



## EPUAP CURRICULUM VITAE

**Name** *Annelies de Graaf*

**Work Title** Advanced Practice Nurse – Clinical Nurse Specialist Wound Management

**Institution** University Hospital of Leuven

**E-mail** [annelies.degraaf@uzleuven.be](mailto:annelies.degraaf@uzleuven.be)

**Year of joining EPUAP** 2019

### Relevant publications for the last two years (in English only):

- Abstract available. De Graaf A, Bernaerts K., Fourneau I. Op de Beeck K. EARLY MOBILISATION AFTER SURGERY: DECREASE OF PRESSURE ULCERS AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 30-30-3 RULE, EPUAP annual meeting Helsinki, September 2025 (Winner of Innovation of Care Award).
- Invited speaker:
  - De Graaf A. Hot Nursing topics: Securing the flow: Best practice in standardizing dressing selection. Annual Euro Elso ECMO congress, Dublin, May 2026.
  - De Graaf A. ECMO Deep dive session: How to handle canula related infection. Annual Euro Elso ECMO congress, Dublin, May 2026.
- Abstract Available. Puttevels, E., Veys K., de Graaf A. De Leyn P. A more prophylactic surgical site and chest tube incision site management in Thoracic Surgery. Reducing the risk of Medical Adhesive Related Skin injuries. Evaluation of a Postoperative wound care Protocol in Thoracic Surgery, EWMA, London, May 2024 (e-poster presentation).

**Please comment on your involvement with pressure ulcers under the following headings:**

### Clinical

As a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in Wound Care/Management at University Hospitals Leuven since 2016, I lead the implementation of evidence-based protocols at the bedside. My recent clinical focus includes the successful introduction of the "30-30-3 rule" for early post-surgical mobilization (10-2024) and the new PU risk assessment tool BEPU©2025 in our hospital (11-2025), which is significantly reducing pressure ulcer (PU) incidence. Currently, we are developing a medical care pathway to further optimize the care for all patients involved. I also specialize in overall skin integrity management like the development of several Flemish Evidence informed position documents on IAD (2023), wound management within children (2026), management of pain related to wound care (2025), Prevention of MARSII - Skin tears(2024).

### Executive Committee Members

**Tom O'Connor**  
President  
Ireland

**Andrea Pokorná**  
Immediate Past President  
Czech Republic

**Susanne Coleman**  
Treasurer  
United Kingdom

**Dominique Sigauco-Roussel**  
Chair Scientific Committee  
France

**Rosemarie Derwin**  
Co-Chair Scientific Committee  
Ireland

**Pierre-Yves Rohan**  
Chair Research Committee  
France

**Peter Worsley**  
Co-Chair Research Committee  
United Kingdom

**Beáta Grešš Halász**  
Chair Educational Committee  
Slovakia

**Pedro Sardo**  
Co-Chair Educational Committee  
Portugal

**Jan Kottner**  
Chair Guideline Committee  
Germany

**Katrin Balzer**  
Co-Chair Guideline Committee  
Germany

### Trustees

**Kirsti Ahmajärvi** (Finland)  
**Maarit Ahtiala** (Finland)  
**Carina Bååth** (Sweden)  
**Katrin Balzer** (Germany)  
**Joan-Enric Torra i Bou** (Spain)  
**Silvia Caggiari** (United Kingdom)  
**Rosemarie Derwin** (Ireland)  
**Beáta Grešš Halász** (Slovakia)  
**Ingebjørg Irgens** (Norway)  
**Ulrika Källman** (Sweden)  
**Jan Kottner** (Germany)  
**Nils Lahmann** (Germany)  
**Tom O'Connor** (Ireland)  
**Andrea Pokorná**  
(Czech Republic)  
**Alexandre Rodrigues** (Portugal)  
**Pierre-Yves Rohan** (France)  
**Pedro Sardo** (Portugal)  
**Dominique Sigauco-Roussel**  
(France)  
**Knærke Sjøgaard** (Denmark)  
**Steven Smet** (Belgium)  
**Camilla Leerskov Sørensen**  
(Denmark)  
**Helen Strapp** (Ireland)  
**Peter Worsley** (United Kingdom)  
**Mirna Žulec** (Croatia)



### **Scientific research**

I am actively involved in translational research, serving as the Principal Investigator for the KCE 16012 multicenter RCT on silicone foam dressings (2018) and my involvement in several masterthesis around PU prevention. My work recently focused on the development of BEPU©2025, a new Belgian PU risk assessment and prevention tool (2025, [link](#)). The current 2026-2028 masterthesis will focus on the validation in University of Ghent and the impact after implementation of BEPU©2025 at the University of Leuven. Our work and implementation for BEPU in to the University Hospital of Leuven was recognized by our university center of excellence, my team received the Juliette Vander Schueren price for best research project (title research project 'From development to implementation of BEPU©2025: from daily screening to action with impact'). I also contributed as an expert to the content validation of WoundPilot, a clinical decision support system for structured wound assessment. Our development work has been recognized internationally, most recently with the EPUAP Innovation of Care Award (2025).

### **Organisational**

I hold several leadership positions focused on PU prevention. Since 2022, I have chaired the UZ Leuven Taskforce Pressure Ulcers and am currently transferring this into a care pathway for our hospital. I'm serving as a key member of the BEPU© Development Group, we're currently working on a living document for the Belgian PU Prevention or BEPU© risk assessment tool and position document on prevention in Belgium. Nationally, I served on the expert panel for the Flemish Institute for Quality of Care (VIKZ) to develop a national coreset for hospital-acquired PU indicators. Previously, I chaired the Flemish hospital network (Vzknul) working group on pressure ulcers for seven years and I am still a current working member. Since I joined the Belgian Wound Care Society, I've taking up an expert role within development of several evidence based position documents on IAD prevention. Although I wasn't present at the 2026 Global IAD expert meeting, I contributed behind the scene together with my colleague Kris Bernaerts on the update of the best practice document for IAD ([link](#)).

### **Educational**

I am a dedicated educator, serving as a Guest Lecturer since 2017 at KULeuven (for medical and nursing sciences), University college Leuven and PXL Hasselt, where I also act as an examiner for the Postgraduate Wound Management program. I frequently present at international congresses, including EPUAP, EWMA, and Euro Elso. I've also contributed in the publication of several chapters of books on PU and IAD ([link 1](#) and [link 2](#)). Furthermore, trough the BEPU©group, I am currently involved in the Dutch translation of the 4th Edition International Pressure Ulcer Guidelines (2026) to ensure local accessibility of global standards as I've contributed to the Dutch translation of the 2019 version.



### **Strengths not utilised**

My background as an ICU nurse and hospital hygienist provides me with a unique expertise in integrating infection prevention with skin care—a dual perspective that is often underutilized in standard PU protocols. Additionally, my experience and effective collaboration techniques enables me to bridge gaps between different medical disciplines and hierarchical levels within large-scale implementation projects.

### **Membership of other organisations**

- European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (EPUAP): Member since 2019
- European Wound Management Association (EWMA): Member since 2020
- Wound Care Consultant Society (WCS) Belgium: Active member of the pressure ulcer, IAD, pain management and skin tear working groups since 2017.
- Belgian Association for Clinical Nurse Specialists (BVVS): Member since 2018