

Interview with Bob Pinedo

ESMO President 1987-1989

You were the first to receive the ESMO Award. Do you remember what happened? How you felt? Do you have any nice memories from those days?

I got the award in the same period I became President. After that I received many more awards. I was relatively young in those days, it was in 1985, I was 42. I was very proud that I was the first to receive the award.

Do you remember what your speech at the award ceremony was about?

I spoke about pharmacology and drug resistance. I was mostly working in pharmacology and drug development at that time and I stressed the importance of new drugs and how to develop them, and how important pharmacology was. There were several speakers and I remember that the king of Sweden was also present to the ceremony, which was very nice.

You said that that was the first important award and others followed...

This year I received the *David A. Karnofsky Memorial AWARD* and the *ASCO Award*. But not at the beginning of my career because I was already six years professor of oncology in Amsterdam, and so what I presented there was how I was doing drug therapy Phase I and drug development. Because I was one of the firsts to do Phase I Trials in Europe.

What added as a result on your overall career having received the ESMO Award at the age of 42?

It had a very positive effect on all the initiative I took as ESMO President. It helped me to introduce important changes that brought ESMO to an international level; at the beginning ESMO was mostly a French event. Under my presidency, ESMO congress moved first to Lausanne –thanks to the collaboration with Umberto Veronesi- and then to Amsterdam because I was convinced that what ESMO was doing was important for the entire Europe.

We then launched *Annals of Oncology* thanks to the collaboration with Franco Cavalli. During these years the accreditation program, the membership committee and the fellowship in translational research were also created.

Yes, you were president in 1987-1989

I'm really proud of my work and that it could be an opportunity for my colleagues to preside over the society.