



CONFERENCES

Honorary Member Award 2023

Awardee Interview



Bogusław Maciejewski

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What have been the highlights of your career?

During my 50-year clinical radiobiology and radiotherapy activities, the most remarkable thing was how lucky I was to work with and finally become a friend of prophets in the field of experimental and clinical radiotherapy. These esteemed colleagues were Jack Fowler, July Denekamp, Stan Dische, Michael Saunders, Klaus Trott, Lester Peters, Rod Withers and Herman Suit. Last but not least was Gilbert Fletcher, of whom I was a student. Many years later, in 1994, I became an awardee of the Gilbert Fletcher Gold Medal.

What does this ESTRO award mean to you?

Becoming an honorary member of ESTRO is one of the most important honours for me. I have worked since 1970 as a research scientist in radiotherapy at the Institute of Oncology in Gliwice (I am officially retired now but I am still a part-time employee), and throughout that time my best memory has been my scientific marriage with ESTRO and my work at the University of California, Los Angeles with Rodney Withers.

To whom would you like to dedicate your award?

There are a few important people in my life I would like to dedicate my award to, but I think the most important is my wife Mariola, who always stayed and supported my decisions. We have been a very happy couple for over 50 years, probably because for at least half that time I was away from home, coming and going to many European and USA radiotherapy centres.

What has been your involvement within ESTRO?

My relationships with ESTRO make a long story. I was a lecturer of ESTRO courses, and from 1993 to 1997, I was a member of the ESTRO Board involved in the development of the curriculum for radiotherapy and of a log book for trainees in radiotherapy. As a president of the Polish Society for Radiation Oncology I established a specialist teaching and training programme in radiotherapy that was based on ESTRO recommendations. In 2006 I was awarded the Emmanuel van der Schueren award for the teaching of radiotherapy in many courses and meetings, and I was also awarded the ESTRO Gold Medal for Life Achievements in radiotherapy.

What started your interest in science?

My interest in science started in the early 70s at the beginning of my specialisation in radiotherapy. In fact, among many mentors, my boss, Professor Andrzej Hliniak, remains the most important. He was the first to convince me that radiobiology and radiotherapy were fascinating lands to be explored. He often said "It is always not enough, you can do more" – to my mind, that was provocation rather than encouragement, but it always worked, even now.

If you hadn't been a scientist, what would you like to have been?

If I hadn't been a scientist, I would like to have been ... still a scientist, because it is not only hard work but also an enjoyable art

