



# CONFERENCES

## Honorary member award



**Ralph Weichselbaum**  
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### *What does this award mean to you?*

It means a lot. I am deeply flattered and am amazed anyone knows who I am.

### *To whom would you like to dedicate your award?*

To my wife Donna.

### *What is your next challenge?*

To define metastatic spectrum at a molecular level and to integrate immunotherapy and radiotherapy rationally.

### *What do you think are the next challenges for radiation oncologists?*

To integrate artificial intelligence and deep learning, but for biology to remain in the mainstream of biology, not veer into nonsensical mathematical mumbo jumbo.

### *What have been the highlights of your career?*

Being trained by and working with Samuel Hellman (a renowned radiologist at the University of Chicago).

### *What are you proudest of in your career?*

I am proudest of the professors and chairs of radiation oncology that I have trained and the successful post-docs from my lab who have gone on to be independent scientists.

### *What started your interest in science?*

Science is an acquired taste - a continuous variable.

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

God knows!

***Did your parents encourage you in your career, or would they rather you had done something else?***

My father would have enjoyed the recognition I am getting. My mother would have believed I deserved it.

***What has been your involvement in the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO)?***

Sadly not much, great colleagues. I have not been involved with the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) either.

***What do you do in your spare time?***

Play with my grandchildren.

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

I will retire on the day of my funeral!

