



CONFERENCES

Honorary Member Award



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What does this award mean to you?

An award from my peers is the highest tribute. It is really an award for my mentors, family, colleagues and team - teamwork and support are quintessential.

To whom would you like to dedicate your award?

I dedicate it to my late father, my rock and my role model, and my supportive mother, and children and best friends Nora and Ahmed for inspiring me to serve and caring so much; my mentors the late Arnie Markoe, Andrew Schally and Samy Elbadawy, my colleagues Mary Gospodarowicz and Norm Coleman; and my many mentees. Our IAEA Director General Grossi for passionately pushing for cancer care access through Rays of Hope and other initiatives. Our IAEA Human Health Division (NAHU) team for the excellence, dedication and friendship. Most of all, I dedicate it to my patients, for entrusting me with their treatment and for continuously inspiring me with their courage and strength.

What do you think are the next challenges for the radiation oncology community?

Innovation is a constant in the field and we have some of the most brilliant and dedicated people to implement this. The biggest challenge is the navigation of the economics of medicine and the lack of resources across the board, even in high-income countries.

For the specialty to keep growing and evolving we need leaders, especially the next generation of young leaders, to take it to the next level with new applications to support our patients. However, with increasing administrative and financial hurdles, we must figure out how to continue to lead and move cancer care for our patients and the specialty forward. There is no place for ad-hoc management or individual groups to do it alone without coordination; a joint collaborative plan can enable the specialty to continue to grow and serve our patients well and for the members of the specialty to have a voice. This thinking ties into the agreement between professional societies to start a new International Radiation Oncology Society.

What are you proudest of in your career?

Knowing that I gave my all to my patients and the world while making the tough choices.

If you hadn't been a scientist, what would you like to have been?

An artist.

What do you do in your spare time?

Travel, spend time with family and friends, read and paint.

When do you think you will retire, and what would you like to do then?

I'm not sure I will ever really retire. I really love radiation oncology and the opportunity to help others. However, I would like to work less and leave more time to travel, see family and friends, pursue hobbies, publish a non-medical book I have been writing and start an online endeavour for healthcare support.

