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School of Phlebological Surgery: an innovative training under the auspices of the Italian Society of Surgery and of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

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It is our pleasure to share some insights on the role of Phlebology in the Italian health system scenario.

In Italy, Phlebology is not considered a separate and independent medical branch, and a postgraduate school in Angiology no longer exists.

Moreover, postgraduate schools in General Surgery and Vascular Surgery do not dedicate enough space to Phlebology.

The academic underestimation of proper training in Phlebology has led to the underestimation of the clinical implications of venous pathology and a superficial surgical approach.

The formation in Phlebology is limited to theoretical sessions within Phlebology congresses but there is no training project aimed at young people who have the desire to practice Phlebology and in particular Phlebological Surgery.

In this peculiar scenario, aiming to offer an optimal theoretical approach and crucial surgical expertise in Phlebology, we established the School of Phlebological Surgery, which has received the pivotal endorsement of the Italian Society of Surgery and the Italian Society of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery.¹

The School of Phlebological Surgery offers a one-year training course encompassing lessons on a distance learning platform, in-person training events, and internships in Phlebological Surgery in certified Italian hospitals (Figure 1, Figure 2).

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The speakers and mentors are high-level scientific personalities in the Phlebology field and they are delighted to share their experience on multiple topics related to the pathophysiology, clinics, and therapy of venous disorders, with particular regard to the mapping of refluxes with color Doppler ultrasound, all the endovascular techniques for the abolition of superficial reflux, the pathologies of the deep venous circulation and the pelvic circulation, the management of venous ulcers. The lessons as well as the practical training in the surgical ward are also addressed to give order to the indications of the hundreds of procedures proposed in such a particular field of surgery.²

The School of Phlebological Surgery will provide certification and CME credits to the students who pass the final exam and produce a thesis.

We, as the Directors of the School of Phlebological Surgery, believe in the importance of knowledge spread and inclusivity (Figure 3).

Therefore, the course is open to all medical specialties, residents, and general practitioners.

We aspire to offer our knowledge and expertise to medical doctors and specialists who aim to gain knowledge and experience in a fascinating and challenging branch of Medicine and Surgery such as Phlebology.

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Figure 1. Teachers and students at the Federico II Polyclinic in Naples.

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Figure 2. A lesson at the University of Ferrara.

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Figure 3. The Board of Directors of the Italian School in Phlebological Surgery: from left to right Paolo Valle, MD, Giorgio Guarnera, MD, and Paolo Zamboni, MD.

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