

Advanced Clinical Embryology (ACE) Course
Instructor Board - Academic Year 2026-2027



Module		Instructor Board
Module 1	Human Reproduction: Physiology, Pathophysiology and Recent Advances	Mara Simopoulou, Jacques Cohen, Laura Melado Vidales, Ippokratis Sarris, Francesco Lotti, Theodora Stasinou, Theodoros Kalampokas, Panagiotis Drakopoulos, Irene Souter, Nicholas Christoforidis, Petros Drakakis
Module 2	Organization, Management and Quality Control in the Embryology Laboratory, Andrology Laboratory, and Cryopreservation Banks	Despina Tzanakaki, Giles Palmer, Evangelini Evgeni, Alexia Chatziparasidou, Debbie Venier, Irene Cuevas-Saiz, Achilleas Papatheodorou, Polyxeni Kyrou, Chelsey Leisinger, Gerry Celia, Jacques Cohen
Module 3	Semen Analysis, Sperm Preparation and Evaluation of Sperm Quality and Functionality	Gerica LaVelle, Meurig Gallagher, Filipa da Silva Barbosa, Michael Carroll, Liesl Nel-Themaat, Dolores Lamb, Stephen A. Krawetz, Ralf Henkel
Module 4	Novel Techniques and Approaches in Gamete, Embryo, Testicular and Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation	Wayne Caswell, Lodovico Parmegiani, George Koustas, Omar Ammar, Laura Rienzi, Eman Elgindy, Elena Kontogianni, Evelyn Telfer, David Albertini
Module 5	Insemination Methods and Personalized Medicine	Jackson Kirkman-Brown, Lodovico Parmegiani, Mina Alikani, Nikica Zaninovic, Gemma Arroyo, Valerio Pisaturo, Karl Swann, Federica Franciosi
Module 6	Understanding the Embryo and Culture Systems: Mapping of State-of-the-Art Equipment and Protocols	Mara Simopoulou, Laura Rienzi, Roger Sturmey, Dean Morbeck, Arthur Chang, Jason E. Swain, Lorena Bori Arnal, Marcos Meseguer, David Gardner

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Module		Instructor Board
Module 7	Basic Knowledge and Recent Advances on Embryo Quality and Evaluation: From Embryo Morphology to Artificial Intelligence	David Gardner, Giovanni Coticchio, Irene Dimitriadis, Eros Nikitos, Denny Sakkas, Victoria Jiang, Charles Bormann
Module 8	Preimplantation Genetic Testing: From Embryo Biopsy and Genetic and Molecular Diagnosis to Novel Approaches and Considerations	Dagan Wells, Eric Forman, Alan Handyside, Joanne Traeger-Synodinos, Darren Griffin, Dimitra Christopikou, Debbie Venier, Aikaterini Chatzimeletiou, Christian Ottolini, Danilo Cimadomo, Gary Harton
Module 9	Novel Concepts and Experimental Approaches in Assisted Reproduction	Ioannis Sfontouris, Joyce Harper, Mina Popovic, Sonia Herraiz, Masoud Zamani Esteki, Martha Luna, Nuno Costa-Borges, Chavarro Jorge, David Albertini, Mariana Veloso Martins, Heidi Mertes
Module 10	Research Methodology and Evidence Based Medicine	Madelon van Wely, Pierre Comizzoli, Arthur Chang, George Mastorakos, Theodoros Sergeantanis, Dionysios Palermos, Mara Simopoulou, Kimball O. Pomeroy, Alex Quaas, Charalampos Siristatidis, Efstratios Kolibianakis, Jacques Cohen
Module 11	Clinical Experience Based Learning	Bryan Kloos, George Liperis, Stamatis Papaharitou, Steve Davies, Ioannis Georgiou, Jared Robins, Keshav Malhotra, Kathryn Go, Andrew Thomson, Emma Whitney, Joe Conaghan, Julia Paget

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Teaching Module 1 "Human Reproduction: Physiology, Pathophysiology and Recent Advances"		
Submodules	Lectures & Instructors	Date & Time
Scientific & Academic Director	Welcoming Session and Principle Aims of the ACE Course <i>Mara Simopoulou</i>	30/09/2026 5:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.
Opening Lecture	On the future of assisted reproduction: Lessons from the past <i>Jacques Cohen</i>	30/09/2026 5:15 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
1.1	Female Reproductive System: Physiology and Oogenesis <i>Laura Melado Vidales</i>	07/10/2026 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
1.2	Female Infertility: Aetiology and management strategies <i>Ippokratis Sarris</i>	07/10/2026 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
1.3	Male Reproductive System: Physiology and Spermatogenesis <i>Francesco Lotti</i>	07/10/2026 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
1.4	Evaluation and management of male infertility <i>Theodora Stasinou</i>	14/10/2026 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
1.5	Ovarian stimulation in the era of personalized and precision medicine <i>Theodoros Kalampokas</i>	14/10/2026 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
1.6	Diminished ovarian reserve from bench to bedside <i>Panagiotis Drakopoulos</i>	14/10/2026 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
1.7	Embryo and Endometrium: A complex relationship <i>Irene Souter</i>	21/10/2026 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
1.8	Embryo Transfer: Evidence based clinical practice <i>Nicholas Christoforidis</i>	21/10/2026 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
1.9	Recurrent Miscarriage and Recurrent Implantation Failure: How far have we come? <i>Petros Drakakis</i>	21/10/2026 7:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

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Teaching Module 2

“Organization, Management and Quality Control in the Embryology Laboratory,
in the Andrology Laboratory and in Cryopreservation Banks”

Submodules	Lectures & Instructors	Date & Time
2.1	Organization and management on setting up an Assisted Reproduction Unit Despina Tzanakaki	04/11/2026 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
2.2	Organization, management, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Embryology Laboratory Giles Palmer	04/11/2026 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
2.3	Organization, management, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Andrology Laboratory Evangelini Evgeni	11/11/2026 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
2.4	Organization, management, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Cryopreservation Banks Alexia Chatziparasidou	11/11/2026 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
2.5	Establishing an optimal PGT laboratory Debbie Venier	11/11/2026 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
2.6	Designing a patient-centered MAR Unit Irene Cuevas-Saiz	18/11/2026 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
2.7	Digital transformation of the IVF Laboratory Achilleas Papatheodorou	18/11/2026 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
2.8	Working on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) Polyxeni Kyrou	18/11/2026 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
2.9	Quality control and crisis management in the IVF Laboratory Chelsey Leisinger	25/11/2026 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
2.10	Inspecting an IVF Laboratory Gerry Celia	25/11/2026 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
2.11	Data, data, data. The past, present and future of data management in IVF Jacques Cohen	25/11/2026 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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Teaching Module 3

"Semen Analysis, Sperm Preparation and Evaluation of Sperm Quality and Functionality"

Submodules	Lectures & Instructors	Date & Time
3.1	Standardized Semen Analysis: Lessons for Novice and Experts Gerica LaVelle	02/12/2026 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
3.2	Sperm morphology assessment by strict criteria Gerica LaVelle	02/12/2026 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
3.3	Automated analysis of sperm diagnostics and selection for therapeutics: CASA and Beyond Meurig Gallagher	02/12/2026 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
3.4	Sperm preparation techniques for diagnostic and MAR purposes Filipa da Silva Barbosa	09/12/2026 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
3.5	Optimal management of ejaculate and non-ejaculate originating spermatozoa for MAR purposes Michael Carroll	09/12/2026 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
3.6	The challenge of handling different semen samples Liesl Nel-Themaat	09/12/2026 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
3.7	Advanced semen tests Dolores Lamb	16/12/2026 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
3.8	Contributions of the Male Gamete to the Embryo and Offspring Dolores Lamb	16/12/2026 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
3.9	Sperm RNAs, markers of past, present, future, and generational health Stephen A. Krawetz	16/12/2026 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
3.10	Oxidative and Reproductive Stress in Male Infertility: The Delicate Balance of Redox Homeostasis Ralf Henkel	23/12/2026 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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Teaching Module 4

“Novel Techniques and Approaches in Gamete, Embryo, Testicular
and Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation”

Submodules	Lectures & Instructors	Date & Time
4.1	How understanding basic cryobiology can help us improve our outcomes Wayne Caswell	06/01/2027 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
4.2	Safety in human reproductive cell cryopreservation Lodovico Parmegiani	13/01/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
4.3	Cryostorage: validation, quality control and best practices George Koustas	13/01/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
4.4	Factors Affecting Vitrification Success Omar Ammar	13/01/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
4.5	Oocyte and Embryo cryopreservation Laura Rienzi	20/01/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
4.6	Frozen Embryo Transfer: Optimizing the Outcome Eman Elgindy	20/01/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
4.7	Testicular tissue cryopreservation: Where are we today? Elena Kontogianni	27/01/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
4.8	Restoration of function following ovarian tissue cryopreservation: In vivo and in vitro outcomes Evelyn Telfer	27/01/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
4.9	Human ovary and oocyte biology: Insights obtained from the fertility preservation initiative David Albertini	27/01/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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Teaching Module 5

"Insemination Methods and Personalized Medicine"

Submodules	Lectures & Instructors	Date & Time
5.1	Insemination methods an Overview of IUI, IVF, ICSI and specialized equipment Jackson Kirkman-Brown	03/02/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
5.2	Micromanipulation in the era of Individualized Medicine: how to select the best sperm for ICSI Lodovico Parmegiani	03/02/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
5.3	Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI): Technique and technical aspects Mina Alikani	10/02/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
5.4	Evaluation of insemination outcomes and evolution of AI in the IVF Laboratory Nikica Zaninovic	10/02/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
5.5	ICSI for All? Mina Alikani	17/02/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
5.6	How to select the best insemination method: Evidence Based Clinical Practice Gemma Arroyo	17/02/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
5.7	In Vitro Maturation: from research to clinical practice Gemma Arroyo	17/02/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
5.8	Managing cases of extreme low oocyte yield: Which is the best insemination option? Valerio Pisaturo	24/02/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
5.9	Artificial oocyte activation: From basic research to clinical practice Karl Swann	24/02/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
5.10	Understanding the oocyte and decoding its competence Federica Franciosi	24/02/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Written exams on Modules 1-5

(The examination platform will open for 30 days) on February 26th, 2027, at 7:00 p.m.
and will close on March 25th, 2027, at 6:59 p.m.)

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Teaching Module 6 "Understanding the Embryo and Culture Systems: Mapping of state-of-the-art Equipment and Protocols"		
Submodules	Lectures & Instructors	Date & Time
6.1	Physiology and development of the preimplantation embryo <i>Mara Simopoulou</i>	03/03/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
6.2	The pyramid of successful implantation <i>Laura Rienzi</i>	03/03/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
6.3	Metabolism of the preimplantation embryo <i>Roger Sturme</i>	10/03/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
6.4	Culture media in IVF <i>Dean Morbeck</i>	10/03/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
6.5	Culture conditions-blastocyst problems: What do we need to know <i>Arthur Chang</i>	17/03/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
6.6	Embryo culture incubators <i>Jason E. Swain</i>	17/03/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
6.7	Time-lapse imaging technology in the IVF laboratory <i>Lorena Bori Arnal - Marcos Meseguer</i>	24/03/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
6.8	The epigenetic impact of culture conditions and in vitro handling on the preimplantation embryo <i>TBC</i>	31/03/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
6.9	Embryo Culture: Past, Present and Future <i>David Gardner</i>	07/04/2027 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

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Teaching Module 7 "Basic Knowledge and Recent Advances on Embryo Quality and Evaluation: From Embryo Morphology to Artificial Intelligence"		
Submodules	Lectures & Instructors	Date & Time
7.1	Embryo selection David Gardner	07/04/2027 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
7.2	The making of the blastocyst Giovanni Coticchio	14/04/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
7.3	Embryo identification Irene Dimitriadis	14/04/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
7.4	Morphokinetic evaluation of the preimplantation embryo: What is there to gain? Eros Nikitos	21/04/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
7.5	Non-invasive selection of embryo viability: The value of the embryo's metabolic blueprint Denny Sakkas	21/04/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
7.6	Artificial intelligence in MAR: <i>The Clinician's Perspective</i> Victoria Jiang	28/04/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
7.7	Artificial intelligence in the IVF laboratory Charles Bormann	28/04/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
7.8	Novel approaches in oocyte and preimplantation embryo evaluation and automation in MAR TBC	28/04/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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Teaching Module 8

"Preimplantation Genetic Testing: From Embryo Biopsy and Genetic and Molecular Diagnosis to Novel Approaches and Considerations"

Submodules	Lectures & Instructors	Date & Time
8.1	Genetic profile, analysis of the preimplantation embryo and novel approaches Dagan Wells	05/05/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
8.2	Preimplantation genetic testing for aneuploidy (PGT-A): Benefits, risks, and its true place in MAR Eric Forman	05/05/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
8.3	Aneuploidy and Developmental Arrest of the Human Preimplantation Embryo Alan Handyside	05/05/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
8.4	Preimplantation Genetic Testing for Monogenic Disorders (PGT-M) Joanne Traeger-Synodinos	12/05/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
8.5	Preimplantation Genetic Testing for Structural Rearrangements (PGT-SR) Darren Griffin	12/05/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
8.6	Guidelines and recommendations on optimal PGT practice Dimitra Christopikou	19/05/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
8.7	Tips and tricks for optimizing micromanipulations during biopsy for PGT Debbie Venier	19/05/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
8.8	Physiology of the preimplantation embryo post biopsy and vitrification Aikaterini Chatzimeletiou	19/05/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
8.9	Chromosomal mosaicism: Origins and clinical implications Christian Ottolini	26/05/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
8.10	Embryo ploidy status and implantation: A conundrum Danilo Cimadomo	26/05/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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8.11	Non-Invasive Preimplantation Genetic Testing <i>Gary Harton</i>	26/05/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
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Teaching Module 9

"Novel Concepts and Experimental Approaches in Assisted Reproduction"

Submodules	Lectures & Instructors	Date & Time
9.1	Novel promising concepts in clinical embryology research Ioannis Sfontouris	02/06/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
9.2	Introducing new technology into the IVF lab: Past and Future Joyce Harper	02/06/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
9.3	Novel approaches for studying early embryo-maternal interface Mina Popovic	09/06/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
9.4	Novel experimental approaches in addressing Ovarian Insufficiency Sonia Herraiz	09/06/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
9.5	Embryonic Genome Plasticity, Embryo Secretome and Culture Condition Masoud Zamani Esteki	09/06/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
9.6	Advanced Maternal Age: Challenges and Solutions Martha Luna	16/06/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
9.7	Novel experimental approaches: Mitochondrial Replacement Therapy Nuno Costa-Borges	16/06/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
9.8	The role of Nutrition and Metabolic Factors on Human Reproduction and MAR Chavarro Jorge	16/06/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
9.9	In Vitro Gametogenesis: prospects and concerns TBC	23/06/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
9.10	Concerns and Considerations in IVF practices David Albertini	23/06/2027 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
9.11	The Clinical Psychologist's perspective on novel approaches and Add-ons offered in MAR Mariana Veloso Martins	30/06/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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9.12

The Bioethicist's perspective on novel approaches
and Add-ons offered in MAR
Heidi Mertes

30/06/2027
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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Teaching Module 10

"Research Methodology and Evidence Based Medicine"

Submodules	Lectures & Instructors	Date & Time
10.1	Research methodology in MAR Madelon van Wely	07/07/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
10.2	What makes a Publishable Manuscript: Scientific Writing, Methodology, and Publication Standards Pierre Comizzoli	07/07/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
10.3	From the Trenches: Peer Review, Manuscript Evaluation, Editorial Decision-Making, and Critical Appraisal in Scientific Publishing Arthur Chang	07/07/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
10.4	The evolution of research in female reproduction: Milestones and future goals George Mastorakos	14/07/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
10.5	Basic statistical principles for practicing physicians and embryologists Theodoros Sergentanis - Dionysios Palermos	14/07/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
10.6	IVF add-ons: Proper Research Methodology and Execution Mara Simopoulou	14/07/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
10.7	Lying with Statistics Kimball O. Pomeroy	21/07/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
10.8	From data analysis to clinical relevance Alex Quaas	21/07/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
10.9	Evidence Based Medicine Charalampos Siristatidis	21/07/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
10.10	The value of Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses in MAR Efstratios Kolibianakis	28/07/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
10.11	Evidence-based Clinical Embryology: it is not that simple Jacques Cohen	28/07/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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Critical Analysis Skills Assessment

The examination platform will open on August 1st, 2027, at 7:00 p.m. and will close on August 31st, 2027, at 6:59 p.m.)

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Teaching Module 11

"Clinical Experience Based Learning"

Submodules	Lectures & Instructors	Date & Time
11.1	Managing Atypical and Complex Infertility Cases: Clinical Approaches and Experience-Based Insights Bryan Kloos (TBC)	01/09/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
11.2	Semen Analysis and Ancillary Testing: Enhancing the Interpretation of Male Fertility through Experience-Driven Insight George Liperis	01/09/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
11.3	From Patient History to Laboratory Practice: Guiding the Handling and Preparation of Semen Samples in Diagnostic and MAR Settings Stamatis Papaharitou	01/09/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
11.4	Abnormal Fertilization: Understanding Mechanisms and Their Impact on Clinical Management in MAR Steve Davies	08/09/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
11.5	Mosaic Embryos: Clinical Uncertainty and Decision-Making in MAR Ioannis Georgiou	08/09/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
11.6	The Strategic Role of the Clinical Embryologist as a Scientist and Innovator Jared Robins	08/09/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
11.7	Ten Secrets of Running an Efficient IVF laboratory Keshav Malhotra	15/09/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
11.8	The Clinical Embryologist: Professional Responsibilities, Workflow Demands, and Operational Challenges Kathryn Go (TBC)	15/09/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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11.9	Conflict in the IVF Laboratory: Understanding, Managing, and Resolving Operational and Interpersonal Challenges <i>Andrew Thomson</i>	22/09/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
11.10	Wellbeing and Burnout in the IVF Laboratory: Occupational Stress, Workplace Challenges, and Resilience in Clinical Embryology <i>Emma Whitney (TBC)</i>	22/09/2027 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
11.11	Recruitment and Workforce Development in Clinical Embryology: Current Status, International Mobility, and Challenges <i>Joe Conaghan (TBC)</i>	22/09/2027 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
11.12	Continuing Professional Development in Clinical Embryology: Skills, Competencies, and Career Development Pathways <i>Julia Paget</i>	29/09/2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
<u>Written exams on Modules 6-11</u> (The examination platform will open on September 30th, 2027, at 7:00 p.m. and will close on October 29th, 2027, at 6:59 p.m.)		