepsy and associated disorders	Valente
16.00-16.40	Diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy related to Ring Chromosome 20 Syndrome and other chromosomal disorders.	Cantalupo
16.00-16.40	Project Development – Day 2: Scientific Questions: Have I understood correctly?	Scheffer
July 23rd – ETIOLOGY-DRIVEN DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT IN GENETIC AND STRUCUTURAL EPILEPSIES Chairs : Anna & Sameer		Thursday
8.30 -9.10	Sleep Hypermotor Epilepsy (SHE): differential diagnosis and etiologies	Bisulli

9.10-9.50	Movement disorders and epilepsy	Scheffer
9.50 -10.30	Progressive myoclonic epilepsies	Dabrowski
<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.00 -11.40	Rasmussen Syndrome and Immune-mediated Epilepsies: Clues for the Diagnosis and Possible Treatments	Granata
11.40-12.20	Hypothalamic hamartoma: electro-clinical picture and treatment options	Jacobs
<i>Lunch</i>		
14.00-14.40	Workshop for student groups	All groups
14.40-15.20	Structural Epilepsies over life: Evolving brain and etiologies	Wirrell
From 15.20	Project Development – Day 3: How to address my scientific question? Discussing Sample Size and Underpowered studies	Auvin
afternoon	Project group work	all tutors
July 24 th – ETIOLOGY-DRIVEN DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT IN GENETIC-STRUTURAL EPILEPSIES Chairs: Helen & Elaine		Friday Day 4
8.30 -09.10	TSC as the prototypical mTORopathy: Seizures and beyond	Specchio
9.10-9.50	GATOR1-related epilepsies (DEPDC5, NPRL2, and NPRL3) : Diagnosing and treating	Baulac
9.50-10.30	Malformations of Cortical Development – including MOGHE	Cendes
<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.00 -11.40	Somatic mutations in FCD: The second hit	Balestrini
11.40-12.20	Is it mandatory a genetic test before surgical treatment?	Braun
<i>Lunch</i>		
14.00-14.40	Workshop for student groups	All groups
14.40-15.20	Project Development – Day 4: Methods – How to structure the research consortium (work packages and timelines)	Nabbout
afternoon	Project group work	all tutors
July 25 th – PEDAITRIC EPILEPSY SURGERY Chairs Julia & Jo		Saturday. Day 5
8.30 -9.10	Epilepsy surgery in DEEs	Zuberi
9.10-9.50	Preparing Patients for Surgery: Pre-Surgical Assessment	Pelliccia
9.50 -10.30	Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery in the First 3 Years of Life	Cross
<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.00 -11.40	Workshop for student groups	All groups
11.40-12.20	MRI-Negative Cases: What is a negative case after all?	De Palma
<i>Lunch</i>		
14.00-14.40	Round table and Case discussion from Tutors and Speakers (fighting between Speakers on complex cases)	
14.40-15.20		All
15.20-16.00		
16.00-16.40	Project Development – Day 5: How to analyze the results and transferability	
16.40	Project group work	all tutors
July 26 th – PROVIDING A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF CURRENT CLINICAL TRAI SL AND IMPROVING THE FUTURE Chairs		Sunday Day 6
8.30 -9.10	Conventional Clinical trials for DEEs – When do they succeed and when do they fall short? Analyzing the current clinical trials for DS and LGS	tba
9.10-9.50	Possible designs for clinical trials in children and in rare disorders	Auvin
9.50 -10.30	How can we design trials with small sample sizes?	Nabbout

<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.00 -11.40	Workshop for student groups	
11.40 -12.20	How to choose an ASM in drug resistant epilepsies	tba
11.40 -12.20	Project Development – Day 6: How to write a peer-reviewed paper	Scheffer
<i>Lunch</i>		
14.00-14.40	Genetic therapies and therapy developments for epileptic disorders	Scheffer
14.40-15.20	Safety issues in gene therapies and how to address them.	tba
15.20-16.00	Natural history studies, clinical trial readiness, and metrics	Valente
16.00-16.40	Project Development – Day 6: How to write a narrative review	Specchio
afternoon	Project group work	all tutors
July 27 th – 30 th		Day 7-10
all day	Project group work	
July 31 st PROJECTS PRESENTATION		Day 11
8.30-12.30	Working group presentations: - 45 minutes per group	all tutors
2.00 pm	Metella Paterlini Prize winner and end of the Course	

