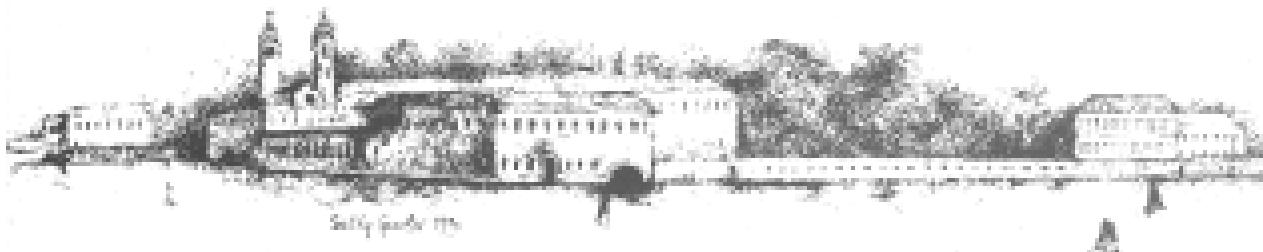


## 22<sup>nd</sup> San Servolo Advanced Epilepsy Course

### 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 Wilmsurst	SAf
Helen Cross	UK	Julia Jacobs	Can	Elaine Wirrell	US
		Rima Nababout	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 Baldassari	F	Fernanado Cendes	Br	Marina Trivisano	I

The Course is supported by the **Venice International University** and by the generous funding of the **International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)** Neurobiology Commission, **ILAE-East Mediterranean**, **ILAE-Africa**, **ILAE-Europe**, the **Fondazione Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta** and the **Lega Italiana Contro l'Epilessia (LICE)**. The Course received unrestricted grants by **Angelini Pharma**, **EISAI Italy**,

## Course Program

<b>July 20<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Monday Day 0</b>
6.30 pm	<i>registration and welcome buffet dinner</i>	
<b>July 21<sup>st</sup> – CLASSIFYING AND TREATING THE MOST COMMON EPILEPSY SYNDROMES</b> <b>Chairs: Valente &amp; Specchio</b>		<b>Tuesday Day 1</b>
8.30 -8.50	Welcome - Course Introduction	de Curtis Valente Specchio
8.50-9.20	<b>Classifying epilepsy – always syndromes!</b>	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	<b>Workshop for student groups</b>	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	<b>Project Development – Day 1: How to prepare a scientific question? The difference between a question and a scientific question</b>	Cendes
<b>17.00</b>	<i>first meeting of student teams with tutors</i>	<i>all tutors</i>
18.00	Do's and don'ts in Venice	Guarino
<b>July 22<sup>nd</sup> – ETIOLOGY-DRIVEN CLASSIFICATION, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT</b> <b>Chairs: Ingrid &amp; Elena</b>		<b>Day 2</b>
8.15-8.30	Charlotte Dravet: woman and science	Nabbout and Scheffer
8.30 -9.10	Clinical Spectrum of SCN1A including Dravet Syndrome: Electroclinical Phenotype and Beyond.	Scheffer
9.10-9.50	SCN1A Mutations and the Biology of Dravet Syndrome (Role of SCN1A 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 SCN1A-related epilepsies. Nav Channel Dysfunction in Epilepsy and Beyond: Exploring Non-Dravet Syndromes (emphasis on SCN1A GoF; SCN2A, SCN8A)	Gardella
12.20-13.00	Clinical Spectrum of Potassium Channelopathies	Nabbout
<i>Lunch</i>		
14.00-14.40	<b>Workshop for student groups</b>	
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	<b>Project Development – Day 2: Scientific Questions: Have I understood correctly?</b>	Scheffer
<b>July 23<sup>rd</sup> – ETIOLOGY-DRIVEN DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT IN GENETIC AND STRUCTURAL EPILEPSIES</b> <b>Chairs : Anna &amp; Sameer</b>		
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	<b>Workshop for student groups</b>	All groups
14.40-15.20	Structural Epilepsies over life: Evolving brain and etiologies	Wirrell
From 15.20	<b>Project Development – Day 3: How to address my scientific question? Discussing Sample Size and Underpowered studies</b>	Auvin
<b>afternoon</b>	<b>Project group work</b>	<b>all tutors</b>
July 24 <sup>th</sup> -- ETIOLOGY-DRIVEN DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT IN GENETIC-STRUTURAL EPILEPSIES <b>Chairs: Helen &amp; Elaine</b>		
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	<b>Workshop for student groups</b>	<b>All groups</b>
14.40-15.20	<b>Project Development – Day 4: Methods – How to structure the research consortium (work packages and timelines)</b>	Nabbout
<b>afternoon</b>	<b>Project group work</b>	<b>all tutors</b>
July 25 <sup>th</sup> – PEDIATRIC EPILEPSY SURGERY DAY <b>Chairs Julia &amp; Jo</b>		
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	<b>Workshop for student groups</b>	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	<b>Project Development – Day 5: How to analyze the results and transferability</b>	
<b>16.40</b>	<b>Project group work</b>	<b>all tutors</b>
July 26 <sup>th</sup> – PROVIDING A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF CURRENT CLINICAL TRIALS AND IMPROVING THE FUTURE <b>Chairs</b>		
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	Balestrini
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	<b>Workshop for student groups</b>	
11.40 -12.20	How to choose an ASM in drug resistant epilepsies	Balestrini
11.40 -12.20	<b>Project Development – Day 6: How to write a peer-reviewed paper</b>	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.	Balestrini
15.20-16.00	Natural history studies, clinical trial readiness, and metrics	Valente
16.00-16.40	<b>Project Development – Day 6: How to write a narrative review</b>	Specchio
<b>afternoon</b>	<b>Project group work</b>	<b><i>all tutors</i></b>
July 27 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>		Day 7-10
<b><i>all day</i></b>	<b>Project group work</b>	
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	PROJECTS PRESENTATION	Day 11
8.30-12.30	<b>Working group presentations:</b> - 45 minutes per group	<b><i>all tutors</i></b>
2.00 pm	<b>Metella Paterlini Prize winner and end of the Course</b>	

workshop n.	lead	July 21	July 22	July 23	July 24	July 25	July 26
WS 1: Neonates	Pressler Zuberi	Group1	Group2	Group3			
WS 2: From Seizures to Etiology	Specchio, Gardella		Group2	Group3	Group4		
WS 3: Classifying Seizures (Surgical/Focal Cases) role of VEEG	Cross, Wirrell,			Group3	Group4	Group5	
WS 4: Genetics: What we all must know	Scheffer, Nababout				Group4	Group5	Group6
WS 5: Neuroimaging	Cendes	Group2	Group6	Group1			
WS 6: AntiSeizure Medications	Auvin, Wilmshurst		Group6	Group1	Group2		
WS 7: Surgery	Jacobs Dabrowski			Group6	Group1	Group2	
WS 8: Quiz cases	Valente Granata				Group6	Group1	Group2

