

## Curriculum vitae (short)



**Name:** De Feyter  
**First Name:** Steven

**Institution:** KU Leuven  
Department of Chemistry  
Division of Molecular Imaging and Photonics  
Celestijnenlaan 200 F  
B-3001 Leuven (Belgium)

**Function** Full Professor at KU Leuven in the 'Division of Molecular Imaging and Photonics', Department of Chemistry (since 2011).

### Career

11/2016-12/2016 Visiting professor Osaka University  
10/2011-... Full professor (KU Leuven)  
10/2008-09/2011 Professor (KU Leuven)  
10/2004-09/2008 (Part-time) Associate Professor (KU Leuven)  
10/1998-09/2007 Postdoctoral fellow Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO)  
03/1998-06/1999 Postdoctoral research fellow and Fulbright fellow at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), Pasadena, in the group of Prof. Ahmed Zewail  
10/1993-09/1997 PhD student, financed by Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) in the group of Prof. Franc C. De Schryver (KU Leuven).

### Studies

1993-1997 Ph.D. in Chemistry at KU Leuven (promotor: Prof. Frans C. De Schryver)  
Topic: "Visualisation of ordering, chirality and reactivity on a molecular scale with scanning tunneling microscopy".  
1991-1993 Licentiate Chemical Sciences at KU Leuven, Summa cum laude  
1989-1991 Candidate Chemical Sciences at KU Leuven, Magna cum laude

### Teaching (main)

10/2004 –: General Chemistry (Algemene Chemie) (~280 students – bachelor of bioscience engineering)  
10/2004 –: Organic Chemistry (Organische Chemie) (~280 students – bachelor of bioscience engineering)  
10/2004 –: Chemistry at Nanometre Scale / Chemie op Nanometerschaal (~120 students) (master in Nanoscience, Nanotechnology and Nanoengineering and other programs)

### Academic service (KU Leuven)

08/2022 –: Vice-dean Communication and Outreach, Faculty of Science  
08/2021 –: Co-Program Director Master in Nanoscience, Nanotechnology and Nanoengineering (English + Dutch)

08/2020 – 07/2024: Head Division of Molecular Imaging and Photonics  
 08/2018 –: member Program Committee (POC) bachelor of bio-engineering science (since 2024 POC bio-engineering science)  
 08/2017 – 07/2021: Gender and Diversity Vanguard, Faculty of Science  
 08/2017 – 07/2021: Chair Faculty Evaluation Board (ZAP evaluatiecommissie), Faculty of Science  
 08/2017 –: Coordinator Honours program, Faculty of Science  
 08/2017 – 07/2021: Member of Faculty Recruitment Board, Faculty of Science  
 08/2012 – 07/2016: Chair Department of Chemistry  
 08/2009 – 07/2012: Chair PhD Committee (Facultaire doctoraatscommissie), Faculty of Science  
 08/2009 – 07/2012: Elected representative of Department of Chemistry in Board of Faculty of Science  
 08/2008–: member Program Committee (POC) Master of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology  
 08/2007 – 07/2021: member Program Committee (POC) Chemistry

### **Other Academic service (main)**

#### Evaluation panels

2025 Panel member ERC Synergy (ERC-2025-SYG)  
 2025 Member of DFG review panel  
 2023 Panel member ERC Synergy (ERC-2023-SYG)  
 2021 Panel member National Science Center, Poland (NCN)  
 2020 Panel member ERC Synergy (ERC-2020-SYG)  
 2020 Scientific Advisory Board Max-Planck-Institute for Solid State Research  
 2017 On-site panel member of evaluation panel of “CAS Center of Excellence in Molecular Science”, Beijing China  
 2013 On-site panel member of evaluation panel Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing China

#### Associate Editor

2010 – 2020 Associate Editor of the RSC journal: Chemical Communications

#### (Co)organizer conferences and workshops

2024 Conference on “Chiral, spin, and reactivity” November 12 –14, Brussels, Belgium, co-organizer (80 participants)  
 2023 Spring school on “Micro- and Nano-scale Integration (MNI) 2023”, April 17-21, 2023, Leuven, Belgium, co-organizer (60 participants)  
 2022 Emeritus symposium – Prof. Mark Van der Auweraer, March 11, Leuven, Belgium, organizer (80 participants)  
 2020 School (online) on “Self-Assembly on Surfaces and 2D Reactivity”; September 16-19, organizer (150 participants)  
 2019 Conference “Let there be...LIGHT! A scientific symposium on the occasion of the 80th birthday of spectroscopist and polymer chemist Frans C. De Schryver.”, October 4, Leuven, Belgium, organizer (150 participants)  
 2019 Workshop on “KU Leuven - LMU Munich collaboration meeting - “Molecular biophysics goes chemistry”, July 2, Leuven, Belgium, organizer (40 participants)

2018	Conference on “Scanning Probe Microscopy on Soft and Polymeric Materials” (SPMonSPM 2018), August 20 – 24, Leuven, Belgium, organizer (160 participants)
2018	Conference on “Scanning Probe Frontiers in Molecular 2D-Architecture World” as part of the E-MRS meeting, June 18 – 22, Strasbourg, France, co-organizer (100 participants)
2015	Conference on “Chirality at the Nanoscale”, November 3 – 6, Leuven, Belgium, organizer (90 participants).
2012	Conference on “Supramolecular Chemistry: Supramolecular Assemblies at Surfaces”, February 20-23, Lanzarote, Spain, co-organizer (100 participants).

### Professional memberships

- Koninklijke Vlaamse Chemische Vereniging
- American Chemical Society
- Electrochemical Society
- Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry
- Elected member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts: Natural Sciences (since 2014)
- Elected member of the “European Academy of Sciences” (since 2018)

### Awards and Grants

2019	Lavoisier Lectures (Université Paris Diderot)
2018	Elected member of the “European Academy of Sciences”
2016	26th IOCF Yoshida Lectureship
2014	Elected member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts: Natural Sciences
2013	European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant: NANOGRAPH@LSI
2010	Laureate of The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts: Natural Sciences
1997-1998	Fulbright fellow
1997	Laureate “DSM-prize of Chemistry and Technology 1997”

### Research

**Nano(bio)chemistry** on surfaces is the core activity of the group. To please our “seeing is believing” desire, we use **high-resolution scanning probe microscopy** techniques such as scanning tunneling microscopy and atomic force microscopy, sometimes combined with optical microscopy techniques, to unravel the beauty and function of multi-(bio)molecular assemblies on surfaces. The liquid-solid interface is our preferred playground.

**Molecular self-assembly** on surfaces is a central research theme, with a focus on the relation between structure and function. We investigate not only the self-assembly of low molecular weight molecules, but also polymers and biomolecules. In addition to the **non-covalent supramolecular chemistry** approach, we recently put more emphasis on the functionalization of surfaces using covalent chemistry. Whatever the functionalization approach, nanostructuring is the keyword: we aim at spatially controlling the ordering of molecules on surfaces, via **bottom-up** approaches as well as **nanolithography**. These approaches are not only ideal to decorate and functionalize “traditional” surfaces such as “graphite and gold, but bring clear advantages for the

controlled functionalization of **2D materials** (graphene, MoS<sub>2</sub>, ...). A recent development is the on-surface synthesis of **2D polymers**, as well as the investigation of their formation in real-time with submolecular resolution.