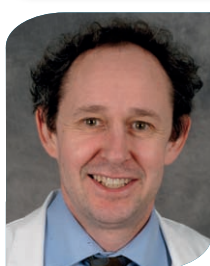




ESTRO Anniversary

➔ **Interviews of Jean Bourhis,**
Chairperson of the congress, President of ESTRO



Jean Bourhis
ESTRO President

What is special about the Anniversary congress?

Radiation oncology is not made up of compartmented disciplines. Professions are linked and need to exchange ideas and working practices. This is why we thought that the anniversary could be a platform where everyone meets - where all radiation oncology disciplines can merge. For example, we know that more and more clinicians are interested in some of the sessions taking place at the Biennial in Physics. By attending the ESTRO congress, they would be able to attend sessions that they wouldn't have gone to had they not already been on site. The Brachytherapy conference is another good example: it can be of interest to physicists and to clinicians as well. This congress will also be the opportunity to launch some initiatives.

What are these special launches?

There will be several. There will be the first presentation of the ESTRO Cancer Foundation. The aim of the Foundation will be to facilitate and encourage research and innovation in the field of radiation oncology and could also enable the setting up of a charity dedicated to cancer research and patient care.

We will also launch the ESTRO fellowship, and you have already heard about this in previous newsletters. This will be a prestigious distinction for radiation oncology professionals and the first exam will take place on 8 May 2011.

We will also hold an Extraordinary General Assembly to which all members are invited and can vote on the new Laws and By-laws of ESTRO. This is a very important moment

for the Society and we hope as many members as possible will attend and show their interest and support by casting their vote. Over recent months, we have been working on the ESTRO book: a book that will relate how ESTRO was launched and why, with stories and archives about people who were there at the beginning or nearly the beginning. The book will be available for all the participants who join us for this memorable congress and will probably be part of the 50th anniversary book when the time comes round to prepare that!

Are there other important moments not to be missed?

Yes. We will award the ESTRO founding fathers. It's such an honour to be able to properly recognise those people who created the society and who had such a visionary idea for the profession. There will also be a special Presidential symposium on Wednesday 11 May to share the vision of the future with the Presidents of ECCO, ESMO, ESSO and ESTRO. And there will be other awards, including the Iridium Award, the Honorary Physicist, Companies Awards and more.

There will also be social events such as the Opening Ceremony, the Welcome Reception, Poster Reception and of course, the Anniversary Party.

There will also be a lot of high-level scientific sessions from which it's difficult to select just a few, but the anniversary plenary award lecture and the debates are not to be missed and of course, there is so much more... ■