

# ESTRO

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## **ESTRO background**

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I have enjoyed being involved in ESTRO activities for almost 15 years, and throughout my professional career, I have experienced ESTRO as facilitator of a most rewarding and motivating way of working together in an international network. I initiated my ESTRO activities in 2005 in the GEC ESTRO gynaecology network and in 2007 in the GEC ESTRO Brachytherapy working group. I have since then continued my ESTRO engagement with particular focus on gynaecological brachytherapy as chair of the GEC ESTRO gyn network and as member of the GEC ESTRO committee (since 2012). The GEC ESTRO gyn network provided the momentum to establish the international prospective EMBRACE study (2008-), which is currently providing clinical evidence for the positive effect of image guided brachytherapy in cervix cancer. Through efforts of the GEC ESTRO gyn network, I also participated in the development of international GEC ESTRO and ICRU recommendations within the field of gynaecological brachytherapy. Furthermore, I have interest in educational activities and have been teaching in the ESTRO gyn course since 2007 and in the course on Research in Medical Physics since 2015. Finally, the GEC ESTRO committee and the GEC ESTRO working groups have a significant role in contributing to the planning of ESTRO meetings and scientific conferences. During the last decade, I was particularly enthusiastic about the initiation of the GEC ESTRO workshop, which connects brachytherapy colleagues in a meeting which is focused on practicing high quality brachytherapy.

## **Experience**

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My professional interests are mainly anchored in gynaecological radiotherapy with brachytherapy as a particular focus. I have a clinical background as medical physicist and committed later my professional efforts mainly to research. I have much interest and dedication towards clinical research, in particular through the EMBRACE studies. The EMBRACE studies are creating a wealth of clinical data on treatment and outcome after radiotherapy in cervix cancer patients. I appreciate the multidisciplinary bridging of the fields of e.g. treatment planning, treatment characteristics, statistics and clinical outcome. ESTRO is an important facilitator of multidisciplinary research and development. In particular, ESTRO teaching courses, workshops and conferences are a most important setting for creating opportunities for multidisciplinary collaboration.

Furthermore, one of my key interests is to disseminate high quality radiotherapy. I am glad that ESTRO is such a prominent platform for dissemination through multiple

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channels such as scientific meetings and workshops, teaching/training as well as international recommendations. Without ESTRO, vital changes in international practice such as in gynaecological radiotherapy over the last decade might not have happened.

## **Education and Qualifications**

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I graduated from Aarhus University in 1997 with a master degree in mathematics and physics as well as bachelor degree in art history. In 2002 I was certified as medical physicist and in 2008 I finalised my PhD studies within the topic of gynaecological brachytherapy from Faculty of Health at Aarhus University. I was appointed professor first at Washington University, St Louis, US, from 2013-2014 and at Aarhus University, Denmark, from 2014. I have published 129 papers in peer reviewed journals (H-index 35), mainly on the topic of radiotherapy in gynaecological cancer, but also on technology innovations in brachytherapy.

## **Personal**

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I live in Aarhus which is an attractive small city with rich cultural life and situated close to sea and forest. Aarhus is perfect for biking, and I enjoy clearing my brain on my bike back and forth from work during any season and in any weather. In my free time, I enjoy nature, outdoor life, biking, running and winter bathing.

## **Final statement**

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ESTRO is a most essential platform for establishing and carrying out international and interdisciplinary activities in radiation oncology. One of the major successes of ESTRO has been connecting radiation oncology colleagues across disciplines (radiation oncologists, medical physicists, RTTs and radiobiologists). I am keen to contribute further to developments of platforms which support interdisciplinary collaboration in ESTRO. Furthermore, I consider the engagement of patients and patient organisations in ESTRO as an important contribution to advocacy for radiotherapy including brachytherapy.

I consider my major priorities, as potential ESTRO board member representing GEC ESTRO, to facilitate activities which set international standards for high quality brachytherapy and to facilitate that high quality brachytherapy becomes available for European and international patients.