European Society for Biomaterials

Young Scientist Forum

CV – YSF Elections 2017

CV (Arn Mignon)

Name : Arn Mignon

Nationality: Belgian

Date of birth: 5th August 1989

Current position:
Post-doctoral fellow at Polymer Chemistry and Biomaterials Group, Center of Macromolecular Chemistry, Department of Organic and Macromolecular Chemistry, Faculty of Sciences, Ghent University

Research interests:
I have worked during my PhD on the synthesis and the characterization of pH-responsive superabsorbent polymers. My current research interest lies in the synthesis of photo-crosslinkable urethane-based polymers and their subsequent processing through (co-extrusion) electrospinning in combination with functionalized polysaccharides. I have know-how in the field of 'smart' polymers for biomedical applications including pH-responsive (obtained during my PhD) and thermo-responsive (ongoing work) materials. The biomedical application targeted during my current research is wound treatment. More specifically, wound dressing are developed which are on the one hand odour-adsorbing and on the other hand possess diagnostics to screen for infections. In parallel, I am also focusing on the elaboration of thermo-responsive polymers which enable a controlled release of antibacterial compounds. In our research group, we have at our disposal characterization tools to determine a.o. the chemical structure, the molecular weight and the physico-chemical and mechanical properties of the materials developed.

Position applied for:

Yes	YSF communication and dissemination officer
	YSF industrial liaison officer
Yes	YSF educational officer
	YSF secretary
	YSF national chapters liaison officer

Attendance of past ESB conferences:
Registering for ESB 2018 in Maastricht (when possible). I also attended the Biofuture and AMBA 2014/2017 conferences, all ESB endorsed conferences.

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Candidate:

Motivation: I received the title of Master in Engineering: Chemical Technology in 2012 and obtained my PhD in Engineering in 2016 (University of Ghent). I obtained my PhD in the framework of a collaboration between the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Sciences (Polymer Chemistry and Biomaterials group). A collaboration with Chemstream (chemical company) was established. Extracurricular activities which I attended during my PhD included courses on Project Management, Effective Scientific Communication, Advanced Polymer Chemistry and an international winter school on biomaterials organized during the Advanced Materials for Biomedical Applications conference (2014).

The research performed during my PhD was disseminated through the publication of 16 A1 articles (all in journals of the first quartile, Q1) of which 9 as first author. Of these, 6 articles were published in journals with impact factors exceeding 4. One of the papers was also selected as issue cover of 'Materials'. Part of my work has also been published in a popular blog (Your Formula) to increase communication. Your Formula is an initiative by the European Chemical Industry Council aiming to pull together the best of sustainable thinking and discussing key sustainability topics. It's a platform to share ideas among young scientists and researchers with an interest in sustainability. Throughout my PhD, I have supervised 5 Master thesis students, 3 Bachelor students, 1 PhD student and an assistant professor (from Poland). During my postdoc, I went for a research stay abroad at Université Laval in Quebec, Canada and I am currently supervising 3 additional Master thesis students and 2 PhD students. I have thus a vast amount of expertise to work in an international team and to promote collaborations. I am therefore convinced that I would be suited to transfer my know-how and networking capabilities to the YSF members.
Possible Achievements: I would like to further stimulate knowledge exchange between industry and academia, as well as to foster academic collaborations within Europe and beyond. I would like to organize courses and/or events which bring all biomaterial stakeholders together and brainstorm to bridge existing gaps between the various stakeholders.
I would also like to organize courses to stimulate the gain of transferable skills such as communication skills, leadership and personal efficiency, based on my experience as I have attended a multitude of these courses in the past.
I will also work hard to increase the visibility of biomaterials research and group (career) opportunities for young scientists through a forum and international events. During workshops, young researchers will have the opportunity to present their achievements but also to discuss potential issues with fellow scientists including peers and more senior researchers.

Communication skills: Dutch (native), English (fluent), French (fluent)

Any other ideas/remarks:

- Outreach activities
- You tube movies
- Course on how to write press release/giving interviews
- Stimulate exchange of ideas between YSF and national societies
- Initiate a biomaterials toolkit for high school students through a EU collaboration thereby increasing interest and awareness of biomaterials already at early age.
- Invite biomaterial pioneers at workshops
- Mentor-mentee initiatives