



GEC-ESTRO Assembly 2021

Ina Jürgenliemk-Schulz
On behalf of the GEC-ESTRO committee



- Warm welcome to live and online audience!!
- Last GEC-ESTRO assembly at ESTRO 38 in Milano in April 2019
- Last GEC-ESTRO live event November 2019 workshop in Budapest
- Since early 2020 no live meetings in Brussels or elsewhere
- Regular online meetings of GEC-ESTRO committee and working groups

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Annual Report

- Current committee/GEC-ESTRO representatives
- Congresses/Workshop/Teaching courses
- Reports from the Working Groups
- Other issues
- Save the dates!

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GEC-ESTRO Committee



Chair: **Ina Jürgenliemk-Schulz**, Utrecht, NL



Past Chair: **Bradley Pieters**, Amsterdam, NL



Chair-Elect: **Vratislav Strnad**, Erlangen, DE



Secretary: **Marisol De Brabandere**, Leuven, BE



GEC-ESTRO Committee



Christian Kirisits, Vienna (AU)

Past Chair GEC-ESTRO

Finished his 6 years term in April 2020

Christian, thank you for six years of hard work and dedication to GEC-ESTRO and brachytherapy interests!!



GEC-ESTRO Committee



Chair Brachy-HERO: **Li Tee Tan**, Cambridge, UK
Chair BRAPHYQS: **Frank-André Siebert**, Kiel, DE
Chair Breast: **Jean-Michel Hannoun-Levi**, Nice, FR
Chair Head & Neck and Skin: **Luca Tagliaferri**, Rome, IT
Chair GI-GEC: **Alexandra Stewart**, Guildford, UK
Chair Gynaecology: **Kari Tanderup**, Aarhus, DK
Chair UroGEC: **Peter Hoskin**, Northwood and Manchester, UK



Independent Observer: **Csaba Polgár**, Budapest, HU
Young Committee Observer: **Cyrus Chargari**, Villejuif, FR



Support from the ESTRO Office: **Evelyn Chibeka Chimfwembe**, **Agostino Barroso**



GEC-ESTRO Committee meetings



- Until early 2020 4-5 live meetings per year
- Currently all meetings online
- Every 2-4 months, 2-3 hours
- High level of participation
- No live meetings until end of 2021
- Online meetings will remain in 2022
- High level of agreement
- Once in a while difficult decisions
- Strong commitment to brachytherapy
- Many topics to discuss and full agenda!



ESTRO

GEC-ESTRO Committee Meeting

Date & Time: 8 June 2021, 14.00-16.00-hrs CET
Venue: Teleconference

Expected attendance:
Ina Jürgenliemk-Schulz (IJS, chair), Vratislav Strnad (VS), Bradley Pieters (BP), Marisol De Brabandere (MDB), Peter Hoskin (PH), Frank-André Siebert (FAS), Csaba Polgár (CS), Alexandra Stewart (AS), Kari Tanderup (KT), Cyrus Chargari (CC), Luca Tagliaferri (LT), Jean-Michel Hannoun-Levi (JM-HL)
ESTRO office: Evelyn Chimfwebwe (EC); Andrea Collavini (AC), Agostino Barrasso (AG)

Agenda

14.00 1. Welcome & approval of minutes of 26 Feb 2021

14.10 2. Congresses
- WCB 2021 (BP)
- ESTRO 2021(IJS)
- ESTRO 2022 (IJS)

14.25 3. 2021 GEC-ESTRO WS programme

14.35 4. Committee internal issues (IJS)
- Selection of 2 candidates for chair-elect elections
- Nomination for EC
- LTT: GEC cmmtt, Brachy-HERO & National societies
- MoU ABS
- guideline issues
- education aspects rad oncs/physicists
- WG pediatric brachytherapy

14.55 5. Publications:
- GEC-ESTRO handbook update (PH/BP)

15.05 6. Reports: (3 mins each)
- Board (KT)
- SC (IJS)
- Education council (KT/BP)
- Physics cmmtt (FAS)
- ACROP committee (VS)
- including focus group developments

15.25 7. WG updates: (5 mins each)
- Gynae (KT)
- GI (AS)
- Breast (VS)
- H,N&S (LT)
- Urology (PH)
- Brachyqs (FAS)

15.55 8. Any other business
Awards: discuss proposal of making Jens Overgaard award for a group rather than an individual

16.00 9. Next meeting & close
- cmmtt and industry meetings at ESTRO 2021
- GEC-ESTRO Assembly: Saturday 28 Aug 2021, 13:00 – 14:00
- Physics assembly: Sunday 29 Aug, 13.00 – 14:00

GEC-ESTRO representatives



- Board: **Kari Tanderup**
- Scientific Council: **Ina Jürgenliemk-Schulz**
- Education Council: **Bradley Pieters/Kari Tanderup**
- ACROP: **Vratislav Strand**
- Physics committee: **Frank-André Siebert**
- National Societies committee: **Li-Tee Tan**
- (Clinical committee **Peter Hoskin**)



Thank you Peter for being GEC-ESTRO voice in Board and EC for many years and for never ending effort!!



Congresses and workshops

Impact of Covid-19



2020

April

- Joint congress WCB with ESTRO 2020 scheduled for Vienna
- Both events postponed to August, later to November, intention live events

November

- ESTRO annual meeting realized as online meeting
- WCB postponed to May 2021, intention joint live meeting together with ESTRO annual congress, new submission round for PP and posters
- GEC-ESTRO November workshop cancelled
- Online meeting with Industry partners



2021



May

- WCB realized as full online event
- All involved National Societies, Speakers, Chairs, Industry Partners participated !
- ESTRO 2021 postponed to August hoping for live event, new brachy track feasible?

August

- ESTRO 2021 blended meeting live in Madrid and online component
- With reduced brachy track with modified program

November

- GEC-ESTRO workshop in Rotterdam, November 18 and 19, live meeting intended



2022



May

- ESTRO 2022 in Copenhagen, scheduled as live event in May
- Regular brachy track with parts of program as planned for ESTRO 2021
- Abstract submission starts September 9, Deadline October 27
- Special thanks to SAG for planning 2 brachy tracks instead of one!

November

- GEC-ESTRO workshop

Scientific Advisory GROUP for brachy tracks ESTRO 2021 and 2022

Marisol de Brabandere
Cyrus Chargari
Peter Hoskin
Nicole Nesvacil
Bradely Pieters
Csaba Polgár
Agatha Rembialek
Carl Salembier
Frank-André Siebert
Vratislav Strand
Luca Tagliaferri
Chair: Ina Jürgenliemk-Schulz



World Congress of Brachytherapy

- Chair: Bradley Pieters
- Support from Christian Kirisits, GEC-ESTRO committee, ESTRO office
- Support from ABS and other national committees
- 3x postponed, 2x organized, 2x abstract submission,
- Finally realized in May 2021 as full online congress

American Brachytherapy Society (ABS)

Australasian Brachytherapy Group (ABG)

Asociación Ibero Latinoamericana de Terapia Radiante Oncológica (ALATRO)

Canadian Brachytherapy Group (CBG)

European Society of Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO)

Federation of Asian Organizations for Radiation Oncology (FARO)

Indian Brachytherapy Society (IBS)



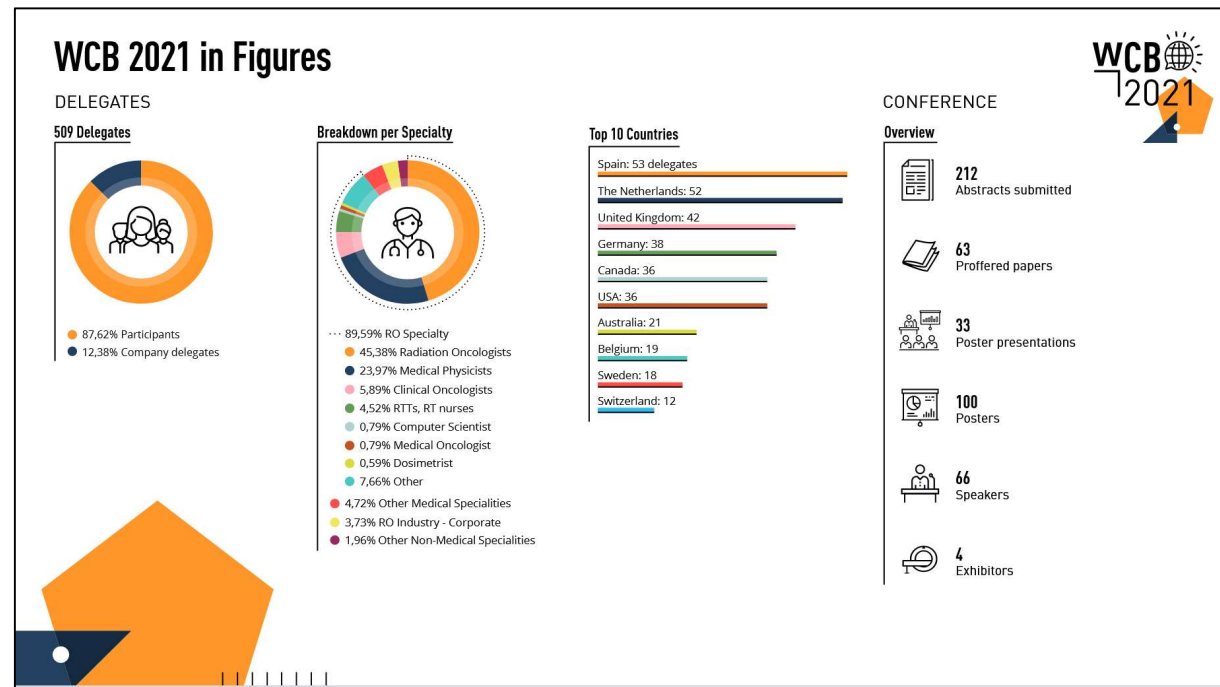
ESTRO2021



Thank you Bradley, it was a hell of a job but you did it !!



World Congress of Brachytherapy



Together with representation of Industry Partners
and ESTRO staff > 600 participants

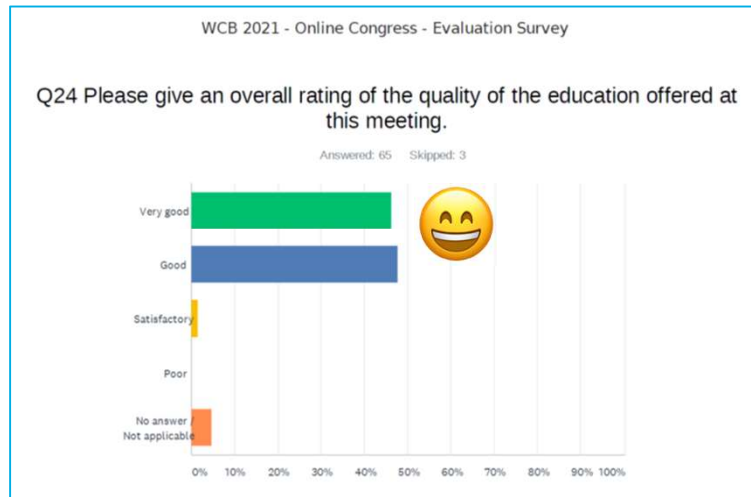


Marie Curie Award 2021 Brachytherapy Gold Medal



<https://player.vimeo.com/video/546422806>

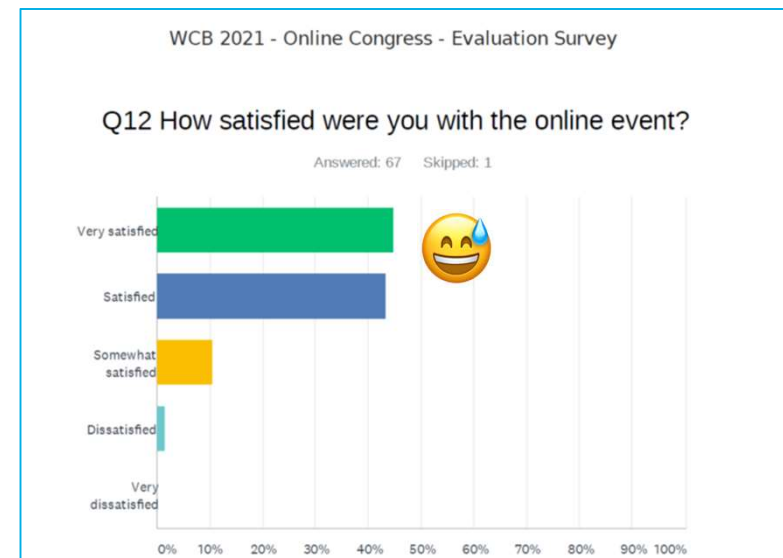




Quality of education was very much appreciated
Online event was rated satisfying

Next WCB in North America
Next awardee proposed by Europeans!

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Brachy track in ESTRO 2021



Teaching lecture: New developments in skin cancers treatment: is brachytherapy the new frontier especially for the face?

Debate: Prostate cancer: Short treatments by SBRT or brachytherapy?

Symposium: Highlights of WCB

Symposium: Salvage brachytherapy for breast cancer

Symposium: Next generation of brachytherapy treatment planning systems: What do we want and what do they need?

Joint Symposium: ESTRO-ESGO - State of the Art: Updated ESGO-ESTRO-ESP guidelines in endometrial cancer



GEC-ESTRO Iridium 192 award 2021



Erik van Limbergen !



Sunday August 29
16:20 - 16:40
Plenary



GEC-ESTRO Workshops

Impressions from 2019 edition in Budapest

Evaluation: New format very much appreciated!

Favorite quotes:

- “Thought-provoking event, which caused me to reflect that if you have enough courage, a brachytherapy source, the right applicators and knowledge of the anatomy, you can treat almost any site.”
- My favourite quote from the event was:
“Work hard to strengthen your skills - technology will follow you!”

Therefore quite hard to cancel the 2020 workshop



GEC-ESTRO Workshop

- Live event 2021, November 18 and 19
- Workshop theme:
“What’s next? Emerging opportunities”
- Possibility for working group meetings

Organized by

- GEC-ESTRO committee
- Marisol de Brabandere
- Ina Jürgenliemk-Schulz
- Evelyn Chibeka Chimfwembe



What’s next? Emerging opportunities

18-19 November 2021, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Programme

Thursday 18 November

17:00- 18:00 Registration
18:00-18:15 Welcome: Ina Jürgenliemk-Schulz (NL), Chair GEC-ESTRO Committee
18:15-19:30 Session 1 – **Spectrum of Opportunities**

PLENARY	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	ROOM 3
18:15-18:35	H&N/Eye Integrated treatments in H&N and Eye Brachytherapy <i>Speaker: Luca Tagliaferri (IT)</i>		
18:35-18:55	GI-GEC Dose response in rectal cancer with brachytherapy <i>Speaker: Ane Appelt (UK)</i>		
18:55-19:15	GYN&E : "Combination of immunotherapy and radiotherapy in gynaecological cancer" <i>Speaker: Cyrus Chargari (FR)</i>		
19:15-19:30	Discussion		

20:00 Networking dinner

Workshop program



Friday November 19

Friday

08:30-10:00 session 2 – Technological advancements

Speakers: 4, chairs: 0, panellists: 2

	ROOM 1: BRAPHYQS	ROOM 2: Industry	ROOM 3: Breast & GYN
08:30-08:50	Image-guided robotic brachytherapy: AAPM/ESTRO TG 192, 342 and the UMC Utrecht Single Needle Implant Device <u>Speaker 1</u> : Rien Moerland (confirmed)	Company 1, 15' Company 2, 15' Panel Discussion, 10'	Intra-operative imaging with mobile CT: Technical features <u>Speaker 1</u> : Christoph Bert (confirmed)
08:50-09:10	EMT-based assessment of treatment errors and uncertainties <u>Speaker 2</u> : Christopher Dürrebeck (confirmed)		Intra-operative imaging with mobile CT: First clinical experiences <u>Speaker 2</u> : Vratislav Strnad (confirmed)
09:20-09:40	Image-guided robotic brachytherapy: AAPM/ESTRO TG 192, 342 and the UMC Utrecht Single Needle Implant Device <u>Speaker 1</u> : Rien Moerland (confirmed)	Company 3, 15' Company 4, 15' Panel Discussion, 10'	Intra-operative imaging with mobile CT: Technical features <u>Speaker 1</u> : Christoph Bert (confirmed)
09:40-10:00	EMT-based assessment of treatment errors and uncertainties <u>Speaker 2</u> : Christopher Dürrebeck (confirmed)		Intra-operative imaging with mobile CT: First clinical experiences <u>Speaker 2</u> : Vratislav Strnad (confirmed)

	ROOM 1: GYN	ROOM 2: UroGEC	ROOM 3: Breast
11:00-11:40	11:00-11:40 EMBRACE III studies: overall frame <u>Speaker</u> : Remi Nout (confirmed) EMBRACE III registration study <u>Speaker</u> : Max Schmid (confirmed) EMBRACE III low risk: de-escalation of EBRT and BT in low risk patients <u>Speaker</u> : Kari Tanderup (confirmed)	11:00-11:20 The partial prostate brachytherapy trial (POWER): Update <u>Speaker 1</u> : Bradley Pieters (confirmed) 11:20-11:40 Stereotactic prostate radiotherapy (SABR): the role of brachytherapy boost <u>Speaker 2</u> : Alfonso Gomez De Inturriaga	11:00-11:20 vAPBI prospective phase I/II multicenter trial: Feasibility and early results. <u>Speaker 1 (confirmed)</u> : JL Guinot 11:20-11:40 Salvage mastectomy versus 2nd conservative treatment for second Ipsilateral Breast Tumor Event <u>Speaker 2 (confirmed)</u> : JM Hannoun-Levi
11:50-12:30	11:50-12:30 EMBRACE III studies: overall frame <u>Speaker</u> : Remi Nout (confirmed) EMBRACE III registration study <u>Speaker</u> : Max Schmid (confirmed) EMBRACE III low risk: de-escalation of EBRT and BT in low risk patients <u>Speaker</u> : Kari Tanderup (confirmed)	11:50-12:10 The partial prostate brachytherapy trial (POWER): Update <u>Speaker 1</u> : Bradley Pieters (confirmed) 12:10-12:30 Stereotactic prostate radiotherapy (SABR): the role of brachytherapy boost <u>Speaker 2</u> : Alfonso Gomez De Inturriaga	11:50-12:10 vAPBI prospective phase I/II multicenter trial: Feasibility and early results. <u>Speaker 1 (confirmed)</u> : JL Guinot 12:10-12:30 Salvage mastectomy versus 2nd conservative treatment for second Ipsilateral Breast Tumor Event <u>Speaker 2 (confirmed)</u> : JM Hannoun-Levi



Friday November 19

	ROOM 1: Skin	ROOM 2: GI-GEC	ROOM 3: BRAPHYQS
14:00-14:20	Traditional mould technique vs 3D printing: clinical management <u>Speaker 1</u> : Agata Rembielack (invited, not yet confirmed)	New applicator developments for oesophageal BT <u>Speaker 1</u> : Desmond O'Farrell (not confirmed)	Commissioning and implementation of Model-Based Dose Calculation Algorithms in Brachytherapy <u>Speaker 1</u> : Javier Vijande (confirmed)
14:20-14:40	Traditional mould technique vs 3D printing: new algorithms and dosimetric implication <u>Speaker 2</u> : Elisa Placidi (invited, not yet confirmed)	New applicator developments for rectal contact BT <u>Speaker 2</u> : Evert Van Limbergen (confirmed)	Brachytherapy and EBRT in combination. What a physicist should consider <u>Speaker 2</u> : Taran Paulsen-Hellebust (confirmed)
14:50-15:10	Traditional mould technique vs 3D printing: clinical management <u>Speaker 1</u> : Agata Rembielack (invited, not yet confirmed)	New applicator developments for oesophageal BT <u>Speaker 1</u> : Desmond O'Farrell (not confirmed)	Commissioning and implementation of Model-Based Dose Calculation Algorithms in Brachytherapy <u>Speaker 1</u> : Javier Vijande (confirmed)
15:10-15:30	Traditional mould technique vs 3D printing: new algorithms and dosimetric implication <u>Speaker 2</u> : Elisa Placidi (invited, not yet confirmed)	New applicator developments for rectal contact BT <u>Speaker 2</u> : Evert Van Limbergen (confirmed)	Brachytherapy and EBRT in combination. What a physicist should consider <u>Speaker 2</u> : Taran Paulsen-Hellebust (confirmed)

PLENARY	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	ROOM 3
15:30-15:50	Artificial Intelligence based treatment planning, a translational perspective <u>Speaker</u> : Danique Barten (confirmed)		
15:50-16:10	E-PROMS: internet-based quality of life measures for brachytherapy <u>Speaker</u> : Alex Stewart (confirmed)		
16:10-16:30	Pediatric brachytherapy <u>Suggested speaker (confirmed)</u> : Sophie Espenel		

16:30-17:00 wrapping up and end of meeting (chair-elect Vratislav Strnad)

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Registration open



 **20 GEC-ESTRO**
21 Workshop

18-19 November 2021
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Venue

Novotel Rotterdam Brainpark
K.P. Van Der Mandelelaan 150
3062 MB Rotterdam, The Netherlands

LOW COST PARKING



ONLY
€ 10.-
PER DAY



A lot cheaper than in the city center and just
10 min away from Metro Kralingse Zoom

GEC-ESTRO Workshops

Can we really organize as live event?

Alternative: online meeting, blended meeting not feasible

Therefore recently doodle poll for members of GEC-ESTRO community

- 114 responses
- 80 persons prefer live congress
- 35 prefer online
- 8 no intention to participate

Regularly 180 - 200 participants

With about 90 registrations live event can be realized this year

Deadline for decision currently September 16

Please register in time!!



GEC-ESTRO Teaching courses



2020

- All live courses cancelled
- Gyn course “Image guided radiotherapy and chemotherapy in gynaecological cancer: focus on MRI based adaptive brachytherapy for Cervical Cancer”
- Within a few months transformed into online course, realized in October and November, prerecorded lectures, home work cases, 6 online modules



Thank you course directors Kari Tanderup and Remi Nout and entire faculty!

2021

- Gyn course again online, September 16 - November 12
- “Brachytherapy for prostate cancer” online, October 21 and 22

2022

- Teaching courses partly live editions, partly online



Reports from the working groups



- In alphabetical order

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Brachy-HERO

- Topics: health economics
- Brachy-HERO currently reorganized
- Interest for participation from many members of the different WGs
- Kick-off meeting for boosting Brachy-HERO in planned for September
- Li Tee will be followed up by new chair person

ESTRO2021



Chair : Li Tee Tan



BRAPHYQS activities 2020/21

The BRAPHYQS working group is the physics working group of GEC-ESTRO.
[BRAPHYQS meetings in 2020/21 were held online.](#)

Working packages:

WP14: In-vivo dosimetry (Jacob Johansen)

WP17: Dicom standard in Brachytherapy (Yury Niatsetski)

WP19: Quality control of Brachytherapy treatment planning systems (Marisol De Brabandere)

WP20: Image matching in Brachytherapy (Christian Kirisits)

WP21: Calibration in high-energy photon Brachytherapy (Jose Calatayud)

WP22: Ru-106 eye plaque therapy



Chair : Frank-André Siebert

Published papers in 2020/2021

- Vijande et al. Source strength determination in iridium-192 and cobalt-60 brachytherapy: A European survey on the level of agreement between clinical measurements and manufacturer certificates. *PhiRO 2021*.
- Fulkerson et al. Surface brachytherapy: Joint report of the AAPM and the GEC-ESTRO Task Group No. 253. *Med Phys*. 2020.
- Swamidas et al. Image registration, contour propagation and dose accumulation of external beam and brachytherapy in gynecological radiotherapy. *Radiother Oncol*. 2020.
- Siebert et al. GEC-ESTRO/ACROP recommendations for quality assurance of ultrasound imaging in brachytherapy. *Radiother Oncol* 2020.





GEC-ESTRO General Assembly Breast Cancer Working Group



Meetings/Communication

1. Virtual WCB GEC-ESTRO 2021: debate "APBI with 1-3 fractions"
2. ESTRO 2021 - Madrid: Brachy Breast symposium: "Breast salvage brachytherapy"
3. GEC-ESTRO Workshop 2021 - Rotterdam:
 - I. BCWG GEC-ESTRO vAPBI prospective phase I/II multicenter trial
 - II. 2nd Conservative treatment for IBTE
 - III. Online CT-based implant for Gyn&Breast brachytherapy
4. Four virtual meetings of the BCWG (27/11/20; 30/11/20; 12/03/21; 14/05/21)

Research program

1. Ongoing studies:
 - I. Updated results of the GEC-ESTRO APBI phase 3 trial - VS
 - II. Salvage brachytherapy for breast cancer local relapse: selection criteria & prognostic factors - JMHL
2. Upcoming studies:
 - I. Phase IV trial - Brachytherapy versus External beam boost after Whole Breast Irradiation for Breast cancer in young women ≤ 50 years - JLG
 - II. Phase II randomized trial – APBI vs ultraAPBI in elderly women with low-risk breast cancer - JMHL, CP, VS



Chair : Jean-Michel Hannoun-Levi

2021 Publications

1. Hannoun-Levi JM, Gal J, Van Limbergen E, Chand ME, Schiappa R, Smayko V, Kauer-Domer D, Pasquier D, Lemanski C, Racadot S, Houvenaeghel G, Guix B, Belliere-Calandry A, Loessl K, Polat B, Gutierrez C, Galalae R, Polgar C, Strnad V. Salvage Mastectomy Versus Second Conservative Treatment for Second Ipsilateral Breast Tumor Event: A Propensity Score-Matched Cohort Analysis of the GEC-ESTRO Breast Cancer Working Group Database. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2021;110(2):452-461.
2. Polgár C, Strnad V, Hannoun-Levi JM, Major T, Takácsi-Nagy Z, Fodor J. In Reply to Vaidya et al. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2021;110(3):907-908.
3. Hannoun-Levi JM, Chamorey E, Boulahssass R, Polgar C, Strnad V; Breast Cancer Working Group of the GEC-ESTRO. Endocrine therapy with accelerated Partial breast irradiation or exclusive ultra-accelerated Partial breast irradiation for women aged ≥ 60 years with Early-stage breast cancer (EPOPE): The rationale for a GEC-ESTRO randomized phase III-controlled trial. *Clin Transl Radiat Oncol.* 2021;29:1-8.
4. Hannoun-Levi JM, Gutierrez C, Polgar C, Strnad V; Breast Cancer-Working Group (BCWG) of the Groupe Européen de Curiethérapie-European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (GEC-ESTRO). In regard to "The Italian Association of Radiotherapy and Oncology Recommendation for Breast Tumor Recurrence: Grades of Recommendation, Assessment, Development and Evaluation Criteria". *J Breast Cancer.* 2021;24(3):356-357.
5. Hannoun-Levi JM, Polgar C, Strnad V; Breast Cancer Working Group of the GEC-ESTRO. In regard to Van den Bruele AB et al. Management of ipsilateral breast tumor recurrence following breast conservation surgery: a comparative study of re-conservation vs mastectomy. *Breast Cancer Res Treat.* 2021;187(1):105-112.

HNS GEC-ESTRO WG

Head & Neck and Skin GEC-ESTRO Working Group

36 members from 17 countries

2 specific task groups: eye and skin



AREAS OF ACTION

Clinical Practice

- **OAR constraints for HN Brachytherapy** (Dose volume histogram constraints in patients with head and neck cancer treated with surgery and adjuvant HDR brachytherapy: A proposal of the head and neck and skin GEC ESTRO Working group. Garcia-Consuegra A, Gimeno Morales M, Cambeiro M, Tagliaferri L, Kovacs G, Van Limbergen E, Ramos LI, Manuel Arnaiz J, Alcalde J, Lecanda F, Martinez-Monge R. Radiother Oncol. 2021)
- **“How to improve awareness of the opportunities that skin and H&N interventional RT can offer” Project** (Discussion about Advertising and marketing ideas and planning different possibilities/opportunities (publications, publicity enhancement strategies, etc.) on the topic among health care professionals and among patients.)
- **“How to treat” Project** (series of articles/videos endorsed by HNS WG regarding tricks, suggestions and pitfalls on interventional RT in various skin sites - The first video was made by Dr. Piotr Wojcieszek: individual mould for nose cancer treated with HDR BT)
- **GEC-ESTRO Handbook chapters** (several members are involved as authors for chapters)
- **H&N GEC-ESTRO GUIDELINES:** discussion started for an update. Comments management - Response to Escande et al.: Magnetic guided brachytherapy: Time for non-pelvic cancer? Example from tongue brachytherapy. Kovács G, Martinez-Monge R, Budrukkar A, Guinot JL, Johansson B, Strnad V, Rovirosa A, Siebert FA, Tagliaferri L; Neck and Skin Working Group. Radiother Oncol. 2021)
- **Skin Interventional RT: Critical review and Minimum dataset for reporting :** (internal review is finished, the paper is under external reviewing)

Research

- **COBRA PROJECT** (Collecting data and skin ontology defining - SKIN-COBRA (Consortium for Brachytherapy data Analysis) ontology: The first step towards interdisciplinary standardized data collection for personalized oncology in skin cancer. Lancellotta V, Guinot JL, Fionda B, Rembielak A, Di Stefani A, Gentileschi S, Federico F, Rossi E, Guix B, Chyrek AJ, Meritxell A, Villalba SR, Colloca GF, Dinapoli N, Masciocchi C, Lenkiewicz J, Capocchiano ND, Damiani A, Valentini V, Kovács G, Tagliaferri L. - J Contemp Brachytherapy. 2020)
- **TG43 and TG 186 for small air cavities project** (results regarding the applied dose changes in small air cavities)

Educational

- **Post-Grad Residents Exchange Projects** (pilot experience: PIONEER” Project between UCSC-Gemelli / Rome and Aga Khan University / Karachi)
- **Multidisciplinary H&N and SKIN TC ESTRO Endorsed** (last course was in Italy, december 2019) - next course, 2022, is planned in Poland)

Chair : Luca Tagliaferri



Gastro-Intestinal

Research interest: lower and upper GI cancers (anus and rectum, esophagus, liver and biliary tract rectal cancer)

Clinical trials

- OPERA: role of Brachy boost after EBRT, closed, in follow-up phase
- CITRuS: PROMS for patients treated with radiotherapy or surgery about to open
- EXPRESS-in design phase

Teaching

Various webinars given, in person courses to resume soon

Guidelines rectal cancer

- CXB-through reviewing process & submitted to ACROP
- HDR-further consensus meeting, recirculated to working group for comments



Chair : Alexandra Stewart



GEC ESTRO Gynaecology - highlights of the last year



Chair : Kari Tanderup

- EMBRACE I:
 - April 2021 publication of overall outcome in Lancet oncology (Pötter et al):
 - 5y local control: 92% across all stages
 - From 2016-2021: 45 publications related to EMBRACE have been published in peer reviewed journals
- EMBRACE II:
 - July 2021: accrual of >1200 patients, accrual will continue throughout 2021
- EMBRACE III:
 - March 2022: concepts for next EMBRACE studies presented at annual EMBRACE meeting
 - Protocols for high risk patients, low risk patients, oligometastatic/recurrent disease are in progress and expected by end of 2021
- EMBRAVE:
 - Will be launched in 2021
- Definitive brachytherapy in endometrium cancer:
 - GEC ESTRO retrospective data collection was published in Clinical and Translational Oncology (Rovirosa et al)
 - Local relapse free survival: 91% in stage I inoperable endometrium cancer treated with definitive brachytherapy
- Recommendations, guidelines and quality:
 - IBS GEC ESTRO-ABS recommendations for CT based contouring: published July 2021, Mahantshetty et al
 - GEC ESTRO-IBS-ABS recommendations for brachytherapy treatment planning in cervix cancer in progress. Publication expected by 2022 (coordinator Kari Tanderup)
 - ESGO-ESTRO recommendations for vaginal cancer are in progress (coordinator Cyrus Chargari)
 - ESTRO-ESGO Quality indicators for cervix cancer are in progress (coordinator Cyrus Chargari)



UROGEC review of 2020-21



- Virtual meetings established
 - Increased frequency and attendance but missing live meeting interaction
- POWER study of focal vs whole gland brachytherapy revised and approved by funders to proceed;
 - delays experienced due to impact of Covid on trial activity
- ACROP guidelines on prostate brachytherapy finalisation;
 - reviews by EAU and ACROP now completed
- European database for salvage brachytherapy set up
 - Piotr Wojcieszek (Gliwice)



Chair : Peter Hoskin



Summary



- All WGs try proceed with their plans despite Covid-19 restrictions
- All are having regular online contact but miss the live events and direct exchange
- All work multidisciplinary and have international connections
- Many joint guidelines are on their way or have just been finished
- Thank you working groups and chairs !!

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ACROP

Advisory Committee for Radiation Oncology Practice in ESTRO

Focus: Development and prioritization of clinical and technical (multidisciplinary) guidelines

GEC-ESTRO representatives since many years

- Vratislav Strand and Jose Perez-Calatayud
- Jose is stepping back
- New candidate named



Thank you Jose for many years of presenting GEC-ESTRO and very detailed minutes!!



GEC-ESTRO Guidelines/Recommendations



Current status

- 24 GEC-ESTRO endorsed guidelines published, mainly in Green Journal
- 7 new guideline proposals in process of ACROP review

In early 2020 GEC-ESTRO committee started efforts to improve the quality of guidelines submitted by GEC-ESTRO groups

In May 2020 brought into place

- **“Guideline for guideline writing”**
- **Checklist to evaluate impact of guideline and aid journal choice for publication**

Bradley Pieters Christian Kirisits Frank-André Siebert Marisol de Brabandere Peter Hoskin Ina Jürgenliemk-Schulz



MoU with ABS

MoU 2019 for jointly organizing WCB

- Peter Orio, Bradley Pieters, Umberto Ricardi

MoU extended in 2021

- Firas Mourtada, Daniel Petereit, Ina Jürgenliemk-Schulz, Ben Slotman

Purpose and Scope

- To promote scientific collaboration and to expand the partnership

Current collaboration

- World Congress of Brachytherapy
- Joint ESTRO/ABS guidelines
- More subjects of collaboration can be added



Firas Mourtada, PhD
ABS President



GEC-ESTRO Handbook of Brachytherapy

Handbook experiences a boost!

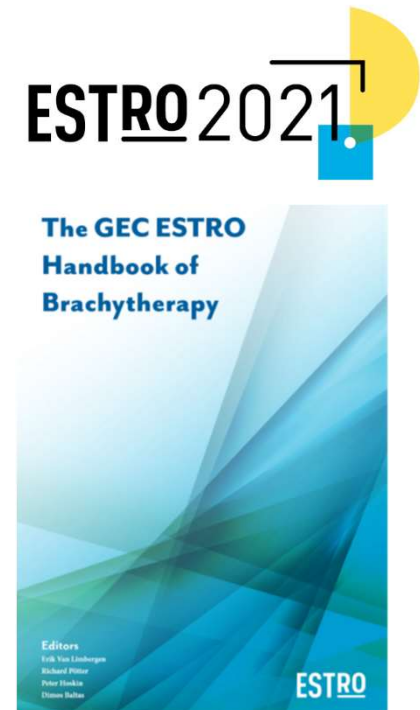
2nd edition gradually updated and populated with new chapters

Editors: Bradley Pieters took over from Richard Potter and Erik van Limbergen

Freely available on the ESTRO website

To access the GEC-ESTRO handbook

- Go to www.estro.org
- Click on [MyESTRO account](#) and enter your login details
- If you do not have a *MyESTRO* account yet, create one
- Once logged in, click on *E-Library* and type “GEC-ESTRO handbook” in the search engine.
- Results for the GEC-ESTRO handbook will be displayed. Via the Table of Contents you will have an overview and can access all chapters



Brachy Corner



<https://www.estro.org/About/Newsroom/Newsletter/Brachytherapy>

- Currently six pages and 31 contributions
- Covering October 2019 - July 2021
- Editors: Åsa Carlsson Tedgren, Peter Hoskin, Bradley Pieters



Upcoming initiatives



Focus groups

- New initiative in ESTRO with ACROP in the lead
- Multidisciplinary “**Focus groups**” to be formed for different tumor sites
- Chair: Claus Belka
- Aim: to support multidisciplinary guideline development
- GEC-ESTRO TWG representatives have been proposed recently
- Ongoing initiative, details not yet worked out



Paediatric Brachytherapy

- Growing interest for better cooperation between groups in Europe
- First plans for improve communication and cooperation
- Possibility for new WG in GEC-ESTRO being explored
- Interest from inside and outside GEC-ESTRO



More GEC-ESTRO initiatives

Future of PDR brachytherapy

- to be explored in collaboration with Industry, taskforce in place

Future availability of Iodine seeds

- due to uncertain future of nuclear plant in Petten, NL, joint effort with Dutch National Society

Future of Brachy Education



Brachy Education

Radiation oncologists

- Data from European and North American surveys regarding brachytherapy education for radiation oncologists, publication in preparation (Alina Sturdza)
- Brainstorm sessions started in late 2020
- Ideas being developed for brachytherapy curriculum and fellowship

Physicists

- International survey in preparation
- Liaison with ESTRO physics and NS committees and AAPM

Can we include RTTs educational issues?

Alina Sturdza
Steffanie Corradini
Bradley Pieters
Vratislav Strnad
Jean-Michel Hannoun-Levi
Frank-André Siebert
Ina Jürgenliemk-Schulz
Industry Support



GEC-ESTRO chair elections



- Ina's term will end in May 2020
- Vratislav will take over
- Bradley to finish his term
- New elections scheduled for period early December 2021 to early January 2022
- Candidates will be confirmed during next committee meeting
- GEC-ESTRO electoral body will be invited to vote by ESTRO office



Save the dates 2021



GEC-ESTRO workshop November 18 and 19 in Rotterdam, please register, deadline September 16!!!

ESTRO 2022 abstract submission deadline September 9 until October 27

GEC-ESTRO chair elections from early December 2021 to early January 2022

Gyn online teaching course September-November

<https://www.estro.org/Courses/2021/Image-guided-radiotherapy-and-chemotherapy-in-gyna>

Prostate online teaching course October

<https://www.estro.org/Courses/2021/Multidisciplinary-management-of-prostate-cancer>

Meeting with Industry Partners in October to be scheduled



Thanks for joining !

