The 25th Annual Congress of the Romanian Society for Radiotherapy and Medical Oncology (RSRMO)  
October 15-17, 2015  
RSRMO Secretary’s Report

The 25th RSRMO Congress was organized in Sibiu by the President – MD. Ph. D. Adrian Moga. The topic of the event “Multidisciplinary Treatment of Thoracic Tumors”, was discussed during 3 full days, from the 15th to the 17th of October 2015. This year’s Congress program was extremely rich and varied, including several courses, scientific sessions and symposiums, comprising a number of almost 600 participants – radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, medical physicists, radiation therapists, oncology nurses and other specialists involved in cancer diagnosis and treatment. As is the tradition of RSRMO congresses, material presented, focused on the optimization of treatment, building as much on developments specific to radiation therapy, medical oncology, as well as on optimizing combined modality approaches and the quality of life.

The Opening Ceremony was attended by personalities from the Sibiu Town Hall and the “Lucian Blaga” University, which, together with the RSRMO Board of Directors underlined the scientific and social importance of the Congress.

The five EMC courses were addressed to various specialists of RSRMO: medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, medical physicists, as well as oncology nurses and radiation therapists.

The Precongress course, organized by the University of Medicine and Pharmacy „Iuliu Hatieganu” Cluj-Napoca and coordinated by T. Ciuleanu was awaited with great interest, attracting 85 participants which had the opportunity to review the „2015 news on molecular targeted therapy”. As we have grown accustomed to over the years, renowned experts presented the latest research in the field of targeted therapies in solid tumors.

The novelty brought by this edition of the Congress was the educational session on physics: “Physics Principles for IG-IRMT”, coordinated by N. Corradini from Lugano. This course was attended by medical physicists and radiation oncologists.

T Two courses on radiotherapy were organised, in order to present and elucidate the main problems that revolve around the delineation of targeting tumor volumes and organs at risk: an educational session on contouring “Volume Delineation for Thoracic Tumors” coordinated by M. Ozsahin from Lausanne and S. Adeberg from Heidelberg and the Postgraduate Course of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy „Iuliu Hatieganu” Cluj-Napoca „Contouring targets and organs at risk for pelvic cancers” coordinated by G. Kacso.

Finally, great interest was directed towards the Course for oncology nurses and radiation therapists, coordinated by Claudia Ordeanu. Doctors from various specialties, presented the news in daily practice, such as cancer pain management, the use of growth factors in oncology, catheters and ports in cancer treatment, side effects of cancer treatments was. Over 150 oncology nurses and radiation therapists took part in this interesting and highly applicable course.

According to tradition, the scientific sessions of the Congress started with the Resident afternoon, a moment that marked the final phase of „The National Forum of
Young Oncologists”. This event was addressed to medical oncology and radiotherapy residents and young specialists from all over the country. The Forum is a RSRMO project organized in partnership with the Merck Company, in order to increase the standards in the young oncologist’s professional training and increasing their level of awareness by making them more involved in the research projects. 12 original research projects (prospective and retrospective studies, case presentations) were presented by residents in radiation oncology and medical oncology from three university centers selected at the first stage of the Residents Forum, held during the summer in various oncology centers in the country. All the submitted papers will be awarded oncology books, ESMO membership, ESTRO membership, subscriptions to specialty journals through the generosity of the Merck Company. The three best presentations from the Resident afternoon will be awarded with a sponsorship in order to participate in the ESMO and ESTRO Congresses, as well as an ESO/ESMO masterclass in 2016. The winners of the national phase were: Domnica Carpov, Ovidiu Bochis and Andreea Craciunescu, whom we congratulate for their interesting presentations that added a real scientific value.

With the occasion of the RSRMO Congress, the Romanian Society of Medical Physics organized the Medical physicists session, during which the latest physics research applied to the field of modern radiotherapy were presented and discussed. As was expected, in this event were involved not only physicists but also radiation oncologists, so that it raised some extremely constructive discussions among the participants. After the physicians sessions, the Medical physicists Meeting took place.

The scientific sessions were grouped according to this topic: Epidemiology, Screening & Diagnosis Session, Medical Oncology Session, Radiotherapy Session, Health Policy Session, Posters Session and Varia Session. Although the presentations were in parallel, the lecturers attracting a significant audience, were mainly focused on thoracic tumors, a very interesting aspect as they in turn were a centre on their own experience in various oncology centers in the country and abroad. It was a true reflection of the interdisciplinary nature of oncology. During the Health Policy Session, two presentations have excelled due to their high value regarding radiotherapy in Romania:

Radiotherapy coverage in Romania presented by V. Cernea and The status of pediatric radiotherapy in Romania and IAEA recommendations, presented by Dana Cernea.

All the abstracts, together with the detailed schedule of the Congress were published in the Journal of Radiotherapy & Medical Oncology, vol 21, 2015, Supplement.

Moreover, the satellite scientific symposiums of the different pharmaceuticals and medical equipment companies are worth mentioning. During these presentations the lecturers, presented the most current research on multidisciplinary treatment of cancer.

During the General Assembly we celebrated the 25 year anniversary of the foundation of RSRMO. In the Opening Ceremony, the secretary of RSRMO read a message from the Society founder - Acad.Prof. Dr. Nicolae Ghilezan. After this, a brief history of the Society was presented, reviewing the most important steps of its scientific, professional and educational activity during the 25 years. It was also mentioned that from 28 founding members in the beginning, the Society has now reached 270 members. RSRMO has grown, not only as the numbers can prove but also in value, considering the importance it has gained in Romanian medical society. V. Cernea presented the history of the Society’s journal, Journal of Radiotherapy & Medical Oncology, bringing into attention the importance of its existence, as well as the necessity of supporting this publication of the professional society. N. Todor presented the evolution of the RSRMO site and the fundamental role it plays in maintaining the viability and the constant link between the members. According to tradition, RSRMO treasurer, Claudia Ordeanu presented the annual financial report. The General Secretary announced that 2016 would be an election year and that a new RSRMO Executive Board would be elected.

An emotional moment was marked by the president A. Moga who handed the honorific diplomas to the founding members present at the ceremony: Cristina Vitoc, Dana Cernea, Valentin Cernea, Petronela Rusu, Viorica Nagy, Mircea Savu, Radu Tănăsescu, Cristina Fetcu, Tiberiu Kazay, Edina Morvay Szabo and Adrian Moga.

During the General Assembly, a group of 60 oncology nurses and radiation therapists from the Institute of Oncology „Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuta” requested the establishment of „The
Group of Oncology Nurses and Radiation therapists’ within RSRMO. The proposal was welcomed by RSRMO members and voted in unanimously, so that a second group is now formed within the RSRMO, alongside the Radiotherapy and Medical Oncology Residents Group. As this new group has now become the first of its kind in our country, we wish them success and a rich activity.

At the end of the General Assembly, A. Moga handed the RSRMO presidency for 2016 to G. Kacso. After assuming the presidency, G. Kacso announced the next topic for the 26th Annual Congress of RSRMO, that will take place during the 3rd National Congress of the Federation of Romanian Societies of Cancer: Pelvic cancers. We hope that this National Congress will gather together all the medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, as well as other specialists involved in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in our country, offering the possibility of a direct dialogue to highlight the progress registered in Romania in the area of oncology and to elaborate future strategies.

Prof. Dr. Viorica Nagy
RSRMO Secretary