

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal data



Decaestecker Karel
°16/02/1981, Ostend (Belgium)

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 [Karel Decaestecker](#)

Biotext

Prof. dr. Dr. Karel Decaestecker is a staff member at the Urology Department AZ Maria Middelaeres Ghent and consultant urologist at the Urology Department of Ghent University Hospital. He is a Fellow of the European Board of Urology. He successfully defended his PhD on “metastasis-targeted therapy of oligometastatic prostate cancer recurrence” at Ghent University and has been appointed associate professor of Uro-Oncology at Ghent University since October 1, 2018.

His main interests are uro-oncology and minimally invasive surgery, in particular the robotic-assisted treatment of bladder and kidney tumors and full intracorporeal urologic reconstructions. He performed the first robot-assisted kidney transplant in Belgium in April 2016 and the first robot-assisted kidney autotransplantation in Europe in June 2017.

Karel Decaestecker is an active member of several scientific organizations, including the EAU Robotics Urology Section (ERUS) Working Group on Robot-assisted Kidney Transplantation (RAKT) and the ERUS Working Group Bladder Cancer. He is a board member of the EAU Section of Transplantation Urology (ESTU), Scientific Summits and the Belgian Laparoscopic Urology Group (BLUG). He is an expert (proctor) at ORSI Academy for the robot-assisted kidney surgery course. Since January 2021 he is chairman of the BVU (Belgian Association for Urology). Prof. dr. Dr Karel Decaestecker is (co-)author of various scientific articles (h-index 25), mainly in the field of uro-oncology, kidney transplantation and minimally invasive urological surgery.

He is highly involved in teaching and training medical students, residents and fellow urologists/surgeons both nationally and internationally.

Education - Training

Secondary School

1993-1999: Koninklijk Atheneum Diksmuide ASO, Maths – Sciences, Result: 85,5%

Higher Education: Training in Medicine at the University of Ghent

1999-2006: resulting in the academic degree of Medical Doctor / Master in Medicine magna cum laude 04/07/2006

Principles of electrocardiography (28/01/2003)

Principles of radiation physics and radiation protection (07/07/2006)

Post-Graduate Certification Emergency Medicine (31/01/2008)

Post-Graduate training Surgery/Urology

2006-2008: Training in General Surgery, OLV van Lourdes Ziekenhuis Waregem, Belgium

2008-2012: Training in Urology, UZGent, University Hospital Ghent, Belgium

2011: Fellowship laparoscopy and robot-assisted laparoscopy AZ Groeninghe Kortrijk and OLV Ziekenhuis Aalst, Belgium

National Board certification specialisation as urologist 02/08/2012

Fellow of the European Board of Urology (FEBU) 02/07/2012

2011: second highest score FEBU written exam 2011 Prague; 2012: oral exam score 9/10

Ph.D. 2010-2015: Metastasis-directed therapy for oligometastatic prostate cancer recurrence, successfully defended 11/09/2015, resulting in academic degree of Doctor of Medical Science

Current status

- Associate Professor Uro-Oncology at Ghent University since 01/10/2018
- Visiting Professor Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania since 20/04/2020
- Staff member Urology AZ Maria Middelaers since 14/03/2022.
- Consultant Urologist UZ Gent robot-assisted bladder & kidney surgery 0.2 FTE
 - Subspecialisation Uro-oncology and robot-assisted surgery
 - Multidisciplinary oncological care for urothelial, kidney and testicular cancer
 - Bladder cancer surgery (open and robot-assisted)
 - Totally intracorporeal robot-assisted radical cystectomy and urinary diversion (ileal conduit, neobladder, pouch)
 - Upper urothelial tract surgery (ureter/renal pelvis; open and robot-assisted)
 - Kidney cancer surgery:
 - Open and robotic radical and partial nephrectomy
 - Open radical nephrectomy with cava thrombectomy
 - Multidisciplinary approach for abdominal and pelvic cancers in collaboration with gynaecology, gastro-intestinal and vascular/cardiac surgery.
 - Subspecialisation Robot-assisted Kidney Transplantation (RAKT) in collaboration with Thoracic and vascular surgery

Memberships and boards

Member EAU (European Association of Urology)
Member BVU/SBU (Belgische Vereniging voor Urologie/Société Belge d'Urologie)
Member YAU (Young Academic Urologist) section Urothelial Cancer, 2016-2018
Member College of Oncology (advisory role Ministry of Health Belgium), since 2021
Board member ESTU (EAU Section of Transplantation Urology), since 2017
Board member BVU (Belgische Vereniging voor Urologie), vice-president since 2019-2021; president 2021-2023
Board member Scientific Summits, since 2017
Board member BLUG (Belgian Laparoscopic Urology group), since 2020
Board member & co-founder BeGUS (Belgian Genito Urinary School), since 2022
Board member ESU (European School of Urology) working group Transplantation since 2022
Associate ERUS (EAU Robotic Urology Section) Working Group Bladder Cancer since 2015
Associate ERUS Working Group RAKT (Robot-assisted Kidney Transplantation), since 2016
Expert (proctor) RAKT course at ORSI Academy, since 2016

Scientific Research – Publications (2021 h-index 20)

For an up-to-date list of publications and abstracts see:

[Pubmed Karel Decaestecker](#)

<https://biblio.ugent.be/person/001999386228> or

http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Karel_Decaestecker

Clinical Research

Urothelial Cancer:

- Principal Investigator:
 - TARGET-FGFR Bladder Study: A Phase 2, Two-arm Multicenter, Open-Label Study to Determine the Efficacy and the Safety of Two Different Dose Regimens of a pan-FGFR Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor JNJ-42756493 in Subjects with Metastatic or Surgically Unresectable Urothelial Cancer with FGFR Genomic Alterations
 - A Phase 3, Multinational, Randomized, Open-Label, Three Parallel-Arm Study of PF-06801591, an anti-PD-1 antibody, in Combination with Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG Induction With or Without BCG Maintenance) Versus BCG (Induction and Maintenance) in Participants with High-Risk, BCG Naïve Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer
 - Phase 2b Clinical Study Evaluating Efficacy and Safety of TAR-200 in Combination with Cetrelimab, TAR-200 Alone, or Cetrelimab Alone in Participants with High-Risk Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC) Unresponsive to Intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) who are Ineligible for or Elected Not to Undergo Radical Cystectomy (Sunrise-1)
 - A Phase 3, Open-Label, Multi-Center, Randomized Study Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of TAR-200 in Combination With Cetrelimab or TAR-200 Alone Versus Intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) in Participants With BCG-naïve High-Risk Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (Sunrise-3)

- Subinvestigator:
 - A Phase 3 trial of BCG with or without pembrolizumab for high risk non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (KEYNOTE-676)
 - A phase 3 trial of atezolizumab vs placebo as adjuvant therapy in patients with high-risk muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) who are circulating tumour (ct)DNA+ post cystectomy (IMvigor011)

Research Grants

2020

- IPSEN A20/TT/1655: Implementation of preoperative planning in Robot-Assisted Partial Nephrectomy
- VLAIO HBC.2020.2252: Peri-operative Digital Planning in Robot-Assisted Partial Nephrectomy (Scientific promotor Karel Decaestecker, Mandataris Pieter De Backer)
- Stichting tegen Kanker OST-2022-2179: Organ saving treatment and improvement of quality of life 2022. Digital planning in Nephrectomy (Principal Investigator)

Awards/Prizes

- 2011: second highest score FEBU written exam 2011 Prague: Sponsored USANZ Trainee Week: Sydney, Australia.
- Pfizer educational grant 2012
- Astellas research award 2012
- EMUC 2013: second best poster prize (oral presentation, first author): Metastasis-directed therapy for oligometastatic prostate cancer recurrence.
- EAU 2018: Rene Küss Award 2018: The European experience on robot-assisted kidney transplantation: 2 years after the beginning (17/3/2018).
- ERUS 2018: second best video prize (as last author): Robot-assisted kidney autotransplantation (RAKAT): A minimal invasive way to salvage kidneys (7/9/2018)
- EAU 2019: Prize for best paper on clinical research: European experience of robot-assisted kidney transplantation: minimum of 1-year follow-up (15/3/2019).
- EAU 2019: Best poster prize in session “Surgical aspects of kidney transplantation focusing on robotic laparoscopy”: Robotic-assisted kidney transplantation: Update from the ERUS series (15/3/2019).
- ESPU 2019: second best video prize (as last author): Single setting robot-assisted kidney transplantation (RAKT) in a child consecutive to single-site laparoscopic nephrectomy in the child and living-related robot-assisted donor nephrectomy: initial experience (27/4/2019)
- TOYP (Ten Outstanding Young People) Honoree Belgium 2020 in the category Medical Innovation.
- AFU 2021: Medaille Felix Guyon (19/11/2021)
- Visiting Professor Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca in recognition of the valuable contribution of the Robotic Kidney Transplantation programme in Romania and the establishment of the cooperation between Ghent University and Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca, Romania (30/04/2020).

Socio-cultural interests

*6 weeks of developmental cooperation in Africa (Kenia, Kwale district 2003): Evaluation of prevention strategies of HIV and Plasmodium species transmission.

*3 months of developmental cooperation in Cambodia, january-march 2006: Inventory of the surgical oncological pathology in two university hospital settings in comparison with a provincial hospital in Cambodia - University of Phnom Penh.