



YOUNG

Interview with Andrea Collavini, committee and education project manager at ESTRO

What is your name and where are you from?

My name is Andrea Collavini and I am from Milan, Italy.

What are your responsibilities at the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) and how long you have worked with ESTRO?

I started to work at ESTRO in March 2021 as the committee and education project manager. I am responsible for some ESTRO teaching courses and educational projects. I ensure that both the logistical aspects and the coordination of the work of the ESTRO faculties run according to plan.

So far I have been working on the congress pre-meeting courses, the paediatric radiotherapy course, the positioning and immobilisation for radiotherapy course and some contouring workshops.

I am also the manager of the young committee, in which role I facilitate the projects of the representatives of the young radiotherapy community and act as the ESTRO contact point.

What is your background?

I graduated in European studies in 2013, and got my master's degree in international relations in 2016, at the University of Milan, Italy.

Where did you work before ESTRO?

I've always dreamed of living and working in a multicultural environment and that is what drove me to Brussels, where, before joining ESTRO, I worked as the training and project coordinator at the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce.

How did you end up working for ESTRO?

I was already aware of ESTRO's role in supporting the oncology community, to guarantee accessible and high-value radiation therapy for all cancer patients, and I knew that working for such a cause would be extremely motivating. When I found out that there was an open position for someone with a background like mine, I didn't hesitate to apply.

How do you coordinate the different wishes, tasks and projects of all the committees?

Communication and teamwork form the key: we have regular meetings to run point on committee activities and to ensure a correct flow of information. Of course, since the pandemic began, most of the activities have been held online, but I don't think this has impacted our capacity to coordinate our projects.

What did you know about radiation oncology before you started at ESTRO?

To be honest, not much. That's why, right after starting, I followed the suggestion of my supervisors and took an online course that was addressed to cancer patients and their friends, to acquire a better understanding of the radiotherapy world. I found that world

complex but very interesting. The course gave me a good background in the roles of the medical personnel in radiotherapy and made me familiar with all the key abbreviations.

With how many other ESTRO staff do you liaise with?

There are currently 27 people working for ESTRO. I liaise with about 20 of them.

What are the exciting new projects that you are looking forward to at ESTRO?

I started to work at ESTRO in the middle of the pandemic and haven't had the chance to meet many members of the society in person yet. So I'm looking forward to our next live events, especially the approaching annual conference.



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