

MARGOT DEN HONDT

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## LETTER OF INTENT

August 6, 2014

European Plastic Surgery Research Council

Dear professors,  
Dear doctors,  
Dear members of the expert committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my application for the Cruise Fellowship of the European Plastic Surgery Research Council.

My name is Margot Den Hondt. I am a third-year resident Plastic Surgery in Leuven, Belgium. The Plastic Surgery Department of the University Hospitals Leuven, directed by Professor Vranckx, has a lot of expertise in the field of reconstructive microsurgery. As a resident, I am discovering a fascinating mix of reconstructive and aesthetic clinical work. From the beginning, it was not only my dream to become a good clinician, but also to become a successful researcher. Currently I am doing a four-year PhD-fellowship in tracheal tissue engineering. Starting this fellowship opened a fascinating world for me of creative thinking, cooperating and debating. I am able to explore the multidisciplinary field of regenerative medicine, in particular the pioneering work on tracheal allotransplantation of Professor Vranckx and Professor Delaere.

My strong interest in applying for the EPSRC Cruise Fellowship has grown out of this personal ambition to become a good surgeon and scientist. I love detailed work, I insist on putting maximal effort in the fulfillment of a task. Accomplishing part of my internship medicine abroad, constructing international scientific collaborations as well as presenting at internationally noted conferences such as the (European) Plastic Surgery Research Council, make me longing for the next challenge.

I consider this Fellowship as an enrichment, to broaden my knowledge in reconstructive and aesthetic surgery, and to build a professional network within Europe. As a young resident, these first steps into a dynamic learning environment are unique stepping stones to my future career. I am looking forward to share knowledge with other (international) scientists and physicians; this is a strong motivation for me to keep improving continuously.

In the case I am selected, it would be an exceptional learning experience for me to visit three of the following centers, with great respect for the expertise of the members of each department:

- ▶ Prof. Dr. Erkki Tukiainen, Helsinki University Hospital, Finland
- ▶ Prof. Dr. Adriana Cordova, University of Palermo, Italy
- ▶ Prof. Dr. Yener Demirtas, Ondokuz Mayıs University Medical School, Istanbul, Turkey
- ▶ Prof. Dr. Ramon Llull, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

I am very grateful that Professor Jan Jeroen Vranckx supports me as sponsor. I am also very honored to present Professor Samir Mardini of Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Professor Christine Radtke of Hannover Medical School as my referees.

I thank you very much for considering my application and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Margot Den Hondt