



ESSD Pre-Congress Workshop

“From Assessment to Action: Applying Core Outcomes in Dysphagia Clinical Practice”

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Faculty:

Professor Rosemary Martino, PhD, CCC-SLP, S-LP(C), Reg. CASLPO, ASHA Fellow

Professor Catriona M. Steele, PhD, CCC-SLP, S-LP(C), Reg. CASLPO, F-ESSD, ASHA Honors

Faculty Biographies:

Rosemary Martino is a Professor and Chair in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Toronto. She is an ASHA Fellow and the recipient of the Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Swallowing Disorders. She has practiced clinically for over 15 years, is actively involved in establishing international standards for dysphagia, and has served as president of the Dysphagia Research Society (DRS). Her research concentrates on early detection of dysphagia, patient-reported outcomes, and large multi-site trials assessing dysphagia treatments. Her research has developed tools to identify dysphagia early in patients (i.e. TOR-BSST©) and to evaluate medical complications related to dysphagia (i.e. MOD). These tools are included in large clinical trials and have been endorsed in practice guidelines as the standard of care. Dr. Martino and her team received a prestigious award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute for a large multi-site international RCT enrolling over 950 patients, focused on finding an effective treatment for swallowing in patients with head and neck cancer. Dr. Martino has published over 110 peer-reviewed articles and, as a PI, has secured over 40 grants totaling more than 17 million CAD. Her Swallowing Lab website is <https://swallowinglab.com>.

Catriona M. Steele is a clinician scientist working in the area of swallowing and swallowing disorders. She has a background as a medical speech-language pathologist, and is Director of the Swallowing Rehabilitation Research Laboratory (www.steeleswallowinglab.ca) at the KITE Research Institute – University Health Network. Dr. Steele is a Professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Toronto and holds a Canada Research Chair in Swallowing and Food Oral Processing. Professor Steele holds research funding from the National Institutes of Health (USA) as well as several active industry partnerships. Her current research focuses on the measurement of swallowing physiology from videofluoroscopy in different participant groups and across different swallowing tasks using the ASPEKT Method (Analysis of Swallowing Physiology: Events, Kinematics and Timing). A full list of her publications can be accessed at <https://www.orcid.org/0000-0002-4294-6561>. Catriona was a founding member of the Board of Directors for the International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (www.iddsi.org) and served on their board from 2012-2023. Catriona served as the 2024-2025 President of the Dysphagia Research Society. She was inducted as an ESSD Fellow in 2024.

Who is the course suitable for?

Health care professionals from the multi-disciplinary team of dysphagia management with an interest in implementing research evidence to improve dysphagia care.

Format: Lectures, interactive audience activities, case presentations

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- List 3 advantages of standardized assessment protocols for dysphagia care
- Compare patient-reported outcome measures to other outcome measures used in dysphagia care
- Select an appropriate standardized assessment tool for a given clinical purpose
- Identify two practical strategies for implementing standardized assessments of dysphagia in clinical care

Time-Ordered Agenda:

TUESDAY 20.10.2026			
TIME	CONTENT	CONTENT DETAILS	WHO?
09.00-09.30	Welcome & Introduction	Introduction of participants	Faculty
09.30-10.00	Audience Activity	Case Scenario and Interactive survey to identify variations in current clinical practice across audience	Catriona Steele
10.00-10.45	Instrumental dysphagia assessment	Applying evidence to standardize instrumental dysphagia assessment protocols and reporting	Catriona Steele
10.45-11.00	COFFEE		
11.00-12.30	Instrumental dysphagia assessment	Applying evidence to inform the interpretation of VFSS and FEES exams to identify impairment and measure outcomes	Catriona Steele
12.30-13.30	LUNCH		
13.30-14.15	Audience Activity	Case Scenario and Interactive Poll, identifying how Patient-Reported Outcomes (PROs) are currently used and the biggest barriers to their use	Rosemary Martino
14.15-15.15	Patient-Reported Outcomes (PROs)	Overview of key PROs and why they matter in dysphagia care.	Rosemary Martino
15.15-15.30	COFFEE		
15.30-16.00	Patient-Reported Outcomes (PROs)	How do PRO findings align -or do not align- with instrumental findings and clinical impressions	Rosemary Martino
16.00-16.45	Application to clinical practice	Audience activity: Developing an action plan for implementing standardized assessment approaches in your clinical practice	Faculty
16.45-1700	End of Day	Discussion, concluding remarks	Faculty