



Global Neuro

Global Neuro Course — Quality Improvement and Patient Safety in Spine Surgery

20 February, 2026, Ludwigshafen, Deutschland



Course description

This one-day course focuses on quality improvement and patient safety in spine surgery. Rather than emphasizing complication management alone, the program explores strategies for avoiding adverse events, ensuring appropriate surgical indications, and enhancing outcomes through improved processes, communication, and teamwork. Topics include preoperative risk assessment, intraoperative error prevention, postoperative quality control, and the legal and ethical dimensions of surgical safety. Interactive lectures, hands-on workshops, and case-based discussions will provide participants with practical tools to promote excellence in spine care.

Target Participants

This course is intended for German-speaking spine surgeons – including residents, fellows, and attending surgeons – who aim to improve the safety, quality, and consistency of spine surgical care. Participants should be interested in both surgical and non-surgical aspects of risk management, complication prevention, quality assurance, and patient communication.

Educational needs

The needs derived for participants of the presented course are the following:

- Learn how to establish quality indicators and safety protocols in spine surgery
- Understand the importance of appropriate indication and risk stratification to avoid preventable complications
- Master strategies for intraoperative error prevention and safe surgical technique
- Strengthen postoperative follow-up procedures and complication monitoring
- Develop skills for legally sound and empathetic patient communication in complex situations
- Learn how to implement and benefit from morbidity and mortality conferences and complication registries

Learning objectives

By completing this course, participants will be able to:

- Define key quality metrics and implement safety-improving practices in spine surgery
- Identify risk factors and apply preventive strategies to avoid complications
- Improve intraoperative decision-making, eliminate avoidable technical errors and handle typical intra- and postoperative complications
- Communicate effectively with patients about adverse events and their management
- Apply principles of ethical and legal responsibility in surgical documentation and disclosure

Faculty

Chairpersons

Alexander Younsi	Sven Vetter
BG Klinik Ludwigshafen	BG Klinik Ludwigshafen
Ludwigshafen	Ludwigshafen
Deutschland	Deutschland

International Faculty (inviting)

Nader Hejrati	HOCH Health Ostschweiz	Switzerland
Andreas Demetriades	Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	United Kingdom

National Faculty (inviting)

Julia Onken	Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin	Charité Berlin
Sami Ridwan	Mathias Medizin	Ibbenbüren
Christiane Kruppa	BG University Hospital Bergmannsheil	Bochum
Andreas Unterberg	Heidelberg University Hospital	Heidelberg
Rezvan Ahmadi	Heidelberg University Hospital	Heidelberg
Lars Wessels	Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin	Charité Berlin
Max Scheyerer	Universitätsklinikum Düsseldorf	Düsseldorf
Diaa Al-Safatli	Aschaffenburg Hospital	Aschaffenburg

Local Faculty (inviting)

Gregory Ehrlich	BG Klinik Ludwigshafen	Ludwigshafen
Holger Freischmidt	BG Klinik Ludwigshafen	Ludwigshafen
David Mundinger	BG Klinik Ludwigshafen	Ludwigshafen
Gregor Reiter	BG Klinik Ludwigshafen	Ludwigshafen
Philip Kunkel	University Hospital Mannheim	Mannheim

Agenda

Friday, 20 February 2026

Uhrzeit	Programmpunkt	Faculty
08:00–08:30	Registration	
08:30–08:45	Welcome address	Younsi/Vetter
08:45–10:00	Module 1: Foundations of quality in spine surgery	Younsi/Wessels
08:45–09:00	Why quality matters in spine surgery?	Andreas Demetriades
09:00–09:15	Spine surgery education and training	Sami Ridwan
09:15–09:30	The right indication – identifying high risk patients	Nader Hejrati
09:30–09:45	Setting up quality improvement protocols in spine surgery	Julia Onken
09:45–10:00	The relevance of measuring patient reported outcomes	Pavlina Lenga
10:00–10:45	Module 2: Intraoperative challenges	Ridwan/Onken
10:00–10:15	Managing dural tears and CSF leaks	Frederik Enders
10:15–10:30	Strategies for severe bleeding incidents	Philip Kunkel
10:30–10:45	Minimizing implant malposition	Holger Freischmidt
10:45–11:00	Coffee break	
11:00–12:00	Module 3: Postoperative complications	Unterberg/Enders
11:00–11:15	Managing infections	Gregor Reiter
11:15–11:30	Addressing adjacent level disease and proximal junction kyphosis	Diaa Al-Safatli
11:30–11:45	Identification and intervention strategies for spinal pseudarthrosis	Max Scheyerer
11:45–12:00	Treating postoperative spinal deformities	Rezvan Ahmadi
12:00–13:00	Lunch break	
13:00–14:30	Module 4: Practical sessions	
13:00–13:30	Spinal navigation	Sven Vetter
13:30–14:00	Advanced fixation techniques	Christiane Kruppa
14:00–14:30	Dural repair models	Gregory Ehrlich

14:30–15:30	Module 5: Legal and ethical aspects	Ahmadi/Kruppa
14:30–14:45	Patient communication and consent	David Munding
14:45–15:00	Legal documentation and risk management	Jan Teuber
15:00–15:15	Navigating legal consequences	Alexander Younsi
15:15–15:30	Morbidity/Mortality conferences and complication registers	Andreas Unterberg
15:30–15:45	Coffee break	
15:45–16:45	Module 6: Case-based discussions	Vetter/Kunkel
15:45–16:15	Interactive real-life case studies with experts	TBC
16:15–16:45	Panel discussion: Solutions for difficult scenarios	Alle Faculty
16:45–17:00	Wrap up, certificate distribution and final remarks	

Course venue

BG Klinik Ludwigshafen
Ludwig-Guttmann-Straße 13, 67071
Ludwigshafen am Rhein
Deutschland

Course organization

Global Neuro Foundation
Clavadelerstrasse 8J
7270 Davos
Switzerland

Event organizer
Jenny Cheng
Email jenny.cheng@globalneuro.org

General Information

Event fee

EUR 100

Discount available for residents

Included in the course fee are course material, coffee breaks, lunch, and course certificate.

Registration

Please click on the registration link below to register

<https://globalneuro.org/EN/education/event-detail/108.html>

Course certificate

The course certificates can only be provided if the participant attends the entire event (100%) and will be available at the end of the event.

Evaluation guidelines

All Global Neuro events apply the same evaluation process, either online (pre- and post-event evaluation) or/and onsite by paper and pencil questionnaires. This helps Global Neuro to ensure that we continue to meet your training needs.

Dress code

Casual

Language

German

No insurance

The event organization does not take out insurance to cover any individual against accidents, theft, or other risks.

Security

Security checks may be conducted at the entrance of the building. Wearing a name tag is compulsory during lectures, practical exercises, and group discussions.

Mobile phone use

Use of mobile phones is not allowed in the lecture halls and in other rooms during educational activities. Please be considerate of others by turning off your mobile phone.

Intellectual property

Event materials, presentations, and case studies are the intellectual property of the event faculty. All rights are reserved.

Check hazards and legal restrictions on

www.globalneuro.org/legal

Recording, photographing, or copying lectures, practical exercises, case discussions, or any course materials is strictly forbidden.

Participants violating intellectual property will be dismissed. The Global Neuro Foundation reserves the right to film, photograph, and audio record during their events. Participants must understand that in this context they may appear in these recorded materials. The Global Neuro Foundation assumes participants agree that these recorded materials may be used for Global Neuro marketing and other purposes and made available to the public.

Global Neuro Foundation – Principles of Educational Events

1) Academic independence

Development of all curricula, design of scientific event programs, and selection of faculty are the sole responsibilities of volunteer surgeons from the Global Neuro network. All education is planned based on needs assessment data, designed and evaluated using concepts and evidence from the most current medical education research, and involves the expertise of the Global Neuro Education Institute (www.globalneuro.org).

Industry participation is not allowed during the entire curriculum development and planning process to ensure academic independence and to keep content free from bias.

2) Compliance to accreditation and industry codes

All planning, organization, and execution of educational activities follow existing codes for accreditation of high-quality education:

- Accreditation Criteria of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, USA (www.accme.org)
- ACCME Standards for Commercial Support: Standards to Ensure Independence in CME Activities (www.accme.org)
- Criteria for Accreditation of Live Educational Events of the European

Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (www.uems.eu)

- Events that receive direct or indirect unrestricted educational grants or in-kind support from industry also follow the ethical codes of the medical industry, such as:
- Eucomed Guidelines on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals (www.medtecheurope.org)
- AdvaMed Code of Ethics on Interactions with Health Care Professionals (www.advamed.org)
- Mecomed Guidelines on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals (www.mecomed.org)

3) Branding and advertising

No industry logos or advertising (with the exception of the Global Neuro Foundation) are permitted in the area where educational activities take place.

Sponsors providing financial or in-kind support are allowed to have a promotional booth or run activities outside the educational area with approval from the event chairperson.

4) Personnel

Industry staff are not allowed to interfere with the educational content or engage in educational activities during the event.