

Education & Training Committee



The first examination for the ESTRO Fellowship: testimonies from our successful candidates

London • 7 May 2011

The first examination for the award of the ESTRO Fellowship took place in London in May. Eight candidates sat the examination having satisfied the entry criteria. A ninth candidate sat the exam a few days later at the Chengdu (China) teaching course. ESTRO is pleased to report that all the candidates satisfied the examiners and have become the first ESTRO Fellows.

Our new ESTRO Fellows have shared with us some of their impressions on this new initiative from ESTRO - not only on the exam itself but also on the relevance of the ESTRO Fellowship to their careers and to ESTRO.



ESTRO Fellowship examination on 7 May in London



Vincenzo Valentini, President-elect of ESTRO, Layth Yahya Ibrahim Mula-Hussain, Richard Pötter, Chair of the Education and Training Committee of ESTRO, Bernardino De Bari, Agnese Cecconi, Jose Luis Monray, Jean Bourhis, President of ESTRO



First ESTRO Fellows



- LONDON 7 MAY 2011
 - Paul Kelly, *Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, USA*
 - Michael Pinkawa, *RWTH Aachen University Hospital, Germany*
 - Layth Yahya Ibrahim Mula-Hussain, *Mosul University Medical College, Mosul, Iraq*
 - Bernardino De Bari, *Centre Hospitalier Lyon Sud, France*
 - Agnese Cecconi, *European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy*
 - Jose Luis Monroy Antón, *Hospital Universitario De La Ribera, Valencia, Spain*
 - Dirk Vordermark, *Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany*
 - Conceicao Campos, *Instituto do Cancer do Ceara, Fortaleza, Brazil*
- CHENGDU 25 MAY 2011
 - Xiaoli Yu, *Fudan University Shanghai Cancer Center, China*



Berardino De Bari

" When I decided to apply for the ESTRO Fellowship, I really did not know what to expect. The thought of being a "pioneer" of a new project for ESTRO young members, to test myself, to discover something new - all these aspects pushed me to apply. When I started to study the programme, I found that for all of these reasons, it had been a good idea! It gave me the opportunity to review clinical radiation oncology, radiobiology and the principles of medical physics.

What can I expect from my ESTRO fellowship now? Surely, it will have an impact in my daily clinical practice in terms of knowledge. Maybe it will also open new doors in my career... We will see. " ■

Berardino De Bari

Centre Hospitalier Lyon Sud, France



Layth Yahya Ibrahim
Mula-Hussain

" It was a tough experience with hard requirements and not a fun exam BUT, at the same time, it was challenging and interesting, and the modern radiation oncologist has to prove him/herself based on the evidence-based medicine questions delivered by the ESTRO School. In fact, it was an honour and pleasure to be the first non-European ESTRO Fellow among the first group in this talented programme. By trying at the first opportunity, this will encourage my colleagues in our speciality in the Middle East to enter this growing family. The ESTRO Fellow "EF" certificate will push me forward towards the highest standards of cancer care and research, and will give me access to the global network for better cancer control everywhere, as everyone will support each other. I hope that I can maintain my EF validation during my life-long journey in cancer care. The certificate will reflect positively on my oncology work at the academic teaching level, research level and at the clinical care level. " ■

Layth Yahya Ibrahim Mula-Hussain

Mosul University Medical College, Mosul, Iraq



Jose Luis Monray

" I think the examination certified by the European Society of Radiotherapy and Oncology is of great interest because it provides the specialist with an international qualification, which can be considered in future career development. I also think that the prestige of ESTRO and its members may increase with the completion of such tests. ESTRO provides a very interesting and formative element that allows professionals to raise their standard radiation therapy curriculum. Personally, it has been a good experience and the effort that has been involved in preparation, whilst really hard, has been valuable. Becoming an ESTRO Fellow can be viewed as a step towards the better training of specialists in radiation oncology, as well as developing their knowledge and professional skills. In summary, I think it was a very positive experience and I hope it will help us to make progress in our careers. Finally, I thank Jean Bourhis and Viviane Van Egten for their support and guidance to enable us to complete this process. " ■

Jose Luis Monray

Universitary Hospital of La Ribera. Alzria, Valencia, Spain



Paul Kelly

" I think the ESTRO Fellow initiative is an important one. It creates an instantly recognisable European standard for radiation oncologists. The ESTRO Fellow title does not merely reflect the passing of an exam, but is also an acknowledgement of participation in the ESTRO organisation. I believe this will be of particular benefit to early-career radiation oncologists. " ■

Paul Kelly

Cork University Hospital, Ireland



Dirk Vordermark

" I felt privileged to be admitted to the first round of the ESTRO Fellow exams but was somewhat surprised to see such a small group of candidates. Maybe it is not so easy for an established and possibly "expert" radiation oncologist to go back and take an exam as if a resident. As the range of topics announced by the organisers included just about the whole field of radiation oncology, specific preparation for the exam was difficult. On the other hand, I trusted that clinical experience plus regular teaching in radiation oncology would guide me through the exam. And it did... The questions were apparently prepared by specialists but addressed to general radiation oncologists. Many could be answered correctly, a few questions and possible answers were debatable and, of course, one or other physics facts known to every first-year resident had suddenly slipped my mind... I am optimistic that the new and future ESTRO Fellows can improve the visibility of our Society. " ■

Dirk Vordermark

Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany



Michael Pinkawa

" The ESTRO Fellow exam was an opportunity to test my knowledge in different areas of radiation oncology at a European level in a great European city and get an idea of my strengths and weaknesses. I have been an active participant in many ESTRO meetings / teaching courses in the past and published many manuscripts in the Green Journal so the designation ESTRO Fellow is an opportunity to further support ESTRO in the future and get closely involved in education and research activities. The future will show if the designation ESTRO Fellow is more than passing an exam. " ■

Michael Pinkawa

Univ. Klinikum der RWTH Aachen, Germany



Agnese Cecconi

*" I participated in the ESTRO fellowship exam in order to confirm my knowledge of the multidisciplinary approach and the state-of the art treatment of different cancers that I have learnt about so far - and also for my own curiosity!
The admission criteria were very hard. The exam itself was completed during the ESTRO Meeting in London and it was certainly not very easy; the programme concentrated on all aspects of radiotherapy and cancer care: physics, radiobiology, principles of imaging, IMRT, IGRT, chemotherapy, as well as the treatment of specific major cancers.
During the next five years I would like to increase my ESTRO activities, including education, clinical research, information, guidelines and to start an active collaboration with the "ESTRO teachers". I would also like to be involved in the activities and the organisation of ESTRO and hope in the future to become a reference point for young ESTRO members! "* ■

Agnese Cecconi

Radiation Oncologist

European Institute of Oncology-EIO-
Division of Radiotherapy, Milan, Italy