



CONFERENCES

Lifetime Achievement Award



Volker Budach

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Clinics for Radiation Oncology
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What does this award mean to you?

It is a recognition for my ambitious and continuous work during more than four decades in radio-oncology.

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to have been selected by the European Society for RadioTherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) Board to receive this prestigious award. My first international ESTRO meeting was in Baden-Baden in Germany in 1986.

From the beginning, I was fascinated by the dynamic growth of this European society, which at that time was (and it still is) the natural leader for all national societies for radiotherapy and oncology throughout Europe. I have been a full member since about 1984, and I served from 2000 through to 2004 (for five years) as a Board member and treasurer of ESTRO.

Additionally, I have made so many acquaintances and long-standing friendships. I can mention a few: Ben Slotman, Jean Bourhis, Philip Poortmans, Hans Langendijk, Eric Lartigau, Vincent Grégoire, Jean-Claude Horiot, Harry Bartelink; and there are many others.

It was indeed a great gift for me to be able to enjoy the enticing spirit of ESTRO, exemplarily shown in innumerable and sometimes highly controversial, but always scientific, discussions.

I have just retreated from the role as head of the department for radiation oncology at the Charité but I will always be closely related to ESTRO in the future and follow its evolution.

To whom would you like to dedicate your award?

I would like to dedicate this award to ESTRO and the European Organisation for the Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), both of which were my main sponsors.

What have been the highlights of your career?

I am glad that I was able to serve in different functions in several national and international societies and clinical task forces, such as the:

- ESTRO, as Treasurer and Board member
- EORTC, as Clinical Division Chair, Executive Board Member, Chair of the Radiooncology Group (ROG), Board Member of the ROG and Chair of the Task Force on Head and Neck Cancer in the ROG
- German Society for Radiooncology (DEGRO, President and Board member)

I was also pleased to serve in various roles as:

- President of the annual DEGRO Meeting in Berlin in 2002
- Chair and Founding Member of the German Cooperative Interdisciplinary Soft Tissue Sarcoma Group (IAWS) of the German Cancer Society
- Founding and Board Member of the German Cooperative Interdisciplinary H&N Group of the German Cancer Society
- Chair, multiple times, of the Tumour Centre Berlin
- Chair of the Centre for Tumour Medicine at the Charité
- Member of the Interdisciplinary Guideline Commissions on diagnosis, treatment and follow-up for breast and anal cancers.

What is your next challenge?

I will further work as a clinical radiation oncologist during the next months at the Charité and then in private practice in Berlin.

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

It is compelling for radiation oncologists to conduct independently chemoradiation and targeted treatments in combination with radiotherapy in academic and clinical environments without always relying on medical oncologists.

What has been your involvement within ESTRO?

I was treasurer and a Board member for five years.

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

They encouraged my career, since my father, a specialist in internal medicine, and my mother, a radiographer, were also fascinated by their professions.

What do you do in your spare time?

My hobbies are sports cars, gym activities, music, reading books and watching TV series.

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

I believe that I will work - if my health allows it - during the next five to 10 years in private practice, but with diminishing intensity. I will also travel and see my grandchildren.

