

Application ESID Junior Country Representative

Dear Dr. Franco,

with this letter I would like to express my motivation to **renew** my nomination as **ESID Junior country representative for Belgium**. I was extremely honoured to be selected as **the ESID Junior country representative from 2020 till 2022**. In this period we achieved many goals with the ESID Junior Working Party, under the leadership of Dr. Franco, such as the optimization of online education material, the preparation of the ESID congress in October 2022 in Gothenburg and the regular organization of the interesting journal clubs and case presentations. I am very grateful and honoured to have contributed to the progress made by the ESID Junior Working party in creating these opportunities. The Belgian ESID Junior members have significantly increased in number since 2020. I am proud to be the Junior Country representative for Belgium and hope I can further contribute to the amazing work of the Junior Working party for another 2 years. I hope my biography and motivational statement can display my aspiration to fulfil this position.

Short biography

My name is Selket Delafontaine, 29 years old. Although Dutch is my native language, additionally I can speak English and French fluently. Since the start of my training in Medical School in 2010, I was fascinated by different fundamental scientific courses such as molecular biology, genetics and especially immunology. 3 years ago I was selected to start my **training as a pediatrician** at the University Hospitals Leuven, which has always been my childhood dream. At the Pediatric Department of the UZ Leuven I had the pleasure of being a resident for 6 months at the **Department of Inborn Errors of Immunity (IEI), lead by Prof. Dr. Isabelle Meyts**. As a tertiary care reference unit, several hundreds of children are diagnosed and treated there every year. Prof. Dr. Isabelle Meyts became a true role model for me as an internationally renowned female physician – scientist, dedicated to the field of IEI. Since then, I developed a growing **passion for IEI**. Therefore, when Prof. Dr. Meyts offered me the chance of fulfilling a **PhD at her Laboratory of IEI at the KU Leuven**, I took the opportunity with both hands. My PhD started in October 2019 and will continue until 2023. The translational research of my PhD offers me the chance of combining my passion for basic sciences and my clinical work as a pediatrician in training. Since it is my ambition to become a **physician-scientist**, I will strive to continue this translational research in the field of IEI, in collaboration with Prof. Dr. I. Meyts.



Motivation letter

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During my 6 months residency at the Department of IEI I witnessed the significant mortality and morbidity which, despite the use of cutting edge diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, still accompany IEI. I am convinced that **optimal patient care and medical innovation** can only be achieved by an intense **worldwide collaboration between physicians, scientists and physician-scientists**. Witnessing the work of my supervisor Prof. Dr. I. Meyts as president of ESID has shown me the essential role ESID plays in this process. Especially the **young generation** of physicians and scientists should be ambitious to attain an international partnership. As the junior country representative for Belgium from 2020 till 2022, I have witnessed the impact the ESID junior working party can obtain on this partnership and I am extremely motivated to continue to ameliorate this partnership.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID19 pandemic, in person international meetings were limited from 2020 till 2022. Therefore, I aspire to become a more **active** member of the ESID junior working party during the next 2 years and to expand my **international** contacts of physicians and scientists with a passion for IEI and to strengthen the ties between the **Belgian junior ESID members**.

I am convinced I can continue to provide useful knowledge and competences to the ESID junior working party. First of all, as already mentioned, I am extremely **passionate and enthusiastic** about the clinical and research field of IEI. Second, my training as a pediatrician revealed that **perseverance** is one of my quintessential personal qualities. Third, my **meticulous** character could be advantageous for the flawless organization of events. Finally, as a pediatrician-scientist I am used to a **multidisciplinary** context, integrating the input of different clinical subspecialties and of researchers.

In conclusion I am extremely motivated to renew my role as the **ESID Junior country representative for Belgium**.

Yours sincerely,

Selket Delafontaine