

## Curriculum Vitae Prof. Filip Du Prez

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family name, First name: Du Prez, Filip

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7727-4155>

Date of birth: October 30, 1970

Nationality: Belgian

URL website: [PCR.UGent.be](http://PCR.UGent.be)



### • EDUCATION

- 1996 **PhD** in Chemistry “Synthesis and properties of interpenetrating polymer networks” (funded by Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) – Belgium) obtained with greatest distinction. Faculty of Sciences/ Department of Organic and Macromolecular Chemistry, *Ghent University*/ Belgium (promotor Prof. Eric Goethals) and *partially in Lehigh University, USA* (copromotor Prof. Sperling)
- 1992 **Master** in Chemistry with greatest distinction, Ghent University/ Belgium

### • CURRENT POSITIONS

- 1999 – now **Professor** (full Professor since 2010, BOF-professor since 2021 as a result of ERC Advanced Grant) and research leader Polymer Chemistry Research Group, Faculty of Sciences/ Department of Organic and Macromolecular Chemistry, Ghent University
- 2008 – 2022 **Promotor-Coordinator** of Chemtech, an UGent consortium dealing with the research valorization of 20 UGent chemistry research groups
- 2018 - now Associate **Editor** of [Polymer Chemistry](#) (leading Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) journal in polymer science)

### • PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 2008 - 2018 Associate **Editor** of European Polymer Journal (Elsevier journal)
- 2008 **Visiting professor** (5 months), *Centre for Advanced Macromolecular Design/ University of New South Wales/ Australia* (hosted by Prof. Christopher Barner-Kowollik)
- 1996 – 1999 **Postdoctoral position** (funded by FWO), *University of Montpellier, France* (10 months) and Department of Organic and Macromolecular Chemistry, Ghent University/ Belgium

### • FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2024 Warwick Polymer Group International Lecturer for 2024
- 2023 Member of the **Royal Academy of Belgium for Sciences and Arts**
- 2021 Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (**FRSC**).
- 2021 **ERC Advanced Grant** on ‘Circular Thermosets’ (European Research Council; 2021-2026)
- 2014 Prometheus award 2014 for best researcher of Ghent University
- 2013-2024 > [30 \(inter\)national awards](#) for co-workers since 2013 (many on international conferences)
- 1995 Chemistry and Technology Award (1<sup>st</sup> laureate) from DSM chemical company

### • SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

- 2000 – 2024 Supervision of 46 Postdocs (currently 3 postdocs)/ 65 PhD students (53 graduated, actual supervision of 12 PhD researchers), > 60 Master students

*Eight former postdocs and two PhD researchers have taken **academic positions** (France, UK, NL, India, Argentina, Vietnam, China, Netherlands) while numerous former coworkers have taken important **industrial positions** in chemical/material/life science companies such as 3M, Agfa, Allnex, Arkema, Bayer, BASF, Dow, DSM, Huntsman, Janssen Pharmaceutica, Lanxess, Recticel, Carpenter, Solutia and Umicore.*

### • TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 1999 – now Courses (from 1<sup>st</sup> bachelor to 2<sup>nd</sup> master) in Chemistry and Society, Organic Chemistry, Introduction to Polymer Science, Polymer Materials, Advanced Polymer (both for Chemistry and Chemical Engineer bachelor/master students) (around 115 hours / year)

- **CHAIRMAN OF SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES (I = international, N = national)**

- 2025 (I) Chairman of *Dynamic Polymer Networks 2025* meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland  
 2023 (I) Chairman of EUPOC2023 meeting in Bertinoro, Italy on '*Dynamic Polymer Networks*' (165 participants)  
 2022 (I) Co-chairman 14<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Ionic Polymerization in Ghent, Belgium  
 2021 (I) Chairman two online conferences on respectively '*Discrete Synthetic Macromolecules*' and '*Vitrimers*' (around 300 participants)  
 2019 (I) Co-Chairman of summer school in Bertinoro, Italy on '*Dynamic and Reversible Polymer Networks*' (140 participants)  
 2018 (I) Co-Chairman of Symposium '*Vitrimers and other Covalently Adaptable Networks*' during national meeting American Chemical Society (ACS) in Boston, USA (100 participants)  
 2017 (I) Chairman (organizer) of International Conference '*Advanced Polymers via Macromolecular Engineering*' (APME) in Ghent /Belgium (500 participants)  
 2014 (N) Chairman Belgian Polymer Group Annual Meeting (220 participants) / Belgium  
 2013 (I) Chairman ESF networking conference "*Precision Polymeric Materials*" (95 p) / Belgium  
 2012 (I) Chairman 2<sup>nd</sup> Belgian-German Macromolecular meeting "*Advanced Materials by Modular Strategies: From Synthesis to Industrial Applications*" (145 participants) / Belgium  
 2009 (I) Chairman 1<sup>st</sup> Belgian-German Macromolecular meeting "*Controlled/Living Radical Polymerizations*" (140 participants) / Belgium  
 2007 (I) Co-organizer 1<sup>st</sup> Symposium "*Baekeland 2007: Thermosets – 100 years after Bakelite*" (200p)

- **INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 2018 – now Coordinator for construction of chemistry building at Faculty of Sciences (240 persons)  
 2020 - now Vice-Chair of Department Organic and Macromolecular Chemistry UGent  
 2015 - now Member of policy group about valorization of research at Ghent University  
 2018 - 2019 Head of Department Organic and Macromolecular Chemistry  
 2008 - 2017 Member of UGent commissions "Industrial Research Funds" and "Heavy equipment"  
 2006 - now Member of the Faculty Council, faculty of Sciences/ Ghent University/ Belgium

- **REVIEWING ACTIVITIES (selection)**

- 2018 – now Selection of reviewers for around 100 manuscripts/year for RSC-journal Polymer Chemistry  
 2008 – 2018 Editorial Board Member European Polymer Journal  
 2018 – now Regular remote reviewer for ERC starting and consolidator grants  
 2015 – now Project reviewer (around 5/year) for several agencies (France, USA, Switzerland,...)  
 2007 – 2013 Member of the Chemistry Panel of the National Research Foundation (FWO)  
 1999 – now Member of Exam and/or Reader Commission > 100 PhD theses (> 50 outside UGent)  
 2013 – 2014 Material Science Review Panel of the Academy of Finland for project evaluations  
 2004 – now Member of Editorial Advisory Boards of several polymer journals including Progress in Polymer Science (2023 impact factor 31.28)  
 1999 – now Reviewer ( $\pm$  30 papers/year) for journals including Science, Nature Chemistry, Nature Communications, Angewandte Chemie, Journal of the American Chemical Society...

- **MEMBERSHIPS of SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES**

- 2017 – now Belgian representative of [European Polymer Federation](#) (EPF)  
 2015 Founder of [Centre of Macromolecular Chemistry](#) at UGent (75 researchers)

- **RESEARCH IMPACT (Web of Science, November 2024)**

Publications: 366 refereed papers of which 7 highly cited papers and 21 reviews. 43 papers with 100 – 1180 citations)

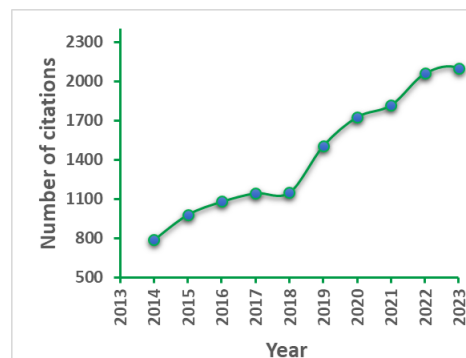
Granted patents: 15 (with several licenses on two recent patents)

> 10 book chapters, (co-)editor of a Wiley-book

Number of citations: 17.700 (excluding self-citations)

Since 2016 more than 1000 citations and since 2022 more than 2000 citations each year (see figure).

H-index: 70 (82 according to Google Scholar)



- **RECENT INTERNATIONAL LECTURES**

*Five recent examples of keynote/plenary lectures from the last 3 years* are: IUPAC Macro 2024 (Keynote Lecture on circular thermosets), APME2023 (Keynote Lecture on Storing and reading data on Macromolecules), Frontiers in Polymer Science 2023 (Keynote Lecture on Covalent Adaptable Networks), Polymer Meeting 2023 (Plenary Lecture on circular thermoset materials), Bordeaux Polymer Meeting 2022 (Keynote Lecture on Data Storage with Polymers), EPF2022 (Plenary Lecture on Circular Thermosets).

- **BRIEF RESEARCH SUMMARY**

I am scientifically heading the Polymer Chemistry Research (PCR) group at Ghent University since 1999 with an average of around 20 researchers (PhD, postdoctoral researchers, technician and a lab manager).

The **three main research themes** of the PCR-group for which *world-wide recognition* is achieved, can be distinguished:

- *Sequence-defined Macromolecules (keywords precision polymers, sustainable data storage)*
- *Dynamic and self-healing polymeric materials (keywords vitrimers, bringing thermoset materials in the circular economy)*
- *Giving renewable polymers function(ality) (e.g. pressure sensitive adhesives from terpenoids)*

With its highly interdisciplinary approach, the research group is always targeting novel, sometimes industrially applicable polymer materials, for use in areas such as recyclable thermoset materials, self-healing polymers, sustainable coatings, biobased adhesives, etc.

A selected number of examples, *illustrating scientific leadership*, are:

- Coordinator/partner of several European projects (e.g. EID, ITN, CE-NMBP), coordinator of Excellence of Science (EOS, FWO-Belgium) and Concerted Research Action (GOA, UGent) projects. In such projects, **I put a lot of focus on dissemination and media attention** (*for collection of dissemination videos, see <https://pcr.ugent.be/videos.html>*).
- Only UGent awardee for an **ERC** advanced grant in 2020.
- Publisher in high impact journals (e.g. since 2022, several papers have been published in Nature Communications, Journal of the American Chemical Society, Angewandte Chemie, Advanced (functional) materials and Chemical Science).
- Since 2008, I am editor of scientific journals in the area of polymer science. In 2018, the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) invited me to become associate editor of *Polymer Chemistry*, one of the most recognized journals in polymer science.
- I have been (co-)chairman of 10 international conferences and summer schools on polymer science.
- Since 2018, the Belgian Polymer Group (BPG) elected me as *Belgian representative in the board of the European Polymer Federation (EPF)*.
- Since 2021, I am a **fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC)** and since 2023, I am a member of the **Royal Academy of Belgium for Sciences and Arts**.

- **RELEVANCE OF POLYMER RESEARCH TO SOCIETY/INDUSTRY**

While polymers are since decades the most important materials world-wide and a life without them cannot be imagined anymore, single-use plastics that are mainly used for packaging purposes resulted in a major issue for our planet when referring to the so-called ‘plastic soup’ and the plastic’s share to the CO<sub>2</sub> budget.

In this context and in line with the Green Deal to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent, my main ambitions in the area of polymer chemistry are on the one hand to prepare sustainable (polymer) chemists for industrial (research) positions where they can make a substantial difference to our society and on the other hand to develop ourselves the sustainable polymer materials of the future. With regard to my research, the relevance to our society is to provide macromolecular engineering solutions to a) bring thermoset materials (such as wind mill blades and tires) in a circular economy context and b) develop precision polymers for storage of data to foresee a sustainable alternative for microchip-grade silicon.

The ERC-granted research gives me the opportunity to combine both research topics and make a real scientific and societal impact with chemical solutions to the major technological challenges in the area of circular economy.