



# CONFERENCES

## Regaud award



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

The Claudius Regaud award is particularly poignant to me, given that Regaud was among the first to investigate systematically the effects of fractionation on tissues with the aim of achieving therapeutic gain. He is best known for his experiments using ram testicle as a model of normal tissue (scrotal skin) and tumour (testis). I have been particularly fortunate to have explored the impact of fraction size on normal tissues and tumours in patients with breast cancer.

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

I think back to the many colleagues I have worked with. The highlights are dominated by shared interests and trust, which breathed life into ideas and created a network of individuals who were motivated to test relevant hypotheses in clinical trials. For 40 years, The Institute of Cancer Research and The Royal Marsden provided me with the perfect environment in which to combine clinical practice with research. This award is a highlight that reflects all these aspects of my professional life.

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

I am one of the 200 or so founder members who gathered in London for the first scientific meeting in 1982. ESTRO annual conferences have been the highlight of the academic year ever since, more enjoyable and valuable than any other grand gathering I have attended. I have participated in and organised ESTRO teaching courses and served on the Council - all great experiences. I'm thrilled that one of my close colleagues, Anna Kirby, is currently President-elect. ESTRO goes from strength to strength and is needed more than at any other time to help tackle the health care crises that confront the world.

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

Charlotte, my wife, and I look forward to getting back to our wandering in the Alps and other mountainous areas of Europe. Lockdown brought me back to the violin, which in recent decades I have only played for family weddings and funerals. Now I'm fully back into it and imagining that I can still flourish. I recently read that Pablo Casals, the great cellist, was asked why in his 90s he still practised for six hours a day. He replied: "Because I'm still improving." So there's always hope.

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

I came out of the clinic in 2013 and have been retiring from academic life ever since. My colleagues are generous in enabling me to contribute here and there. It has been hugely enjoyable, but now it's high time to stop. I ought to go straight onto the streets and join the young people fighting for serious climate change measures. I find all sorts of excuses for not gluing myself to City

financial institutions that continue to invest in coal. Instead I restrict myself to going on marches and doing a bit to support arrestees. That's hardly an inspiring image to end my reflections on.

