

Young DEGRO = junge DEGRO = jDEGRO

The jDEGRO working group is an association of young DEGRO (German society for radiation oncology) members and junior scientists from the radiation oncology field.

Our working group has set itself the goal of strengthening and promoting the interests of qualified young members in the radiation oncology workforce, developing ideas for optimising education, further training and research.

We would like to offer the young generation a development platform.

The jDEGRO thrives to ensure local networking and provide support in the implementation of the curriculum (rotations, observerships, working in hospital and private practice). Last but not least, committed young scientists should receive support in their research activities through the formation of international research networks and the establishment of interdisciplinary exchange programmes.

The jDEGRO has had elections in March 2024 and is in a transition phase to hand over the tasks within the executive board. In the following sections, our working groups and networks introduce themselves and their commitments shortly.

Please reach out if you have any questions or require further information:

jd@degro.org

www.linkedin.com/groups/12922830/

www.degro.org/jd/ (in German)

Chairs:

Danny Jazmati,
Düsseldorf

Annemarie Schröder,
Rostock

Livia Schmidt (new),
Essen

Mathias Sonnhoff (new),
Bremen

Our other representatives:

Team Congress:

Lukas Käsmann, Munich

Team Education:

Hannah Schöberl, Jena

Melanie Schneider,
Dresden

Team Trial:

Alexander Rühle, Leipzig

Felix Ehret (new), Berlin

Team PR:

Maike Trommer,
Cologne

Georg Wurschi, Jena

Felix Grabenbauer
(new), Jena

Maren Schöneich (new),
Kiel

- An overview of our programmes and groups -

Congress/ conference group	This team designs and organises a variety of topics at the annual DEGRO congress. JDEGRO Members who want to participate can enter their expertise and experience in a database from where young co-chairs are selected.
Trial group	Here, individual clinical research ideas and projects are developed, initiated and realized. Members within jDEGRO can submit and join research projects.
Education group	We organise a regular webinar and have a collection of exam protocols to prepare for the specialist examination. There are surveys on further training, and we also offer a visiting programme to learn skills that are not offered at our own institute. On top, jDEGRO has its own mentoring programme.
Alliance of Young Doctors	The jDEGRO is involved in the Alliance of Young Doctors (Bündnis Junge Ärztinnen und Ärzte, BJÄ) in Germany.
International / DACH	Members who have already been abroad, e.g. as part of a fellowship, share their experience, answer questions and help with networking. jDEGRO is involved in the DACH working group (of DEGRO+ÖGRO+SRO).
Women in RadOnc	jDEGRO is committed to and actively participating in the Working Group “Women in Radiation Oncology” (Frauen in der Radioonkologie, FiRO) of the DEGRO.
Hosting jDEGRO	Twice a year we organise a symposium in different locations for networking, discussions, education and training.
Newsletter (PR team)	In our winter and sommer newsletters we inform our members about recent developments and upcoming events.
Young Biologists (jDeGBS) and Young Medical Physicists(jMP)	These collaborations are platforms for young scientists in biology, medicine and physics, focusing on radiation research, actively engaging with related initiatives to strengthen interdisciplinary and educational opportunities.
Professionals	In subsequent development after becoming a specialist and leaving jDEGRO, there is the opportunity to become involved in the Network “Professionals” of the DEGRO.



Front left: Annemarie Schröder, Danny Jazmati, Alexander Rühle: jDEGRO and Professionals group at the annual congress DEGRO2023

- Insights into some of our programmes -

■ Hosting jDEGRO – our biannual symposium

Hosting young DEGRO, which is a Germany-wide itinerant symposium on radiotherapy, offers a compelling continuing education program specifically for physicians in training to become radiotherapy specialists. Participants from biology, physics and medical technologists for radiology (MTR) are also invited and addressed by the program. In addition, the working group meeting takes place to exchange ideas, discuss current topics and draw up plans for future projects. Every two years, new representatives are elected.

Both university locations (most recently Essen and Hanover) and non-university (Bremen) locations are considered as hosts. The event is always organised by a local host together with the jDEGRO event team. The symposium is financed by sponsorship contributions from industry partners in the field of radiotherapy.

The next event focusing on immunotherapy in addition to radiation oncology will take place in Mainz on November 22 and 23, 2024. In March 2024 in Hanover, Livia Schmidt (Essen) and Mathias Sonnhoff (Bremen) were elected as the new young DEGRO chairpersons.

Contact us

Please reach out if you have any questions or require further information about us:

jd@degro.org

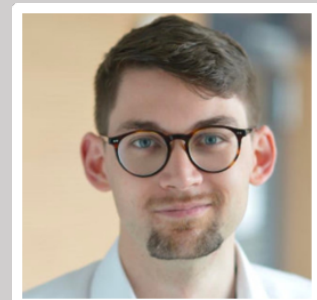
www.linkedin.com/groups/12922830/

www.degro.org/jd/
(in German)

Authors of this section



Livia Schmidt



Mathias Sonnhoff

■ Education group

As a subdivision of the Young DEGRO organisation our aim is the establishment and further development of our monthly webinars. In a three year time span we cover 90% of the medical curriculum in Germany according to the professional curriculum for radio-oncologist.

Additionally in 2021 the first general assessment of satisfaction of residents in radio-oncology has taken place by the yDEGRO. The results can be found in the article "Current situation in radiation oncology residency-Results of a national survey" (Fleischmann et al., Strahlentherapie und Onkologie, 2023).

Currently a follow survey is ongoing in preparation for the annual DEGRO congress 2024 and work with the DEGRO Akademie for further development of the residency program in Germany is planned for November 2024.

For hands-on experience we have organised an exchange program for residents to offer the opportunity to either learn more about brachytherapy and/or other radiation treatment options, which might not be offered at their regular work site. Additionally we have a collection of old exam questions, which are shared upon request.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us either via our general email weiterbildung@degro.org, or via our private emails Dr. med. Melanie Schneider (Melanie.Schneider@uniklinikum-dresden.de) or Hannah Schöberl (Hannah.Schoeberl@med.uni-jena.de).

The mentoring programme is organised by Thomas Weissmann (Thomas.Weissmann@uk-erlangen.de) bringing together mentors and mentees from different subspecialties of our workforce.

■ Trial group

The jDEGRO Trial group was founded in 2015 and serves as an open platform within the DEGRO to establish an effective research network of young emerging scientists from the fields of radiation oncology, radiation biology, and medical physics. Our aim is to support and connect the next generation of physicians and scientists with the overarching objective of discussing, planning, and executing research in the field of radiation oncology. To achieve this, the group holds regular in-person and online meetings, as well as issues calls for new study ideas. Project proposals undergo peer review by members of the Trial group, and the final selection of studies is based on elections.

Authors of this section



Hannah Schöberl



Melanie Schneider

Author of this section



Felix Ehret

Since its launch nearly ten years ago, the Trial group has successfully completed numerous projects, including a prospective multicenter study on the financial toxicity of cancer patients (Fabian A. et al., Radiother Oncol., 2023), a multi-institutional analysis of re-irradiation outcomes in head and neck cancer (Roesch J. et al., Radiother Oncol., 2023), and a nationwide survey among young physicians, physicists, and biologists on the current landscape and challenges in radiation oncology research (Weissmann T. et al, under review, 2024). The initiative and success of the Trial group helps to address the need for high-quality radiation oncology research and the shortage of young scientists in radiation science and beyond.

■ Congress / conference group

Team “congress” is responsible for co-organising the annual national conference of the DEGRO by planning sessions and assigning co-chairs to junior scientists involving the fields of radiation oncology, physics and radiation biology. This not only encourages young committed members to get involved but also enhances the scientific exchange between jDEGRO members. Members are always encouraged to get involved and are (where possible) assigned to sessions that fall in their expertise or are of particular interest to them. For this purpose, we have a large database where all members can sign up and enter their expertises and experiences.

■ Women in Radiation Oncology

In 2024, an interdisciplinary working group within the DEGRO “Frauen in der Radioonkologie (Women in Radiation Oncology), AG (WG) FiRO” was founded. The aims of this group are empowerment of female professionals within the workforce of medicine, biology and physics as well as the focus of female patients receiving radiation.

The working group will provide female professionals with opportunities for leadership training, mentoring and professional development to improve their confidence and visibility in the field. This includes supporting families. Networking and collaboration between women in radiation oncology both within DEGRO and with other national and international organisations will be established and expanded. Their work also includes conducting and publishing own scientific analyses, e.g., survey results and prospective studies.

The group will take initiatives to raise awareness of the challenges faced by women in radiation oncology and the importance of gender equality and

Author of this section



Robert Blach

Author of this section



Maïke Trommer

actively work to eliminate gender inequalities within DEGRO and the wider field of radiation oncology.

Furthermore, the group Women in Radiation Oncology focuses on female patients receiving radiation. They will elaborate if different management for women as patients in radiation oncology is needed, regarding both therapeutic approaches and side effects but also psychooncological and supportive care.

■ **Young German Society for Biological Radiation Research (jDeGBS)**

The Junge Deutsche Gesellschaft für Biologische Strahlenforschung (jDeGBS) is a platform bringing together young scientists from the fields of biology, medicine as well as physics that are all working together in the field of radiation research. Just like jDEGRO, the aims of the jDeGBS are strengthening the interests of young scientists in the DeGBS through support and further education opportunities as well as increasing the visibility of young scientists within and outside the DeGBS. The jDeGBS is working closely together with the jDEGRO and jMP (Medical Physics). These interconnections are further strengthened by the inclusion of jDeGBS committee members Lisa Deloch and Julia Hess as associate members in the jDEGRO executive board as well as an active involvement of jDeGBS members in jDEGRO activities as well as an interdisciplinary jDEGRO Trial Group Trial.

The Mentoring programs of jDeGBS and jDEGRO are closely working together in order to recruit the most suitable mentors for the participants of both Mentoring programs as this is a core element of our work that contributes significantly to the skills development of our members. Furthermore, we offer a wide range of educational online seminars that is also constantly being expanded. The jDeGBS organised round tables on e.g., "The Future of Radiation Research" together with other societies, including (j)DEGRO and DGMP/jMP. The 2023 Young Investigators Session at the biannual DeGBS conference „Collaborating for a better outcome in pediatric medulloblastoma - from preclinical testing to clinical trials“ further emphasises the need for close interaction of medical and biological specialists.

Our “jDeGBS Young Scientists Symposium” is a great opportunity for networking and scientific discussion with a proven concept that includes accommodation, catering and social events. The scientific sessions promise to be a forum for innovative ideas and discussions. We would also like to introduce another exciting initiative for the coming year: The jDeGBS will

Author of this section



Lisa Deloch

publish a special issue in the renowned journal "Cancers" entitled "The Future of Radiation Research in Cancers, 2nd Edition" and we are happy to receive submissions from all specialties involved in radiation research ([Cancers | Special Issue : The Future of Radiation Research in Cancers, 2nd Edition \(mdpi.com\)](https://www.mdpi.com/specialissues/cancers/2024/01)).

Authors of this article



Maike Trommer,
Cologne and
Melbourne

Team
International,
PR team,
Women in
Radiation Oology



Robert Blach,
Hanover

Team
International,
Congress team

DEGR
30. Kongress der
Deutschen Gesellschaft
für Radioonkologie
13.–15.06.
2024

RADIOONKOLOGIE
Der Mensch im Mittelpunkt.
Evidenzbasiert. Interdisziplinär.

KONGRESS PALAIS KASSEL

KONGRESSPRÄSIDIUM
Prof. Dr. med. Simone Marnitz-Schulze, Berlin
PD Dr. med. Gunther Klautke, Chemnitz

degro-kongress.org