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ESTRO Vision 2012

## ESTRO 2012 Strategy Meeting: Vision for Radiation Oncology

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### ABSTRACT

Access to modern radiation oncology treatment programmes is now recognised as an essential component of high-quality cancer treatment and central to optimal patient care. Looking to the future, ESTRO strongly believes that further development of the discipline will be critically important to the future strategic development of multidisciplinary cancer care. On behalf of the Board and membership of ESTRO, this document outlines the Society's Vision for the development of the discipline of Radiation and Clinical Oncology together with the associated priority action areas that will collectively and strategically direct the Society's activities in the forthcoming years.

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The recent celebration of ESTRO's 30th anniversary marked a very important opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate three decades of achievement, growth and scientific progress for the Society and the clinical discipline of Radiation and Clinical Oncology. Since the foundation of ESTRO, Radiation Oncology has fortunately seen continuous change with virtually every aspect of the basic science of our discipline and clinical treatment dramatically improving to the benefit of patient care. This progress is epitomized by the numerous innovative developments in treatment equipment, new delivery technologies and associated imaging modalities, that collectively have enabled patient access to highly-optimised precision radiation therapy, together with the remarkable advances in our understanding of the biological basis of radiation effect, and most recently the emerging use of novel molecularly targeted therapeutics that holds the promise of further substantial improvements in tumour control and patient cure.

As the Society looks forward to further advances in the discipline, it is timely for the Society and for the first time to document ESTRO's Vision for the future of Radiation Oncology and the associated priorities that ESTRO will champion to enable this Vision. In

order to achieve this goal and in parallel with the recent updating of the ESTRO Articles of Association and internal rules of procedure, the ESTRO Board assisted by representative Society Officers and ESTRO Standing Committee members, recently completed a strategic review of the anticipated future changes in Radiation Oncology clinical practice, and importantly the strategic role of ESTRO in assisting such developments. As a direct result of this meeting, the following article describes ESTRO's Vision for Radiation Oncology and cancer care. Within this document the Society has stated a Primary Vision that unequivocally links the development of optimal patient care to equitable patient access to state of the art radiation therapy. In addition, important subsidiary Vision Statements (1.1–1.5) are stated that in turn specify the future priorities that will shape and influence the direction of Society's activities in the forthcoming years.

It is important to highlight that ESTRO will seek to champion this Vision and associated priorities as an interdisciplinary Society, and that the Society will work to achieve this objective in partnership with the wide range of existing and future organisations that are collectively assisting the development of future multidisciplinary cancer care, including where appropriate other scientific and professional societies, international agencies, national representative groups, collaborative clinical trials groups, and patient advocacy groups. In addition the Society will develop new areas of engagement with regulatory authorities including the European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA), and national regulatory agencies, and together with non-governmental organisations (NGO's) assist the broader development of Radiation Oncology as part of the evolution of different models of cancer care within individual European countries. Finally, we believe that this document will assist all Society members in collectively supporting the Society's Vision for the future development and growth of Radiation and Clinical Oncology both within Europe and at a global level in the forthcoming decades.

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## ESTRO Vision for 2020

### Vision

Every cancer patient in Europe will have access to state of the art radiation therapy, as part of a multidisciplinary approach where treatment is individualised for the specific patient's cancer, taking account of the patient's personal circumstances.

*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.

*Vision 1.2:* The majority of patients will live cancer free with minimal toxicity following the use of radical radiation therapy when used as a single curative modality of treatment or when used in combination with surgery, systemic chemotherapy and/or systemic targeted therapeutics.

*Vision 1.3:* Access to continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional and personal development (CPPD) will empower both healthcare professionals and patients to fully participate in all decisions regarding treatment.

*Vision 1.4:* National and international policy-makers, healthcare management, industrial and corporate partners, and other professional oncology societies will recognise radiation oncology as a major contributor to cancer cure, and ESTRO as a strategic driving force in the multidisciplinary fight against cancer.

*Vision 1.5:* ESTRO will take all reasonable measures to further develop as the preeminent educational and scientific society in Radiotherapy and Oncology, and through this role, the Society will have a unique strategic responsibility for the future development of the clinical discipline of Radiation and Clinical Oncology within Europe and at a global level.

### ESTRO Vision – Radiation Oncology and Patient Care

Every cancer patient in Europe will have access to state of the art radiation therapy, as part of a multidisciplinary approach where treatment is individualised for the specific patient's cancer, taking account of the patient's personal circumstances.

In order to achieve this vision ESTRO will support the following initiatives and model of clinical care as part of the future strategic development of the Society:

1. All patients are entitled to access healthcare systems that enable the highest quality radiotherapy delivered within a safe healthcare environment, and on completion of treatment have access to appropriate long term follow-up, advice and support from members of the clinical radiation oncology team.
2. All patients are entitled to receive full information on the primary benefit, and where unavoidable, the potential side effects associated with their proposed radiation therapy treatment programme.
3. For all patients receiving radiation therapy, the patient–doctor relationship will continue to be of central importance, and this will remain a critical requirement in the future development of the clinical discipline of radiation oncology.
4. In recognition of the multidisciplinary nature of radiation oncology the patient will significantly benefit from the additional expert input from other members of the radiation oncology multidisciplinary team and allied healthcare disciplines.
5. Given the critical role of radiation therapy in the care of individual patients, the radiation oncologist will frequently be the lead physician responsible for the overall care of the patient, and

therefore have a unique responsibility for the patients' on-going care and wellbeing.

6. In recognition of the above, ESTRO will continue to develop innovative mechanisms that enable young professionals within the Society and in radiation oncology to actively participate in the development of future clinical services for patients, in particular through the strategic development of scientific, educational and professional services coordinated by the Society.

### ESTRO Vision and priorities for the development of Radiation Oncology

#### 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 new systemic agents together with the delivery of high precision radiation therapy in a safety aware environment.

In order to achieve this vision ESTRO will enable and support the following priorities:

- (a) ESTRO will provide strategic leadership on the emerging and future approaches that will enable further improvements in the physical and biological optimisation of radiation therapy.
- (b) ESTRO will support the need for a unique range of healthcare professionals, working as an interdisciplinary team, to be centrally involved in the delivery of all clinical, physical, technical and biological aspects of radiation therapy.
- (c) ESTRO will in addition and where appropriate support the central role of radiation and clinical oncologists in taking full clinical responsibility for the delivery, supervision and monitoring of patients receiving combined-modality treatments using radiation and either cytotoxic and/or targeted therapeutics.
- (d) ESTRO will facilitate its members in creating collaborations, clinical studies and collaborative research that enable the exchange of ideas, the development of new interdisciplinary networks, and novel approaches to the future individualisation of radiation oncology.
- (e) In support of the above, ESTRO will establish a forum where codes of practice, guidelines, education, and professional development resources are easily accessible and tailored to the professional needs of the membership of the Society.

#### Vision 1.2

The majority of patients will live cancer free with minimal toxicity following the use of radical radiation therapy when used as a single curative modality of treatment or when used in combination with surgery, systemic chemotherapy and/or systemic targeted therapeutics.

In order to achieve this vision ESTRO will enable and support the following priorities:

- (a) ESTRO will support new developments in radiation oncology that further improve the biological optimisation, physical delivery and safety of high-precision radiotherapy, enhancing the potential for optimal tumour control, and offering the opportunity for improved treatments with curative and organ-preserving intent.
- (b) ESTRO will support the further investigation of high-precision radiotherapy used with curative intent in patients with metastatic and locally recurrent disease, with the objective of obtaining the necessary evidence-base for this approach, and the future development of innovative clinical

approaches for improved treatments in this important and special patient population.

- (c) To enable the above improvements in clinical care, ESTRO will, through its congress, special meetings, educational courses and journal(s), support the future development of radiation oncology, emphasising and supporting the need for the following:
- New approaches to adaptive radiotherapy integrating novel developments in biology, imaging, technology, and the assessment of tumour response and patient outcome.
  - Innovative research and development on the potential future use of novel biological modifiers of tumour and normal tissue response.
  - The development of validated predictive models of treatment outcome based on complex databases comprising clinical, biologic, genetic, imaging, dosimetric and population data.
  - The continued development of quality programmes, including clinical audit and comprehensive safety systems in Radiation and Clinical Oncology that maintain the principles of providing the highest quality of patient care and treatment in a safety-aware environment.

### Vision 1.3

Access to continued medical education (CME) and continued professional and personal development (CPPD) will empower both healthcare professionals and patients to fully participate in all decisions regarding treatment.

In order to achieve this vision ESTRO will enable and support the following priorities:

- (a) ESTRO will promote and publish journal(s) and where appropriate additional supplementary information of the highest scientific quality and through this approach set the existing and future standards for the specialty.
- The purpose of the Society's journal, Radiotherapy & Oncology, will be to provide, for members of the Society and all radiation oncology professionals, access to highest-level scientific information thereby enabling the accelerated development of new treatment approaches and the practice of evidence-based radiation oncology.
  - In addition, the Society will create new web-based platforms to enhance the accessibility of ESTRO's related policy statements and documentation including Society guidelines, curricula, educational publications, conference proceedings, and strategic policy statements developed by the Society or in partnership with other European professional cancer organisations.
- (b) ESTRO will in addition facilitate and enhance the dissemination of science through an expanded portfolio of meetings and educational courses including:
- Congresses focusing on integrated interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary approaches.
  - Organ and technical oriented conferences, meetings and workshops.
  - Discipline oriented research conferences, meetings and workshops.
  - Health economic research conferences, meetings and workshops.
  - Conferences addressing new horizons and blue-sky research in radiation oncology.
  - The further development of links and strategic partnerships with national radiation oncology societies.
  - The further development of basic and advanced educational courses through the established ESTRO School of Radiotherapy and Oncology.

### Vision 1.4

National and international policy-makers, healthcare management, industrial & corporate partners, and other professional oncology societies will recognise radiation oncology as a major contributor to cancer cure, and ESTRO as a strategic driving force in the multidisciplinary fight against cancer.

In order to achieve this vision ESTRO will enable and support the following priorities:

- (a) ESTRO will take all necessary measures to promote and advance multidisciplinary networking and onco-policy through a comprehensive, active and strategic partnership within ECCO.
- (b) ESTRO will take a leadership role in advising the European Union (EU), European Commission (EC) and European Economic Area (EEA) on the future strategic development of all matters relating to the clinical discipline of radiation oncology within Europe.
- (c) ESTRO will examine the opportunities to liaise and develop collaborative partnerships with other European and International agencies and societies, in particular with those groups that directly work in, or advise on the field of radiation oncology, including the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS) Section of Radiotherapy and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- (d) ESTRO will where appropriate take a similar leadership role in advising the wide range of international health agencies, intergovernmental groups and non governmental organisations (NGOs) on the future strategic development of radiation oncology at a global level.
- (e) In recognition of the need to strengthen partnerships with industry, ESTRO will become a driving force in shaping and guiding collaborations between radiation oncology and industry, particularly with respect to product development pathways for equipment, pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors in the field of radiation oncology.
- (f) To enable this partnership, the Society will create new and innovative platforms to support and foster collaboration with industry and thereby strengthen the synergy between the Society and industrial/corporate partners.

### Vision 1.5

ESTRO will take all reasonable measures to further develop as the preeminent scientific society in Radiotherapy and Oncology, and through this role, the Society will have a unique long-term strategic responsibility for the future development of the clinical discipline of Radiation and Clinical Oncology within Europe and at a global level.

In order to facilitate this vision ESTRO will enable and support the following new priorities:

- (a) ESTRO will examine new models of membership that further strengthen the range of education, training and professional services available to Society members including:
- The feasibility of modified annual membership fees for young members.
  - The development of new forms of multi-year membership for existing members.
  - The potential for new membership models linking national radiation oncology groups and the Society.
- (b) ESTRO will create a dedicated communication hub within the office, for the benefit of Society members, national societies and other professional oncology and scientific societies that will support and facilitate the wide range of issues that

- arise from direct member contact, together with the related issues arising from meetings and activities of the Professional and Membership Council, Scientific Council, Executive Council and Board of the Society.
- (c) ESTRO will further support the development of innovative health services research in radiotherapy and oncology, including the long term analysis of changes in specialist staffing in the discipline, the level of equipment, the appropriate implementation of new technology, patient access to new treatment approaches; together with the critical analysis of these strategic developments using cost-benefit, cost-utility and other means of health economic review and health technology assessment (HTA). In the first instance ESTRO has initiated this strategic priority through the creation of the Health Economics in Radiation Oncology (HERO) project.
- (d) ESTRO acknowledges that whilst differences exist in the state of development of radiotherapy and clinical oncology in individual countries within Europe, the Society together with national societies will create and prioritise innovative strategic partnerships in order to strengthen the clinical and scientific specialty in the respective countries and in addition to support an increased level of patient care and quality of treatment throughout Europe.
- (e) ESTRO will investigate and strengthen its relationship with European and international cooperative clinical trials organisations, national clinical trials groups, and where appropriate individual cancer centres and hospitals, with a view to supporting such clinical trials, related clinical and translational research including:
- The presentation of such research at the full range of scientific meetings coordinated by ESTRO, especially the ESTRO forum and ESTRO meeting within ECCO.
  - The prioritised publication of such trials in the Society journal(s).
- (f) ESTRO will develop and enhance its web-based portfolio of resources to the benefit of all members, taking full account of the future strategic potential of new developments in information and communication technology.
- (g) Recognising the strategic importance of young members to the development and future of ESTRO and the clinical discipline of radiation oncology, the ESTRO Board will continue to prioritise initiatives to increase young member participation in the Society including:
- Enhanced opportunities for radiation oncologists, physicists, RTT's, biologists, nurses and allied health professionals training in the field of radiation oncology to become full active members of ESTRO.
  - The examination of new approaches to enable innovative international exchange programmes for young ESTRO members.
  - The expansion and further development of the ESTRO Fellow programme.
  - The further development of young membership involvement in teaching courses, specialist meetings, and the ESTRO meeting, ESTRO Forum and ECCO meetings.
  - The strategic involvement of young members in specific committees, task groups and special meetings organised by the Society.