

# Raising the professionalism of RTTs: The Role of ESTRO

Michelle Leech

*Chairperson, ESTRO RTTC*

*Associate Professor of Radiation Therapy*

*Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland*

# Raising Professionalism of RTTs in Europe

- Difficult to categorically define the role of the RTT across Europe
- Many differences exist:
  - Education Level
  - Roles and responsibilities
  - Perception of the RTT within the radiation oncology and wider multidisciplinary teams

**Common goal:** To provide patients with treatment that is to the best of our capabilities

# Professionalism

- Professionalism is key for RTTs and all members of the MDT
  - Patient confidence and care
  - Development of our profession
  - Position within the MDT

# Professional Responsibilities

- Clinical
- Legal
- Ethical

# Clinical Responsibilities

- Patients – physically, physiologically and psychologically.
- Practical Radiation Therapy, i.e Techniques, procedures and side-effect management
- Combining this knowledge to produce the optimum course of treatment for the patient: holistic practitioners and keeping up to date with practice developments

# Legal Responsibilities

- Involves carrying out all techniques and procedures absolutely accurately
- Taking all necessary precautions regarding safety and quality assurance
- Recording and dealing properly with incidents and near misses within the department
- RTTs are legally accountable for their professional actions and for any negligence, whether by act or omission or injury

# Legal Areas

- Breach of professional conduct
- Negligence
- Procedure in case of an accident
- Accuracy of records, including correct identification of CT images and all other verification images

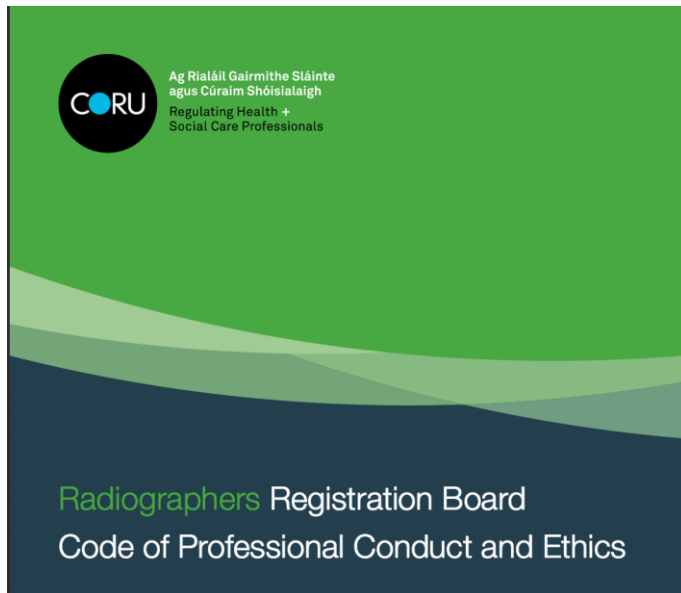
# Ethical Responsibilities

- RTTs have a moral obligation to maintain high standards in practical work and patient care, treating patients as one would wish to be treated oneself
  - Caring for patients general welfare, seeing that they suffer no harm while in your department
  - Protecting patients from any unnecessary radiation.
  - Respecting meticulously any confidential information about a patient



# Code of Conduct

- RTTs must adhere to a professional code of conduct



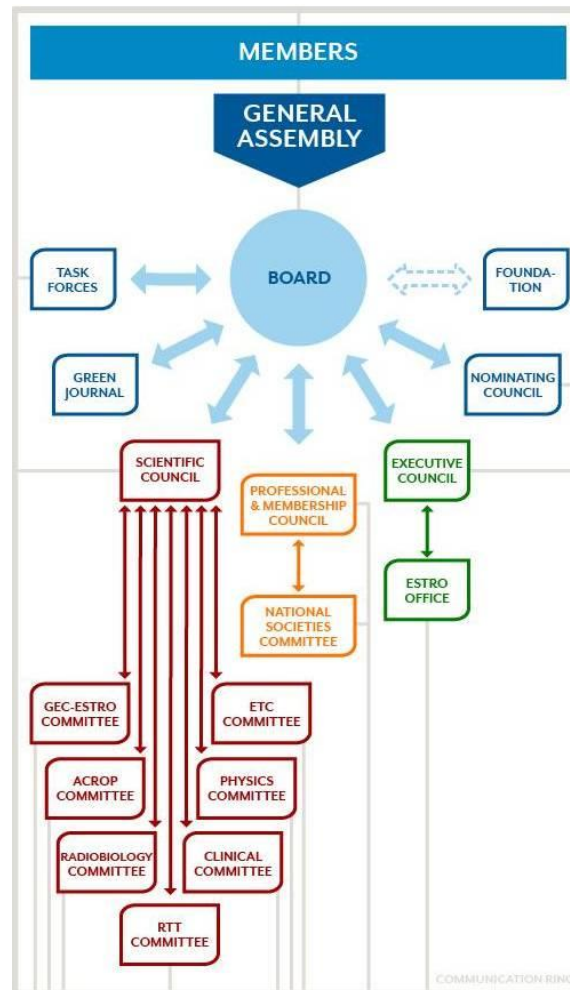
[http://www.coru.ie/uploads/documents/Code\\_of\\_Professional\\_Conduct\\_and\\_Ethics.pdf](http://www.coru.ie/uploads/documents/Code_of_Professional_Conduct_and_Ethics.pdf)

# **ESTRO: Raising our Professionalism**

# ESTRO RTTC

- Standing committee within ESTRO that:
  - represents the professional, educational and research output interests of RTTs in Europe
  - has 11 members, 2 ‘observers’ and 1 representative from Young ESTRO committee at present

# Structure of ESTRO Governance



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EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR RADIOTHERAPY & ONCOLOGY

# RTTC members' representations

- *Michelle Leech, Ireland*: Chair RTTC, Editorial Board Green Journal, Scientific Council, Education and Training Committee (ETC), EIBIR committee
- *Mary Coffey, Ireland*: ESTRO Board, Scientific Council, Chair Risk Management Committee
- *Filipe Moura, Portugal*: ACROP committee, NS committee
- *Aude Vaandering, Belgium*: NS Committee, Quality Management Committee

# RTTC members' representations

- *Danilo Pasini, Italy*: Falcon Task Force, Newsletter
- *Martijn Kamphuis, The Netherlands*: Core ETC
- *Annette Boejen, Denmark*: NS committee
- *Mirjam Mast, The Netherlands*: EIBIR committee
- *Bruno Speleers, Belgium*: advisory role for research

# RTTC members' representations

- *Velimir Karadza, Croatia* advisory role for Eastern Europe
- *Phil Scherer, Austria*, Newsletter
- *Aileen Duffton, Scotland* and *Bartosz Bak Poland* are observers on the RTTC at present
- *Laura Mullaney, Ireland* is an observer on the RTTC from the Young Committee

# Workplan of the RTTC

- Can be divided into 3 main areas:
  - Education and Research dissemination
  - Professional Issues
  - Outreach to members



# Education and Research Dissemination

- Continued dissemination of the ESTRO European core curriculum and new supporting benchmark document
  - Endorsement of this document
- RTT involvement in the ESTRO School:
  - Live teaching courses, educational workshops at ESTRO conferences
    - SBRT, Basic TP, IGRT, Quality Management, Advanced Skills for Treatment Delivery
  - ESTRO/IAEA project on Train the Trainers

# Education and Research Dissemination

- Committee members, along with other RTTs, make up the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) for the ESTRO annual conference or forum
- RTT and interdisciplinary tracks at the ESTRO
- Pre-meeting course organisation
- Development of programme, identification of tracks, invited speakers and abstract review.

# Professional Issues

- Educational Standards
- Profile of RTT responsibilities
- Collaboration with other RTT societies internationally
- Guideline production
- Code of conduct for RTTs
- Position Paper on CPD for RTTs

# Outreach Activities

- Bimonthly updates on RTTC activities to NS
- Presentations at annual conferences of NS
- RTT corner of the ESTRO newsletter

# Why should RTTs become ESTRO members?

- Professional Identity
- Joining a network of RTTs across Europe
- Research opportunities: Conference attendance
- Educational opportunities
  - Taught courses
  - Contouring workshops face to face and online
  - DOVE
  - Access to Green Journal
  - Mobility Grants

**Considerable reduction in course and conference registration fees if an ESTRO member!!**

# How can **you** get involved in RTTC activities?

- Contact the ESTRO office
- Viviane van Egten [vvanegten@estro.org](mailto:vvanegten@estro.org)
- Committee will discuss if and what area of work your skillset best matches

# Not all work!



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