



# CONFERENCES

## ctRO Young Investigator Award



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

This project comes from a multidisciplinary collaboration that is extremely important for me and my residency, since it aims at the personalisation of care and the creation of an integrated programme in which the patient's quality of life is affected as little as possible by cancer treatments. It springs from work that I presented at the 2022 congress of the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO). This award means, for me, as well as for all the people involved, the recognition of the scientific and human value of this project. It also signifies a renewed push in radiotherapy, and in general across medicine, towards more treatment that is designed according to the characteristics of each patient and attends to their needs.

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

I would like to dedicate this award in the first place to the leaders of the radiotherapy unit at the Gemelli University Hospital Foundation, Professor Vincenzo Valentini and Professor Maria Antonietta Gambacorta. Their example and their guidance enable us to grow in this environment that is always teeming with ideas and innovative research that is the GemelliART. I am extremely proud to be part of this great family as it always encourages you to try to be the best version of yourself.

I also dedicate this award, with equally intense gratitude, to the whole working group that continues to carry out this magnificent project, and in particular to Dr Valentina Chiloire and Dr Marco Cintoni, because without them I would never have found the necessary stimuli nor the means to carry out this work.

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

I firmly believe that radiotherapy must be increasingly focused on the patient's human experience throughout the treatment process. The realisation of this aspect is fundamental to achieving the maximum personalisation of treatments, which must obviously pass through the customisation of the treatment itself but also the improvement of the quality of life of the patient who faces an oncological path.

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

Since I was a child, I have always been in love with science, especially medicine and the human body, as well as physics and the way things work.

Radiotherapy is the perfect landing for this particular inclination of mine; in the scientifically lively environment of the GemelliART it was easy and natural to find a dimension of research since, during residency we are constantly encouraged to find that spark that only scientific research can give you.

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

My parents, my whole family and my husband have always encouraged me on this long path that I chose for myself at an early age. Despite the years of studies and sacrifices, from medical school to residency, they have always believed in me and my dreams. They rejoiced with me during the victories and suffered after my defeats. The only thing they wanted in return was to see me happy and satisfied.

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

I love to take care of people discreetly and kindly. If I hadn't started a career as a medical doctor by now, I would probably have been the manager of a restaurant or hotel that offers super relaxing services to always make the customer feel at ease, perhaps in some remote and wild corner of the Alps.

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

My biggest dream for retirement is to move to Ireland and open a bed and breakfast business nestled among the lush green hills of the Emerald Isle. I'm already looking forward to it.

