

ESTRO

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ESTRO background

The ESTRO school was my way into our Society, when I was invited as a young radiation oncologist to teach on the "Image-Guided Radiotherapy" course. This course showed me the spirit of ESTRO: interdisciplinary teamwork creating an inspirational atmosphere to bring the latest science and best radiation-oncology practice to our patients. During my ESTRO life I had the opportunity to contribute to the ESTRO vision "Radiation Oncology. Optimal Health for All, Together", to initiate joint guidelines between ESTRO and ASTRO and to co-lead "OligoCare" as the first cohort within the ESTRO-EORTC E²-RADIatE project.

- 2008-2012** Teacher ESTRO course "Image-Guided Radiotherapy"
- 2010-2011** Teacher ESTRO course "Advanced Technologies"
- Since 2012** Co-director ESTRO course "Image-Guided Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy"
- Since 2014** University Hospital Zurich - ESTRO institutional member
- Since 2016** Member Scientific Board of the Green Journal
- Since 2016** Member ESTRO Board of directors
- Since 2016** Member ESTRO Scientific Council
- Since 2020** ESTRO representative on the EORTC Radiation Oncology Science Council (ROSC)

⇒ Various responsibilities within ESTRO provided me with deep insights and understanding of our Society. A broad network - across disciplines and societies, within Europe and beyond - will enable me to connect people and ideas and to stand up for the interests of ESTRO and Radiation Oncology.

Experience

My professional and academic life is characterised by international exchange and collaboration, by continuously learning from leaders in their fields, and by the ambition to create a place and atmosphere for optimal academic patient care, education, training, and research.

- 2003-2008** Residency Radiation Oncology, University Hospital Würzburg (Germany) (Prof. M. Flentje)

2010	Research fellowship, Institute of Cancer Research UK & Royal Marsden Hospital London (UK) (Prof. M. Brada)
2011	Associate Professor and Vice-Chairman, University Hospital Würzburg (Germany)
2014 to date	Chairman, Department of Radiation Oncology, University Hospital Zurich (Switzerland) Full Professor, University of Zurich, (Switzerland)
2017 to date	Chairman, Imaging Department, University Hospital Zurich (Switzerland)
2017-2021	Vice Dean, Master of Medicine, University of Zurich, (Switzerland)
2020 to date	Director Outreach and Education, Comprehensive Cancer Centre Zurich (Switzerland)

⇒ *ESTRO has been a success story and the Society has proven its outstanding strength during the COVID-19 pandemic and associated financial threats. Simultaneously, acute crisis management also revealed potential weaknesses of ESTRO'S governance and its "business model", which would leave us vulnerable against future crises if they remain unaddressed. ESTRO's vision could guide us towards more strategic planning, aiming to actively develop our Society and Radiation Oncology. Increased activities in the fields of guidelines and real-world data have been successful first steps.*

Education and research

Educating, training, and mentoring the next generation is fundamental in my professional and academic life. This is reflected by my engagement in the ESTRO school, serving as Vice Dean for the Master of Medicine and my interpretation of the Department Chair position. The next generation of medical physicists, radiobiologists, radiation oncologists and RTTs from the "Zurich" department has become active within ESTRO, which makes me especially proud.

⇒ *ESTRO needs to remain the place where colleagues from all disciplines seek continuous & unbiased education of the highest quality, exchange on latest scientific developments and dissemination of their own research. A systematic approach to identify, motivate, enable, mentor, and promote young professionals of all disciplines to become the next generation of ESTRO will be of highest relevance to achieve this goal.*

The interface of medical-physics and clinical research is where my own **research** is positioned: development, implementation, and clinical evaluation of advanced radiotherapy technologies. The clinical focus is lung cancer and oligo-metastatic disease, where I am leading several international prospective multicentre trials. Results have been published in >350 PubMed listed manuscripts and have been awarded nationally and internationally. Most research has been performed in the framework of inter-disciplinary

projects, which has been acknowledged with the ESTRO “Honorary Physicist” award. Two patents have been granted for innovations in the field of breathing motion compensation and imaging.

⇒ *The practice of Radiation Oncology is changing rapidly, driven by innovative clinical and translational research, whereas the governance of ESTRO has remained rather stable. ESTRO might benefit from more agile and bottom-up structures, which embrace novel scientific developments (FLASH or artificial intelligence for example) and which support subspecialisation in all ESTRO’s disciplines. This will increase ESTRO’s attractiveness for highly innovative researchers to make ESTRO their scientific home, where they can develop their research, themselves, and our Society.*

Personal

Together with my family, we have found our new home in Zurich. My wife works as a clinician at the University Hospital Zurich. The valuable time outside of work is almost exclusively dedicated to our three children, who are 12 years, 10 years and 3 years old. As a family, we especially enjoy various sports (athletics, running, football) and outdoor activities (cycling, hiking, skiing).

⇒ *Finding the balance between private and professional life is a challenge, for myself as for many members of our Society. We therefore need to create an environment, rules and procedures that allow all professionals, irrespective of age or seniority, to achieve this balance and become active and contributing ESTRO members. This will increase participation, diversity, and inclusion within ESTRO so that we can grow together as a Society.*

Candidate statement

It is not heavy machines, small pills, or elegant software codes, which define ESTRO or Radiation Oncology. Interdisciplinarity between clinicians, medical physics, radiobiologists and RTTs (alphabetical order!) is at the heart of ESTRO, which makes our Society unique and radiotherapy a safe, (cost-)effective, innovative, and patient-centric treatment modality. Clinical and scientific teamwork has continuously developed the “art” of Radiation Oncology. Adaptive brachytherapy, image-guidance, IMRT, particle therapy, radioimmunotherapy, stereotactic radiotherapy and many more are bright examples of improved outcome for many cancer patients by innovations in Radiation Oncology.

Nevertheless, there are developments in, for example, oncopolitics or research funding, which may challenge the future role of Radiation Oncology. ESTRO will be stronger to face these challenges if we succeed in facilitating innovation and growth in all disciplines and subspecialties, and simultaneously motivate all our members to play as a team. As president, I would actively invite the Radiation Oncology family to constantly strive for the optimal balance between preserving ESTRO’s tradition and simultaneously evolving our Society: we need to ensure that all members find their

place within ESTRO to achieve our vision “Radiation Oncology. Optimal Health for All, Together”.