



CONFERENCES

tipsRO poster award



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What does this award mean to you?

I was greatly honoured to receive the award from the Technical Innovations & Patient Support in Radiation Oncology (tipsRO) journal at the 2021 congress of the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO 2021) in Madrid. It is very satisfying to discover, unambiguously, that my work is valued by our senior scientists. Furthermore, I thank my team, in particular my supervisors and co-authors. My efforts will never be enough if my team doesn't give me the best teamwork.

To whom would you like to dedicate your award?

I dedicate my award to my team. They have always been my source of inspiration. I have always looked up to them. In addition, I also want to dedicate this award to my wife and my family. They gave me lots of guidance and support with all the necessary resources for chasing my dreams.

What have been the highlights of your career?

I am a PhD candidate at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy), and I perform my PhD research in the medical physics group in the radiotherapy department of the Iridium Cancer Network in Antwerp, Belgium. My research focuses on dose tracking analysis and overall quality assessment in a large radiotherapy centre by automation of portal dosimetry. I am the author of In-vivo dosimetry for patients with prostate cancer to assess the possible impact of bladder and rectum preparation, a research article that was published in tipsRO. I received my MSc degree in physics at Ferrara University, Italy, and also obtained a master of advanced studies in medical physics at Trieste University, Italy. I have been responsible for the coordination and implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency's safety project in Togo to protect against the harmful effects of the use of ionising radiation equipment and radioactive materials since 2016.

What is your next challenge?

There are some challenges and difficulties that I am almost certainly going to encounter along the way as a PhD candidate. My next challenge is the publication of the two research papers that I presented at ESTRO 2021. Conferences and academic events are a good place to establish networks of contacts. These networks are invaluable for my professional and social life after I earn the PhD. After my PhD, there will also be the challenge of gaining a post-doctoral or scientist position at a university.

What do you think are the next challenges for radiation oncologists (or radiation physicists, radiobiologists, radiotherapists, brachytherapists)?

There is growing interest in the evolving nature of safety challenges in radiation oncology. Radiation oncologists must redefine and adapt their current treatment protocols; treating patients in the COVID-19 era could be more dangerous than it was before. The most widely applied strategies must include hypofractionated schedules, since a shortened course of radiation therapy decreases the need for prolonged daily treatment and exposure to infection. Moreover, the automation of all aspects of in-vivo dosimetry is

needed to help to facilitate clinical adoption, including automation of image acquisition, analysis, result interpretation, and reporting documentation.

