

**Interview with Barbara Alicja Jereczek-Fossa,
Candidate for the ESTRO Presidential Election 2024**

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1. Could you tell us about your current and past involvement in ESTRO? What made you become involved in the first place?

Since the beginning of my professional journey, I've been actively engaged with ESTRO. Starting as an ESTRO course participant, I've taken on various roles, such as Teacher and Director of ESTRO Courses, Member of ESTRO Advocacy Group (EU-presented project "Marie Curie Legacy Project"), Stakeholders Council Member, Clinical and Education Committees. Currently, I have the honour to chair the National Societies Committee, a fantastic bridge between ESTRO and 90 national societies.

The spirit of ESTRO, including that of the ESTRO Office, embodies dedication and collaboration, driving progress in the field of Radiation Oncology.

Engaging with ESTRO has provided me with an exceptional opportunity to understand the needs of radiotherapy professionals and their patients on national and global levels.

2. What is your vision of how Radiation Oncology will look in 2030? How does ESTRO's vision and strategy resonate with your perspective of the future?

Radiation oncology is a rapidly growing clinical discipline. In 2030, radiotherapy will be a biology- and AI-based, precise cancer treatment well integrated into cancer treatment strategies, hopefully accessible to all patients.

There are new opportunities and challenges on the horizon: the incidence of cancer is on the rise, and technological and biological innovation is experiencing remarkable advancements. New drugs, novel combinations, and emerging players are entering the therapeutic arena.

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A strong ESTRO will foster dialogue with all stakeholders in oncology and healthcare.

A close collaboration with other oncological, radiological, and disease- or organ-oriented societies will be key to **maintaining and reinforcing the unique role of Radiation Oncology. Continuous dialogue between patients and clinicians is also essential in shaping the future of Oncology and Radiotherapy.**

3. What do you perceive as the most pressing issues or challenges for ESTRO as a scientific society today?

In my perspective, ESTRO needs to prioritize promoting the **advancement, positive perception, and visibility of Radiation Oncology** within the arena of cancer care.

As a scientific society, the second challenge lies in **enhancing and facilitating research** and evidence generation. Without high-quality evidence, our discipline may really struggle in the significantly competitive world.

A third critical issue involves attention and **support for the working environment** of Radiation Oncology professionals. It is imperative that we prioritize the well-being of those dedicated directly or indirectly to patient care.

Addressing all three of these challenges is essential for the overall benefit of our patients.

4. If you are elected ESTRO President, what will be your goal(s) and/or priorities for your term? What are the potential barriers and how could you overcome them?

My principal goal will be representing all Radiation Oncology professionals. My priorities align with ESTRO VISION 2030 and include:

- **Supporting Professionals:** Advocating for all Radiation Oncology professionals to have the means to provide the best possible care for our patients.

- **Elevating Radiation Oncology:** Positioning radiotherapy as a strategic and attractive option in multidisciplinary cancer care through effective networking, research facilitation and promotion, science dissemination, education, and access to high-quality radiotherapy.

- **International Voice:** Ensuring that ESTRO has a strong presence on the international stage among policy-makers, institutions, universities, scientific societies, industries, patients groups and communities.

- **Addressing Imminent Challenges and Opportunities:** Sustainability, technological, and biological advancements. Tackling the shortage of professionals in Radiation Oncology. Fostering a supportive and empathetic working environment. Engaging young members and professionals coming from underrepresented areas.

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5. How do you envision the interdisciplinary aspect of our Society? And how do you envision the multidisciplinary aspect of the oncology field and how ESTRO could best position itself in this regard?

ESTRO's strength lies in its interdisciplinary nature as a scientific society, encompassing all facets of the discipline. The forces are combined and go in one direction! Here you can really say, "united we win, divided we fall."

In my ESTRO experience, I have fantastically worked with all radiotherapy professionals: radiation oncologists, clinical oncologists, brachytherapy experts, medical physicists, RTTS, dosimetrists, biologists, biomedical engineers, biotechnologists, nurses, research fellows, data scientists and others, and I really appreciate the input from all professionals to the final success. I will be honoured to listen, support, and elevate them!

In terms of the multidisciplinary aspect of oncology, it is something we embrace from the start of our clinical careers: cancer care requires a collaborative multidisciplinary effort. I envision **ESTRO becoming a leading advocate among other disciplines, promoting clinical guidelines and research where radiotherapy serves as a foundational component.**

6. In your opinion, is ESTRO doing enough to improve patient's outcomes?

Yes, ESTRO has done a tremendous job in the last years! Amazing efforts and dedication of the former and acting Presidents have laid solid foundations for the Society. Both intra-societal and extra-societal affairs have been well-defined and adapted to our global and digital world. The Society now includes 9000 members, and many of them are actively engaged in the Society's activities. The visibility and strength of ESTRO are growing. ESTRO educational programme is expanding. All these actions translate into an improvement in the patient's outcome.

7. Why should ESTRO members vote for you as next President? Why did you decide to run for this position?

I believe that my extensive engagement with ESTRO, coupled with my international working and leadership experience, as well as my professional and personal enthusiasm, will be beneficial in leading our Society and representing our discipline internationally.

Radiation oncology professionals, let's reshape perceptions of radiotherapy, highlighting its life-saving or long-lasting tumour control potential, advancing the field, dispelling misconceptions, and inspiring confidence for a brighter future!

8. On a lighter note, what do you like to do for fun?

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I am rather an extrovert, and I love spending free time with friends and their friends—I hardly stay alone. I often joke that, having an identical homozygous twin sister, I have never been alone in my life! By the way, if you meet me and I do not say “hello”, just check if this is not my twin sister.