

Vratislav Strnad, MD, PhD, Prof.

**Chair of the GEC-ESTRO Brachytherapy Working Group and radiation oncologist at the
Department of Radiation Oncology of University Hospital, Erlangen, Germany**

Graduated from JE Purkyne University with M.D., Vratislav Strnad began his medical career 1984 at Research Institute for Clinical and Experimental Oncology in Brno, Czech Republic. His postgraduate training began in medical oncology, but his path changed with a rotation in radiation therapy – in brachytherapy division of Dept. of Radiation Therapy with Dr. Taco Tacev. Here he saw a lot of patients mostly with gynecologic cancer treated with external beam radiation therapy and sophisticated brachytherapy who were “alive and well five and ten years after treatment” which sold him on radiation oncology. He spent altogether 6 years with Dr. Tacev in brachytherapy, with focus as well on brachytherapy in whole as on neutron-brachytherapy using Californium-252 predominantly in the treatment of patients with gynecologic cancer. In this time the emphasis of his main interest alongside brachytherapy was the interdisciplinary disease management of gynecologic and prostate cancer.

He graduated more with a PhD from the Medical Faculty of JE Purkyne University in Brno. After fulfilling his military obligation and completing his training, Vratislav joined in January 1991 the Dept. of Radiation Oncology of University Hospital Erlangen in Germany with Dr. Rolf Sauer. Here he has been deeply involved in evolving modern techniques of radiation therapy, simultaneous chemotherapy, interventional radiation therapy (brachytherapy) and in number of clinical trials. Subsequently Vratislav was appointed a visiting professor on the Masaryk-University in Brno (Czech Republic), a full professor on the University Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany), chairman of the Division of interventional radiation therapy at Department of radiation oncology of University hospital Erlangen and Chair of working group “Breast cancer” respectively. Secretary of working group “Head and Neck” as member of Group Europeen de Curietherapie of ESTRO (GEC-ESTRO). He is a principal investigator and co-investigator of numerous Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials.

His work particularly on the field of brachytherapy has been honored with number of awards as for example “Best Oral Presentation Award” (26th Annual Meeting of American Brachytherapy Society, San Francisco, 2005), “Scientific Award of German Society of Senology” (36th Annual Meeting of German Society of Senology, Dresden 2006), “Judith Stitt Best Abstract Award” (28th Annual Meeting of American Brachytherapy Society, Chicago, 2007) or “Hermann Strebel Medal” to appreciate his enduring and outstanding merits on the field of brachytherapy (7th 3-Countries Brachytherapy Meeting of DEGRO/ÖGRO/SASRO, Offenbach 2013). He is on the Editorial Board of the Brachytherapy, the official Journal of the American Brachytherapy Society and of the Journal of Contemporal Brachytherapy, Journal of the Polish Brachytherapy Society. He is author of more than 120 original publications, author and editor of German textbook “Practical textbook of brachytherapy” (1st ed. 2005, 2nd ed. 2010, 3rd edition 2014), author and editor of textbook “Partial Breast Irradiation using Multicatheter Brachytherapy” (2006), and author or co-author further 35 book chapters in other books.

Through his career, he has contributed to all aspects of brachytherapy as a mentor for the training of many physicians in radiation oncology, an innovator in brachytherapy, a leader in breast cancer, prostate cancer and head and neck cancer research both within his institution and through cooperative group efforts. Outside hospital Dr. Strnad is a devoted husband and father of 1 daughter and 2 sons.

Prof. Csaba Polgár M.D., Ph.D., M.Sc.

Professor and Head of the Radiotherapy Center at the Hungarian National Institute of Oncology, Budapest, Council Member GEC-ESTRO and co-lead study author

Csaba Polgár graduated from Semmelweis Medical University in Budapest with an M.D. in 1993. That year, he began his medical career at the National Institute of Oncology's Center of Radiotherapy in Budapest. He continued in this role until 2009, when he became the Head of the Center of Radiotherapy. In 2013, Dr. Polgár became the Deputy Director of the National Institute of Oncology where he attained his specialization in radiotherapy (1997) and clinical oncology (2000). He was awarded a Ph.D. by the Doctoral School of Semmelweis University in 2001.

With a main research focus on radiotherapy of breast carcinomas, Dr. Polgár was amongst the pioneers who first implemented the new treatment paradigm of accelerated partial breast irradiation (APBI) in the management of early-stage breast cancer. He served as the primary investigator of the first prospective randomized clinical trial comparing the efficacy and side effects of APBI to conventional whole breast irradiation. Dr. Polgár's work makes him an internationally recognized expert in the field of breast cancer radiotherapy and brachytherapy. More recently, he has been one of the chairmen of the ongoing multicentric prospective randomized APBI studies led by GEC-ESTRO. He is also involved in clinical trials in the field of head & neck radiotherapy, radiochemotherapy, GYN tumors, and prostate carcinoma.

In addition to his extensive research activities, Dr. Polgár has been a regular lecturer at the Chair of Radiotherapy of Haynal Imre University of Health Sciences and Semmelweis University since 1995 and at the Chair of Oncology of Semmelweis University since 2000. He has also been regularly invited to lecture at the Chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Semmelweis University since 2004, and at the Chair of Radiology and Oncotherapy since 2006.

Since 2004, he has been responsible for the postgraduate radiotherapy teaching courses held by the National Institute of Oncology. He has also often lectured at the University of Marosvásárhely (Tirgu Mures) since 2007, where he became a professor in 2009. Dr. Polgár became a full university professor and head of the Chair of Oncology at Semmelweis University, in 2015.

Dr. Polgár has received multiple honors throughout his professional and teaching careers. In 2009, he was presented the Excellent Young Oncologist Award by the Society of Hungarian Oncologists and was awarded with Best Scientific Publication of 2008 by the journal Hungarian Oncology. Dr. Polgár has contributed to 339 scientific publications including 15 book chapters, and 127 peer-reviewed articles.

In addition to his career and teaching, work Dr. Polgár has maintained leadership positions in multiple organizations such as secretary general (2004-2008), president elect (2008-2010), and president (2002-2014) of the Hungarian Society for Radiation Oncology; committee member of the National Professional Committee of the Hungarian Chamber of Medicine (2003-present); and Chairman of the local organizing committee & member of the scientific committee for the 2005 Annual GEC-ESTRO Brachytherapy meeting held in Budapest. Dr. Polgár is fluent in Hungarian and English, and is proficient in Russian.