Presentation of the Young Task Force: past & future

On behalf of the Young task force,

Dr Sofia Rivera

Radiotherapy department

Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France
What is the ESTRO Young Task Force (YTF)?

- Working group in the portfolio of the ESTRO president

- Including young members from the 4 specialties in radiation oncology (biologists, physicists, technologists, physicians) from all over Europe

- **Aims:** secure **maintenance, continuity and development** of a high level of **ESTRO integration** for young people in the field of radiation oncology in terms of **educational, scientific and professional issues**
What is the ESTRO Young Task Force (YTF)?

The current YTF was created at the 1st ESTRO Forum in Barcelona, in May 2012.
How was the YTF created?

- ESTRO together with involved young members have during recent years developed a number of initiatives by/for its youngest members in:
  - Education
  - Science
  - Professional / membership issues

- Focusing on integrating young people helping strengthening our one joint society, for all members and not separating young members from the other society members.
How was the YTF created?

- “young activities” created by/with young members not only for young professionals in the field of radiation oncology

  - **Young scientific track** at ESTRO meetings for all 4 disciplines since ESTRO27 in Göteborg in 2008

  - **Young corner** in the ESTRO newsletter since 2009

  - **Young representatives** in each standing committee since 2009-2010

- But there was no dynamic framework to accommodate both current and future ”young” activities until the first YTF
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.
How does the YTF work?

- YTF= 5 to 10 young members nominated by the ESTRO board from the 4 disciplines in radiation oncology
- 3 members renewed each year to ensure continuity in projects
- New names suggested by the YTF to the board each year to replace members who are stepping down
- Web meetings on regular basis + meeting during ESTRO congress
- Definition of a roadmap with a list of milestones/ action points
- Report to the ESTRO board on achievements and perspectives
What are the missions of the YTF?

Main aims

- To foster the connections between ESTRO and young radiotherapy scientists working primarily in Europe
- To discuss the needs of young radiotherapy scientists, how ESTRO can serve these needs and how this will benefit ESTRO in the future
- To introduce and develop possible areas of engagement for young radiotherapy professionals in ESTRO
- To promote leadership skills in promising young individuals, in line with ESTRO’s mission and values
Mission of the first YTF: set up the first roadmap

- First YTF, nominated in 2011:
  - Daniel Zips (RO, Germany),
  - Ludvig Muren (Phy, Denmark),
  - Berardino De Bari (RO, Italy),
  - Pierre Blanchard (RO, France),
  - Sofia Rivera (RO, France)

- Set up a survey among young professionals in radiation oncology to:
  - further improve young activities in ESTRO
  - better meet the needs of young
  - better support young professionals and scientists in radiation oncology
Achievements of the first YTF: set up the first roadmap

- Results from the online survey:

  - Total n=899
  - Participants origin:
    - Africa n=35
    - Asia n=203
    - Australia n=23
    - Europe n=591
    - North America n=26
    - South America n=17
    - Not reported n=4

  - Participants' age:
    - 20-25 years: 36%
    - 26-30 years: 36%
    - 31-35 years: 27.4%
    - 36-40 years: 5%

  - ESTRO Member?
    - Current member: 494
    - Never: 290
    - Ever: 115
    - 52%

  - Do you know that ESTRO has special young member activities?
    - Yes
    - No
Achievements of the first YTF: set up the first roadmap

- Rating and proposals for:
  - educational activities
  - professional activities
  - scientific activities

- Set up of the first roadmap base on 5 key points:
  - Set up on a regular basis an ESTRO Agorá
  - young representatives in standing committees, in the online services/ programs work and having a task force
  - Continue to develop support for young professionals
  - promote educational activities specifically for young
  - Better access to ESTRO services for young

What are the achievements of the second YTF?

- Set up the first Agora meeting (presentation from P. Blanchard)
What are the achievements of the second YTF?

- Secured both maintenance and continuity of young representatives in standing committees
- Developed involvement in the online services/ programs work
  - FALCON (presentation from Arturo Navarro)
  - DOVE (presentation from Nuria Jornet)
  - Self assessment project
  - Young corner in the ESTRO newsletter
  - Online journal club/ blog project
What are the achievements of the second YTF?

- Continue to develop support for young professionals

  ✓ Awarding travel grants: TTGs are now called mobility grants
  - to visit another institute
  - to learn about or gain experience with a technique
  - which would be useful to you and your department
  - short study visits (1 to 3 weeks)
  - to centres of excellence in Europe or outside
  - two application deadlines per year (Spring and Autumn)

  ✓ Ensuring special registration fees for ESTRO scientific congresses

  ✓ dedicated scientific sessions by and for young researchers
What are the achievements of the second YTF?

- Further promote educational activities specifically for young
  - by offering travel grants for ESTRO teaching courses
    - Registration grants for teaching courses or ESTRO events
    - Sponsors: Varian, Nuclétron
  - allowing access to the electronic version of Radiotherapy & Oncology
  - Special membership package for young professionals
    - Ex: contract with the young French society of radiation oncology (SFjRO)
  - providing web access to educational materials from ESTRO courses and congresses for a reduced fee (DOVE)
What are the perspectives of the second YTF?

- Better access to ESTRO services for young professionals

  - Special membership packages linked to attendance at teaching courses or meetings
  - Sponsored membership (eg for low-income European countries)
  - Web based platform/chat/blog for exchange and social networking among young professionals

- ESTRO fellow
What are the perspectives for the upcoming YTF?

- Report on the achievements presented to the ESTRO board
- Proposal for a roadmap for the third YTF (2013-2014)
  - Presentation from Ludvig Muren
- Members stepping down: Ludvig Muren and Sofia Rivera
- New members to be nominated
- New contract to be signed
Conclusions

- Young members represent a large part of the ESTRO society
- Young members need to be specifically approached because they are the future of ESTRO and European radiotherapy
- Young members could be better integrated in ESTRO life and are willing so
- The Young task force should be a permanent structure with continuous renewal based on the renewal of one third of the task force each year
- “Young activities” are growing following the roadmap

let’s join forces together!