

Rossella Blasi appointed CEO of European School of Oncology (ESO)

Dr Costa takes on the role of Vice President and will continue to contribute to the School's scientific development. Through courses, masterclasses, university programmes and advanced training placements at leading European cancer centres, ESO supports doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals at different stages of their careers

Milan, 8 October 2026 - A change in leadership at the European School of Oncology (ESO), the international school founded in Milan in 1982 by Professor Umberto Veronesi to provide education and continuing professional development for those involved in cancer care.

Rossella Blasi is the new CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of ESO, succeeding Dr Alberto Costa, who has led the School since its foundation in 1982. Dr **Costa takes on the role of Vice President** and will continue to contribute with his clinical, scientific and institutional experience in support of ESO's mission. **The Presidency** remains with **Fedele Gubitosi**, who has held the position since October 2023. He will continue to lead the School with the commitment and vision that have characterised his tenure, guiding it through new challenges and future opportunities for growth.

From Milan to Europe

Blasi's appointment, approved today in Milan by the Board of Directors, marks a new chapter in the School's history, ensuring continuity and strengthening its European reach. Through courses, masterclasses, university programmes and training placements at leading European cancer centres, ESO supports doctors, nurses and other professionals at each stage of their careers: from the final years of university to the early years of specialist training, from advanced clinical education to postgraduate programmes, and through to programmes focused on leadership and improving cancer

services. In 2025 alone, its activities involved more than 2,700 participants and over 600 faculty members from 53 countries, with women accounting for 43 per cent.

Established through the collaboration of Umberto Veronesi and Laudomia Del Drago, the European School of Oncology is rooted in Milan's renowned oncology tradition and has embraced a European outlook from the outset. Veronesi's ambition was to create an educational centre that could bring together expertise from different countries and accelerate the translation of scientific advances into clinical practice. Alberto Costa, then Veronesi's assistant at the National Cancer Institute in Milan, was appointed to lead the School.

Statements

*"Rossella Blasi's appointment recognises her work over recent years and her ability to combine strategic vision, organisational strength and a deep commitment to ESO's mission. With this decision, the Board of Directors opens a new chapter that ensures continuity while enabling the School to respond to changes in oncology and education. Alberto Costa's role as Vice President will allow the School to continue benefiting from the experience and scientific vision that have shaped its journey since its foundation," says **Fedele Gubitosi, President of ESO.***

*"I have had the privilege of contributing to ESO's foundation and growth, building on Umberto Veronesi's vision: to make Milan the starting point for a European network that could bring specialists together, transcend national borders and improve the quality of care. I am handing over to Rossella Blasi with great confidence. As Vice President, I will continue to support the School's scientific mission and place my experience at the service of new generations of oncology professionals," says **Alberto Costa, Vice President of ESO.***

"I thank the Board of Directors for their trust and Alberto Costa for what he has built over more than forty years. I take on the role of CEO as a continuation of the work I began as Executive Director, knowing that I can count on an international community of faculty

*members, partners, professionals and young oncologists. Our commitment will be to strengthen an independent and accessible educational offering that brings together scientific knowledge, clinical practice and patients' needs," says **Rossella Blasi, CEO of ESO.***

About ESO

Since 1982, the European School of Oncology (ESO) has been advancing oncology education worldwide.

Over the years, ESO has trained more than 40,000 healthcare professionals, including medical students, physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals, with the involvement of 5,500 experts from Europe and beyond.

Through courses, masterclasses, fellowships at leading European cancer centres, and online learning, ESO supports oncology professionals at every stage of their careers, from medical school to senior clinical practice.

Independent of the pharmaceutical industry, ESO remains committed to providing high-quality, unbiased cancer education.

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