

Multidisciplinary Fetal Diagnostics Winter School- 2026 edition

Saturday, 5 December 2026, Paris

Content

The Winter School on Fetal Diagnosis organised by the ERN-ITHACA aims to address a learning gap in fetal phenotyping, genetic analysis, and data interpretation. As a single-day course it will include basic lectures and in depth-workshops on phenotyping, prenatal genomic testing, and the implications for genetic counselling. To finalize, the program will bridge the addressed fields with interdisciplinary case discussions.

The course is open to specialists and specialists in training in the fields of clinical and laboratory genetics, bioinformatics, obstetrics, pathology with a special interest in prenatal medicine.

The program gathers excellent scientists from ITHACA affiliates and collaborating partners in the fields of fetal-maternal-medicine, fetal imaging, fetal pathology, and human genetics so that participants benefit entirely from the vast expertise.

The Winter School is adjunct to the “Best of” annual meeting of the French Society of Fetal Pathology (SoFFoet – <http://soffoet.fr/>) on Friday 4 December and students are also invited to join.

Main topics addressed by the 2026 edition

This course provides an overview of the subject matter and methodological principles in the field of brain midline defects. It includes prenatal imaging and management, fetal pathology, genetics and postnatal outcome of children with corpus callosum anomalies. The opportunities and limitations of fetal imaging and fetal pathology as well as prenatal clinical genetics in the field of genomic medicine will be explored in greater depth in the workshops.

Learning outcomes

Students will learn how to handle:

The possibilities of today's in-depth fetal phenotyping

The complexity of genetic investigations in perinatal phenotypes

The current state of peri-and postnatal management

Importance of interdisciplinary work

Practical Details

Format: Physical meeting

Dates: 5 December 2026 from 8.30am to 6pm CET

Location: Imagine Institute, 24 Boulevard du Montparnasse, 75015 Paris, France

Language: English

Contact hours: 8

Maximum number of participants: 60

For further information or if you have any questions, please send an e-mail to:

mathias.falkenberg@aphp.fr

Schedule

The course will consist of a mixture of selected traditional lectures, workshops, and tutorials.

Saturday, 5 of December 2026

Morning Session 1 – Lectures – Main Auditorium

The first session will include lectures on the main focuses of the course and give a state-of-the-art overview for the topics in preparation of the workshops.

Prenatal imaging and management	Romain Corroenne (Lille, France)
MRI scores	Gregor Kasprian (Vienna, Austria)
Fetal pathology	Alexandre Vasiljevik (Lyon, France)
Genetics	Solveig Heide (Paris, France)
Postnatal outcome	Brigitte Vollmer (Southampton, UK)

Morning Session 2 and Afternoon Session 1 + 2 – Workshops (repeated)

Workshops are intended to provide an understanding of the specializations to the respective other disciplines by means of practical exercises / case studies based on the introductory lectures.

Perinatal genetics and outcome (Brigitte Vollmer, Anna de Burca, Solveig Heide)

The ultrasound finding of corpus callosum agenesis or midline defects with or without other anomalies is very challenging. Based on cases the participants will discuss and learn how phenotype details, the genetic testing strategy to obtain a diagnosis serve as the basis for counselling on prognosis and postnatal management.

Imaging – diagnosis and management (Gregor Kasprian and Romain Corroenne)

In this session, the faculty will present and discuss a series of prenatal midline anomaly cases for aspects of detection by imaging and how findings can guide the counselling for genetic analysis

“From fetal pathology to diagnosis and backward” (Isabel Filges, Tania Attié-Bitach, Alexandre Vasiljevik)

Participants will learn the benefit and input of fetal pathology for the diagnosis of midline defects and reverse phenotyping. Case discussion will allow to point specific signs that should not be missed in selected conditions.

Evening Session – Use Case Discussion / Case presentation - Main Auditorium:

The faculty together with the participants will discuss selected cases submitted by participants.

Friday, 4 December

French Society of Fetal Pathology meeting (SoFFoet – <http://soffoet.fr/>) will take place on **Friday, 4 December 2026** from 09.30 am to 05.30 pm at the same venue (Imagine Institute). **Participation is free of charge**, both in person and online. The meeting has a strong focus on **case presentations and discussion**, and we warmly invite you to submit cases.

To apply please fill in this specific form that you can find at the SoFFoet website before 15 November 2026 **with or without a case presentation, via this Google Form:**

<https://forms.gle/k2tXyTH3CKgH5TPXA>.

Application process

- Applicants should fill in the application form for the Winter School here: <https://forms.office.com/e/NiBGYwv7i9> .
The application deadline is 31 October 2026.

Selected students will be notified by October 31, 2026.

Travel, accommodation and fees

The participation **to the course is free of charge.**

Participants are expected to organise their own travel and accommodation.

Due to financial difficulties this year, we can only offer hotel accommodation for up to 5 students. If you want to apply for this, please send a motivation letter to mathias.falkenberg@aphp.fr. Early November you will be notified of the result of the selection process for the hotel accommodation.

Faculty

Tania Attie-Bitach - Department of Genomics of Rare Diseases, Necker-Enfants Malades University Hospital, Paris, Fetal Pathology unit

Andreas Dufke - MVZ genetikum GmbH, Stuttgart, Germany

Isabel Filges - Medical Genetics, Institute of Medical Genetics and Pathology, University Hospital Basel and University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Gijs Santen – Department of Clinical Genetics, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden

Lilia Ezzili - Project Manager, SoFFoet, French Rare Diseases Health Network, AnDDI-Rares, Department of Genomics of Rare Diseases, Necker-Enfants Malades

Mathias Falkenberg - Project Manager & Legal Officer ERN ITHACA, Clinical Genetics Department, Robert Debré University Hospital, Paris

Alexandre Vasiljevic (Lyon, France)

Gregor Kasprian (Vienna, Austria)

Solveig Heide (Paris, France)

Brigitte Vollmer (Southampton, UK)

Anna deBurca (Southampton, UK)

Romain Corroenne (Lille, France)