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Renouvellement du mandat des Sections du Comité national de la recherche scientifique,
Mandat 2025-2029

Candidature par: Dr. Julie BOUCKAERT, HDR

Profession de foi pour une candidature individuelle à la section 22, collège A1

Dear colleagues,

I am happy to deposit my candidature for jury member in section 22, Biologie moléculaire et structurale, biochimie. I am 57 years old, protein crystallographer with a specialization in protein carbohydrate interactions, and I work at the Unité de Glycobiologie Structurale et Fonctionnelle (UGSF, UMR 8576) at the University of Lille. During my career, I made 107 PDB and structure factor deposits to the wwPDB/PDBe and published 114 publications in peer-reviewed journals, of which 17 first and 46 corresponding/last authorships.

I have been living on grants in the first twenty years of my earlier career. For my PhD that meant yearly defences between 1991 and 1995, followed by grant applications for three consecutive postdoctoral fellowships (1996-2008). I performed my research at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, with the grants awarded by the Scientific Research Foundation, Flanders (FWO) in Belgium. I mention FWO in particular because it is an organisation that is similar to CNRS at the postdoctoral level, except that FWO does not offer permanent research positions since 1996. This is why I changed to CNRS to be able to carry out research with a long-term vision. One of the FWO postdoctoral fellowships included a mobility grant (2000-2001) from the same FWO organisation to work at the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, USA. During this period, I was also a Belgian American Educational Foundation (BAEF) Honorary Fellow. In 2010, I applied for the first time with CNRS, for Chargé de Recherche classe 1 (CR1) in sections 16 and 20. Section 16 with CNRS recruited me the same year to start at UGSF at the University of Lille. Since, I have applied for Directrice de Recherche for eight times, meanwhile changing section 16 for 20 in 2021, and became DR2 in 2023 with section 20.

Probably the experience that is most comparable with my current candidature, was being a Commission member in the expert panel (Bio1, in the second term this changed to Med1) for Molecular and Cellular Biology, of the Scientific Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO), Belgium, in the years 2013 to 2017. These commission comprised two yearly sessions: one session in spring to evaluate and select PhD and



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Postdoctoral candidates (both national and international candidatures are evaluated in these commissions) and one session in autumn to evaluate large Research Projects and Working Credits.

My motivation for the current candidature in future section 22 is driven by my own experience with section 20, where my presentations invariably led towards thorough, to-the-point questions and generally intensive discussions. I carry a large appreciation for the evaluations that have been delivered by section 20. I would like to contribute to keep this level high, by giving the best scientists the opportunity to enter or progress the CNRS organisation and to enable them to realise their original scientific projects that spread into and inspire the larger scientific community. These days, without much genuine interest from the industrial world, being a molecular, structural biologist is very tough and enduring. It asks for a large sense of initiative, for being inspired, having a strong drive and passion for fundamental science. These are factors that are quite easily to identify in the candidate's CV, in his/her achievements, mobility, comprehension of the scientific matter and in the originality of the research proposal. Other factors such as scientific openness to collaborate and share findings are assets that render more visible, by involving and literally opening up the research community. They craft a nicer, more human environment for research and at the same time render it more proficient and a source of inspiration to others.

With these thoughts, I pose my candidature for section 22. With kind regards,

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