

ESTRO

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ESTRO background

I have been involved with ESTRO since 2004 when I joined as a trainee, attending my first ESTRO congress in the beautiful city of Leipzig. At the ESTRO Breast Multidisciplinary Course in Athens, 2010 I met and engaged with many of the European colleagues with whom I have since collaborated in the field of breast radiotherapy research. The breast radiotherapy community has been closely associated with ESTRO, several past-presidents and board members among them, and the spirit of generosity, openness and collaboration they engender has inspired and encouraged myself and others to continue to work across multidisciplinary and geographical boundaries for the good of our patients. In this vein, I have welcomed several visiting individuals and teams through and alongside the ESTRO Technology Transfer programme, with the aim of disseminating innovations for the benefit of patients across Europe and beyond.

In 2015 I was invited to join the Scientific Advisory Committee for ESTRO 35 in Turin, and in 2017 to join the Editorial Board for the Journal of Clinical and Translational Oncology. In 2019, I was elected to the ESTRO Board through which I have developed a fuller working knowledge of the vision, mandate, structure and function of ESTRO as an organisation, seeing first-hand what works brilliantly and also where communication and implementation of ESTRO's vision might be better facilitated.

Experience

I am a Consultant Clinical Oncologist specialising in the treatment of patients with breast cancer. I treat over 600 patients each year, balancing the need to run a real-world practice effectively and efficiently with managing tertiary referrals for more complex locoregional and stereotactic radiotherapy techniques. I also lead research into novel breast radiotherapy techniques at The Royal Marsden and Institute of Cancer Research, working throughout my career at the clinical-physics-RTT interface principally on innovations that can immediately benefit patients.

I am Chief Investigator of the UK HeartSpare studies, Breast Lead Co-Investigator on the CORE Trial of stereotactic radiotherapy for oligometastatic disease, and Breast Lead for the International MR Linac Consortium. My research team's video publication on the voluntary breath-hold heart-sparing technique has been downloaded over 30,000 times supporting changes in international practice. Current research interests include expanding indications for SBRT in breast cancer, integrating SBRT with systemic therapies, and evaluating protons and MR-linac technology in breast cancer patients.

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I lecture on the London Oncology MSc Course for clinical trainees, am an Examiner for the UK Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) and have also examined PhD theses for colleagues in multiple disciplines across Europe. I thoroughly enjoy supervising MD and PhD research fellows as well as supporting more junior colleagues across Europe and beyond in developing and communicating their ideas and outputs.

I am a member of the UK CTRad (Clinical and Translational Radiotherapy) Research Working Group, working within the Phase III trials and methodology workstream. I have also worked on the UK RCR's Professional Support and Standards Board and Academic Committees developing consensus guidelines and acquiring the data required to understand and manage the workforce issues currently facing our radiotherapy services and research communities.

Education and Qualifications

I graduated from Cambridge University in 1995 with a first-class BA(Hons) degree in Medical Sciences and Psychology, qualified as a doctor in 1997 (MBBChir(Cantab)), gained membership of the UK Royal College of Physicians in 2001 and Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) in 2005. My specialist oncology training was undertaken at the Royal Marsden and Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals following which I studied under the supervision of Professor John Yarnold at the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), gaining my MD(Res) in 2010. I was appointed a consultant at the Royal Marsden in 2009 and as Associate Honorary Faculty at the ICR in 2014. The Royal Marsden multidisciplinary breast radiotherapy team was a Cancer Team of the Year finalist at the 2014 National Quality in Cancer Excellence Awards, and was awarded the UK RCR Frank Ellis Medal in 2017 for its work on evaluating and implementing heart-sparing radiotherapy.

Personal

I am London-born and married to another Clinical Oncologist with two daughters aged 8 and 6. Of my four sisters, one is an RTT in Newcastle and married to a physicist lest I forget I am working as part of a multidisciplinary team.

In my other life, I am a musician, mainly a soprano, and still love singing with my two chamber choirs in London. These days though I mainly listen and compose, current inspirations including Danish Folk and European Medieval Music. The family are also keen hikers in Europe and the UK.

Final statement

ESTRO's 10-year vision "Radiation Oncology, Optimal Health, For All, Together" builds on its members' world-leading capacity to innovate and disseminate research findings across Europe and globally for the benefit of all patients. My track record in pragmatic, practice-changing Team Science and my abilities to create, to consider value-addedness, to communicate and to cultivate talent across multi-professional boundaries provide strong foundations on which to lead ESTRO in the coming years.

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Through my experience at ESTRO Board level, I believe I have a working understanding of the challenges that an organisation of ESTRO's size and reach now faces and a line of sight to some of the structural changes that could help to keep ESTRO agile and responsive to its multidisciplinary membership and the communities its members serve. I am also acutely aware that the future growth and impact of ESTRO is entirely dependent on its members and their willingness to engage, interact and deliver. For those already heavily committed to ESTRO, I would like to streamline and clarify processes and outputs, including establishing site-specific working groups, to ensure that invested time and effort reap the greatest benefits. By establishing a formal ESTRO Engage programme including mentored, project-focussed involvement in committees & working groups, and leadership training for those who want to accelerate change, I also intend to increase the breadth and depth of engagement with ESTRO. In essence, maintaining and developing the attractiveness of ESTRO to innovative and outward-looking individuals from all disciplines would be central to my Presidency if elected, ensuring the innovation-to-implementation pathway remains as efficient and far-reaching as possible.