



14 July 12h00 - 14h00

10th EuChemS Chemistry Congress

Antwerp, Belgium



KaféCV

Since its inception as an evening event during the Chemistry Conference for Young Scientists (ChemCYS) organised by the youth division of the Royal Flemish Chemical Society, KaféCV has grown to be an established value which we will continue at the 10th EuChemS Chemistry Congress (ECC10). The KaféCV networking event is a non-typical "job fair", which allows the visitors to interact with representatives from the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, research institutions, and people educating the chemists of tomorrow. The invited speakers will share their personal and professional experience with interested (near-)graduates in an informal setting. If you have ever wondered what life would be like after graduation, you can catch a glimpse behind the scenes of various career paths during KaféCV. The speakers will gladly tell you all about their daily job content, career, responsibilities, etc. For the organizations represented at KaféCV, this is also an ideal opportunity to attract potential employees. On the next pages you will find brief fact sheets of our invited speakers and a brief description of the organizations they work for.

Microsoft

Microsoft Research is the research division of Microsoft, focused on advancing computer science and developing innovative technologies. Founded in 1991, it conducts research in areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, cybersecurity, quantum computing, and human-computer interaction. Microsoft Research collaborates with universities, industry partners, and research institutions worldwide to transform scientific discoveries into real-world solutions that drive technological innovation and benefit society.



Microsoft
Research

Dr. Gregor Simm



Personal data

Education: PhD in Theoretical Chemistry (ETH Zurich)
Company: Microsoft
Function: Research Scientist

Function description

Design and implement ML algorithms for applications in chemical science.

Curriculum

2022 - ...: Microsoft Research (Research Scientist)

Agfa-Gevaert NV

Agfa-Gevaert NV is a Belgium-based multinational company specializing in imaging and information technology solutions, with headquarters in Mortsel. Founded in 1867 and historically known for photographic film, the company has transformed into a provider of digital imaging systems and IT solutions. Today, Agfa-Gevaert focuses on three main areas: healthcare IT (enterprise imaging and hospital information systems), Industrial solutions (digital printing & green hydrogen), and film & chemicals (radiology solutions, synthetic paper, conductive polymers etc.). The company emphasizes innovation, sustainability, and digital transformation, serving customers worldwide across healthcare, printing, and industrial markets.



Dr. Sophie Lingier



Personal data

Education: PhD in Polymer Chemistry (UGent)
Master of Chemistry (UGent)
Bachelor of Chemistry (UGent)
Company: Agfa-Gevaert NV
Function: R&D manager discovery

Function description

As an R&D Manager Discovery at Agfa-Gevaert, I lead early-stage research and innovation efforts focused on developing new materials, technologies, and formulations. I am responsible for guiding exploratory projects from concept to proof-of-principle, and translating scientific insights into potential business applications. The role combines strategic direction with hands-on scientific leadership, coordinating multidisciplinary teams, fostering innovation, and ensuring alignment with Agfa's focus on sustainable and high-performance imaging and industrial solutions.

Curriculum

2026 - ...: R&D manager @ Agfa-Gevaert NV.

2020 - 2026: Research leader formulation chemistry @ Agfa-Gevaert NV.

2017 - 2020: Product development engineer @ Beaulieu International Group

2013 - 2017: Doctoral Researcher polymer chemistry @UGent

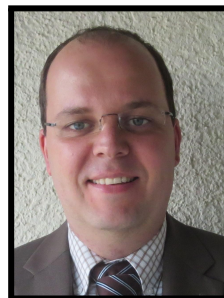
Evonik Industries

Evonik Industries is a German specialty chemicals company headquartered in Essen and one of the world's leading producers of high-performance chemical products. Unlike bulk chemical manufacturers, Evonik focuses on specialty chemicals and functional materials that improve the performance of products rather than producing finished consumer goods.

Its products are used in a wide range of industries, including healthcare, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, automotive, construction, and advanced manufacturing. With approximately 31,000 employees in more than 100 countries and annual revenues of around €14 billion, Evonik is the second-largest chemical company in Germany after BASF. The company operates under the motto: *"Leading beyond chemistry to improve life, today and tomorrow."*



Dr. Gert Smans



Personal data

Education: PhD Organic Chemistry UGent
Company: Evonik Industries AG
Function: Vice President Production and Technology,
Silica and Silanes, EMEA

Function description

This role is responsible for overseeing the manufacturing operations, technical processes, asset networks, and technological innovations for two of Evonik's core chemical platforms across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA).

Core Responsibilities

- **Production Management:** Overseeing the operations of all regional production facilities that manufacture precipitated silica, fumed silica (AEROSIL®), and organosilanes.
Technology & Innovation: Leading technical advancements, optimizing process engineering, and implementing asset safety and efficiency strategies across the EMEA asset network.

- Sustainability & Green Transformation: Driving eco-friendly production methods, reducing carbon footprints, and supporting the manufacturing of products essential for sustainable applications—such as raw materials for fuel-efficient "green tires" and Direct Air Capture (DAC) carbon-removal technologies.
- Supply Chain & Quality Assurance: Ensuring that the technical infrastructure consistently meets high global purity and safety standards required by highly demanding sectors like electronics, automotive, and pharmaceuticals

Curriculum

2008 - 2010: Adjunct Process safety x Evonik Antwerp

2010 - 2012: Plant Assistant Production and Technology
Inorganic Materials x Evonik Antwerp

2012 - 2016: Plant Manager Specialty Silanes Plant x
Evonik Industries Rheinfelden

2016 - 2019: Project Responsible and Senior Technology
expert x Evonik Antwerp

2019 - 2023: Head Of Production and Technology Silanes
x Evonik Antwerp

2023 -: Vice President Production and Technology,
Silica and Silanes, EMEA x Evonik Industries

BlueChem

BlueChem is Belgium's first incubator dedicated to sustainable chemistry and is located at Blue Gate Antwerp. It supports start-ups, scale-ups, and research organizations in developing innovative solutions for the chemistry of the future. Through advanced laboratory facilities, business support, and collaboration with industry and academic partners, BlueChem helps accelerate sustainable technologies in areas such as circular chemistry, renewable materials, and waste reduction.

The logo for BlueChem, featuring the word "BlueChem" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The "Blue" part is a darker shade of blue, and the "Chem" part is a lighter shade of blue.

INCUBATOR FOR SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY

Dr. Isabel Vermeulen



Personal data

Education: PhD in Chemical engineering (KU Leuven)
Company: BlueChem
Function: General Manager

Function description

Responsible for the daily operation, growth trajectory and new building of our incubator.

Curriculum

2012 - 2018: Program mgr in R&D at Umicore

2018 - 2022: Program manager business incubator -
recycling

2022 - 2026: Domain lead sustainability transformation
(TomorrowLab)

2026 - ...: BlueChem

last two functions working as an independent.

Carl Roth

Carl Roth is a German company headquartered in Karlsruhe, Germany, specializing in laboratory supplies, chemicals, and life science products. Founded in 1879, the company has become one of the leading suppliers for research institutions, universities, and industrial laboratories. With a portfolio of more than 40,000 products and customers in over 100 countries, Carl Roth supports scientific research and analytical work through high-quality products, technical expertise, and continuous innovation. The company is committed to advancing science by providing reliable solutions for laboratories worldwide.



Ms. Elena Cairo



Personal data

Education: Master of Science in Biology;
Engineer for Biotechnology
Company: Carl Roth GmbH & Co. KG
Function: Product Manager Life Science

Function description

As a Product Manager, I am responsible for overseeing a product throughout its entire lifecycle. I analyze market trends and customer needs, define product requirements, and coordinate collaboration between different departments to ensure successful product development and launch. I also monitor product performance, gather customer feedback, and drive continuous improvements to ensure the product meets both customer expectations and business objectives.

Curriculum

2024 - ...: Product Manager at Carl Roth GmbH

2023 – 2024: Master's Thesis, Department of Neurology,
University Medical Center Mannheim

2021 – 2024: Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Biology,
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

2020 – 2021: Bachelor's Thesis, German Cancer
Research Center (DKFZ)

2017 – 2021: Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in
Biotechnology,
Mannheim University of Applied Sciences
(Engineer qualification)

Wiley-VCH

Scientific and technical progress is crucial for the development of our society. Wiley-VCH publishes for the scientific community, for scientific societies and for researchers, practitioners, teachers and students all over the world. We ensure that scientists, engineers and economists receive high quality information, in print and online, in the most varied forms. Journals, books, encyclopedias, databases and services are our business. Our products are tailored to the special information requirements of the relevant readership. And this is our key to success: the demand for our publications, access to our online platform Wiley Online Library, portals and homepages is continuously on the increase.

Founded in 1921 as Verlag Chemie, we can look back over 100 years of publishing in the fields of chemistry, material science, physics and life sciences as well as business and trade. Since 1996 we have been part of John Wiley & Sons, Inc., based in Hoboken, New Jersey, USA. For more than 200 years, publisher John Wiley & Sons, Inc., has been an integral part of every generation's journey, a valued source of information and understanding to help them meet their needs and fulfill their aspirations.

Our integration within the global John Wiley & Sons, Inc. allows us to distribute our program in every country on this planet. The high demands made of us by our authors, customers and partners commit us to make an exceptional effort with regard to the quality of our products and services. The basis for this is fairness in cooperating with all our partners.

Our staff in Weinheim, Berlin, and Zurich are active in the different professional areas within our performance-oriented, international corporate culture And represent the foundation of all our services with their professional expertise and experience.

Wiley-VCH bundles its publishing activities in the various business areas of natural and engineering sciences as well as economics. We provide our publications with the best possible distribution on an international scale, coupled with a high standard of quality. From providing students via primary research right up to the latest laboratory methods and research results into active substances: Our focus on specific areas of expertise covers the entire spectrum of human knowledge.



Dr. Haymo Ross



Personal data

Education: Ph.D. (Chemistry),
University of Kiel, Germany
Company: Wiley-VCH
Function: Editor-in-Chief, Chemistry –
A European Journal and Coordinating
Manager, Chemistry Europe titles

Function description

In my capacity as Editor-in-Chief I am in charge of strategy and development of Chemistry - A European Journal. I oversee the peer review process and take care of rebuttals and ethical cases. As Associate Director I manage a team of journal editors. As Coordinating Manager I report to the owner societies on the development of the Chemistry Europe journals portfolio.

Curriculum

1989 - 1994: Studied chemistry in Braunschweig and Kiel

1997: Ph.D. in organic chemistry, University of Kiel

- 1997: Trainee at Wiley-VCH
- 1998: Associate Editor, Angewandte Chemie
- 2000 - 2017: Deputy Editor, Angewandte Chemie
- 2001 - 2003: Journal Manager, Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis
- 2003 - 2017: Editor-in-Chief, European Journal of Organic Chemistry
- 2017 - ...: Editor-in-Chief, Chemistry – A European Journal
- 2017 - 2023: Publisher, ChemPubSoc Europe (since 2020: Chemistry Europe) journals
- 2023 - ...: Associate Director and Coordinating Manager, Chemistry Europe journals

Royal Society of Chemistry

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) is the UK's professional body for chemistry and one of the world's leading chemical societies, with more than 60,000 members across over 100 countries. It supports the advancement of the chemical sciences by promoting research, education, professional development, and collaboration within the global chemistry community. The RSC also publishes scientific journals, provides guidance for chemists, and works to highlight the importance of chemistry in addressing global challenges such as sustainability, health, and innovation.



Dr. Robert Bowles



Personal data

Education: PhD Marine Biotechnology
(University of Portsmouth)
Company: Royal Society of Chemistry
Function: Careers and Professional Development
Adviser

Function description

I provide careers and professional development advice to RSC members and the wider chemistry community.

Curriculum

2016 - 2026: Careers and professional development
adviser - Royal Society of Chemistry (UK)

The Royal Society

The Royal Society publishes high quality, peer-reviewed journals covering all of science. Our mission is to disseminate, discover and preserve scientific findings and ideas. We offer you a range of services including rapid publication, rigorous peer review, international recognition and the option of open access publication. All our journals are compliant with funder mandates and welcome submissions of high-quality science.

The logo of The Royal Society, featuring the text "THE ROYAL SOCIETY" in white, serif, all-caps font, centered within a solid red square.

THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY

Mr. Andrew Dunn



Personal data

Education: MA History (University College London)
Graduate Certificate in History
(Birkbeck, University of London)
BSc Biochemistry (University of York)
Company: The Royal Society
Function: Publishing Manager

Function description

The Publishing Manager is responsible for the strategic development of the Royal Society's research journals. This role involves overseeing journal performance, driving editorial development, and ensuring alignment with the society's mission and publishing goals. The Publishing Manager works closely with the Research Journals Manager, Editorial Boards and internal teams to support content growth, quality and impact. They analyse key performance indicators, manage budgets, and contribute to strategic planning, journal development, and stakeholder engagement.

Thieme Group

Georg Thieme Verlag is an international medical and scientific publishing group with offices in Germany, the United States, and India. Thieme develops high-quality information products for researchers, clinicians, and professionals, including books, journals, and digital platforms across medicine, chemistry, and life sciences.

In chemistry, Thieme publishes a portfolio of established journals alongside curated digital reference works such as Science of Synthesis and Pharmaceutical Substances. These resources provide critically evaluated, structured knowledge for synthetic chemistry and drug discovery, combining expert-authored content with advanced search and data functionality to support efficient access to reliable scientific information.



Ms. Evelyn Hosner



Personal data

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Business
(Austrian Marketing University)
Company: Thieme Group
Function: Marketing Manager

Function description

Event Management & Marketing, Social Media, Campaign
Creation, Design.

Curriculum

2016 - ...: Marketing Manager at Thieme Group

2015 - 2026: Marketing Assistant at Softdistribution

2015: Marketing Assistant at brainwaves

2012 - 2015: Bachelor studies at Austrian Marketing
University

Dr. Karen Muirhead-Hofmann



Personal data

Education: BSc (Hons) Chemistry with German
(University of Kingston)
MSc Biological and Medicinal Chemistry
(University of St. Andrews)
PhD Organic Chemistry
(University of St. Andrews)

Company: Thieme Group
Function: Senior Executive Editor

Function description

In my role as Senior Executive Editor, I work on two major reference works in organic chemistry, *Science of Synthesis* and *Pharmaceutical Substances*. My job is essentially to make sure complex scientific content is turned into high-quality, reliable publications - and that everything runs smoothly along the way!

A big part of my work is coordinating people. I manage a network of freelance editors, planning workloads, monitoring budgets, and supporting recruitment and

development. I also work closely with an international editorial support team, helping to align workflows, provide training, and maintain quality, especially for structured and indexed content.

On the content side, I'm involved in planning and scheduling volumes and take responsibility for selected projects from start to finish. This means coordinating authors, editors, and external vendors, keeping timelines on track, and ensuring everything meets our standards before I give final approval for publication.

Alongside this, I look at how we can improve the way we work, simplifying processes, saving time, and making better use of tools and workflows. I'm also involved in cross-team topics like XML and content structures, run scientific webinars from planning and setup through to follow-up and analysis, and support early-career contributors such as student illustrators.

For anyone considering publishing: it's a great fit if you enjoy science but also like organising projects, working with people, and thinking about how information is structured and communicated. It's less about doing the research yourself, and more about shaping and delivering it so others can use it.

Curriculum

2021 - ...: Senior Executive Editor at Thieme
Group/eProducts International Business -
Chemistry Databases

2018 - 2021: Deputy Managing Editor at Thieme

International/Thieme Chemistry

2003 - 2018: Senior Scientific Editor at Georg Thieme
Verlag/Thieme Chemistry

2001 - 2003: Scientific Editor at Georg Thieme
Verlag/Thieme Chemistry

2000 - 2001: Assistant Scientific Editor at Georg Thieme
Verlag/Thieme Chemistry

Bayer Agriculture

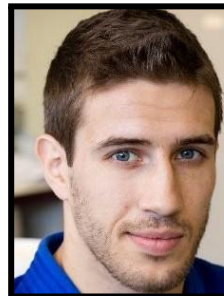
Bayer Crop Science is the agricultural division of Bayer, focused on developing innovative solutions that help farmers increase productivity while promoting more sustainable farming practices. The company works together with farmers, researchers, and partners to advance regenerative agriculture, an approach that aims to improve soil health, protect biodiversity, and reduce the environmental impact of farming.

Through innovations in seeds, crop protection, digital farming technologies, and sustainable agricultural practices, Bayer Crop Science supports farmers in producing more food while restoring and preserving natural resources. Its goal is to create a future where agriculture is both productive and resilient, benefiting farmers, consumers, and the environment.



Bayer CropScience

Dr. Jasper Lefevere



Personal data

Education: Master of Bioscience Engineering:
Catalytic Technology (KU Leuven)
Company: Bayer
Function: Team Lead Quality Assurance

Function description

Team lead of the central lab on the Bayer chemical production site in Antwerp. One part of the lab is responsible for quality control for Bayer and guest operations, operating 24/7. The other part for non-routine analyses, supporting process development. The role of the team lead is to ensure the lab runs smoothly, safe, at high quality standard and within budget.

Curriculum

2024 - 2026: Team Lead Quality Assurance at Bayer

2017 - 2024: Research Scientist at VITO (Flemish Institute for Technological Research)

2017: Postdoc at VITO

2016: Professional Athlete at Olympic Games

2012 - 2016: PhD researcher at VITO

Dr. Tom Rauws



Personal data

Education: PhD Chemistry (University of Antwerp)
Company: Bayer Crop Science
Function: Product Supply Expert /
CP Technology Chemist

Function description

I am part of the global expert group around production and supply of glyphosate based herbicides. In this function, I am supporting optimizations in production as well strategic planning. I also co-lead the global optimization team of glyphosate formulation plants.

Curriculum

2023 - 2026: Product Supply Expert at Bayer Crop Science

2018 – 2023: CP Technology Chemist at Bayer Agriculture
bv

2013 - 2018: CP Technology Chemist, AG Quality
Engineer at Monsanto Europe NV

2012 – 2013: Post-doc Scientist Nose to Brain Delivery
(N2B), Neuroscience/ Packaging, Device
and Delivery Division at Janssen
Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson and
Johnson

2011 – 2012: Scientist in the Hit Generation Team of the
Neuroscience Division at Janssen
Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson and
Johnson

2011: Application Engineer Decorative Inks at
Sioen Chemicals

Graham Packaging

Graham Packaging is a leader in the design, manufacture and sale of custom, value-added and sustainable food, beverage, household and automotive containers. We work with some of the biggest brands in the world to provide them with safe, attractive and convenient packaging that meets the demands of today's consumer. Graham Packaging was founded more than 50 years ago on the idea that there had to be a better way to store and use motor oil. Through innovation and a dash of imagination, we converted the metal oil can into a plastic bottle that made the product safer, cleaner and lighter for sellers and consumers to use. Since then, we've expanded our offering to deliver innovative, sustainable packaging to additional markets. We have a team of dedicated designers, engineers and other packaging professionals who are obsessed with solving each industry's biggest packaging challenges. Our facilities across North America, Europe and South America produce more than 16 billion container units annually.



Graham
Packaging

Mr. Jens Maggen



Personal data

Education: Master of Chemistry (KU Leuven)
Bachelor of Chemistry (UHasselt)
Company: Graham Packaging
Function: Process Leader

Function description

The Process Leader is responsible for the performance, stability, and continuous improvement of the production lines within the plant. He ensures that production processes are optimized, standardized, and consistently deliver high-quality products, in accordance with safety, quality, environmental, and operational standards.

The Process Leader coordinates process-related maintenance, troubleshooting, repair, and modification work on machines and installations, with the aim of guaranteeing the safe and continuous progress of the production process.

In addition, he develops proposals for the improvement and optimization of machine availability and process performance.

He is supported in this by a process engineer and a team of process technicians. The Process Leader plays an important role in training and guiding employees.

In the absence of the Production and Process Manager, the Process Leader acts as replacement.

Curriculum

2024 - ...: Process Leader at Graham Packaging

2022 - 2024: Process Engineer at Duracell

2018 - 2022: Application and Simulation Engineer at Suez
Water Technologies and Solutions

VITO

The Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO) is a leading European independent research and technology organization focused on cleantech, sustainability, and innovation. With more than 1,300 scientists, engineers, and researchers, VITO develops practical solutions by translating scientific knowledge into technologies, AI applications, and policy recommendations.

The organization works on global challenges such as climate change, renewable energy, sustainable materials, circular economy, and resource efficiency. Through collaboration with companies, governments, and research partners, VITO helps accelerate the transition towards a more sustainable society. Its main campus is located in Mol, Belgium.



Dr. Wim De Schepper



Personal data

Education: Master of Science in Biochemical
Engineering Technology (ing.)
Doctor of Science (PhD)
Company: VITO
Function: Team manager

Function description

As Team Manager of the Product Development team within VITO's Electrochemical Technologies department (ELEC), I lead and coach a multidisciplinary team focused on development and scale-up of innovative electrochemical components. The role is evenly split between management and technical tasks. My role includes setting short- and long-term strategies, people and project pipeline management, including stakeholder management and networking but also handling more administrative tasks like budgeting and personnel planning. With a broad background in chemical and electrochemical engineering I contribute scientifically to advancing key technologies in water electrolysis, resource recovery, and sustainable chemical processes.

Curriculum

2024 - 2026: Team manager at VITO

2019 - 2024: Hydrogen project team technical lead at
VITO

2016 - 2019: Researcher electrochemical technologies at
VITO

2011 - 2016: Researcher water technology at VITO

2010 - 2011: Expedition engineer water at PEA -
Antarctica

Deloitte

Deloitte is a multinational professional services provider. It is the largest professional services network in the world by revenue and number of employees, and is one of the Big Four accounting firms. Deloitte provides audit, consulting, financial advisory, risk, tax, and legal services with approximately 470,000 employees globally, and operates in over 150 countries.

Deloitte.

Dr. Roel De Mondt



Personal data

Education: PhD in Sciences -
Chemistry (University of Antwerp)
Company: Deloitte
Function: Senior Director Grants & Incentives

Function description

I am Senior Director at Deloitte Belgium– Gi³ , Global Innovation & Investment Incentives. I assist companies and research centers with the financial support of their research & development activities, as well as their investments, mostly in industrial production environments. I advise on tax benefits and cash funding through regional, federal and European grants. My expertise ranges from greening, sustainability and carbon neutrality of production infrastructure, over energy transition and hydrogen to general research and development activities for new products and services.

Curriculum

2017 - 2021: Inkjet Technology Leader and PMO leader
R&D at Xeikon - Flint Group

2016 - 2017: Global director Packaging Technology
Decoration at AB Inbev

2016 - 2016: Technology group Leader Digital Print at
Michelman Inc

2010 - 2015: Inkjet R&D Project Manager and Business
development manager at AGFA-GEVAERT

Cefic

Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council, is the forum of large, medium and small chemical companies across Europe, which provides 1.2 million jobs and account for approximately about 13% of world chemicals product. It is supporting the transition to a sustainable, competitive and resilient future in Europe. Cefic's mission is to:

- Advance knowledge: we generate and aggregate data and scientific knowledge to support our industry's work, while also tackling society's challenges.
- Support our members: we offer services and expertise in regulatory, scientific and technical matters to effectively represent industry and help our members navigate regulatory complexities.
- Shape policy: we engage, advocate and represent the industry with the aim of creating a supportive environment and smart policy frameworks in Europe and at the international level.
- Create collective impact: we amplify our members' voices and activities – delivering more together than any single company could alone.



Dr. Katherine Santizo



Personal data

Education: Doctor of Philosophy, Civil and
 Environmental Engineering (Virginia
 Tech, USA)
 Master of Engineering (Virginia Tech, USA)
 Bachelors of Science, Chemical Engineering
 (University of California, Santa
 Barbara)

Company: Cefic
Function: Cefic-LRI Programme Manager

Function description

I am the programme manager for the long-range research initiative at Cefic. Cefic-LRI addresses societal challenges with science to improve safety and sustainability of chemicals through funding of research projects. My function focuses on developing the research strategy, administration management (contracts, budget, projects), and engagement with stakeholders (industry, academia, policy makers and regulators).

Curriculum

2023 - ...: Cefic-LRI Programme Manager at Cefic

2021 - 2023: Postdoc in Material Physics Department at BASF

2015 - 2020: Research Assistant at Virginia Tech

2014 - 2015: Materials Analyst at Materia Inc

2013: Visiting Scholar in Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Chalmers University of Technology

2011-2013 Researcher in Department of Chemical Engineering, UCSB

2009 -2011: Researcher in Department of Environmental Science and Management, UCSB

Federal Public Service for Mobility and Transport

The Federal Public Service (FPS) Mobility and Transport is a Belgian government agency responsible for preparing, implementing, and supporting national transport and mobility policies across road, rail, air, and water.

The organization's mission is to develop a balanced, integrated, and sustainable transport system. To achieve this, the FPS balances economic development with security, environmental protection, and social interests. It integrates various modes of transport to create a seamless mobility network, analyzes transport trends and stimulates technological innovation.



*Federal Public Service
Mobility and Transport*

Mr. Remko Dardenne



Personal data

Education: Master of Science in Industrial Sciences and
Technology: Chemistry (Hogeschool
Antwerpen)
Company: Federal Public Service Mobility and
Transport
Function: Dangerous Goods Coordinator

Function description

- Analysis of occurrence reporting with regards to dangerous goods and cargo
- Analysis of requests concerning approvals and exemptions
- Establishing and planning of a risk-based oversight audit program
- Managing air-specific safety risks and identifying anomalies
- Identify changes to ICAO Annexes and the Technical Instructions
- Facilitating safe transport of dangerous goods by air

- Managing safety risks posed by the carriage of lithium batteries by air
- Clarifying State oversight responsibilities in Annex 18
- Enhancing cooperation at European level on Dangerous Goods
- Facilitating uniform implementation of the relevant parts of the EASA Air OPS Regulation and other relevant European Regulation (RPAS, ground handling, security screening)
- Increasing the efficiency of the European system by fostering cooperative oversight and exchange of best practices

Curriculum

2008 - 2011: Scientific Researcher at Universiteit Antwerpen

2011 - 2013: Dangerous Goods Auditor at FPS Mobility and Transport

2013 - 2026: Dangerous Goods Coordinator at FPS Mobility and Transport

Soudal

Soudal is the largest independent producer of sealants, adhesives and PU foam products for specialists and private users in Europe. With more than 4,800 employees, a turnover of 1,511 Bn € and 34 production sites worldwide, this 100% Belgian family-owned company – whose founder Vic Swerts is still Chairman – is a major international player and expert in specialty chemical building materials. Extensive investments in R&D combined with a long-term vision of innovation and adapting to local market requirements have formed the basis for the company's exceptional performance.



Soudal

Dr. Jasper Van Noyen



Personal data

Education: Master of Bioscience Engineering
Company: Soudal NV
Function: Group R&D Director

Function description

Leading a global R&D group in Sealants and Adhesives. Developing and managing a research project portfolio and technology platforms while providing supervision and leadership to a large group of research employees.

- Driving long-term innovation for the company
- Identifying, championing, and chartering projects in support of strategic objectives.
- Providing supervision and leadership to a larger size group of research employees, which involves multiple sites and geographies.
- Managing day-to-day supervision of direct reports and accountable for performance management, team building, reward and recognition, employee development and engagement.
- Identification of talent, accountable for attraction and retention within the department, and creating a

high performing team focused on innovation and delivery against research goals.

- Developing, prioritizing, and managing research project portfolio and technology platforms within area of accountability in support of innovation targets for the business and organization.
- Networking and collaborating with other business and technical groups within Soudal, other functions, and external resources (universities, customers, suppliers) to support existing products/projects and to generate and exploit new ideas and opportunities.

Curriculum

2005 - 2009: PhD Student at KULeuven Centre for Surface Science and Catalysis

2009 - 2014: Researcher at VITO Materials Department

2014 - 2017: R&D Engineer at Dow

2017 - 2019: R&D Leader at Dow

2022 - 2023: Sr R&D Leader at Dow

2023 - 2025: Group R&D Department Head at Soudal

2025 -: Group R&D Director at Soudal

Dr. Karel Weemaes



Personal data

Education: Doctor of Science: Chemistry (UAntwerpen)
Master of Chemistry (UAntwerpen)
Bachelor of Chemistry (UAntwerpen)
Company: Soudal NV
Function: Scientist

Function description

Project leader responsible for long-term innovation projects involving polyurethane sealants and adhesives.

Curriculum

2025 - ...: Scientist at Soudal

Leyton

Leyton is an international consulting firm specializing in innovation funding, tax incentives, and financial performance improvement. Operating across Europe, UK, USA & Canada Leyton supports companies in identifying and securing incentives such as R&D tax credits, grants, and sustainability-related funding. Its services help organizations optimize costs, accelerate innovation, and remain competitive in a changing economic and regulatory landscape.

The logo for Leyton, featuring the word "LEYTON" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters "L", "E", "Y", "T", and "N" are dark blue, while the "O" is a bright orange color.

Dr. Simon Hallaert



Personal data

Education: PhD in Theoretical Chemistry (KU Leuven)
Master of Chemistry (KU Leuven)
Bachelor of Chemistry (KU Leuven)
Company: Leyton
Function: Consulting Manager

Function description

I am a Consulting Manager at Leyton in Brussels, Belgium, where I focus on helping companies optimize their R&D payroll through tax credit opportunities. I work with a diverse client portfolio, ranging from small businesses to international organizations, supporting them in identifying, structuring, and managing R&D-related incentives. In addition to client advisory work, I manage internal processes and maintain regular contact with governmental bodies to ensure alignment with applicable requirements and best practices.

Curriculum

2023 - ...: Consulting manager at Leyton

2019 - 2023: Consultant at Leyton

UAntwerpen

The University of Antwerp is a leading Belgian research university that combines high-quality education with internationally recognised research and strong societal engagement. Located in the heart of Europe, the university brings together multidisciplinary expertise to address major societal challenges, including sustainability, health, digitalisation, and climate change. Through close collaboration with industry, government, and international partners, the University of Antwerp translates scientific excellence into innovative solutions with real-world impact. Its strong focus on innovation, knowledge transfer, and entrepreneurship makes it a key player in advancing sustainable technologies and fostering economic and societal development.



**University
of Antwerp**

Mr. Quinten Van Avondt



Personal data

Education: Master of Bioscience Engineering (KU Leuven)
Company: UAntwerpen
Function: Program manager sustainable chemistry & materials

Function description

In my role at the University of Antwerp, I work at the interface of research, innovation, and technology valorisation in the fields of sustainable chemistry and electrification. I develop and coordinate research programmes focusing on plasma and electrolysis technologies, CO₂ conversion, hydrogen, and circular chemistry, with a strong emphasis on industrial relevance and societal impact.

I establish strategic collaborations with industry, government, and international partners, translating scientific expertise into impactful innovation projects. I also support the acquisition of competitive funding through regional, European, and industrial research programmes.

In addition, I negotiate research and licensing agreements, intellectual property arrangements, and consortium contracts, ensuring that the interests of the University of Antwerp are well represented.

An important part of my work is the development of research infrastructure and industrial services. I design strategies to maximise the valorisation of research results through testing facilities, collaborative research programmes, and spin-off creation. I also contribute to the strategic development of innovation initiatives such as BlueApp, working closely with researchers, industry, and policymakers to accelerate the deployment of new technologies.

By combining a strong technical background with expertise in business development, project management, and stakeholder engagement, I act as a bridge between academic research and industrial implementation, helping to bring sustainable technologies to market and maximise their economic and societal impact.

Curriculum

2020 - 2026: Program manager sustainable chemistry & materials at UAntwerpen

2023 - 2026: Cofounder & CCO at Oxylum

2017 - 2020: Product manager at Novosanis

2017 - 2019: Business developer at Voxdale

BRYCK Startup Alliance

BRYCK Startup Alliance is one of Europe's leading Deep Tech Innovation BRYCK Startup AllianceHubs, based in Germany and internationally active. We support researchers on their entrepreneurial journey and startups free of charge. We connect founders with our strong network of industry partners, universities, investors and startup experts.

BRYCK STARTUP ALLIANCE

Dr. Christian Junker



Personal data

Education: PhD Economics (University of Münster, Germany)
Company: BRYCK Startup Alliance
Function: Cluster Lead Chemistry

Function description

As an ex-chemistry startup founder I support people and startups on their journey from research to an entrepreneurial career.

Curriculum

2026: Cluster Lead Chemistry at BRYCK Startup Alliance

2020: Startup Coach at REACH Excellence Startup Center

1997, 2012, 2020: Serial Startup Founder (digital economy, market intelligence, electronics&chemistry)

2014, 2022, 2023: Book-Author (3 books about Disruptive Innovation, innovative organizations and Open Innovation)

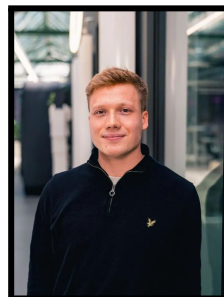
2016: Team Lead at regional Innovation agency

2014: PhD (co-innovation tool) at University of Münster

2010: Team Lead "Science-to-Innovation" at Münster University of Applied Sciences

2006: Future Foresight and Strategy Consultant at UNITY AG

Mr. Lukas Zeipelt



Personal data

Education: M.Sc. Business Chemistry
(Heinrich-Heine-University)
Company: BRYCK Startup Alliance
Function: Startup Program Associate Manager

Function description

Raising awareness for ventures in the chemical sector and support founders along their journey within our programs.

Curriculum

2026-2026: Programme Associate at BRYCK Startup
Alliance GmbH

2025-2025: Research Assistant at Stockholm University

American Chemical Society

The American Chemical Society (ACS) is a global scientific society that advances chemistry through research, education, professional development, and international engagement. Serving scientists, educators, students, and industry professionals across more than 140 countries, ACS works with scientific societies and partners worldwide to strengthen the chemical sciences community and support collaboration across borders.



ACS
Chemistry for Life®

Ms. Sandy Jacobs



Personal data

Education: M.B.A. (University of South Florida)
Company: American Chemical Society
Function: Assistant Director, Global Engagement and
Component Services

Function description

As Assistant Director for Global Engagement and Component Services at the American Chemical Society (ACS), I lead the teams that support ACS student and professional chapters in the United States and around the world. With a focus on strengthening engagement across the Society's global membership base, my work focuses on building strategic partnerships with scientific organizations, advancing international collaboration, supporting ACS volunteer leaders, and overseeing initiatives that enhance the long-term professional development and engagement of ACS members.

Curriculum

2026: Assistant Director of Global Engagement and
Component Services at American Chemical Society

2008 - 2026: Foreign Service Officer at the U.S.
Department of State (India, Tajikistan,
Estonia, Uzbekistan, Washington DC)

2005 - 2008: Economic Development Volunteer and
Program Manager at U.S. Peace Corps
(Ukraine and Washington DC)

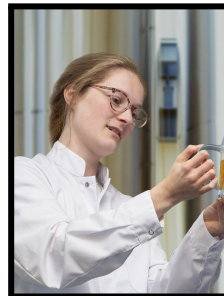
2000 - 2004: Assistant Vice President of Global
Operations and Technology at Citigroup

Atlas Copco Group

Atlas Copco is a multinational, multi-brand company of Swedish origin and culture. Our core business is compressors and everything surrounding this: Atlas Copco makes much more than compressors alone. Think pumps, drilling equipment, filters, medical gas distribution systems, filters, etc etc. We make "Things". And many of those things make other things work as they should. If you have ever been in a hospital or utility room, you will have seen Atlas Copco products in action.


Atlas Copco


Dr. Elise Vervloessem



Personal data

Education: Master of Chemistry (University of Antwerp)
Doctor of Science: Chemistry (University of Antwerp)
Doctor of Engineering Physics (Ghent University)
Company: Atlas Copco Group
Function: Technology Engineer

Function description

Within the Medical Gas Solutions division, I mainly focus on improving our oil-water separators, through testing and theory. Next to this, I work on other removal and/or purification applications to keep water and air clean from oil, dirt and other contaminants. I develop test procedures, think of test plans for new media, analyze data, keep up with literature, think of new products and solutions and all the other miscellaneous things that accompany this work. For example, the chemical safety management at our lab is also part of my responsibilities.

Curriculum

2018 - 2023: Joint PhD at the University of Antwerp and Ghent University

2023 - ...: Technology Engineer at the Atlas Copco Group.

BASF

BASF is one of the world's largest chemical companies, headquartered in Ludwigshafen, Germany. Founded in 1865, the company develops and manufactures a wide range of chemicals, materials, industrial solutions, agricultural products, and performance materials, serving industries such as automotive, construction, electronics, and consumer goods. BASF is committed to innovation and sustainability, helping customers improve efficiency while supporting the transition to a more sustainable future.



Dr. Maximilian Menche



Personal data

Education: PhD in Quantum Chemistry (Heidelberg University)
 Master of Chemistry (Goethe University Frankfurt)
 Bachelor of Chemistry (Goethe University Frankfurt)

Company: BASF

Function: Senior Specialist Standardization Carbon Accounting & LCA

Function description

In my role, I am supporting the global, regional, and company-level harmonization of sustainability assessment methodologies through multi-stakeholder standards. This helps ensure fair and transparent calculation and communication of product carbon footprints and organizational impacts, while also ensuring feasibility and scalability for large-scale application in the chemical industry.

Curriculum

2025 - ...: Senior Specialist Standardization Carbon Accounting & LCA at BASF

2021 - 2025: Scientist Quantum Chemistry at BASF

2018 - 2021: PhD Student Quantum Chemistry at BASF

Delaware

Professional IT Consulting Services

delaware

Mr. Bart Mortelé



Personal data

Education: Master Engineer and Applied Economics
(KU Leuven)
Company: Delaware
Function: Sales Director

Function description

“Combining strengths, delivering solutions” is the baseline of Delaware Consulting. In close cooperation with our customers, we search for result-oriented IT solutions that perfectly align business and technology requirements. Delaware Consulting’s solutions are based on the state-of-the-art technology standards of Microsoft and SAP.

Curriculum

I had different roles within Delaware, ranging from project delivery to project management, finally evolving to customer relations and management.