

Rome Training Center - WGO Info Package

Name: WGO Rome Training Center
Location: Rome, Italy
Center Director: Dr. Guido Costamagna

Introduction:

The WGO Training Center in Rome, the European Endoscopy Training Centre (EETC) is a comprehensive center fully devoted to teaching and training in digestive endoscopy.



The ongoing progress and improvement of modern devices generate new technologies which require a continuous training of the operators who work in the field of Digestive Endoscopy.

For this reason there is a constant request for the training and re-qualification of medical and surgical specialists through advanced and highly specialised training Courses.

The idea of creating a Centre in Rome entirely devoted to the teaching of digestive endoscopy has its roots in the well established and long-lasting experience in training activities that have taken place over the past 20 years at the Gemelli University Hospital's Digestive Endoscopy Unit. From 1987 to 2007, more than two hundred endoscopists have spent monthly to yearly training periods at the Gemelli's Digestive Endoscopy Unit. Moreover the same Unit has organized, since the early nineties, 83 Courses on therapeutic ERCP with close to 600 participants and thirteen annual editions of the European Workshop on Therapeutic Digestive Endoscopy and Radiology with live video demonstrations gathering every year approximately 300 attendants from several countries worldwide.

A permanent structure fully dedicated to the purpose of teaching and training in digestive endoscopy was therefore the natural complement of this intense activity. The European Endoscopy Training Centre (EETC) (www.eetc.it), a comprehensive centre fully devoted to teaching and training in digestive endoscopy, was created in July 2003 at the Catholic University School of Medicine in Rome, Italy. Since its opening in July 2003, the EETC has organised 120 Courses for endoscopists, for a total of 1500 participants and 15 Courses for Nurses.

Main Objectives / Goals:

- To provide a practical and theoretical training process in advanced endoscopic techniques.
- To promote the implementation and diffusion of up-dated guide-lines.
- To support the knowledge and promotion of modern endoscopic techniques through hands-on training on isolated organs and/or electronic simulators.

- To promote reaching diagnostic and therapeutic algorithms of the main endoscopic pathologies on the basis of evidence-based medicine by taking part in live demonstrations carried out by Experts and broadcasted from the Endoscopy Unit.
- To promote comparing various techniques and devices.
- To promote comparing different experiences through interactive discussions with experts.
- To support mutual exchange and optimisation of the digestive endoscopy activities in terms of planning and management by comparing the different methods of organisation of local Units.

Facilities:

The center is a permanent structure fully dedicated to the purpose of teaching and training in digestive endoscopy and is located in the center of the Catholic University's campus, close to the animal lab, in a fully renovated building. The building has two floors extending over approximately 500 square meters. The heart of the EETC is situated at the basement floor: there is an operating theater with five working stations fully equipped with state-of-the-art Olympus video-endoscopes, Erbe electrosurgical generators with Argon Plasma Coagulation, and medical gases, where trainees can perform on animal models, under appropriate tutoring, a variety of therapeutic endoscopic procedures. A large number of different endoscopic procedures can be carried out on the isolated upper and lower GI tract of the swine by using the Erlangen EASIE model: polypectomy, mucosectomy, hemostatic procedures on bleeding vessels, APC treatments, self-expandable metal stent insertion, antireflux procedures, bile duct sphincterotomy and stenting, etc. If strictly necessary, the EETC is also fully certified and authorised to use live animals under general anaesthesia to perform special procedures. The presence of a veterinary doctor specialised in animal care guarantees that all ethical requirements are fully respected.

The basement floor also comprises two cloakrooms, the secretariat and the scientific direction office. On the first floor, an auditorium for 20 – 25 people, with updated Audio-Visual equipment controlled by a SMART Symposium and permanently linked via Intranet to the Endoscopy suite located within the University Hospital Policlinic A. Gemelli allows theoretical teaching as well as live transmission of endoscopic procedures performed by the local staff or by invited guest faculties. A small specialised library-meeting room and another room equipped with four personal computer working stations for individualised electronic interactive teaching are also located at the first floor. As a result, the EETC represents a unique geographical entity where all the steps of the teaching process that should precede hands-on experience on patients may be replicated.

Teaching Facilities:

The European Endoscopy Training Centre is able to organise an average 80 courses per year given that proper funding were available. These courses could take place all year long, August excluded, and for a maximum of 24 participants per Course.

Furthermore, the Hospitals' Endoscopy Unit is also open to international Fellow trainees, who are offered accommodation in an apartment situated at walking-distance from the Gemelli Hospital. Following an interview with Prof. Costamagna and CV evaluation, Fellows are accepted for a one-year period of training.

Faculty and Staff:

Medical Staff:

Prof. Guido Costamagna
Dott. Alberto Larghi
Prof. Massimiliano Mutignani
Dott. Vincenzo Perri
Dott. Lucio Petruzzello
Dott.ssa Maria Elena Riccioni
Dott. Cristiano Spada
Dott. Gianluca Spera
Dott. Andrea Tringali

Registrars:

Dott. Pietro Familiari
Dott. Michele Marchese

Nurses:

Arianna Di Gemma
Roberta Alimonti
Niki Angeletti
Anna Baglioni
Bonanni Carla
Cinzia Cappello
Emanuela Caruso
Carmelo Durini
Isabella Gasperini
Dina Gatti
Anna Granieri
Ivana Palmieri
Cinzia Scaglietta
Silvia Venditti

O.T.A.

Danilo Fabbretti
Ersilia Manzi
Maria-Pia Russo

EETC Organising Secretariat

Raffaella Aragona

Endoscopy Unit Secretariat

Elisa Lorenzetti

Resp- Clinical Studies

Carolina Gualtieri

Areas of Training:

- Endoscopic treatment of upper GI bleeding
- Endoscopic treatment of GERD
- Colonic endotherapy
- Esophageal endotherapy
- Treatment of acute and chronic pancreatitis.
- Polypectomy and mucosectomy of the oesophagus, stomach and colon.
- Bilio-pancreatic therapeutic endoscopy (Basic and Advanced)
- Small bowel diagnosis and therapy through traditional endoscopy and videocapsule endoscopy.
- Therapeutic Diagnostic Endoscopy of the small bowel
- Principles and techniques of dilation and stenting of strictures of the GI tract
- Courses on pre and post-operative assessment of patients undergoing therapeutic digestive endoscopy dedicated to the nurses of our Hospital are also carried out by the endoscopy nurses of our Unit.

Courses Offered:

- Advanced Course on Bilio-Pancreatic Endoscopy (sponsored by COOK): 07th and 08th July 2009.
- Advanced Course on Videocapsule Endoscopy (sponsored by Given Imaging): 17th and 18th September 2009.
- Advanced Course on Endoscopic Treatment of upper GI Bleeding (sponsored by Malesci): 21st and 22nd September 2009.
- Advanced Course on Bilio-Pancreatic Endoscopy (sponsored by Alfa Wassermann): 08th and 09th October 2009.

Please note that registration to all the above-mentioned Courses is closed having reached the maximum number of attendees.

Registration is open to any new Course on any of the topics mentioned in "Areas of Training" if a minimum number of applications and sponsorship is available.

Teaching Methods:

- Lectures from invited or local faculty on the Courses' topics
- Discussions guided by a Moderator
- Discussions on clinical cases
- Video Sessions on particular techniques or manoeuvres
- Live Transmission of endoscopic procedures from the Hospital's Endoscopy Unit Assessment test
- Hands-on training on EASIE models and Simbionix® electronic endoscopic simulator
- Multimedia Library (Video, CD-ROM, DVD) and Scientific Journals available for the trainees

- CD-ROM: Power Point presentations, reviews and specific articles on the Courses' topics
- At the end of the Course each trainee receives an official Certificate of Attendance.

Teaching Methods at the Endoscopy Unit:

Fellows visiting the Endoscopy Unit for periods of less than one year are not allowed to do hands-on work. However they will be able to:

- Participate to all the clinical, teaching and research activities of the Unit.
- Observe the evaluation and management of all patients referred for ERCP and therapeutic endoscopy examinations as well as upper and lower GI endoscopy procedures.
- Participate to the Courses organised by the Unit at the EETC.
- Participate to the annual European Workshop on Therapeutic Digestive Endoscopy and Radiology organised by our Unit.

Fellows visiting the Endoscopy Unit for one year or more will be involved in direct hands-on procedures. They will be able to:

- Participate to all the clinical, teaching and research activities of the Unit.
- Participate actively to the evaluation and management of all patients referred for ERCP and therapeutic endoscopy examinations as well as upper and lower GI endoscopy procedure.
- Participate to the Courses organised by the Unit at the EETC.
- Participate to the annual European Workshop on Therapeutic Digestive Endoscopy and Radiology organised by our Unit.

Regulatory Requirements:

Extra-EU Fellows are required to apply for a study VISA and permit of stay. The Italian Embassy or Consulate in their country of origin will explain all necessary regulatory requirements.

Certifications:

A signed certificate of attendance is handed out to all trainees who follow our Courses at the EETC and to all Fellows who have completed their period of training at the Hospital's Endoscopy Unit.

Trainee Application Process:

The conditions for participating in the Training program are as follows:

- a minimum of one year stay required for all "hands-on" training
- an interview prior to take a final decision concerning the schedule and the contents of the Training program

- no fee is involved but equally no salary is paid by our University during the Training
- an insurance policy covering medico-legal risk in Italy
- Italian/English/Spanish/French speaking
- 3 positions per year for long term Training

Trainees and Fellows have to send a written request, by e-mail to gcostamagna@rm.unicatt.it.

Instructions on how to register for EETC Courses will be sent and registration will be confirmed once payment has been received.

Fellows who wish to attend a one-year period of training are requested to send an updated CV. An appointment will then be made for an interview with Prof. Costamagna.

Endorsements:

The EETC has been endorsed by

- the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO)
- Societa Italiana di Endoscopia Digestiva (SIED)
- European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE)
- Organisation Mondiale d'Endoscopie Digestive (OMED)

Funding / Sponsorship:

Accommodation for Fellow trainees (one-year training period) is sponsored by COOK.

Philanthropic Endeavors:

The Gemelli Hospital works through the National Health Service, therefore all treatments are given free of charge.

Site-Seeing Experiences

The wonderful city of Rome offers an abundance of sight-seeing experiences. Here are a few of the many attractions Rome offers:

- Colosseum
- Pantheon
- Roman Forum
- Spanish Steps
- Trevi Fountain
- St Peter's Basilica
- Vatican City
- MAXXI Museum
- Piazza Navona
- Castel Sant' Angelo