

**PRESS RELEASE**

**9 May 2011**

**4000 specialists discuss advances and innovations in cancer cure through radiotherapy**

London, UK – Today some 4000 professionals in the radiation oncology field - including radiation oncologists, medical physicists, biologists and radiation technologists along with industry innovators in radiotherapy equipment and technology - gathered in London to celebrate ESTRO's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

This congress is timely, as some 3 million people in Europe<sup>1</sup> are diagnosed with cancer each year and due to an ageing world population and the adoption of less healthy lifestyles, the **global burden of cancer is likely to triple by 2030**. Cancer is still the number one cause of death in Europe, and with surgery, radiation oncology is one of the two main contributors to cancer cure. During the Congress, specialists will discuss the latest clinical trials and improvements in biology, imaging, physics and technology which will allow radiation therapy to be more efficient and better tolerated.

Some of the future developments include the integration of molecular and genetic predictors of tumour and normal tissue response, the combination of radiation therapy with new and more efficient molecular targeted drugs, a more extensive use of particle therapies to better spare normal tissues, a complete integration of four-dimensional image-guided treatments, and the development of adaptive radiation therapy to the most active part of the tumour as defined by functional imaging.

Speaking at the inaugural opening, Professor Jean Bourhis, President of ESTRO, stressed that *“all these technical and biological gains will undoubtedly enable an increasing proportion of patients to be free of tumour with fewer side effects after radiation therapy. **Radiation oncology will remain at the forefront of the fight against cancer.**”*

**An important heritage for ESTRO**

Over the past three decades ESTRO has been successful in integrating all the disciplines of radiation oncology, in establishing radiation oncology as a clinical speciality integrated with other cancer treatment modalities, and in promoting radiation oncology at the forefront of multidisciplinary oncology. ESTRO's mission remains very similar to that established by its founders: to foster radiation and oncology in all its aspects, promoting international exchange of scientific information on radiation oncology and related fields of science, such as medical physics and radiobiology.

Professor Bourhis outlined that *“with its strong history of multidisciplinary partnership, and as the leading European radiation oncology society with an increasingly global reach, ESTRO is best placed*

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<sup>1</sup> European Cancer Observatory <http://eu-cancer.iarc.fr/>

*to shape the future of the specialty so that more patients can benefit from the potential cure offered by radiotherapy.”*

### **Conference Highlights**

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary congress features an outstanding and challenging scientific programme, featuring state-of-the-art lectures, symposia, proffered papers sessions and joint sessions with other European and international oncology associations. In addition to numerous break-out sessions, the plenary sessions will bring together all participants for lectures and award ceremonies.

The congress will combine for the first time three international oncology fora, namely the ‘GEC-ESTR-ISIORT Conference’, ‘11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Physics and Radiation Technology for Clinical Radiotherapy’ and ‘ESTRO International Oncology Forum’. All with the aim of highlighting the achievements made so far as well as unveiling innovations in cancer care, including lung, breast, prostate, head and neck, rectal and gynaecological cancer.

A full **press programme** is taking place from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May in parallel to the Congress.

For **further information** on the full event itself: <http://www.estro-events.org/ESTROevents/Pages/eiof11home.aspx>

For a copy of the **anniversary book** “*Three decades of ESTRO – a vision for cancer cure*”, please contact [cecile.hardon@estro.org](mailto:cecile.hardon@estro.org).

### **About the European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology**

ESTRO, the European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, was founded in the early eighties. Today with 5000 members, the society supports the role of radiation oncology in the multimodality treatment of cancer to improve patients’ care.

ESTRO’s principal objectives and activities are to:

- Promote the international exchange of scientific information, research and dissemination of outcomes on radiotherapy and oncology and related scientific fields.
- Organise congresses and conferences covering all aspects of radiation oncology and the multidisciplinary treatment of cancer with a state-of-the-art scientific programme.
- Provide educational courses and materials (publications, e-learning...) in radiation oncology and promoting multidisciplinary education in oncology.
- Establish relationships and network and encourage co-operation with international, national societies as well as professional bodies and industry partners in the field of radiation oncology.

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