



CONFERENCES

Jack Fowler University of Wisconsin award



René Winter

Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Trondheim, Norway

What have been the highlights of your career?

Of course, my graduation in physics and the completion of my PhD at Tübingen University Hospital (in Tübingen, Germany) will always be very special memories for me. Also, being able to work on new imaging strategies for radiotherapy within a team of dedicated scientists right from the start of my career has been a gift that I truly appreciate. Recent highlights have been the opportunities to give presentations at European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) conferences and the receipt of the Jack Fowler award. But also, the inspiring discussions that have transpired with colleagues from many different countries, such as at the ESTRO physics workshop in Malaga or during the young ESTRO network event at this year's ESTRO.

What is your next challenge?

I recently started as a post-doc in Kathrine Redalen's research group at the Norges Teknisk-Naturvitenskaplige Universitet (NTNU, or Norwegian University of Science and Technology) in Trondheim where I am currently challenged with an exciting clinical project within the 180N Norwegian Nuclear Medicine Consortium. Hybrid positron emission tomography (PET) / magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has a central role in this project. The focus is on image-based biologically adaptive radiotherapy, based on photon-based radiotherapy but also on proton therapy, which soon will be available for cancer patients in Norway. Development of new imaging and analysis strategies in this project is one of my next challenges.

What does this award mean to you?

I was awarded for the final project of my PhD - an image analysis study, the purpose of which was to predict the information that would be gained during application of dynamic fluoromisonidazole (FMISO)-PET through the use of machine learning of MRI. I was extremely happy about this. I am also grateful for the ESTRO community's interest in the research I presented. Since the award placed a spotlight on the talk, we hoped to reach a wider audience that would draw in viewers from beyond the physics discipline. I much appreciate the recognition, which provides me with extra motivation for the next research projects in my post-doc.

To whom would you like to dedicate your award?

To all my colleagues in Tübingen who I was very fortunate to work with, who supported me in this research project and during my PhD. My gratitude goes especially to Daniela Thorwarth and Sara Leibfarth. Their positive and genuine approach to research was truly inspiring to me, not only professionally but also on a personal level. Thank you dear colleagues!

What do you do in your spare time?

Ever since I was a teenager I have been intrigued by the Tour de France and road cycling in general. Whether it is the steepest climb on the Canary Islands or a scenic ride along the beautiful Norwegian fjords, road cycling always offers me the balance I need in my leisure time. If you would like to go for a ride during the next ESTRO conference, just let me know!

