

Application as Board Member of the Belgian Society of Nuclear Medicine

Yvoir, January 14th 2025

Dear Members,

As the freshly appointed Head of the Nuclear Medicine Department at CHU UCL Namur (Godinne), I would like to submit my candidacy for the vacant position of board member of the Belgian Society of Nuclear Medicine.

Nuclear medicine is at an exciting crossroads. Over the past decades, technological and scientific advancements have transformed hybrid imaging into an essential tool for managing a wide range of patients, particularly in oncology, cardiology, and neurology. In parallel, groundbreaking metabolic therapies are emerging, paving the way for a future filled with innovation—and, as the WHO forecasts, a nearly 50% global increase in tumor burden up to 2040. All signs point to an increasing demand for nuclear medicine specialists.

However, our specialty faces a unique challenge: the inverted age pyramid of our workforce. European societies predict that up to 50% of nuclear physicians could retire in the coming years, just as our workload continues to grow. Therefore, I humbly propose **three priorities**:

1. Securing the future of our specialty by **fostering generational transitions**—not just to maintain excellence in our clinical, academic, and scientific endeavors, but more importantly, to ensure optimal care for our patients.
2. Strengthening our **leadership in metabolic therapies** to protect our field from being absorbed by other specialties—a fate that befell ultrasound, once a stronghold of radiology.
3. Intensifying inter-site, inter-university, and inter-generational **collaborations** to promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise, ensuring our scientific society thrives in the years to come with a shared and so reasonable investment of time and money.

I bring to this mission 18 years of experience in German-speaking academic institutions, first in radiology and later in nuclear medicine. Along the way, I've become fluent in five languages, such as French (mother tongue), German (mother tongue-level), English, Spanish, and Lingala.

Joining the board would also be an excellent opportunity to meet and collaborate with the colleagues who drive this scientific community forward.

Looking forward to the opportunity of working together and building the nuclear medicine of tomorrow.

Best regards,

Ken Kudura.