Lena Specht Biography

Title & full name: Professor Lena Specht MD DMSc

Profession: Chief Oncologist, Professor of Oncology

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ESTRO Background: I have been a member of ESTRO for over 30 years, since I started my training in Clinical Oncology. I participated in ESTRO courses and presented my research at ESTRO Meetings since 1996. I have served on Scientific Committees of several ESTRO Meetings and taught on several ESTRO Teaching Courses (Technological Advances in Radiation Oncology 2002, IMRT and Other Conformal Techniques in Practice 2006, Quantitative Methods in Radiation Oncology 2012, Radiation for Lymphoma 2018). I started the ESTRO School Courses on Haematological Malignancies, of which I am the Course Director, with courses in London (2015), Vienna (2016) and Utrecht (2018). I also did Contouring Courses at ESTRO Meetings and at Lugano Lymphoma Conferences (in collaboration with ESTRO) and Online Delineation Workshops. Hence my focus in ESTRO has been on educational activities.

Experience: I have been a Senior Consultant in Oncology since 1994, first at Herlev Hospital, University of Copenhagen, and since 2001 at Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen. My main clinical interests have been haematological malignancies and head & neck cancer. I have been Associate Professor since 2003 and Professor of Oncology since 2009 at the University of Copenhagen. My research group, consisting of physicians, physicists and engineers, have focused on the development of modern, limited and highly conformal radiation therapy for lymphomas; on imaging, outcome prediction and dose painting in head & neck cancer; and on motion management in lymphomas, breast cancer, and lung cancer. I have supervised 17 PhD projects and numerous other projects, and I have had several visitors within the ESTRO Mobility Grant program. My interest in lymphoma radiation therapy led to my engagement in the creation of the International Lymphoma Radiation Oncology Group (ILROG) 10 years ago, where I am now Vice Chairman. This is now a worldwide organization with over 1,300 members and a very successful program of teaching (some of this in collaboration with ESTRO), research, and development of guidelines for modern radiation therapy of haematological malignancies.

Education and Qualifications: I became a board certified specialist in Clinical Oncology in Denmark in 1992 and a Doctor of Medical Sciences from the University of Copenhagen in the same year. I became a Full Professor of Oncology with particular reference to Radiation Oncology at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, in 2009. I have published > 250 articles in peer reviewed journals, 2 books and 25 book chapters. I was awarded the Prize of the Danish Society of Oncology in 2004, the Bunch-Jensen Prize in 2010, and the "Global Excellence in Health", The Capital Region, in 2010.

Important recent publications (selected) are

- Dabaja BS, Hoppe BS, Plastaras JP, Newhauser W, Rosolova K, Flampouri S, Mohan R, Mikhaeel NG, Kirova Y, Specht L, Yahalom J. Proton therapy for adults with mediastinal lymphomas: the International Lymphoma Radiation Oncology Group guidelines. Blood 2018; 132: 1635-46.

- Specht L. Radiotherapy for Hodgkin Lymphoma: Reducing Toxicity while Maintaining Efficacy. The Cancer Journal: The Journal of Principles & Practice of Oncology 2018; 24: 237-43.

- Rasmussen JH, Håkansson K, Rasmussen GD, Vogelius IR, Friborg J, Fischer BM, Bentzen SM, Specht L. A clinical prognostic model compared to the newly adopted UICC staging in an independent validation cohort of P16 negative/positive head and neck cancer patients. Oral Oncol 2018; 81: 52-60.

- Constine LS, Yahalom J, Ng A, Hodgson D, Wirth A, Milgrom S, Mikhaeel G, Eich H, Illidge T, Ricardi U, Dieckmann K, Moskowitz C, Advani R, Mauch P, Specht L, Hoppe R. The role of radiation therapy in patients with relapsed/refractory Hodgkin lymphoma: Guidelines from the International Lymphoma Radiation Oncology Group. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2018; 100: 1100-18.

- Rasmussen JH, Vogelius IR, Håkansson H, Aznar MC, Fischer BM, Christensen CB, Friborg J, Loft A, Kristensen CA, Bentzen SM, Specht L. Phase I trial of 18F-Fludeoxyglucose based radiation dose painting with concomitant cisplatin in head and neck cancer. Radiother Oncol 2016; 120: 76-80.

- Maraldo MV, Giusti F, Vogelius IR, Lundemann M, van der Kaaij, Ramadan S, Meulemans B, Henry-Amar M, Aleman B, Raemaekers J, Meijnders P, Moser E, Kluin-Nelemans HC, Feugier P, Casasnovas O, Fortpied C, Specht L. Cardiovascular disease after therapy for Hodgkin lymphoma: A detailed analysis of 9 collaborative EORTC-LYSA trials. Lancet Haematol 2015; 2: e492-502.

- Petersen PM, Aznar MA, Berthelsen AK, Loft A, Schut DA, Maraldo M, Josipovic M, Klausen TL, Andersen FL, Specht L. Prospective phase II trial of image guided radiotherapy in Hodgkin lymphoma: benefit of deep inspiration breath hold. Acta Oncol 2015; 54: 60-6.

- Due AK, Vogelius IR, Aznar MC, Bentzen SM, Berthelsen AK, Korreman SS, Loft A, Kristensen CA, Specht L. Recurrences after intensity modulated radiotherapy for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma more likely to originate from regions with high baseline [18F]-FDG uptake. Radiother Oncol 2014; 111: 360-5.

- Specht L, Yahalom J, Illidge T, Berthelsen AK, Constine LS, Eich HT, Girinsky T, Hoppe RT, Mauch P, Mikhaeel NG, Ng A, on behalf of ILROG. Modern radiation therapy for Hodgkin lymphoma: field and dose guidelines from the International Lymphoma Radiation Oncology Group (ILROG). Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2014; 89: 854-62.

Personal: My interests apart from radiation oncology are family, music, and gardening.

Final statement: I see ESTRO as the key player in radiation oncology in Europe, with very important tasks in the development and dissemination of modern radiation therapy techniques to all institutions in Europe in order to provide access to state of the art radiation therapy for all patients needing it. The multiprofessional approach, including physicians, physicists, RTTs, and nurses, is essential for the achievement of this goal, and one of my aspirations is to increase even further the interaction and integration of these different disciplines into research and teaching within ESTRO. The role of radiation therapy in the treatment of cancer patients is changing with the advent of new systemic treatments, and one challenge is to facilitate research and development of multidisciplinary treatment programs optimizing radiation therapy in this setting. I have a long track record of multidisciplinary research and teaching within radiation oncology and a broad international network within the field, and I hope to be able to use these qualifications to the benefit of ESTRO, its members and, ultimately, patients, as a member of the ESTRO board.