



SCHOOL

Course Report

Implementation and Practice of Image-Guided Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy

2 November – 9 December 2021, online

Course directors:

- *Matthias Guckenberger, radiation oncologist, University Hospital Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland*
- *Dirk Verellen, medical physicist, Iridium Kankernetwerk, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium*

A report from a radiation oncologist's perspective

Could you please briefly introduce yourself?

My name is Mara Lia Scarabino. I am a radiation oncologist. I completed my postgraduate degree in radiotherapy at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and my residence in the Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires (mevaterapia), where I currently work as a specialist.

My fields of interest are the lung and the central nervous system. In recent years I became very interested in special techniques such as stereotactic radiosurgery and stereotactic body radiotherapy.

Why did you choose to attend this course?

I am part of an interdisciplinary work team that, since 2017, has been working actively on the implementation of special techniques in our service. The guidelines, congress and expert opinions and experiences that we obtain from the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) are part of our daily bibliography. This course was an amazing opportunity not only to validate our own practice and to eliminate doubts, but also to connect with professionals from around the world who had interests in common with me.

What aspects of the course were the most interesting and why?

The most interesting parts for me were the up-to-date lectures, the question and answer and discussion sessions and the challenging case presentations. I believe this is because I found that the course offered a real space in which I could share my daily practice problems and gain valuable feedback about them. The updated bibliographic review, its interpretation and interpolation also seemed to me to be very valuable, taking into account how quickly everything changes and our short experience in the field.

Did the course activities improve your knowledge and skills in the relevant subject?

Yes, of course. We have a list of improvement opportunities for our department.

Did the course meet your expectations? If so, how?

This was my first experience of an online ESTRO course. Yes, it definitely met my expectations. First, I would like to highlight the choice of tutors, not only because they are very well-known people in the field but also because of their generosity towards the participants. I also want to highlight the efficiency of the organisation and the friendly environment.

List three important 'takeaways' following the course.

- It is important to study hard and to have protocols that order our daily practice, avoid accidents and extrapolate results.
- It is important to be up-to-date and have the capacity for analysis and a critical mind to consider new evidence.
- It is very important to share experiences with other people in the field.

How will what you have learnt be implemented in your daily job/ clinical practice?

I have found an opportunity to update our protocols in contouring, prescription, planning and daily bunker practice, and also in the roles of the different participants in the treatments, such as the radiation therapists.

How would you encourage someone who has never been to an ESTRO course to join this course next year/ in two years?

Definitely. I would encourage them. It is a great experience and a good investment of time and money.



Mara Lia Scarabino

Radiation oncologist, medical staff,
Mevaterapia,
Buenos Aires, Argentina
maliscarabino@gmail.com
mara.scarabino@mevaterapia.com.ar

