

**HYBRID EVENT**

# **REHABILITATION COURSE SERIES**

**12-13 JUNE 2025  
WARSAW, POLAND**

**EFNR.ORG | WFNR.CO.UK | ESO-STROKE.ORG**



# COURSE COORDINATORS

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**PROF. DR. DAFIN F.  
MUREȘANU**

President of the  
European Federation  
of Neurorehabilitation  
Societies (EFNR)



**PROF. DR. VOLKER  
HÖMBERG**

President of the World  
Federation for  
Neurorehabilitation (WFNR)



**PROF. DR. FRANCESCA  
PEZZELLA**

Co-Chair Stroke Action Plan  
for Europe

# REHABILITATION

## COURSE SERIES

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European Federation of NeuroRehabilitation Societies (EFNR) and the European Stroke Organization (ESO) have signed a memorandum of understanding covering four main domains: education, research, medical practice, and advocacy, with a special focus on Stroke Action Plan for Europe (SAP-E).

Within the framework of a memorandum of understanding, this course brings you, neurorehabilitation specialists from Central- and Eastern Europe to Warsaw from June 12-13. The course, led by Prof. Dr. Francesca Pezzella, Stroke Action Plan for Europe Co-Chair, and Prof. Dr. Dafin Mureşanu, EFNR President, is a testament to their profound dedication to the subject matter and the endorsement of ESO, further affirming the course's high caliber.

The course is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of crucial topics in neurorehabilitation, including motor recovery, aphasia, cognitive impairment, and dysphagia. These are areas of significant relevance in our field, making this event a valuable opportunity for professional growth.

We are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to all healthcare professionals, researchers, and advocates in neurorehabilitation who will attend this insightful activity; your presence will enrich our discussions and will also enable you to cascading your knowledge and your competencies to colleagues in your home countries when organizing similar courses.

# REHABILITATION

## COURSE SERIES

12-13 JUNE 2025  
WARSAW, POLAND

### DAY 1 - MOTOR RECOVERY AND COGNITIVE REHABILITATION

**Location:** The Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology (IPIN),  
Warsaw, Poland

09:00 **Welcome and Program Introduction on  
Joint Initiatives ESO/EFNR**  
Prof. dr. Volker Hömberg, President WFNR  
Prof. dr. Dafin F. Mureşanu, President EFNR

09:15 **Stroke Action Plan Europe – Objectives and  
Implementation Activities**

9:30 – 13:15 **Module 1 – Acute Motor Recovery post-stroke  
Coordinator** – Prof. dr. Peter Lackner (Austria),  
Dr. Magdalena Fried (Austria)

- Incidence, neurophysiologic background of motor impairment and recovery after stroke (upper and lower extremity)
- Early neurorehabilitation / mobilization
- When to start (AVERT trial) – and how to mobilize patients
- Essential guidelines on acute motor rehabilitation
- Essential assessments and scores
- Physiotherapeutic technics for early motor rehabilitation

# REHABILITATION

## COURSE SERIES

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- How to develop an acute rehabilitation plan
- Specific goal setting in motor rehabilitation
- Essential internal communication and how to build the structures
- Brief introduction “Toolbox” motor recovery and OT
- Q&A

11:15 – 11:30 **Coffee Break**

13:15 – 14:15 **Lunch Break**

14:15 – 18:00 **Module 2 – FESS and Cognition**  
**Coordinator:** Dr. Sigrid Schwarz (Austria)

- Neurophysiological and neuropathological basics of cognitive rehabilitation
- Basics of Neuropsychology
- What is cognitive rehabilitation and who can perform it
- Presentation of Toolbox Cognition/Cognitive assessments
- Telerehabilitation in cognitive rehabilitation

# REHABILITATION

## COURSE SERIES

12-13 JUNE 2025  
WARSAW, POLAND

### DAY 2 - APHASIA, DYSPHAGIA

**Location:** Military Institute of Medicine – National Research Institute, Warsaw, Poland

09:00 – 13:15 **Module 3 – Aphasia**

**Coordinator:** Prof. dr. Paola Marangolo (Italy)

- Neurological and cognitive diagnosis of aphasia: advantages and limitations.
- Strategies and rehabilitation techniques for persons with severe and moderate aphasia.
- Practical exercises on video recordings of clinical cases
- Presentation of Toolbox “Aphasia”
- Q&A

11:30 – 11:45 **Coffee Break**

13:15 – 14:15 **Lunch Break**

# REHABILITATION

## COURSE SERIES

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WARSAW, POLAND

14:15 – 17:00 **Module 4 – Dysphagia**

**Coordinator:** Prof. dr. Stefanie Duchac (Germany)

This compact half-day course provides a structured introduction to the relevance of dysphagia in clinical practice, beginning with the anatomy and physiology of normal swallowing and progressing to the pathophysiology of disordered swallowing. Participants will learn to identify clinical signs of dysphagia and understand the indications for diagnostic tools such as clinical swallowing examinations and instrumental procedures (e.g., FEES, VFSS). Through case-based discussions, participants will trace the path from diagnosis to evidence-based intervention. Special attention is given to critical thinking in clinical decision-making and to implementation of treatment strategies to individual patient profiles.

17:00 – 18:30 **Group work** – Implementation Plans  
Countries (together with Module Coordinators)  
including short presentation of results

18:30 **Closing Remarks**  
Prof. dr. Volker Hömberg, President WFNR  
Prof. dr. Dafin F. Mureşanu, President EFNR

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

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## **Module 1 – Acute Motor Recovery post-stroke**

**Coordinator** – Prof. dr. Peter Lackner (Austria),  
Dr. Magdalena Fried (Austria)

- Incidence, neurophysiologic background of motor impairment and recovery after stroke (upper and lower extremity)
- Early neurorehabilitation / mobilization
- When to start (AVERT trial) – and how to mobilize patients
- Essential guidelines on acute motor rehabilitation
- Essential assessments and scores
- Physiotherapeutic techniques for early motor rehabilitation
- How to develop an acute rehabilitation plan
- Specific goal setting in motor rehabilitation
- Essential internal communication and how to build the structures
- Questions from all countries and joint discussion about how to build rehabilitation structures

## **Module 2 – FESS and Cognition**

**Coordinator:** Dr. Sigrid Schwarz (Austria)

- Neurophysiological and neuropathological basics of cognitive rehabilitation
- Basics of Neuropsychology



# COURSE DESCRIPTION

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- What is cognitive rehabilitation and who can perform it
- Video presentations and interactive case discussions
- Telerehabilitation in cognitive rehabilitation

## **Module 3 – Aphasia**

**Coordinator:** Prof. dr. Paola Marangolo (Italy)

The course aims to provide guidelines on diagnostic and rehabilitative techniques in the field of aphasiology, focusing on the contributions of pragmatic and cognitive approaches to the study of aphasia. Over the past 20 years, advances in these fields have led to the recommendation of different treatments for patients with severe and moderate aphasia. Initially, the course will offer an overview of the principles that guided the approach to aphasic patients from the 1960s to the late 1980s. This historical segment will allow participants to understand the evolution of techniques and methods used in the past.

Subsequently, the most commonly used diagnostic tests and intervention techniques in the field of aphasiology will be illustrated. This includes an in-depth look at current tools and methodologies that support the process of diagnosing and treating language disorders in aphasic patients.

To further enrich the course, video recordings of individual cases of aphasic people with varying levels of severity will be presented. These practical examples will enable participants to directly observe language deficits and discuss, together with the course instructor and other participants, the most suitable approach for language recovery in each patient.

In summary, the course aims to equip participants with updated theoretical and practical knowledge to effectively address aphasiological rehabilitation, with particular attention to adopting personalized approaches based on the severity of the patient's disorder.

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

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## **Module 4 – Dysphagia**

**Coordinator:** Prof. dr. Stefanie Duchac (Germany)

This compact half-day course provides a structured introduction to the relevance of dysphagia in clinical practice, beginning with the anatomy and physiology of normal swallowing and progressing to the pathophysiology of disordered swallowing. Participants will learn to identify clinical signs of dysphagia and understand the indications for diagnostic tools such as clinical swallowing examinations and instrumental procedures (e.g., FEES, VFSS). Through case-based discussions, participants will trace the path from diagnosis to evidence-based intervention. Special attention is given to critical thinking in clinical decision-making and to implementation of treatment strategies to individual patient profiles.

# CURRICULUM VITAE

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**Stefanie Duchac** is professor of speech and language therapy at the SRH University in Germany. She has many years of clinical experience in diagnosis and treatment of patients with dysphagia. In addition to her clinical work, she was regularly involved in various clinical research projects. Since October 2019 she has been an active board member of the European Society of Swallowing Disorders (ESSD), where she now is the head of the ESSD Academy. In

addition to her passion about lecturing, as certified business-coach she supports (interprofessional) dysphagia teams. She frequently conducts seminars and workshops, primarily in the field of evidence-based dysphagia management and videofluoroscopy of swallowing. Stefanie is co-founder of the first German-language dysphagia podcast “IssNix!”, initiator of a national VFSS-register as well as the dysphagia mentorship program. As keynote speaker (e.g. TEDx) she engages herself to raise awareness for dysphagia.



**Peter Lackner** is the head of the Department of Neurology at Clinic Floridsdorf, Vienna, Austria. Prof. Lackner is a trained specialist in neurocritical care and has a long lasting publication record in clinical and experimental research done in the field. Prof. Lackner received his MD in the year 2004 from the Medical University Innsbruck. Prof. Lackner has a strong background in experimental research in Neuroinfectiology, Neurotraumatology

and experimental Stroke.. His international experience includes research visits at the Bernhard-Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, Germany; the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa and at the Department of Basic Sciences and Physiology, Loma Linda University, California, USA. He was founder and group leader of the research group for Translational Neurocritical Care at the Medical University Innsbruck, Austria. Besides translational research, Prof.

# CURRICULUM VITAE

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Lackner has a primary focus on clinical research in severe neurological illnesses where his main interests are traumatic brain injury and hemorrhagic stroke. He is head of the Karl-Landsteiner Institute of Clinical Research in Acute Neurology. Importantly besides acute care, Prof. Lackner has a special interest in post-acute long-term care after critical neurological insults. In the year 2018, he became head of the department of Neurology of Clinic Penzing, Vienna that has a focus on early neurorehabilitation as well as long-term neurocognitive rehabilitation in an outpatient setting. Since his call to Vienna, he has been deeply involved in the strategic planning of neurological care in Austria. In the year 2021, he was the medical founder of a new department of neurology focusing on acute care in the newly built Clinic Floridsdorf. He is member of several local and international societies for Neurology, Neurorehabilitation and Neurocritical Care and currently the head of the scientific board of the Austrian society of neurorehabilitation.



**Paola Marangolo** is a Neuropsychologist, Full Professor in Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuroscience at the Department of Humanities Studies, University Federico II, Naples, Italy. Her research interests lie primarily in cognitive neurorehabilitation. Most of her research is concerned with the study of cognitive disorders, in particular, acquired language deficits in brain-injured adults using interdisciplinary techniques

aimed at identifying the neural processing streams which support cognitive recovery and new rehabilitation techniques. Her current research brings together neuropsychological, neuroimaging and neuromodulation approaches to investigate the interaction between language and other cognitive domains from a network perspective. She is author of several articles published in indexed, scientific journals and of several book chapters focused on the diagnosis and rehabilitation of aphasia.

# CURRICULUM VITAE

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**Sigrid Schwarz, Austria**

**Education:**

**1984** Graduation for Dr.Med.Univ. at the University of Vienna

**Carreer History:**

**1984-1985** Postgraduate Scholarship at the University of Zürich

**1985- 1990** Postgraduate General Meducal Education at the Clinic Tulln

**1990 -1995** Junior Neurologist at the Neurological Clinic Maria Gugging

**1994** Implementation of a neuro-rehabilitative outpatient service and in-Patient -Neurorehabilitation

**1995-2000** Senior Neurologist at the Neurological Clinic Maria Gugging  
Cooperation with Univ.Prof. Dr.Georg Goldenberg in Apraxia projects

**2000-2010** Senior Neurologist at the Neurological Rehabilitation Clinic Pirawarth

**2000** Implementation of a Standard Neuropsychological assessment

**2000** Start of an multidisciplinary Dysphagia Group with FEES and Swallowing Therapy

**2001** Poster Award, 1<sup>st</sup> place at the European Congress for Neurorehabilitation (Results of a standardized FEES-assessment in 100 consecutive Stroke Patients)

**2011 – 2023** Senior Neurologist at the University Clinic of Tulln  
Responsibility: Stationary Early Neurorehabilitation and Neurorehabilitative Day-Clinic with main focus on Neuropsychological Rehabilitation

# CURRICULUM VITAE

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**2017, 2018, 2022, 2023 and 2024** Establisher and Tutor of FEES-courses in Austria

**2000 –present** Host Lecturer at the Danube University Krems (Early Neurorehabilitation)

**2010 – 2023** Host Lecturer at the University Clinic Tulln

**2000 –present** Management of regional Self-help-groups for Stroke Survivors

**2019 –present** Lectures and Rehabilitation workshops in cooperation with EVER Pharma

**2020 –present** Cooperation with SAFE and SAP-E (Stroke Action Plan for Europe 2030)

## **Specialisations:**

**2012** Professional Diploma in Hypnosis

**2015** Accreditation in Geriatric and Palliative Medicine

**2016** Accreditation as FEES-Instructor (DDG, DGN, ESSD)

# GENERAL INFORMATION

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## LANGUAGE

The official language is English. Simultaneous translation will not be provided.

## CHANGES IN PROGRAM

The organizers cannot assume liability for any changes in the program due to external or unforeseen circumstances.

## FINAL PROGRAM & ABSTRACT BOOK

Available online on [efnr.org](http://efnr.org)

## TIME

The program hours are adjusted to Current Local Time in Warsaw, Poland, Eastern European Summer Central European Summer Time (CEST), UTC +2 hours

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