



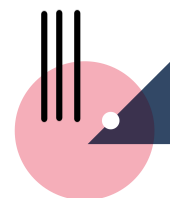
Scientific Engagement Policy

European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology

Society Instruction – Document code

Scientific Council / 2016 /01
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ESTRO



ESTRO strategy for scientific engagement

1. Background

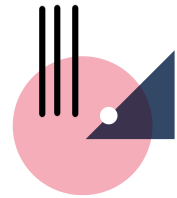
Research in the ESTRO Mission and Vision

Preamble: ESTRO is a scientific society promoting research to improve radiation oncology in all its aspects. Research supported, endorsed or initiated by ESTRO is in line with ESTRO's vision.

Vision 1.1: Optimal individualised patient care will be achieved by integrating new clinical and preclinical evidence from biology, molecular/functional and anatomic imaging, and the use of novel systemic agents together with the delivery of high-precision radiation therapy in a safety-aware environment.

Research is a central component of such a vision and any research supported, endorsed or initiated by ESTRO should reflect and support this ESTRO vision:

- To ensure that ESTRO remains at the forefront of technical, clinical and biological developments that impact on radiation oncology and safe delivery of treatment and that it reflects such developments in its activities **(Vision 1.1)**
- To support optimal patient care and access to state of the art radiation therapy **(Vision 1.4)**
- To disseminate the findings of such research to the wider radiation oncology community and its stakeholders **(Vision 1.3)** through ESTRO-specific channels such as:
 - *Scientific journals (including but not limited to Green Journal, ctRO (Clinical and Translational Radiation Oncology), piRO (Physics and Imaging for Radiation Oncology), tprRO (Technology, Patient Management and Nursing in Radiation Oncology))*
 - *Conference presentations at ESTRO(-endorsed) conferences*
 - *Education via the ESTRO School*
- To recognize such research by promoting it to the wider radiation oncology community and its stakeholders **(Vision 1.3)** through ESTRO-specific channels such as:
 - Newsletter
 - Website



- Research should enhance ESTRO's reputation as a leader in the field of radiation oncology (**Vision 1.5**) without harming ESTRO financially, politically or professionally.

2. Type of research and scope of ESTRO engagement

ESTRO is committed to supporting research relevant to its members. The scope of ESTRO involvement will vary with the research topic, the type of research activity, and the level of support requested.

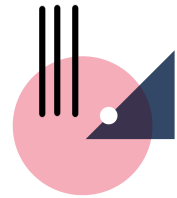
- ESTRO has defined the scope of engagement in four categories (see below)
- ESTRO will require regular updates as part of its engagement in any category and will retain the right to withdraw its support if considered appropriate
- ESTRO has defined selection and review criteria for each of these categories (see Criteria TABLE).

2.1 Research supported by ESTRO

- 2.1.1 Is research in which ESTRO is not actively involved but where the research proposal/project has been reviewed and found to be of interest for the ESTRO community and in line with the ESTRO vision.
- 2.1.2 ESTRO will raise awareness of these research projects using the appropriate ESTRO channels such as the ESTRO:
 - Website
 - Newsletter
- 2.1.3 If the research findings are of significant interest to the ESTRO community, ESTRO will consider facilitation of further research in the area and additional dissemination through educational channels

2.2 Research facilitated by ESTRO

- 2.2.1 Is research which is:
 - Of interest to the ESTRO community
 - In line with ESTRO's vision, including its multidisciplinary strategy.
 - Concerns a RO topic/ treatment/ technology... that requires a collaborative approach in radiation

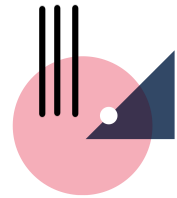


oncology.

- 2.2.2 Is research where ESTRO is not actively involved in the research but where ESTRO will facilitate networking for the project through web-conferencing and provision of a meeting room at the ESTRO office or during conferences.
- 2.2.3 Following updates on the progress of the research, ESTRO will consider further facilitation through e.g.:
- Dissemination of questionnaires
 - Raising awareness through the ESTRO website and ESTRO Newsletter.
- 2.2.4 If the research findings are of significant interest to the ESTRO community, ESTRO will support the dissemination of the results through:
- Offering the researchers a time slot to meet and discuss their results in public at ESTRO congresses,
 - The integration of results into regular live courses, workshops and educational material.

2.3 Research to which ESTRO contributes and participates

- 2.3.1 Is research which:
- Is of interest to the ESTRO community
 - Is in line with ESTRO's vision, including its multidisciplinary strategy
 - Has scientific merit that deserves active ESTRO participation, such as international collaborative projects
 - Has a potential broad/ meaningful patient outcome and/or focuses on broad population based studies or specific technologies.
- 2.3.2 Is research in which ESTRO participates by taking responsibility for specific work packages of projects (these projects may be EU projects, amongst others).
- 2.3.3 ESTRO, having reviewed the research plan, decides to actively contribute and participate in the research by:
- Appointment of members to take part in the research
 - Enabling the research process (cfr 2.2.2 and 2.2.3).
- 2.3.4 ESTRO will draw up a communication plan for the project and within this framework ESTRO will disseminate information on the project (cfr 2.2.4).



- 2.3.5 As part of this plan the ESTRO members participating in the research will be required to provide regular updates and reports on the progress of the research.

2.4 Research initiated and driven by ESTRO

2.4.1 Is research which is of interest to the ESTRO community, and is in line with ESTRO's vision, including its multidisciplinary strategy and has scientific merit and deserves initiation by ESTRO.

2.4.2 Is ongoing or new research that ESTRO decides to drive.

2.4.3 ESTRO councils, committees and task forces will actively perform strategic 'horizon scanning', 'surveillance' and 'oncology intelligence' in order to advise the ESTRO scientific council on issues that may impact on the development of radiation oncology in the future and to identify potential research areas such as:

- The potential impact of emerging and draft legislation and/or advisory documentation from the EU that may impact on European radiation oncology.

- Emerging topics/ treatments/ technologies that are of importance to the ESTRO community

On receipt of a research proposal, the ESTRO scientific council will evaluate the proposal and provide advice to the ESTRO Board to decide whether such research should be driven and financed by ESTRO.

2.4.4 After acceptance of the proposal by the Board, the scientific council will define a group to develop a research plan and budget that will be reviewed by an external panel. The research group will draw up a communication plan for the project that will allow ESTRO to disseminate information on the project to the wider radiotherapy community and its stakeholders through ESTRO-specific channels such as:

- o *Scientific journals (including but not limited to Green Journal, ctRO (Clinical and Translational Radiation Oncology), piRO (Physics and Imaging for Radiation Oncology), tprRO (Technology, Patient Management and Nursing in Radiation Oncology))*
 - *Conference presentations at ESTRO (-endorsed) conferences*
- o *Education via the ESTRO School.*

2.4.5 As part of this plan the research group will be required to provide annual updates and reports on the progress of the research and its financial management.