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PERSONAL DETAILS

Date of birth: 13.02.1972

Place of birth: Ghent (Belgium)

ACADEMIC CAREER

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| • Full Professor in Rheumatology, Ghent University (Belgium) | 2024 - present |
| • Associate Professor in Rheumatology, Ghent University (Belgium) | 2014 – 2024 |
| • Legal degree of doctor in the Medical Sciences (PhD), Ghent University (Belgium) | March 2011 |
| • Assisting academic staff (Ghent University, Belgium) | 2006 – 2010 |
| • Legal degree of specialist in Rheumatology, Ghent University (Belgium) | September 2005 |
| • Legal degree of doctor in Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics, Ghent University (Belgium) | June 1999 |

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ghent University Hospital (Belgium)

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| • Head of clinics | 2011 - present |
| • Senior clinical investigator, Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) | 2014 - present |
| • Director of the Ghent University Hospital systemic sclerosis unit | 2016 – present |
| • Director of the Ghent University Hospital microcirculatory unit in rheumatic diseases | 2016 – present |
| • Health care provider single point of contact for ERN-ReCONNET for better and continuous education and training of healthcare providers | 2022 – present |
| • Beneficiary of the EU4Health grant to European reference networks (ReCONNET) for the support of the coordination, management, and operational activities | 2023 – present |
| • Belgian national expert contact point for health authorities for rare connective tissue diseases (within the European Reference Network on Rare Connective Tissue and Musculoskeletal diseases [ERN-ReCONNET]) | 2018 - present |
| • EULAR imaging teaching and research center on nailfold videocapillaroscopy and laser speckle contrast analysis (14 international MDs trained since 2015) | 2015 – present |
| • Adjunct head of clinics | 2010 - 2011 |

Ghent University (Belgium)

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| • Faculty supervisor DITHARD-project (Designing the service of Integrated Transitional Healthcare for Adolescents and young-adults with Rare Diseases) | 2025 - present |
| • Appointed member of the faculty PhD commission | 2024 - present |
| • Chair of the working group on rare diseases | 2023 – present |
| • Member of the Faculty board of Medicine and Health Sciences | 2018 – present |

Associations/Networks - INTERNATIONAL

EULAR (European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology)

- Faculty at the live courses on capillaroscopy and microcirculation in rheumatic diseases 2008 – present
- Faculty at the annual congresses 2011 – present
- Co-author of the online courses on systemic sclerosis 2011 – present
- Chair of the study group on microcirculation in rheumatic diseases (160 members, 22 manuscripts) 2014 – present
- Chair of the imaging teaching and research center on nailfold videocapillaroscopy and laser speckle contrast analysis 2015 – present
- Member of the education sub-committee of live course of the EULAR School of Rheumatology 2021 – present
- Co-editor of the online courses on capillaroscopy and microcirculation in rheumatic diseases 2022 – present
- Founding member of the study group on lung involvement in rheumatic diseases 2022 – present
- Member of the EULAR Education Committee 2025 – present
- Task force member EULAR recommendations for the treatment of systemic sclerosis 2014 - 2017

ERN-ReCONNET (European Reference Network on Rare Connective Tissue and Musculoskeletal Diseases), supported by the European Commission

- Founding member 2016 - present
- Steering committee member 2016 – present
- Executive board member: disease coordinator for systemic sclerosis 2017 – present
- National expert contact for Belgium 2018 – present
- Member of the expert panel consensus meetings on patient pathways 2019 – present
- Member of the committee on education and training 2021 – 2022
- Member of the expert panel on clinical practice guidelines and clinical decision-making tools 2021 – present
- Chair of the ‘working group young’ 2022 – present
- Faculty of the 1st ReCONNET congress (scientific committee, chair, lecturer) 2023
- Beneficiary of the EU4Health grant for the support of the coordination, management, and operational activities 2023 – present

ACR (American College on Rheumatology)

- Co-chair of the abstract selection committee (topic: ‘Immunological Complications of Medical Therapy Category’) 2023 – present
- Co-chair of the study group on microcirculation 2013 – present

SCTC (Scleroderma Clinical Trials Consortium)

- Executive board: secretary 2025 – present

Associations/Networks - NATIONAL

Flemish Network on rare connective tissue diseases, supported by the Flemish Agency of Care and Health of the Flemish Government

- Network coordinator 2018 - present

BCR (Belgian Congress on Rheumatology)

- Scientific organizer annual congress 2018
- Member of the scientific committee 2017, 2018, 2024
- Faculty at the annual congresses 2010, 2013-present

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Publications

- H-index (SCOPUS): 60
- Peer reviewed papers (SCOPUS): 351
- Citations (SCOPUS): 15 029

Meetings, congresses and lectures

(Co-)organiser of 36 congresses (both national and international) invited speaker on 154 congresses and/or seminars (both national and international).

Research focus

- Systemic sclerosis
- Modern concepts for early detection of rare connective tissue diseases
- Capillaroscopy imaging of rare connective tissue diseases
- Functional imaging (Laser speckle contrast analysis [LASCA]) of rare connective tissue diseases
- Development of teaching studies
- Rare connective tissue diseases
- Ultrasound in rare connective tissue diseases
- Interstitial lung disease in rare connective tissue diseases

Clinical focus

- Raynaud's phenomenon
- Systemic sclerosis
- Point of care in microcirculatory imaging
- Interstitial lung disease in rare connective tissue diseases

Promotorship/evaluation activities thesis and doctoral dissertations

National

- Chair of the examination committee of master thesis: 2018 – present
- Chair of the examination board of doctoral defenses (1)
- Promotor PhD students (4)
- Member of the doctoral examination committee (4)
- Promotorship mastertheses (11); bachelor papers (6); Clerkship - research for the hospital doctor (2)

International

- Promotor PhD students (3)
- Member of the doctoral examination board (3)
- Member of the PhD reading commission (2)

Peer review and meeting abstracts

Peer review journals

Lancet, Rheumatology, Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases, Arthritis Care and Research, Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology, Nature Genetics, Nature Reviews in Rheumatology, Seminars in Arthritis and Rheumatism, Arthritis Research and Therapies, PLoS Genetics, Expert Review in Clinical Immunology, Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, Genes and Immunity, Arthritis and Rheumatism, Journal of Immunological Methods, Journal of Rheumatology, Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, Best Practice and Research: Clinical Rheumatology, Microvascular Research, Arthritis and Rheumatology, Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, New England Journal of Medicine, Clinical Rheumatology, Korean Journal of International Medicine,

African Journal of Rheumatology, International Journal of Cardiology, Acta Reumatologica Portuguesa, Microcirculation, Current Rheumatology Reviews, Rheumatology International, European Respiratory Journal, Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology, PLoS One, Autoimmunity Reviews, RMD Open, Respiratory Research, Immunological Medicine, Frontiers in Pharmacology, Lancet Respiratory Medicine, Nutrients, Journal of Endocrinology Investigation, Frontiers in Immunology, Joint Bone Spine, Journal of Clinical Rheumatology, The European Journal of Clinical Investigation, European Respiratory Reviews, Rheumatic Disease Clinics of North America, Diagnostics (Basel), Journal of Autoimmunity, Antibodies (Basel), Acta Clinica Belgica, Clin Transl Allergy, Journal of Scleroderma and Related Disorders, International Journal of Rheumatology, Musculoskeletal Care

Meeting abstracts

European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR), American College of Rheumatology (ACR), European Respiratory Symposium (ERS), European Pediatric Rheumatology Symposium (PRES), Annual Conference of the British Society for Rheumatology, European Workshop for Rheumatology Research (EWRR), Annual Meeting of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies

Editorial board

- Journal of Scleroderma and Related Disorders
- Rheumatology
- European Journal of Clinical Investigation
- Microvascular Research

Teaching experience - Ghent University, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

Department of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics

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| • Supervision of internship, 1st – 3rd master of medicine | 2012 – present |
| • Co-titular in ‘Supplements in Rheumatology’, master of specialized medicine | 2013 – present |
| • Co-titular in ‘Competences in problem solving’, master of specialized medicine | 2014 – present |
| • Co-titular in ‘Scientific deepening in rheumatology’, master of specialized medicine | 2014 – present |
| • Co-titular in ‘Exploration and ethics “health and society”’, 1st master of medicine | 2014 – present |
| • Alternating titular in ‘Scientific deepening in internal medicine: part I’, master of specialized medicine | 2018 – present |

Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy

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| • Co-titular in ‘Rehabilitation and physiotherapy in internal medicine/rheumatology’ | 2013 - present |
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Clinical study experience

- Principal investigator (PI) of more than 18 academic and industry-sponsored phase II to phase IV studies
- PI of the investigator initiated study with Rituxan in early diffuse systemic sclerosis (NCT00379431)
- Steering committee member CAP study (A multicentre, prospective cohort study using NVC and other factors to determine the risk of developing digital ulceration in patients with SSc) (NCT01377090)
- Steering committee member of the capillaroscopy substudy of the BI1199.214 study (Nintedanib in patients with SSc related interstitial lung disease) (NCT02597933)

Obtained research funding

Academic/non-profit:

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| • Fund for scientific research Flanders | 587.500EUR |
| • Ghent University, starting grant special research fund | 213.600EUR |
| • EU4Health grant (ERN-ReCONNECT) | 262.010EUR |

Funding through industry:

• Galapagos (research collaboration 2014)	100.000EUR
• Actelion (academic grant 2014)	35.000EUR
• Boehringer Ingelheim (research grant 2019)	100.000EUR
• Janssen-Cilag (educational chair on SSc 2021)	180.000EUR

Honorary service

Woman in scleroderma advisory board member (2023 – present)

- Coach of three international mentees (Italy, Ukraine and Hungary)