

Alberto BOSSI

Department of Radiation Oncology, Gustave Roussy
Villejuif
France

My initial contact with ESTRO dates back to the first ESTRO Teaching Course I ever attended: the Basic Clinical Radiobiology Teaching Course in Granada, Spain in November 1990. From 2007 to 2010 I was appointed in the faculty of the ESTRO Teaching Course on Physics for Clinical Radiotherapy under the direction of H Nystroem first and B Hejiman later. Starting in 2011, I am the Course Director of the Multidisciplinary ESTRO Teaching Course on Prostate Cancer. I have been involved in the production of ESTRO-endorsed clinical guidelines concerning the treatment of Prostate Cancer (in the radical and postoperative settings) and of brachytherapy for Bladder Cancer.

At the early beginning of my professional career, I was involved in the treatment of Head and Neck malignancies and of Sarcomas but my main professional interest is currently focused on Genito-Urinary malignancies and especially on Prostate brachytherapy. In this context, I have been participating in the activities of the EORTC Radiation Oncology Group and, in 2001 – 2002, I was elected as Chairman of the Genito-Urinary Committee. I have been working to strength the relationships with the European urological community with special emphasis on defending the role of Radiotherapy and Brachytherapy: I am regularly asked to give scientific presentations at major European and American urological congresses and, in 2011, I joined the Editorial Board of European Urology. In 2017, I was asked by the EAU (European Association of Urology) to represent radiotherapy in a panel of experts preparing a “White Paper” on Prostate Cancer Recommendations for the European Union under the leading of H Van Poppel. I am regularly involved in the organization of educational activities at several levels both local and international and I serve as PI and co-PI in two randomized international clinical trials. I regularly review papers for major scientific journals such as Lancet Oncology, the Journal of Clinical Oncology, the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology and Physics, Radiotherapy and Oncology, European Urology and the Journal of Urology.

I graduated in Medicine and Surgery in 1987 and specialized in Radiotherapy and Oncology in 1991 at the University of Pavia, in Italy. My professional career started as young assistant at the Department of Radiotherapy in Varese; I moved then to Como where I met my first mentor, dr Dorian Cosentino and later to Milan where I worked with prof Riccardo Valdagni. In 2001, I was offered the opportunity to join the University Hospitals Gasthuisberg in Leuven where I was appointed Adjunct Clinical Head at the Department of Radiation Oncology. Starting in 2007, I am the Head of the Genito-Urinary and Prostate Brachytherapy Unit at the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Gustave Roussy Cancer Institute in Villejuif, France.

I was born in Albizzate, a village in northern Italy, close to the Swiss border, in August 1962. I first was convinced that my future would have been in the political arena and, in my younger years, I shared the hope (and illusion...) that a better world

would have been possible for all... At that time, I also started cultivating a real passion for all sort of sports (strangely enough not football but tennis, ski, squash and basketball which I have played until my forties), for chess playing and for classical music. My son is now 11 years-old and joined us from Kinshasa, Congo, 7 years ago. I am fluent in Italian, French and English and I speak some Dutch and Spanish.

My professional career gave me the possibility of getting in touch with several working environment in Italy, Belgium and France. I had the unique opportunity to establish a network of good friends and colleagues with different background and this, I think, is a major asset when running for a position at the ESTRO board.

ESTRO has the duty to prepare the next generation of European radiotherapists: I am convinced that the challenges we will have to face in the next decades will need to gradually modify our professional profile. Being the experts on High Tech radiation delivery (both external and brachy-based), will not be sufficient anymore if we have the ambition to still be important actors in the management of cancer patients.

If elected I will engage ESTRO on several major axis:

1. besides the classical interactions with oncological surgeons, medical oncologists and imaging-specialists, promote a more “transversal” Radiation-oncologist profile with definite organ-specific competencies, ready to take advantage from the integration of radiation with new diagnostic tools such as genetic profiling and new treatment modalities such as imaging-drive RT or immunotherapy.

2. reinforce the role External Beam Radiotherapy and Brachytherapy in the multidisciplinary arena of cancer treatments options. ESTRO should help (young) European radiotherapists to be actively involved in all major multidisciplinary oncological congress and should promote multidisciplinary Guidelines in all major fields of Oncology. If we want to ensure a bright future to our speciality, we should constantly interact with our partners in the treatment of our patients and try to be present were the future of Oncology is discussed...

3. promote External Beam Radiotherapy and Brachytherapy at different levels: political (locally and European) but also specifically towards patients organizations, and the general public opinion. ESTRO will need to pursue the efforts to make RT known by non-specialists in order to make radiotherapy and brachytherapy better known by health-care providers, politicians and payers.