

Dear BELNUC board,

Dear BELNUC members,

After my master in nuclear physics, I wanted to continue finishing the master in medical radiation physics, but I decided differently at that time. It was however a choice I regretted the years after. My interest in the medical physics never faded. On the contrary it grew together with a scientific curiosity I could not find an outlet for. I wanted to help patients using the knowledge of physics and radiation I had already developed, so I decided to enroll to become a medical physicist.

What drew me as a physicist towards medical physics and nuclear medicine are the improvements in patient care that can come from better understanding and optimizing the physics of hybrid imaging and radionuclide therapy, a truly multidisciplinary field. It was immediately obvious that this requires an intensive collaboration between physicians, physicists and radiopharmacists. I have been fortunate to find this collaborative spirit in our nuclear medicine department at Antwerp University Hospital, shown also in our contribution to the Journal of Nuclear Medicine: a review about our vision on the future of SPECT/CT, as viewed by physicians, physicists and a radiopharmacist.

I also want to highlight the crucial contribution of the technologists, who manage to integrate all new procedures following these advances in clinical practice. Their feedback and continued education determines the success and outcomes for our patients. The technologist board and technologist day are very important for making the mission of BELNUC a success.

We are making the evolution towards more personalized medicine, especially in radionuclide therapy, for physics highlighted by the improvements and capabilities in dosimetry. The recent interesting developments in radionuclide therapy with Lu-DOTATATE and Lu-PSMA on our doorsteps will require an even closer collaboration between all three disciplines. The improvements in quantitative imaging and dosimetry combined with more selective radiopharmaceuticals, will increase the physician's ability to take care of patients. It is my firm belief that the advancements coming from this closer collaboration will also influence the clinical practice in diagnostic quality and capability, especially in quantitative imaging, that will be at the disposal of the physician.

It has been great to see this synergy come to fruition in the BELNUC Symposium, in the BELNUC seminars and the BHPA Symposium with its joint BHPA-BELNUC session. I hope to continue in this tradition, thus encouraging more physicists to join BELNUC in its mission to improve the scientific knowledge and collaboration in nuclear medicine.

These collaborations are symbolic for the future of our field. This is the way forward for a vibrant future of nuclear medicine. This is what I hope to bring to BELNUC as a board member. I hope to represent the physicists' point of view on further scientific improvements within our field to complement the physicians and radiopharmacist already elected to the board. We will be able to achieve more than each of our disciplines on its own, together.

Sincerely,

Stijn De Schepper