

## CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT



**Name** Barbara Alicja Jereczek-Fossa  
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**Country** Italy

### ESTRO background

I have been involved in ESTRO activities from the very beginning of my professional career, starting as a participant in ESTRO courses (the first of which were physics and radiobiology, backbone of radiation oncology) and then holding diverse positions:

- Teacher of ESTRO Courses (2006-ongoing)
- **Director of ESTRO Courses** (2013-ongoing)
- Member of Task Forces “National Impact and Legacy” and “**Marie Curie Legacy Project**” **presented to EU** (2018)
- Member of Stakeholders Council (2017)
- Past Member of ESTRO Clinical Committee (2008-2012)
- Past Member of ESTRO Education and Training Committee (2009-2016)
- Observer in ESTRO Guidelines Committee (2022-ongoing)
- **Chair of ESTRO National Societies Committee** (2017-ongoing)

This strong ESTRO engagement has given me a unique opportunity to meet and work with radiation oncology professionals worldwide and gain a broad perspective on our discipline, its potential and challenges.

### Experience

I am a medical doctor and a board-certified specialist in two medical disciplines: **radiotherapy and clinical oncology.**

I was born in Gdansk, Poland, and since 1997 have lived and worked in Milan, Italy. My career steps include:

- medical doctor and research fellow at the Dept. of Radiotherapy and Oncology, Medical University of Gdansk, Poland (1992-1996)
- research fellow at the Beatson Oncology Centre, Glasgow, UK (3mo,1994) and at the Dept. of Radiotherapy, Turin University, Italy (2mo,1995)
- medical doctor: research fellow and resident (until 2001), full staff member (2001-2006), deputy chair (2006-2015) of the Division of Radiation Oncology, European Institute of Oncology (IEO), Milan, Italy

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- since 2015, I have been a **Full Professor of Radiation Oncology** at the University of Milan and the **Chair of the Division of Radiation Oncology** at the European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy.

**My leadership experience**, apart from chair of the department and university professor, PI of research groups and responsibilities in scientific societies, includes

- Chair of the University BSc Degree in Radiography, Radiotherapy and Medical Imaging (2018-2023). **It was a great insight in the education of RTTs: they are the key persons for the quality of treatment.**
- **Chair of the University Residency Program** in Radiation Oncology (one of the biggest in Italy) (2017-2022), now deputy chair.
- **Master in Management in Healthcare**, Catholic University of Milan, Italy, 2012 (cum laude). Extremely helpful to comprehend strategic, operational and financial aspects of any organization.

Serving as the university professor and chair of the large radiotherapy department presents significant demands, but **I like challenges**. The IEO Radiotherapy Department, now equipped also with proton therapy, embodies our commitment to innovation. **I am passionate about networking and mentoring new talents**. Every year our department welcomes about 10 observers from all over the world, including colleagues from Poland (my way to give back to my native country).

I am an active member of

- Italian Association of Radiotherapy and Clinical Oncology (past board member, past chair of Scientific and Education Committee)
- Advanced Prostate Cancer Consensus Conference (APCCC)
- Scientific Committee of Europa Uomo
- and other initiatives with **focus on uro-oncology, combined treatment strategies, and innovations in radiation oncology**.

I am an author or co-author of about 450 peer-reviewed scientific articles and 8 book chapters;

Hirsch index (Google Scholar): 54;

listed at Stanford University World's Top 2% Scientists

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## **Education and Qualifications**

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I received my training in Poland and Italy:

- MD degree Medical University of Gdansk, Poland (cum laude: primus inter pares) 1992
- MD degree University of Milan, Italy 1997 (cum laude)
- PhD degree Medical University of Gdansk, Poland 1996
- Specialization in radiation oncology: National Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland and the University of Milan, Italy 1999 (cum laude)
- Specialization in clinical oncology: National Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland 2005

Selected awards

- Awards of the Rector of the Medical University of Gdansk, Poland for oncology research
- Award of the Italian Prime Minister "Paladino della Salute" for the activities aiming to provide safe radiation therapy during the COVID pandemic (2022)

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## Personal

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I am happily married to an engineer; we have a son and a daughter starting their university paths: medicine and aerospace engineering, respectively. A lot of medical, physics, and maths discussion at home... In my leisure time, I love reading and enjoying nature (beautiful Italian landscapes).

At work, I have a **wonderful team** of doctors, physicists, research fellows, PhD students, RTTs, nurses, and administrative staff. They are just incredible for their achievements, passion, and professionalism. The results are visible: our department is full of thank-you cards from the patients; this is a final judgment of our daily efforts!

### Why have I decided to run for the ESTRO President position?

My experience with ESTRO started very early in my career. My great mentors, Prof. Jacek Jassem in Gdansk, Prof. Ann Barrett in Glasgow, and Prof. Roberto Orecchia in Milan, were very instrumental in ESTRO and passed on me their enthusiasm for radiotherapy. Soon, ESTRO became my second job and my second family.

I am running for the ESTRO Presidency to dedicate my experiences and insights to our Society and its members. 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 field in multidisciplinary cancer care through effective networking, 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, industries and communities.
- **Addressing Imminent Challenges and Opportunities:** sustainability, technological (AI) 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.

## Final statement

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With extensive ESTRO involvement and leadership experience, based on the international background that spans Eastern and Southern Europe, and encompassing two major oncology specialties, I aim to contribute to the ESTRO's success and growth.

Radiation oncology is team work.

Together, we have the opportunity to shape the future of radiation oncology, making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.