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2024

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UEMS - EBS - Section of Surgery - Division of Breast Surgery

Message from the President



Dear Colleagues,
On behalf of the [Division of Breast Surgery](#) of the UEMS I welcome you to our winter 2025 Newsletter.

The European Breast Examination is designed to test whether a candidate has the appropriate level of knowledge to practice as a newly appointed specialist breast surgeon in a European Country (at the completion of specialist training). In 2025, for the first time, we introduced a practical skills test or OSCE (Objective, Structured Clinical Examination). This was optional and will remain so for 2026. In this innovative exam, candidates were presented with a high quality prosthetic model of a breast and axilla, given a clinical scenario to manage, and practical skills assessment of communications skills, axillary surgery and mark up and performance of a Magseed localised therapeutic mammoplasty. The assessment was based on a validated skills test devised by Professor Daniel Leff of Imperial College London, which has been shown to effectively discriminate between trainees and consultants. At this first running of this OSCE we only allowed 10 candidates to take the exam, in addition to the normal exam but will expand capacity for 2026.

The feedback from candidates and examiners alike was superb, with 9 of the 10 candidates passing and 3 with very high scores. Candidates get a separate certificate for the OSCE in addition to their normal exam certificate. We plan to expand our intake for 2026, but it will remain an optional element of the exam for now. Taking the OSCE does require an additional fee of 250 Euros, which is needed to cover the cost of additional examiners and the high quality models we use for the assessment. Some photos and a more detailed review of the OSCE are included later on in the newsletter.

In February 2025 we were kindly invited by Professor Omar Omar of Cairo, Egypt, and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of Egypt to run an exam preparatory course. One of our motivations for this was to help candidates who sometimes struggle to get visas to come to Europe and who therefore struggle to engage with the UEMS. We also met with members of the NCI to discuss training and examination for breast surgery in Egypt with the hope of building closer ties in future. The course was a great success with over 60 candidates from across Europe, the Middle East and India. The feedback was excellent and 3 candidates were awarded fee waivers for the 2025 Breast exam for their performance in the course: Shafeek Shamsudeen (1st), Aarcha Jaibi Thottappilly (2nd) and Afrah Abdurahman (3rd). All three subsequently sat for the exam in Brussels this year where all 3 passed and Dr Shamsudeen was awarded a distinction.

We are delighted to announce that in February 2026 we will be holding an exam preparatory course in War-

saw, Poland. This has kindly been organized by Board Member Prof Agnieszka Kolacinska-Wow and is supported by the Polish Surgical Society and generous sponsorship from Stryker. This has enabled us to keep the cost down to 250 Euros. We have a superb faculty for the course and part of the course is a quiz, for which the top scoring delegates will get a 100, 75 or 50% fee waiver for the 2026 Exam. We will be showcasing the OSCE exam during the course. The contact details to apply for the course is: biuro@medisfera.pl. Telephone: +48 604 518 190 or use this link for more details: <https://uemssurg.org/surgicalspecialties/breast-surgery/ebsq-examinations/>

In other news we are delighted to welcome Professor Sue Down as a new board member for 2025. Sue is well known to many as the chair of the University of East Anglia's Master's course in Oncoplastic Breast Surgery and brings a wealth of experience to our exam processes and governance, as well as many years of experience as an examiner. We also welcomed several new examiners to our team: these included Malin Sund (Finland), Daniel Leff (UK), Denise Vorbürger (Swiss), Guldeniz Karadeniz (Turkiye) and Anneza Yiallourou (Cyprus).

The Exam for 2025 was our most successful exam to date. We had 108 candidates take the MCQ exam online in April. Of these 76 passed (70%). We then has 81 candidates take the oral exam in Brussels, Belgium. Of these 69 passed (85%) and these candidates have had their names added to the online list of Fellows. Some images from the exam are shown below.

Details for the times and location of the 2026 exam are given later in the Newsletter. The oral exam will be held in the beautiful city of Vienna in Austria and we hope that candidates will take the opportunity to see some of the wonderful architecture and museums.

I have some people to thank for making the 2025 exam such a success: The UEMS Admin team, Ioli Vavetsi and Gabriela Olteanu, the ESSO Team who run the oral exam, Ana Galan and Shuan Gao, and our amazing IT support team at iCognitus, led by Nuno Santos. I also need to thank examiners whose hard work, dedication, knowledge and professionalism are the bedrock of our success as an exam. They do not get paid for examining and give up several days of their time to help develop the art and science of breast surgery for the benefit of patients.

With my best wishes to each one of you and your families to stay safe and healthy throughout 2026.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kindest regards,

Lynda Wyld, MB,ChB, PhD, FEBS
Professor of Surgery - Medical School
University of Sheffield, UK
Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon,
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital, Doncaster, UK

Secretary Report



Europe, in venues such as Glasgow, Athens, Amsterdam, Lisbon, Bucharest, Krakow, Naples, Valencia and Bordeaux, among others.

The European Breast Examination has gained significant momentum through the years, not only on a European, but a global scale. What started with seven fellows in the first examination in Bordeaux in 2010, has gradually culminated in the 76 new fellows that joined our ranks in Brussels in 2025, as Professor Wyld described in her "Message from the President".

Currently, we are proud to boast some of 528 successful candidates from 46 countries around the world through the years who have joined us. We feel that the value of the European Breast Examination is further increased by the fact that 178 fellows come from 23 countries outside Europe (North America, Middle East, Asia, Australia and Africa), as this demonstrates the wide acceptance and the popularity of the Examination. Finally, we are particularly proud to witness the professional growth of our Fellows with several of them returning to join the Examination as Examiners.

The structure of the European Breast Examination is that of a staged procedure. The first step is that candidates need to submit a structured curriculum and documentation (detailed information is available on the UEMS webpage: [Curriculum – UEMS Section of Surgery](#)), to enable eligibility assessment. Consequently, eligible candidates are notified that they may register for the written part of the examination. This is undertaken online, through a safe portal and live proctoring. The examination consists of multiple choice questions (MCQs), and the correction is performed automatically on the examination digital platform. To ensure that the level of difficulty does not vary through the years, the MCQs are robustly validated through a standardised procedure of Anghoff scoring, conducted by senior members of the Executive Board and the Examination Committee, to ensure that the Pass Mark is adapted to the level of the MCQs. Historically, the pass mark has been stable around 58-60% without significant outliers, and, on average, 65-70% of the candidates are successful, numbers that therefore highlight the stability and success of this approach.

The candidates that successfully pass the written examination are afterwards invited to register and sit the final part of the examination, that takes place three to four months later, allowing ample time for visa applications if needed and travel arrangements in a timely fashion. The oral part of the examination consists of three different stations for each candidate: in two of them, the candidate is examined in clinical scenarios and in the third, the candidate is examined in a

landmark paper from the field of breast disease. The scenarios and questions are prepared by senior members of the Executive Board and the Examination Committee and controlled to ensure consistency and clarity. The duration of each station is 30 minutes, and candidates move to the next station immediately, meaning that each candidate completes the oral examination in 90 minutes. The procedure of the Oral Examination is supervised and monitored by the Past President, the President and the Secretary of the Executive Board. Candidates that pass all three stations are successful and are awarded their Diploma at the end of the Examination, whereas structured feedback is provided upon request from members of the Executive Board and the Examiners to candidates who are not successful. The pass rates of the Oral Examination through the years ranges from 75-85%.

With my best wishes to each one of you and your families to stay safe and healthy throughout 2026.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kindest regards,

Andreas Karakatsanis, MD, PhD, FEBS

Associate Professor of Breast Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden.

Chief of Breast Surgery, Akademiska University Hospital, Uppsala, Sweden



EBSQ Examination in Breast Surgery 2026

How to apply

All candidates – including new candidates and those who postponed or failed previously – must apply through the QuizOne dedicated web-platform accessible through our web-pages:

<https://uemssurg.org/surgicalspecialties/breast-surgery/ebsq-examinations/>

Applications by any other means are not accepted.

Please note that once the deadline date to apply is passed, **no application will then be possible and acceptable by any means.**

Before clicking the “Apply” button, please carefully read the EBSQ policies and Eligibility criteria and ensure that you are ready to submit all required documents.

We do not accept any document as support to applications by any other means than uploaded on the dedicated web-platform. Any document sent by any other means including by email will not be considered as part of an application.

Please also ensure that you **pay the registration fee before the deadline**. Payment of the examination fee can be made after the deadline, within two weeks of notification of your eligibility (sent by e-mail).

We kindly encourage applicants to submit their documents and payment as early as possible. Candidates are responsible for their own application and its follow-up. Please check your emails regularly, including your junk email folder to ensure you do not miss our communications – the UEMS Section of Surgery will not be responsible for any missed information sent via email.

Please note: the EBSQ Examination in Breast Surgery takes place only in the **English language**.

Apply here



Application

You passed the written part and wish to apply to the **ORAL part** of the EBSQ Examination in Breast Surgery **for the first time**. You are a **new candidate**. Please click below:

Apply New candidate (Oral)

You passed the written part, but you **didn't succeed** once in a previous session of the **ORAL part of the EBSQ Examination in Breast Surgery** and you want to give it another try?
Please click below:

Apply (Retaker Oral exam only)

You **passed the written part** of the EBSQ Exam in Breast Surgery, and **you were not able to attend the ORAL part of the EBSQ Examination** and you want to attend the 2023 session?
Please click below:

Apply (Postponer Oral exam only)

EBSQ Examination in Breast Surgery - 2026

Part A: MCQs / web-based Written examination

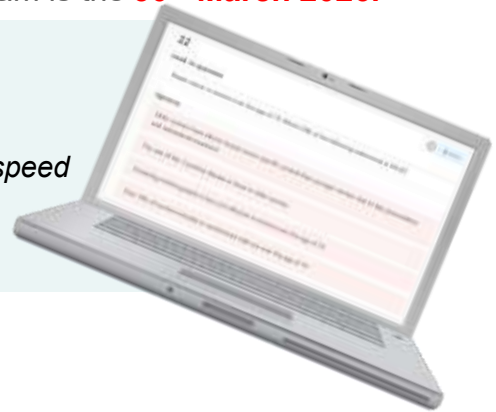
The written exam will take place ON LINE on Friday, the **24th of April 2026**. There will be a **practice exam on the 17th April, both at 11.00-13.30 hours.**

Applications **are now open** through the DBS web-pages.

The deadline for receipt of applications for the written exam is the **30th March 2026**.

What will you need?

- A room where you can be alone for about 3 hours
- A PC or laptop with a camera and audio and good internet speed
- Recent version of Google Chrome or Safari (mac users)
- A photographic ID



Part B: the Oral examination

The oral exam is scheduled to be **F2F** in **Vienna - Austria**, on **24th-25th October 2026**

Candidates will be notified if they have passed the written exam and are eligible to take the oral exam within 1 week of sitting the written exam and **MUST register** and **pay** to sit the oral exam **before 30th of June 2026**. There is a limit of the number of candidates who can be accepted for the oral exam; preference will be given according to date of application for the exam, so late applicants will be passed on to the exam of the following year. Candidates wishing to sit the OSCE exam will be able to apply via the same online booking portal. Places for the OSCE will be limited so again preference will be given according to date of application.



An introduction to the EXAm team:



Board President:
Lynda Wylde



Past President:
Christos Markopoulos



Board Secretary
Andreas Karakatsanis



Vice President:
Janez Zgajnar



Treasurer:
Marjolein Smidt



Deputy Secretary:
Giuseppe Catanuto



Director of Communications
Ashutosh Kothari



ESSO Representative
Isabel Rubio



Board Member
Agnieszka Kolacinska-Wow



Board Member
Sue Down



Honorary Board Member:
Omar Omar



Board Member:
Fredrik Warnberg



Examiners of the brussel s 2025 EBSQ Breast examination

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|--------|
| Al Saif | Abudlaziz | Saudi |
| Alsaleh | Mervat | Kuwait |
| Audisio | Riccardo | Italy |
| Chan | Charlie | UK |
| Charalampoudis | Petros | Greece |
| Chatterjee | Sumohan | UK |
| Down | Sue | UK |
| Ghilli | Matteo | Italy |
| Holcombe | Chris | UK |
| Jamal | Samia | Iraq |
| Kothari | Ashutosh | UK |
| Kolacinska | Agnieszka | Poland |
| MacNeill | Fiona | UK |
| Markopoulos | Christos | Greece |
| Masannat | Yazan | UK |
| Matrai | Zoltan | |

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Omar | Omar | Egypt |
| Raghavan | Vidya | UK |
| Rocco | Nicola | Italy |
| Rubio | Isabel | Spain |
| Sackey | Helena | Sweden |
| Smidt | Marjolein | Netherlands |
| Tasoulis | Marios | Greece |
| Warnberg | Fredrik | Sweden |
| Tjalma | Wiebren | Belgium |
| Zgajnar | Janez | Slovenia |
| Vorburger | Denise | Switzerland |
| Leff | Daniel | UK |
| Sund | Malin | Finland |
| Karadeniz | Guldeniz | Turkiye |
| Yiallourou | Anneza | Cyprus |
| Karakatsanis | Andreas | Sweden |
| Wyld | Lynda | UK |

Administrative and technical support



Ana Galan and Shuang Gao from ESSO



Ioli Vavetsi and Olteanu Gabriela from the UEMS

*We thank you all for your help; we couldn't run this project without you!
Each one of you accepted as always with pleasure to participate.
We very much appreciate it!*



Lynda Wyld, Head of the Exam Board
Andreas Karakatsanis, Secretary of the Board

Exam
Results

Breast Surgery Fellows

2025

2025 EBSQ in Breast Surgery Exam Awards

Congratulations



The 2025 oral Breast Exam took place in Brussels, Belgium. There were 32 examiners from 17 countries, 3 administrators and 81 candidates (shown above).

For the first time 10 candidates took an OSCE or practical skills examination where they used high quality models to perform an axillary procedure and a therapeutic mammoplasty.

A full list of successful candidates is shown on the next page.



Successful candidates and examiners of the 2025 EBSQ in Breast Surgery exams in Brussels plus images from the OSCE exam of 2025. The Atomium landmark in Brussels.



EBSQ exam of 2025 - Brussels, Belgium

Successful Candidates

| Prize Winners | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1st | Jaime Navia |
| 2nd | Hanne De Mulder |
| 3rd | Priyanka Saha |

| Passed with distinction |
|--------------------------|
| Shafeek Shamsudeen |
| Massimo Ferruicci |
| Ayesha Javed |
| Nida Farrukh |
| Alaa Adnan Hasan Shabkah |
| Ibrahim Elnagar |
| Ayesha Khan |
| Vandana Rajgopal |
| Erum Najeeb |

| Passed OSCE Exam |
|--------------------------------|
| Nizar Ismail Abuoddos |
| Dhirar Ansarei |
| Nizar Ismail Abuoddos |
| Letizia Cuniolo |
| Massimo Ferruicci |
| Debasish Debnath |
| Mahmoud Ibrahim Al-Balas |
| Yousef Jamal Yousef Albustanji |
| Charikleia Antionou |

| Passed |
|--------------------------------|
| Aarcha Jaibi Thottappilly |
| Afrah Abdurahman |
| Alisher Kahharov |
| Ameer Tawfeek |
| Amr Ghanim |
| Anuja Alok Raniwala |
| Anum Wahid |
| Aqsa Saleema |
| Ashutosh Mishra |
| Beyza Ozcinar |
| Debashri Shakarraman |
| Debasish Debnath |
| Dhirar Ansarei |
| Ersilia Biondi |
| Francesca Privatera |
| Galip Gencay Ustun |
| Geerthan Nagachandra |
| Hamda Alzarooni |
| Huma Irshad |
| Hussain Adnan Abdulla |
| Jose Ignacia Chaviano Hernadez |
| Kathrin Schwedler |
| Konstantina Balafa |
| Kumaresh Timma Subramanian |
| Laia Torrent Jansa |
| Lavanya Achanta |
| Layloma Hamidi Latifi |

| Passed |
|----------------------------------|
| Letizia Cuniolo |
| Levente Pal Kucserik |
| Mahmoud Makram |
| Mahmoud Ibrahim Al-Balas |
| Margi Hirapara |
| Massimo Lodi |
| Mehvish Nazeer |
| Mohamed Moneer Lasayed |
| Muhammad Fahim |
| Muhammad Shahzad Javid |
| Nasirudeen Lanre Oloko |
| Nidhi RamachandranSarawathy Amma |
| Nifasat Farooqi |
| Nikolaos Katsiakis |
| Nizar Ismail Abuoddos |
| Panagiotis Daskalakis |
| Pawel Winter |
| Priya Devadas |
| Rabia Ikram |
| Ramy Raouf Ramzy Fahmy |
| Salman Alasttal |
| Samreen Khusbakht |
| Sara-Natacha Plavic Radeka |
| Shandan Gul |
| Stefano Fracon |
| Sumbul Naz |
| Taanya Sharda |
| Tetiana Shevchuk |
| Vanessa Msosa |
| Yousef Jamal Yousef Albustanji |

ESSO Advanced Course on Breast Cancer - 2026



**22-24th of October, 2026
Vienna, Austria**

Aim of the course

This highly interactive workshop is at the cutting edge of current concepts of surgical treatment of breast cancer.

It will focus on the evidence-based clinical practice and technical aspects of breast cancer surgery within a multidisciplinary approach.

Main topics

- Familial gene carriers - Risk assessment and management of healthy carriers and initial cancer management
- Oncoplastic techniques in breast preservation - planning and marking
- MRM, SSM, SRM, NSM - Technical considerations and pre-operative marking
- New methods in imaging
- Management of sentinel nodes

- positive patients
- Neo-adjuvant treatment in breast cancer (Symposium)
- Conventional breast pathology or gene profiles
- Young breast cancer patients - surgery, radiotherapy, systemic treatment
- Breast reconstruction (Symposium)
- Tailored treatment of high risk lesions (Symposium)
- Surgical treatment of local recurrences

Educational methods

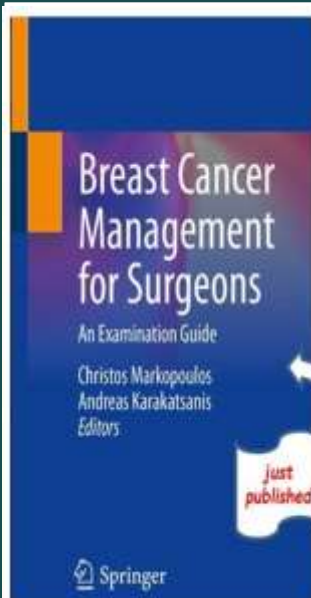
- Video-based discussion sessions
- High quality practical workshops with surgical prosthetic models
- MDT Case studies
- Mock MDT with cases



Target audience

- Senior residents (last two years of specialization with clinical interest in breast cancer)
- Surgical oncologists
- Breast surgeons within 5 years after ending specialization residency
- Medical and radiation oncologists with 3-5 years of experience in the treatment of breast cancer patients

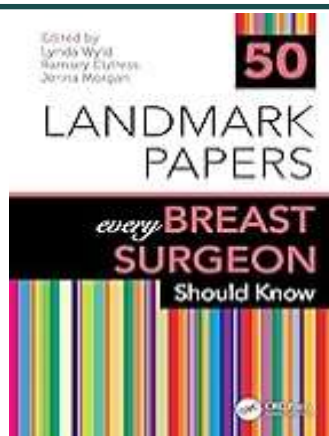
More Information
Coming soon on
ESSO web-pages
[ESSO Advanced Course
on Breast Cancer Surgery](#)



Given that breast surgeons play a leading role in the management of patients with breast cancer, having a good command of all current knowledge for evidence-based breast cancer management is necessary.

The chapters of this book include such knowledge and this is why it can serve as a helpful reference tool in everyday practice for anyone involved in the care of breast cancer patients.

Especially for the exam candidates, detailed information on the EBSQ exam level, format and scoring, as well as examples of multiple-choice questions of the "written" exam and type of discussion during the "oral" exam are presented in the last chapter of the book.



Just published. This book gives a critique of 50 key papers that have shaped modern breast practice. Each paper is reviewed by an expert, setting the findings into context and discussing the design and limitations of each paper.

Useful reading material linked to the exam

EBSQ Exam Preparatory Course, Poland, 14th February 2026



Aim of the course

This course is organised annually and offers delegates preparing for the **UEMS - European Board of Surgery Qualification (EBSQ) in Breast Surgery exam** a unique opportunity to discover the European Breast Surgery curriculum. This year it is organized in conjunction with the Polish Society for Surgical Oncology, with sponsorship from Stryker

Main topics

- De-escalation and personalization of breast surgery: trends and evidence
- Management of familial gene carriers and risk assessment
- Current axillary management paradigms
- Oncoplastic conservation surgery: technique selection and outcomes
- Post mastectomy reconstruc-

tion: decision making in the context of techniques and oncology interactions

- Multi gene assays - MGAs in clinical decision making on systemic therapy
- Update on the recent results of Breast Oncology Trials
- MDT - Clinical and Academic Practice Session
- Demonstration of the OSCE exam with demonstration models and procedures

Multiple Choice Quiz

- At the end of the course, participants will be asked to participate in an MCQ- quiz which will lead to a waiver of the EBSQ in Breast surgery exam fees for the best scored participants.



Target audience

- This one-day course is aiming at delegates preparing for their final certification exam in **Breast/General Surgery** and the **UEMS - European Board of Surgery Qualification (EBSQ) in Breast Surgery exam**.
- This is an **ESSO endorsed educational event**, granted auspices by the ESSO (The European Society of Surgical Oncology) educational and training committee. It is also endorsed by the Polish Surgical Oncology Society.

Sponsorship is kindly provided by Stryker