HPB Robotic Surgery Training Program

Autumn 2026 · 3-Day Intensive Course

Lead Faculty: Dr. Tzimas | Director HPB Section, Hygeia Hospital, Athens

Course Overview

This three-day intensive training program is designed to provide general surgeons, with a structured, immersive introduction to robotic surgery in the context of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) procedures. Participants without prior robotic surgery experience will gain meaningful hands-on exposure to robotic systems and sufficient theoretical background to the selection and implementation of the technology to the specific procedures.

Course At a Glance	Target Participants
Duration: 3 Days **Format:** Hybrid (Clinical observation + hands-on + theory) **Max Participants (physical presence):** 12 **Clinical observation (remote access):** 30 **Venue (Day 1):** Hygeia Hospital, Athens **Venue (Days 2–3):** ISLE Academy Training Centre **Language:** English / Greek	**Specialty:** Certified General Surgeons, Chief Residents in General Surgery **HPB Experience:** Interested / active in HPB surgery **Robotic Experience:** None required (beginner level) **Open Surgery:** Proficient in open or laparoscopic HPB Surgery **Group Size:** Up to 12, divided into 4 rotation groups

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the key elements of DaVinci technology used in HPB surgery and their benefits
- Apply principles of patient positioning, port placement and docking for upper abdominal robotic procedures
- Demonstrate foundational robotic console skills through simulation and tissue exercises
- Discuss the stepwise approach to robotic HPB procedures (hepatectomy, distal pancreatectomy and / or Whipple)
- Understand vascular control strategies and hilar dissection in robotic HPB surgery
- Perform pancreatico - jejunal anastomosis on Lifelike models under expert supervision

- Understand the available educational pathways for developing robotic surgery skills
- Get an insight into the benefits of robotic surgery implementation
- Observe the instruments and accessories and tips and tricks for their optimal usage

The remote access observers will be able to:

- Discuss the stepwise approach to the specific robotic HPB procedure
- Get an insight into the benefits of robotic surgery implementation
- Observe the instruments and accessories and tips and tricks for their optimal usage

Course Structure

The program is structured across three consecutive days, combining clinical observation, structured didactic lectures, and progressive hands-on simulation. Theoretical content is interleaved with practical sessions to reinforce learning at each stage.

DAY 1 · CLINICAL OBSERVATION · Hygeia Hospital

Venue: Hygeia Hospital, Athens **Time:** 08:00 – 16:00

Participants observe **live** robotic HPB cases performed by Dr. Tzimas and his team at Hygeia Hospital. This immersive first day provides an authentic clinical context, allowing participants to familiarize themselves with the robotic environment, workflow, and team dynamics before the structured program begins.

Remote access observation will be provided through DORA application.

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY	FACULTY
08:00 – 16:00	Live Case Observation — Upper HPB Robotic Surgery (variable cases based on OR list)	*Dr. Tzimas & Team*
	Case debriefing and Q&A between cases (as scheduling permits)	*Dr. Tzimas & Team*

Note: The specific procedures observed will depend on the live operating list. Cases may include robotic cholecystectomy, hepatectomy, distal pancreatectomy, or Whipple procedure.

DAY 2 · THEORY + HANDS-ON SESSIONS 1 & 2

Venue: ISLE Academy Training Centre **Time:** 08:00 – 16:30

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY	FACULTY
08:00 – 08:15	Registration & Welcome Coffee	
08:15 – 08:30	Welcome Address & Course Objectives	*ISLE Academy Director*

08:30 – 10:30	**THEORETICAL session 1 (To be reviewed)**	
	Lecture 1: Transitioning from Open/Laparoscopic to Robotic HPB Surgery: Overcoming the Learning Curve	*Dr. Tzimas Team*
	Lecture 2: Robotic Systems for HPB Surgery — Technical Overview and Platform Comparison	*ISLE Academy Trainer*
	Lecture 3: Optimal Port Placement & Patient Positioning for Multi-Quadrant HPB Procedures	*Dr. Tzimas Team*
	Lecture 4: Robotic Vascular Control and Hilar Dissection — Precision in High-Stakes Anatomy	*Dr. Tzimas Team*
10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee Break**	
11:00 – 13:00	**HANDS-ON SESSION 1 (4 groups · 3 participants · 30-min rotations)**	
	Workstation 1: Port Placement & Docking — setup, trocar positioning, robot docking drills	*ISLE Trainer*
	Workstation 2: Console Simulation Part 1	*ISLE Trainer*
	Workstation 3: Console Simulation Part 2	*ISLE Trainer*
	Workstation 4: ERMIS VR Simulation Training Part 1	*ISLE Trainer*
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch Break**	
14:00 – 16:00	**HANDS-ON SESSION 2 (4 groups · 3 participants · 30-min rotations)**	
	Workstation 1: DaVinci Instruments (Intraoperative use, Troubleshooting)	*ISLE Trainer*
	Workstation 2: Console Simulation Part 3	*ISLE Trainer*
	Workstation 3: Console Simulation Part 4	*ISLE Trainer*
	Workstation 4: VR Simulation Training Part 2	*ISLE Trainer*
16:00 – 16:30	Day 2 Wrap-Up, Reflection & Q&A	*ISLE Academy Director*

DAY 3 · THEORY + HANDS-ON SESSIONS 3 & 4

Venue: ISLE Academy Training Centre **Time:** 08:15 – 16:30

TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY	FACULTY
08:15 – 08:30	Day 3 Objectives & Overview	*ISLE Academy Director*
08:30 – 10:30	**THEORETICAL Session 2(To be reviewed)**	
	Lecture 5: Robotic Pancreaticoduodenectomy (Whipple) — Mastering the Reconstruction Phase	*Dr. Tzimas Team*
	Lecture 6: Robotic Distal Pancreatectomy — Techniques, Splenic Preservation & Oncological Clearance	*Dr. Tzimas Team*
	Lecture 7: Robotic Liver Resections — From Minor Wedge Resections to Major Hepatectomies	*Dr. Tzimas Team*

10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee Break**	
11:00 – 13:00	**HANDS-ON SESSION 3 — Full system Practice on Tissue (2 groups · 60-min rotations)**	
	Workstation 1a: Dissection & Intracorporeal Suturing on Tissue	*ISLE Trainer*
	Workstation 1b: Dissection & Intracorporeal Suturing on Tissue (parallel group)	*ISLE Trainer*
	Workstation 2: How to Become a Robotic Surgeon — Credentialing, Proctoring & Career Pathway	*ISLE Academy Director*
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch Break**	
14:00 – 16:00	**HANDS-ON SESSION 4 — LifeLike Models (2 groups · 60-min rotations)**	
	Workstation 1a: Pancreatic jejunal Anastomosis on LifeLike Model	*Dr. Tzimas Team*
	Workstation 1b: Pancreatic jejunal Anastomosis on LifeLike Model (parallel group)	*Dr. Tzimas Team*
	Workstation 2: Video Case Observation & Expert Commentary	*Dr. Tzimas Team*
16:00 – 17.00	Course Wrap-Up, MCQ Assessment & Certificate Distribution	*Faculty*

Faculty & Roles

Faculty Member	Role	Responsibilities
Dr. Tzimas George	Lead Surgeon / Course Director	Live cases, all clinical lectures, LifeLike anastomosis sessions, video commentary
Dr. John Martinie **Dr. Athanasios Pantelis** **Dr. Spyridon Pagkratis**	Associate Faculty	Theoretical lectures, hands-on supervision, pancreatic reconstruction sessions
ISLE Academy Director	Academic Lead	Welcome, Wrap-up, Credentialing session
ISLE Academy Trainer(s)	Technical Trainers (×2–3)	All workstation rotations on Days 2 & 3, simulation supervision, docking drills

Logistics & Practical Information

Group Rotation Structure

Participants (max 12) are divided into 4 groups of 3 for all hands-on sessions on Day 2. On Day 3, groups merge into 2 groups of 6 for tissue and LifeLike model sessions, allowing longer in-depth practice at each workstation.

Day	Session Format	Notes
Day 2 – Sessions 1 & 2	4 groups × 3 participants · 30-min rotations	4 simultaneous workstations
Day 3 – Session 3	2 groups × 6 participants · 60-min rotations	3 workstations (2 parallel tissue stations with 3 participants)
Day 3 – Session 4	2 groups × 6 participants · 60-min rotations	3 workstations (2 parallel LifeLike stations with 3 participants)

Equipment Requirements

- Robotic surgical system(s) minimum 2 consoles for simultaneous workstation rotations
- Simulation platforms (e.g. SIM NOW, ERMIS VR)
- Box trainers for docking and port placement drills
- Tissue (chicken thighs etc)
- LifeLike surgical models for pancreatic jejunal anastomosis (Session 4)
- DORA Access for Live streaming

Assessment

Participants will complete a Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) assessment at the end of Day 3. Results are for personal reflection and are not used for pass/fail determination. A Certificate of Attendance will be issued to all participants who complete the full program.